BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
February 16, 2026
6:00 P.M.

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on the above date at 6:00 p.m., Commissioners' Chambers, David R. Sandifer Administration Building, County Government Center, Bolivia, North Carolina.

PRESENT:	Commissioner Mike Forte, Chairman Commissioner J. Martin Cooke, Vice-Chairman Commissioner Randy Thompson Commissioner Pat Sykes Commissioner Frank Williams
STAFF:	Steve Stone, County Manager Bryan Batton, County Attorney David Stanley, Deputy County Manager Niel Brooks, Deputy County Manager Aaron Smith, Finance Director Daralyn Spivey, Clerk to the Board LeAnn Weigand, Executive Assistant Pete Gillis, IT Lt. Hester, Sheriff's Office

Board Action, containing all items in this set of minutes, is filed within the Clerk to the Board's office.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Forte called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Cooke gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Forte asked for adjustments to the agenda.

Commissioner Thompson made the request to add under Administrative Reports as #3, Updates, specifically for the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with the current sewer line extension interpretation and an update regarding the current fire fee/fire tax discussion with fire departments within the County. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Diana Fotinatos spoke of her support of future funding for the libraries within the County.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Thompson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

1. Clerk to the Board – JCPC Roster Approval

The Board approved the roster for the JCPC effective January 2026.

2. **Clerk to the Board – Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2026, Goals and Objectives Workshop Special Meeting and the January 20, 2026, Regular Meeting.**
The Board approved the Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2026, Goals and Objectives Workshop Special Meeting and the January 20, 2026, Regular Meeting.

3. **County Attorney – Brooke Ridge Lane Deed of Dedication**
The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water infrastructure for Brooke Ridge Lane.

4. **County Attorney – Saltgrass Landing, 1A, Ph. 1, Sec. 1A, & Ph 1, Sec. 1B Deed of Dedication**
The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Saltgrass Landing, 1A, Ph. 1, Sec. 1A, & Ph 1, Sec. 1B.

5. **EMS – Logistics Technician Reclassification Request**
The Board approved the reclassification of a vacant EMT position to create an additional logistics position within EMS.

6. **Finance - Brunswick County Schools Approval of Barnhill Construction Contract for Preconstruction Services Only**
The Board approved the Barnhill Construction Contract in the amount of $491,284 for preconstruction services only.

7. **Finance - Fiscal Items**
The Board approved Budget Amendments, Capital Project Ordinances and Fiscal Items of a routine nature on the consent agenda to include the following:

-NC 911 Board PSAP Budget Amendments
Appropriating $39,788 transferred to the general fund for ineligible expenditures and $5,489 from the general fund for eligible expenditures through June 30, 2025.

-OIB Land Funding Transfer Budget Amendment and CPO
Approving the transfer the planned use of Wastewater Capital Reserve funds initially designated for land that is no longer necessary back to the undesignated capital reserve for use in future capital needs.

-Bolivia By-Pass Project SDF Funding Budget Amendment
Transferring $7,062,063 from System Development Fees to the Bolivia By-Pass project and return $7,062,063 from the project to undesignated in the capital reserve, then designate the funds for the Biosolids project currently in design.

-Inspections Vehicle Replacement Budget Amendment
Appropriating $43,789 of available fund balance designated for the administration and activities of the inspection department. This appropriation is for a vehicle recommended for replacement by Fleet Services.

-Concealed Weapons Permit Fees Budget Amendment
Appropriating projected Concealed Weapons Permit Revenues and associated Concealed Weapons Permit Fees due to the NC State Bureau of Investigation.

-Spring Lake at Maritime Shores Budget Amendment
Transferring performance bonds revenue for Spring Lake at Maritime Shores budget to the reserve for future infrastructure needs at the Spring Lake at Maritime Shores Subdivision.

-Financial Reports for January 2026 (unaudited)

Summary Information for General and Enterprise Funds, ARPA, Opioid project statuses, key revenue indicators, and Cash and Investment details are included. All year-to-date fiscal reports are provided at:
https://brunswickcountync.gov/finance/reports

8. **Library – ARP Enabled Funding for Youth Services Desk**
The Board approved ARP-enabled funds for a Youth Services desk at the Rourk Branch Library in the amount of $6,325.

9. **Library – SLNC LSTA Grant Application for SensoryScape Garden**
The Board approved the application for a LSTA EZ Grant in the amount of $29,639.00 for a SensoryScape garden at Rourk Branch Library.

10. **Operation Services – EKOS, Inc Amendment to Fuel Consignment Agreement**
The Board approved an amendment to our Fuel Consignment Agreement dated December 1, 2024.

11. **Operation Services – Gregory Poole Equipment Company Goods and Services Agreement**
The Board approved an agreement with Gregory Poole Equipment Company to purchase a dozer.

12. **Operation Services – Piedmont Truck Center Inc – Goods and Services Agreement**
The Board approved a goods and services agreement with Piedmont Truck Center, Inc. for a tandem dump truck.

13. **Public Housing – Request to Schedule a Public Hearing**
The Board approved the scheduling of a public hearing on April 6, 2026, to hear any comments or suggestions on the Public Housing Agency's goals, objectives, and policies.

14. **Sheriff's Office - Grant Application Approval**
The Board approve a grant application with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to expand the Sheriff's Office's Project Lifesaver program. The grant has no match requirements by the County.

15. **Tax – Annual Tax Advertisement Order for 2025 Unpaid Taxes**
The Board authorized the Order to Advertise for the 2025 unpaid taxes on all real property.

16. **Tax - February 2026 Tax Releases**
The Board approved the February 2026 releases.

17. **Utilities – Graybar Contract for VFD Cabinets for Werst Brunswick Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant**
The Board approved a contract with Graybar Electric Company in the amount of $119,766.36 to purchase three (3) variable frequency drive enclosures.

18. **Utilities – Gregory Poole Equipment Company Contract for Compact Excavator**
The Board approved a contract with Gregory Poole Equipment Company in the amount of $99,869.48 for the budgeted purchase of a compact excavator.

19. **Utilities – McKim & Creed – IBT Second Amendment**
The Board approved the updated scope of work for the Town of Fuquay-Varina Inter-Basin Transfer for a total contract amount of $114,900.00.

VI. PRESENTATION

1. **BOCC Substance Use, Addiction, and Mental Health Commission Annual Update**
   The Board received the annual update from the Substance Use, Addiction, and Mental Health Commission from Cecilia Peers and Emma Long, with no action taken.

VII. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

1. **Administration - City of Boiling Springs Wastewater Committee Liaisons**
   Mr. Stone reported the City of Boiling Spring Lakes is requesting the appointment of two members of the Board of Commissioners to the city's Wastewater Committee. Commissioner Thompson made the motion to appoint Chairman Forte and Vice - Chairman Cooke. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

2. **Code Administration - Department Name Change, Code Administration to Become Building Safety Department**
   Michael Slate requests the Board approve the change Code Administration to Building Safety Department. Commissioner Thompson made the motion to table the discussion until March 16, 2026, meeting to allow for more information to be brought forward. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion to table and passed unanimously (5-0).

3. **Updates (as Amended):**

   1. **Fire Fees**
      Mr. Stone advised the Fire Chief's Association and County leadership have addressed all items that were of issue to date. In a recent letter however, a request was made for County leadership to meet with the entirety of the Chief's Association to ensure all parties are current with the available information. Concerns regarding public funding, equipment ownership and identifiable performance standards are among items to be discussed.

   2. **NC DEQ**
      Mr. Stone updated the Board on the status of the NC DEQ decision regarding wastewater line extension permitting. For the eight (8) permits that were placed on hold in November of 2025, there will be additional forms for the applicant/developer to complete in order to move forward. Currently there is no known time frame for this to be completed.

VIII. **OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Williams would like to see Communications create a press release regarding the Fuquay-Varina Inter-Basin Transfer to make the public aware of the importance of requesting Environmental Management Commission hold a public hearing in this area. Currently, the closest one to Brunswick County is being held in Fayetteville.

IX. **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board entered Close Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(3) to approve Closed Session Minutes from January 20, 2026, and to consult with its attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege.

Mr. Batton noted the above statutory requirements.

*Clerk's Note: Minutes from January 20, 2026, Closed Session were not ready at the time of the meeting for approval. The Minutes will be approved at the next available Closed Session. *

Vice – Chairman Cooke made the motion to enter Closed Session at 7:23 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner William and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

Chairman Forte called the Regular Session to order at 7:55 p.m.

Mr. Batton advises he has nothing to report from Closed Session.

X. **<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>**

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC, CMC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners