

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
March 2, 2026
3:00 P.M.**

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on the above date at 3:00 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. Barbour, 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 3:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Williams gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Forte asked for adjustments to the agenda.

Commissioner Thompson requested items under Consent identified as V3. County Attorney – BSL Residential Water & Sewer Extension, Phase 5 Deed of Dedication, V4. County Attorney – Harper Acres Deed of Dedication, and V5. County Attorney - Ocean Isle Beach Phase Ph A1-1 Deed of Dedication, be moved to and create Administrative Report on this agenda identified as VII1, VII2, and VII3 respectively.

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shirley Sullivan spoke of her concerns regarding roads, overdevelopment, school bonds, support of developers, increase of accidents, utilities at capacity, UDO updates, clearcutting, open burning, tree replacement, stormwater, and evacuation routes all lagging.

Hugh Fosberry representing the July 4th Festival Board of Directors to advise donations and sponsorships are welcomed as that is what funds the entire festival.

V. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. **Administration – Resolution Commemorating 100th Anniversary of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association**
The Board approved the resolution commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association. The Resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the Centennial of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA), which has for a century advanced a science-guided commitment to coastal restoration and protection; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1926, the Association's visionary leaders sought to establish a forum "where the novice and he who has long wrestled with these problems can seek more light; where the man of science and the statesman can exchange ideas and collaborate together; where idealist and lover of Nature and the economist can arrive at a mutual understanding; where landscape artist and philanthropist can find an outlet for their activities," thereby fostering collaboration and innovation for coastal stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the critical issues of shore and beach preservation-promoting community protection, a strong economy, ecological health, and recreation-remain as vital in 2026 as they were at the Association's founding; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's coastal communities and natural resources have benefited from ASBPA's work in translating coastal science and engineering, guiding policy, and advocating for resilient shores and beaches over the past century; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County aims to collaborate with ASBPA to build upon its century of experience in coastal resilience to advocate for solutions that adapt shore and beach projects to future coastal challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners commends the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association for its foresight 100 years ago, and its continuing leadership today toward future challenges of coastal science and policy.

This, the 2nd day of March 2026.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

2. **Clerk to the Board – Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2026, Regular Meeting.**
The Board approved the Meeting Minutes for the February 16, 2026, Regular Meeting.

3. Emergency Management – Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point Mutual Aid Agreement

The Board approved the updated mutual aid agreement with Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal (MOTSU) outlining mutual aid responses for fire and EMS services to and from MOTSU.

4. EMS – Ambulance Replacement

The Board approved the purchase of an ambulance to replace the one damaged in the January 17, 2026, Building C fire.

5. Finance – Equalis Cooperative Purchasing Interlocal Agreement

The Board approved becoming a participating member of Equalis and delegating signing authority of the agreement to the County Manager.

6. 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:

-Airport Grant 36237.45.19.2 Grant Modification Budget Amendment and CPO
Appropriating of additional airport grant revenues in the amount of \$30,255 for grant modification 4000078667 as approved by NC Department of Transportation.

-PTC8 Landfill Equipment

Appropriating of funds in the amount of \$837,720 for FEMA PTC8 reimbursable Landfill Equipment Project. Funds support replacement of Caterpillar D6K2, Volvo Excavator, and Horizontal Grinder that were damaged due to floodwaters from disaster event 4837 PTC8.

7. Operation Services – Axiom 360 LLC Equipment Storage Building Construction or Repair Agreement

The Board approved a construction or repair agreement with Axiom 360 LLC to construct an equipment storage building in the amount of \$223,556.45.

8. Operation Services – Storage/Warehouse Type Project Approval

The Board approved an agreement and funding for requested storage/warehouse type projects.

9. Tax – Approval of an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Oak Island for Tax Collection Services

The Board approved the agreement, subject to County Attorney approval, authorizing the Brunswick County Tax Collector to bill, collect, and enforce the collection of property taxes and applicable fees on behalf of the Town of Oak Island, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 105-354 and to utilize all remedies provided under North Carolina law for the collection of those taxes.

10. Tax – Approval for a One-Time Adjustment to the BOER Term Dates to align with the Appeal Cycle, along with the Designation of a Chair Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 105-322.

The Board approved the one-time extension of the current Board of Equalization and Review (BEOR) term by eight (8) months and the designation of Mr. Charles Bost as Chair of the BOER for the remainder of the current term.

11. Tax - March 2026 Tax Releases

The Board approved the March 2026 releases.

12. Utilities – Vision Infrastructure Development – Construction Services Agreement (Small Project)

The Board awarded a contract to Vision Infrastructure Development in the amount of \$31,000 for the installation of a 6-inch pipe to transfer Thickened Waste Activated Sludge (TWAS) to the Autothermal Thermophilic Aerobic Digestion (ATAD) system at the West Brunswick Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

VI. PRESENTATION

1. **Administration – Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting, Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, and Popular Annual Finance Report**

The Board received a presentation from Steve Stone, County Manager for Brunswick County, on behalf of the Government Finance Officers Association, awarding the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting, the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, and the Popular Annual Financial Report.

2. **Emergency Management – Overview of the Image Trend Records Management System**

Malcolm Smith, Fire Services Administrator for Brunswick County, presented the Board with an overview of the Image Trend records management system.

3. **Human Resources – Presentation – Market Study Results in Associated Recommendation from Piedmont Triad Regional Council Consultant**

Melanie Turrise, Human Resources Director, introduced David Hill of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) and presented the Board with his findings and recommendations from the Market Study and associated recommendations to be considered as part of the upcoming budget process.

Chairman Forte called for a five-minute recess at 4:30 p.m. to reconvene at 4:35p.m.

Chairman Forte called the Regular Meeting back to order at 4:37 p.m.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. **County Attorney – BSL Residential Water & Sewer Extension, Phase 5 Deed of Dedication**

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the Deed of Dedication based on a distinction regarding their submission status and previous approval from Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

2. **County Attorney – Harper Acres Deed of Dedication**

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the Deed of Dedication based on a distinction regarding their submission status and previous approval from DEQ. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

3. **Ocean Isle Beach Phase Ph A1-1 Deed of Dedication**

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the Deed of Dedication based on a distinction regarding their submission status and previous approval from DEQ. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

Clerks Note: Additionally, Commissioner Thompson made the motion for the Planning Board to hold on review of any additional projects until such time as the capacity/allocation issue with DEQ is fully resolved with no additional impact on the County. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion. Mr. Batton advised the Board that to effectuate the motion, a public hearing would have to be held. The motion as presented by Commissioner Thompson and seconded by Commissioner

Sykes would not be for a legal action to approve and recommends that the motion be withdrawn. Additionally, Mr. Batton advised the Board on steps to issue a moratorium. Mr. Stone reminded the Board that if the Board moves forward with a suspension of approving plans at the Planning Board level, it will include both commercial and residential properties, the two cannot be separated. Commissioner Thompson requested to move forward with his motion. The motion failed (2-3) and the poll is as follows:

Commissioner Thompson: Aye

Commissioner Forte: Nay

Commissioner Cooke: Nay

Commissioner Sykes: Aye

Commissioner Williams: Nay

VIII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. **Clerk to the Board – Carolina Shores ETJ Alternate Planning Board Appointment**

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve Loretta Burkett as the Planning Board ETJ Appointee for Carolina Shores. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

2. **Clerk to the Board – St. James Firemen's Relief Fund Board Appointment**

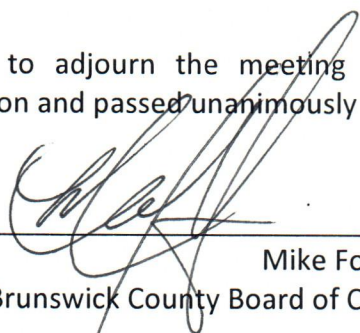
Commissioner Sykes made the motion to appoint Susan Boyer to the St. James Firemen's Relief Fund Board. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

IX. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

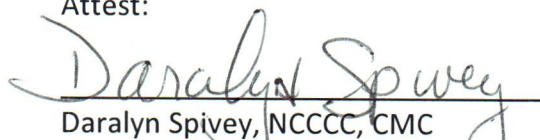
Chairman Forte asked for a motion to approve \$25,000 donation to the July 4th Festival. Commissioner Williams asked for the item to be placed on March 16, 2026, Regular Meeting for consideration. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion to have the item placed on the March 16, 2026, agenda with funding utilized from the fund balance and passed unanimously (5-0).

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:21 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

