

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
April 20, 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
Aaron Smith, Finance Director
Niel Brooks, Deputy County Manager
Daralyn Spivey, Clerk to the Board
LeAnn Weigand, Executive Assistant
Currie Elkins, 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 6:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Forte asked for adjustments to the agenda.

Commissioner Williams requested Consent Item V6, Operations Services – Amended Resolution to Post Disaster Debris Policy to be moved to Administrative Report as Item VII10.

Commissioner Williams 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

Charles Drew, President of the Fire Chiefs Association, advising the Fire Chiefs Association members met with Senator Rabon and Representatives Iler and Miller offering the same recommendation given to the Commissioners at the 4/16/2026 meeting along with concerns with future funding.

Keith McGee Vice - President of the Fire Chiefs Association spoke to his concerns with the life-safety issues currently experienced by the local fire departments and the lack of a longer-term funding mechanism in place.

Diana Fotinatos spoke with her support of Library Board appointments that will be forthcoming and recommends the appointment of Jonathon Hartman, Helen Whittaker, and Marcus Dawson.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Administration – Brunswick Guarantee Agreement

The Board renewed an Agency Funding Agreement for the Brunswick Guarantee College Tuition Scholarship Program with the Brunswick Community College Foundation, Inc.

2. Clerk to the Board – Meeting Minutes April 6, 2026, Regular Meeting

The Board approved the Meeting Minutes for the April 6, 2026, Regular Meeting.

3. EMS – EMS Ambulance Purchase

The Board approved the purchase of a Frazer ambulance in the amount of \$400,725.

4. Finance – Contract to Audit Accounts and Addendum with Martin Starnes and Associates, CPA's PA

The Board approved the contract for audit services and an addendum with Martin Starnes and Associates, CPAs P.A.

5. 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:

-Sheriff's Office Insurance Appropriation

Appropriated \$52,648 of insurance refund revenue for expenses associated with totaled vehicle.

-Financial Reports for March 2026 (unaudited)

Summary Information for General and Enterprise Funds, ARPA and 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>

6. Operation Services – Amended Resolution to Post Disaster Debris Policy.

As amended this item was moved to Administrative Report as Item VII.10

7. Operation Services – Champion Systems Inc, 911 Call Center DDC Controls Goods and Services Agreement

The Board approved a goods and services agreement with Champion Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$42,254.79 and the funding necessary to add a control system to the 911 Call Center.

8. Operation Services – Storage Warehouse

The Board approved the funding for a storage/warehouse project for the warehouse leased from Brunswick County Schools.

9. Parks and Recreation – Brunswick County Parks Courts Resurfacing

The Board approved the agreement with North State Resurfacing in the amount of \$103,363.50.

10. Parks and Recreation – Brunswick County Parks Equipment – Revels Turf and Tractor LLC

The Board approved a purchase agreement with Revels Turf and Tractor, LLC.

VI. **PRESENTATION**

1. **Administration - Resolution in Support of Teacher Housing Initiative**

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to approve the Resolution in Support of Teacher Housing Initiative. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0). The Proclamation reads as follows:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TEACHER HOUSING INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Education and the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners recognize the strategic value of improving recruitment and retention of Brunswick County School teachers; and

WHEREAS, the above-named recognize the challenge of meeting that goal, in part due to escalating residential rental rates in Brunswick County; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Education desires to advance a teacher housing initiative in Brunswick County (the “Project”), modeled on teacher housing initiatives in Hartford County, Bertie County, Buncombe County, Hoke County, and Dare County; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners previously transferred to the Brunswick County Board of Education approximately 94.08 acres located at 339 Middle River Road NE, Tax Parcel ID: 1370000806, as more particularly shown in Plat Book 21 at Page 315, for use as a school site; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Education would like to set aside 12 acres, more or less, of the aforementioned parcel, as shown on the attached map, for future use of the Project to be modeled on the teacher housing projects named above; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners recognizes the desire of the Brunswick County Board of Education for this acreage allocation in order to effectively pursue donations, grants, and loans for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

- 1. The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners does not object for the Brunswick County Board of Education to set aside 12 acres, more or less, as shown on the attached map, for future use of the Project with the understanding that no encumbrance, transfer, or lease of the set aside shall be valid or binding without the further consideration and final approval of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.
- 2. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the 24th day of March, 2026.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Steve Gainey, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Education

Attest:
Victoria Ballard, Clerk
Brunswick County Board of Education

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Adopted this, the 20th day of April 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 – Proclamation – BEMC Lineman Appreciation Day

Commissioner Williams read and made the motion to approve the Proclamation for Linemen Appreciation Day 2026. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0). The Proclamation reads as follows:

LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 18, 2026

WHEREAS, the profession of Electric Lineman requires passion, dedication and is steeped in tradition; and

WHEREAS, linemen work 365 days a year in inclement weather and hazardous weather conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, linemen also are often the first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other first responders; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County joins other communities across the nation in recognizing and celebrating the profession Electric Linemen and therefore, we honor our Brunswick Eclectic and Duke Progress personnel for exemplary service to the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim April 18th, 2026, as:

LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY

and call upon all citizens and businesses to acknowledge and thank the linemen you see for the selfless and dangerous work they perform every day to keep our power on and the public safe.

PROCLAIMED this, the 20th day of April, 2026.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

3. Health Services – Proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month

Vice – Chairman Cooke read and made the motion to approve the Proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month 2026. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0). The Proclamation reads as follows:

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to the overall health and well-being of every individual, family, and community; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Alliance for Mental Health (NAMI) one in five adults and one in six youth in America experience a mental health condition each year; and

WHEREAS, stigma and misunderstanding often prevent people from seeking the help they need; and

WHEREAS, early identification, accessible resources, and community support can greatly improve outcomes for those living with mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County recognizes and deeply values the work and services of the Brunswick County Substance Use, Addiction, and Mental Health Commission, mental health providers, and organizations that provide essential guidance, advocacy, and services to support residents affected by mental health and substance use concerns; and

WHEREAS, community-based collaboration is vital to promoting mental health wellness, and the Rotary Mental Health Summit on May 1st serves as a significant opportunity for residents, professionals, and organizations to come together to learn, share resources, and strengthen community support for mental health; and

WHEREAS, May is recognized nationally as Mental Health Awareness Month, which provides an opportunity to increase understanding, promote compassion, and encourage open conversations about mental wellness; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, the theme “Stigma Grows in Silence, Healing Begins in Community” reminds us that mental health is a community concern, and that every person can play a role in fostering supportive environments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Forte, Chair of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, and on behalf of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Brunswick County and encourage all residents to learn more about mental health, challenge stigma, and extend kindness and understanding to those in need.

This the 20th day of April, 2026.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

4. **Sheriff’s Office - Proclamation — National Correctional Officers Week**
Chairman Forte read and made the motion to approve the Proclamation for National Correctional Officers Week. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0). The Proclamation reads as follows:

**PROCLAMATION SUPPORTING NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL
OFFICERS WEEK MAY 3-9, 2026**

WHEREAS, the need to house and care for persons detained, charged, and/or sentenced for a criminal offense is always present in society; the Brunswick County Detention Center was established to provide a vital contribution to the safety and quality of life enjoyed by citizens and visitors to Brunswick County; and

WHEREAS, the Detention Officers are trained, prepared and ready to ensure the custody, safety, and well-being of those persons housed; and

WHEREAS, Detention Officers are often met with difficult and dangerous situations to fulfill their daily duties; and

WHEREAS, Detention Officers are also called upon to fill, simultaneously, supervisory and counseling roles in a jail; and

WHEREAS, each Detention Officer has exhibited professionalism, dedication, and courage during the performance of their demanding jobs; and

WHEREAS, National Correctional Officers Week will serve to recognize the Detention Officers of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office who provide a vital public safety service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners proclaim and declare the week of May 3rd to May 9th of 2026 as National Correctional Officers Week in Brunswick County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our County's citizens and visitors safe.

Adopted this the 20th day of April 2026.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

5. **Library – Barbee Branch Library Meeting Room Expansion Proposal& Donation**
Patricia Dew, Library Director, presented the Board with a proposal for the expansion of the Barbee Branch Library Meeting Room and a donation of \$150,000 from the Friends of the Library Southport - Oak Island in support of that expansion. Chairman Forte made the motion to approve the expansion of the Barbee Branch Library and accept the \$150,000 donation for that project. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Administration – Request for Direction for Proposed Resolution to the Legislative Delegation with Regard to Fire Fees

Mr. Stone received direction from the Board to move forward with a resolution for the May 4, 2026, Regular Meeting regarding fire fees.

2. Administration – Letter for Consideration Regrading Requesting Statutory Authority to Regulate Burning.

Commissioner Thomspon made the motion to approve the letter staff provided to our legislative delegation with regard to requesting legislative authority to regulate open burning. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

3. Administration – Letter for Consideration Regarding Opposition to Limitation on Downzoning

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the letter staff provided for our legislative delegation reaffirming the Board's opposition to limitations to downzoning. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

4. Administration – Introduce the General Obligation School Bond Order and Schedule a Public Hearing

Chairman Forte introduced the following title of the Resolution:

THE ISSUANCE OF \$349,600,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BONDS OF THE
COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK, NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners (the “*Board*”) of the County of Brunswick, North Carolina (the “*County*”) has ascertained and hereby determines that it is necessary to pay the capital costs of constructing, improving, and renovating school facilities, including, but not limited to, the construction and renovation of classroom facilities, the acquisition and installation of furnishings and equipment, the acquisition of land, rights-of-way and easements in land required therefor, and related public infrastructure development; and

WHEREAS, an application has been filed with the Secretary of the Local Government Commission of North Carolina (the “*Commission*”) requesting Commission approval of the General Obligation School Bonds hereinafter described as required by the Local Government Bond Act, and the Clerk to the Board has notified the Board that the application has been accepted for submission to the Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Brunswick, North Carolina, as follows:

Section 1. To raise the money required for the purpose described above, in addition to any funds which may be made available for such purpose from any other source, General Obligation School Bonds of the County are hereby authorized and shall be issued pursuant to the Local Government Finance Act of North Carolina. The maximum aggregate principal amount of such General Obligation School Bonds authorized by this order shall be \$349,600,000.

Section 2. Taxes will be levied in an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest of the General Obligation School Bonds.

Section 3. A sworn statement of the County's debt has been filed with the Clerk to the Board and is open to public inspection.

Section 4. The bond order will take effect when approved by the voters of the County at a referendum scheduled for November 3, 2026.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK)

SS:

I, Daralyn Spivey, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of the County of Brunswick, North Carolina, do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the bond order entitled "Bond Order Authorizing the Issuance of \$349,600,000 General Obligation School Bonds of the County of Brunswick North Carolina" which was introduced by the Board of Commissioner of the County of Brunswick, North Carolina, at a meeting held on April 20, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said County, this the 20th day of April, 2026.

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

5. County Attorney – Bell Creek Village, Ph. 1A, 1B, 2 and 3 Deed of Dedication

Mr. Batton requested the Board accept the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Bell Creek Village, Ph. 1A, 1B, 2 and 3. Commissioner Thompspon made the motion to approve the deed of dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Bell Creek Village, Ph. 1A, 1B, 2 and 3. Commissioner Williams seconded and the motion passed unanimously (5 to 0).

6. County Attorney – Cedar Hill Landing Amenity Center Deed of Dedication

Mr. Batton requested the Board accept the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Cedar Hill Landing Amenity Center. Commission Thompspon made the motion to approve the deed of dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Cedar Hill Landing Amenity Center. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (5 to 0).

7. County Attorney – Rich Square Ph 2, Lots 121-163 Deed of Dedication

Mr. Batton requested the Board accept the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Rich Square Ph 2, Lots 121-163. Commission Thompspon made the motion to approve the deed of dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Rich Square Ph2, Lots 121-163. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (5 to 0).

8. County Attorney – Tidelands Preserve, Lots 1-39 Deed of Dedication

Mr. Batton requested the Board accept the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Tidelands Preserve, Lots 1-39. Commission Thompspon made the motion to approve the deed of dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Tidelands Preserve, Lots 1-39. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (5 to 0).

9. County Attorney – Village Greens Ph.2, Sec 2 Deed of Dedication

Mr. Batton requested the Board accept the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Village Greens Ph.2, Sec 2. Commission Thompspon made the motion to approve the deed of dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Village Greens Ph.2, Sec 2. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (5 to 0).

10. Operation Services – Amended Resolution to Post-Disaster Debris Policy – As Amended from the Consent Agenda (V6).

Commissioner Thompson asked to be recused from this vote. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the recusal of Commissioner Thompspon. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the resolution to amend the post-disaster debris policy. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion and passed unanimously (4 to 0 with Commissioner Thompspon's recusal). The Resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE POST-DISASTER DEBRIS POLICY

WHEREAS, the County of Brunswick, through its Commissioners, wishes to eliminate any immediate threats to life, public health, and safety.

WHEREAS, the County of Brunswick, through its Commissioners, may use a significant portion of the available capacity of the landfill to dispose of incident-related debris.

WHEREAS, although the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) cannot provide public assistance funding for the value of the loss of landfill capacity due to incident-related debris.

WHEREAS, tipping fees will continue to be paid by the residents of Brunswick County to cover the county’s waste disposal, recycling and/or reduction cost.

WHEREAS, when the disaster debris management and monitoring contracts and debris management sites are activated, FEMA provides public assistance funding for collection, disposal and/or processing of debris.

NOW THEREFORE, the Brunswick County Commissioners are hereby resolved to establish the following policies and procedures for post-disaster planning:

- Immediately following a significant disaster or debris event, debris management contractors will be directed to complete debris assessments of unincorporated areas.
- Activation of the County’s disaster debris contracts should be dependent upon the initial debris assessments. The threshold for reimbursement by the state for an undeclared event is damages in excess of 1% of the County’s overall annual budget. Federal declaration criteria based on NCEM county threshold.
- When disaster debris management and monitoring contracts are activated, temporary debris management sites will be required, and tipping fees will remain in place for the Brunswick County Landfill.
- Landfill airspace utilized for debris disposal will not be eligible for funding.
- Municipalities that activate disaster debris management contracts or that perform disaster debris collections may be required to use a temporary debris site instead of the landfill due to traffic and volume constraints.
- Debris disposal, recycling and/or reduction completed at the Brunswick County Landfill will be considered normal operations and tipping fees will not be waived.
- Storm debris collections performed by the County’s disaster debris contractors should include private and orphaned roads and gated communities in the unincorporated areas. Collections in gated communities will only be conducted upon request and if the debris is determined to be a public safety issue.
- When disaster debris management and monitoring contracts are activated for all unincorporated areas countywide, then the county will also initiate the Memorandum of Agreement with NCDOT for debris collection on state roads in order to minimize confusion and maximize efficiency for residents.

Adopted this, the 20th day of April 2026.

Mike Forte
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

VIII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. Clerk to the Board – Zoning Board of Adjustment District 2 Appointment

Vice - Chairman Cooke made the motion to approve Mr. Jason Helms to the Zoning Board of Adjustments as the District 2 appointee. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

2. Clerk to the Board – Zoning Board of Adjustment At Large Appointment

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Ms. Jennifer Breitenbach to the Zoning Board of Adjustments as the At Large appointee. Vice - Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

3. Clerk to the Board – Tourism Development Authority Appointment South Brunswick Islands Appointee Approval

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Ms. Susan Barnes to the Tourism Development Authority as the South Brunswick Islands Appointee. Vice - Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

4. Clerk to the Board – Board Appointment: Nursing Home and Adult Care Community Advisory Committee

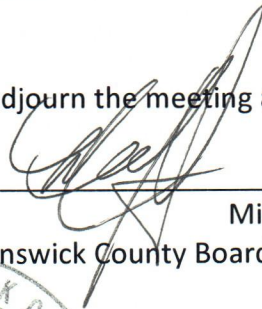
Commissioner Sykes made the motion to approve Ms. Donna Guillaume to the Nursing Home and Adult Care Community Advisory Committee. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IX. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

No other business was brought before the Board.

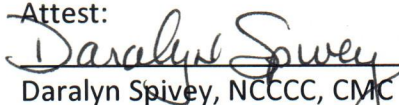
X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.



Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:



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

