

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
May 4, 2026
9:00 A.M.

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on the above date at 9:00 a.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
Currie Elkins, 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 9:00 a.m.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. BUDGET PRESENTATION

1. **Budget Workshop Presentation**

Mr. Stone presented a draft recommended budget meeting all statutorily required obligations, with no property tax increase, addressing the needs of a growing county, prioritizing essential services, aligning with County goals and Board priorities, incorporating capital improvement needs and debt service obligations, supporting employee recruitment and retention through competitive benefits and funding for merit based pay increases, and ongoing infrastructure maintenance. Mr. Stone also reminded the Board this document is a draft and may be refined as necessary.

General Fund - Operating Revenue: Overall increase of 6.2% over FY 2026 for FY 2027.

General Fund – Total Expenditures: Overall increase of 6.8% over FY 2026 for FY 2027 to include debt service.

General Fund – Personnel Expenditures: Overall increase of 8.5% over FY 2026 for FY 2027.

General Fund – Operating Expenditures: Overall increase of 4.4% over FY 2026 for FY 2027.

General Fund Capital Expenditures: Draft budget at \$4.2M

General Government – Debt Service: Draft budget at \$15.8M

Total General Fund - Expenditures: Draft budget at \$321.1M

Total General Fund - Transferred to Other Funds: Decrease of 12.7% over FY 2026 for FY 2027.

Total General Fund – Budgetary Uses: Increase of 6% over FY 2026 for FY 2027.

Supplemental Funding – ARP-Enabled: \$608,250 which will close out all ARP-Enabled funding

Preliminary General Fund Capital Improvement Plan FY 2027:

Environmental Protection and Culture & Recreation: \$3,370,000

Public Safety: \$10,820,520

General Government: \$110,814,154

Preliminary Education Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2027:

Education: \$120,206,448

Opioid National Settlement Fund Projects: \$960,262 increasing \$50,684

Enterprise Funding

Water Revenue: \$49.1M

Water Expenditures: \$49.7M

Wastewater Fund Revenue: \$45.3M

Wastewater Fund Expenditures: \$43.4M

Enterprise Fund Capital Improvement Plan:

Water: \$15,209,195

Wastewater: \$120,279,670

Proposed Rate Increase Discussion:

Mr. Stone advised the Board there will need to be extensive planning for water and wastewater in the coming five years. This will require Brunswick County to increase capital improvements, consider rate increases and proactive financial planning. While there are currently no rate changes in the FY2027 budget for water, there are recommended increases involving wastewater for residential, commercial and industrial customers. In 2024, the annual increase statewide for wastewater was 15.8% and the increase in water was 14.4%. Brunswick County has not increased the wastewater rates since 2006.

Mr. Stone reminded the Board of the upcoming meeting schedule:

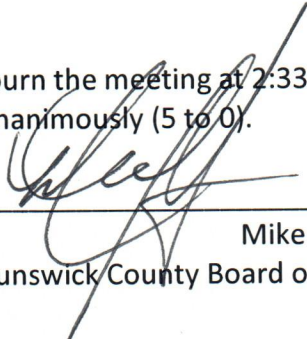
May 18, 2026: Presentation of the recommended budget.

June 1, 2026: Additional workshop if necessary and the public hearing for the budget.

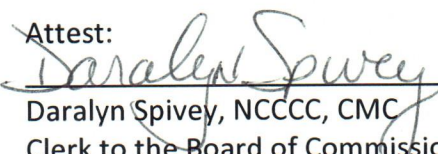
June 15, 2026: Adoption of the budget ordinance, capital improvement plan and fees for FY2027.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:33 p.m. with Vice – Chairman Cook seconding. The motion passed unanimously (5 to 0).


Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:


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

