BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
July 6, 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 Frank Williams
ABSENT:	Commissioner Pat Sykes
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 Stephen Rector, 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 requested Item V.6 County Attorney – Resolution Authorizing Law Enforcement Proceeds of Brunswick ABC Store in Northwest to be Directed to the City of Northwest, be tabled until the August 3, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Orli Amir spoke to her concerns regarding a domestic violence order.

Shirley Sullivan spoke regarding her concerns over the Stage 2 drought status the County is currently under and the importance of following the guidelines.

Ole Homeless Guy (Sam Irby) stated his concerns with the current Public Comment policy.

Sheila Grady, Mayor of Northwest, spoke about Agenda Item V.6 that was tabled at the beginning of the meeting stating that the ABC Store in question sits within the town limits of Northwest and requests approval.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Vice – Chairman Cooke moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

1. **Clerk to the Board – Meeting Minutes June 15, 2026, Regular Meeting**
   The Board approved the Meeting Minutes for the June 15, 2026, Regular Meeting.

2. **County Attorney – Beach Bum Storage, Phase 1 Deed of Dedication**
   The Board approved the Deed of Dedication for water infrastructure for Beach Bum Storage, Phase 1.

3. **County Attorney – Oak Harbor Village, Phase 3 (Buildings 21, 24-28) Deed of Dedication**
   The Board approved the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Oak Harbor Village, Phase 3 (Buildings 21, 24-28).

4. **County Attorney – Salty Peanut Villas Deed of Dedication**
   The Board approved the Deed of Dedication for water infrastructure for Salty Peanut Villas Deed of Dedication.

5. **County Attorney - Renewal of Contract with Brunswick BID**
   The Board approved a two-year extension of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Economic Development Services with Brunswick County Economic Development Foundation, Inc. d/b/a "BBID" Brunswick Business & Industry Development.

6. **County Attorney - Resolution Authorizing Law Enforcement Proceeds of Brunswick ABC Store in Northwest to be Directed to the City of Northwest**
   Tabled to the August 3, 2026, Regular Meeting.

7. **EMS - Arrive Ventures, LLC Ambulance Franchise Agreement FY 27**
   The Board approved the Ambulance Franchise Agreement with Arrive Ventures, LLC.

8. **EMS - Bound Tree Goods and Services Agreement**
   The Board approved the agreement with Bound Tree for the purchase of medical supplies for Emergency Medical Services.

9. **EMS - Brunswick Search and Rescue Agreement**
   The Board approved the Brunswick Search and Rescue Agreement for fiscal year 2026-2027.

10. **EMS - Columbus County EMS Franchise Agreement**
    The Board approved the annual franchise agreement with Columbus County EMS.

11. **EMS - MED1 NC Ambulance Franchise Agreement**
    The Board approved the annual ambulance franchise agreement with Med1 NC, Inc.

12. **EMS - Novant Health New Hanover, Regional Medical Center, LLC Franchise Agreement**
    The Board approved the Ambulance Franchise Agreement with Novant New Hanover Regional Medical Center, LLC, dba Novant Health Airlink/Vitalink (Brunswick).

13. EMS - Oak Island Water Rescue Contract
The Board approved the contract with Oak Island Water Rescue for fiscal year 2026-2027.

14. EMS - St. James Fire and EMS Franchise Agreement Fiscal Year 2026-2027
The Board approved the annual EMS Ambulance Franchise agreement with St. James Fire for FY 26-27.

15. EMS - Stryker ProCare Agreement FY 26-27
The Board approved the EMS agreement for FY 26-27 with Stryker ProCare.

16. 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:

-FY27 Brunswick County JCPC Funding Budget Appropriation
Appropriate state revenues restricted of $242,486 as awarded by the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council from the NC Department of Public Safety and approved at the 5/4/2026 board meeting. The following has been awarded to the JCPC Programs; JCPC Administration $12,000, Coastal ART $39,068, Guiding Good Choices (GCC) & Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) $42,306, Providence Home $13,500, and Restitution and Community Service and Teen Court Program $135,612.

17. Health Services - Brunswick County School Nurse Funding Agreement
The Board approved the School Nurse Agreement with Brunswick County Schools for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

18. Library - LSTA Grant Acceptance & ARP-Enabled Matching Funds
The Board approved the acceptance of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants awarded to Brunswick County (subrecipient) from the Library of North Carolina (recipient) in the amount of $29,100, to fund a SensoryScape Garden project and remote bookmobile book returns. The Board also approved ARP-enabled funds in the amount of $9,699 for the required 25% matching funds.

19. Library - NC Cardinal 2026-27 MOA
The Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement to renew the Library's membership in NC Cardinal.

20. Sheriff's Office - COPS Grant Application Approval
The Board approved a grant application for an additional sworn position in the Intelligence Unit through the COPS Hiring Program. This grant is funded by the Department of Justice. The grant will cover nearly half of the position's base salary and fringe benefits for a three-year period.

21. Sheriff's Office - Interlocal Agreement with BCSO and City of Northwest
The Board approved an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Northwest, Brunswick County, and the Brunswick County Sheriff for off-duty law enforcement services.

22. Sheriff's Office - School Resource Officer Agreement with BCS
The Board approved a Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer's Reimbursement Agreement with Brunswick County Schools.

23. Sheriff's Office - Classical Charter Schools of America (Leland) School Resource Officer Agreement
The Board approved the School Resource Officer Agreement between Classical Charter Schools of America in Leland and the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office.

24. **Sheriff's Office - Classical Charter Schools of America (Southport) School Resource Officer Agreement**
The Board approved the School Resource Officer Agreement between Classical Charter Schools of America in Southport and the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office.

25. **Sheriff's Office - SCA School Resource Officer Agreement**
The Board approved the Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer's Reimbursement Agreement with Southeastern Christian Academy.

26. **Social Services - Brunswick Family Assistance Funded Agency Agreement FY 26-27**
The Board approved the renewal of the funded agency agreement between Brunswick County and the non-profit agency - Brunswick Family Assistance.

27. **Social Services - Carolinas Staffing Contract (HHS)**
The Board approved Health and Human Services contract with Carolina Staffing Agency for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

28. **Social Services - Childcare Assistance Local Policy Plan for Fiscal Year 2026-2027**
The Board approved the revised version of the Child Care Local Policy 2026-2027.

29. **Social Services - Leland House dba Bluefields NEMT Contract**
The Board approved the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Services contract with Leland House dba, Bluefields.

30. **Social Services - Med Trans of North Carolina, LLC Non-Emergency Transportation Contract**
The Board approved the Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation contract with Med Trans of North Carolina, LLC.

31. **Social Services - North Carolina Alliance of Public Health Agencies, Inc. Contract FY 26-27**
The Board approved the contract with North Carolina Alliance of Public Health Agencies, Inc. for fiscal year 2026-2027.

32. **Social Services - The Wortman Law Firm Contract**
The Board approved the FY 26-27 contract with The Wortman Law Firm, PLLC.

33. **Social Services - Vanguard Professional Staffing Contract**
The Board approved the Department of Social Services contract with Vanguard Professional Staffing for Fiscal Year 26-27.

34. **Social Services - Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, Inc. (WARM) Grant FY 26-27**
The Board approved an agreement with Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, Inc. for FY 26-27.

35. **Tax - FY 2025-2026 Settlement Report & Order of Collection**
The Board received and approved the FY 2025-2026 Annual Tax Collector's Settlement Report. The Board approved charging the Tax Administrator and entering into the Minutes, an Order to Collect the 2026 current year taxes and entering into the Minutes the Order to Collect the 2016-2025 prior year taxes.

36. **Utilities - Crowder – Time Extension Change Order 2 - WBR WWTP Biosolids Processing and Storage Facility Project**
The Board approved Change Order No. 2 for the West Brunswick Regional Biosolids Processing and Storage Facility Project, extending the project completion date by 152 calendar days to December 31, 2026, with no change to the contract amount.

37. **Utilities - Harper Corporation General Contractors - Final Adjusting Change Order (4) - Mulberry WWRF**
The Board approved a final deductive adjusting Change Order with Harper Corporation General Contractors for the Mulberry Branch Water Reclamation Facility construction project in the amount of $136,366.69 (deduct) and approve a 49-day contract time extension. Approval of this change order will reduce the total contract amount from $47,526,263.87 to $47,389,897.18.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. **Administration - HHS/EOC Building Phase 2 Services - Edifice GMP Proposal**
Mr. Stone presented the request for the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) proposal for Construction Services from Edifice for the HHS/EOC Building in the amount of $62,603,663 and authorize the Chairman to sign upon the successful sale of Limited Obligation Bonds. Vice – Chairman Cooke made the motion to approve the contract with Commissioner Thompson seconding. The motion passed unanimously (4 to 0).

2. **Administration - Stormwater Funding Feasibility Study**
Mr. Brooks presented the contract for the stormwater feasibility study. Commissioner Thompsons made the motion to approve the contract with Raftelis to conduct a Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study for approximately $50,0000. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

3. **Utilities – Resolution Adopting the Updated Water Shortage Response Plan**
Mr. Nichols reported the state requires that a Board with a utility system review and adopt a Water Shortage Response Plan. There is also a slight modification to the agenda item allowing subsequent adjustments and edits to be approved by our County Attorney based on clarifications that are needed in our current irrigation schedule. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the resolution adopting the Updated Water Shortage Response. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (4 to 0). The Resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVING WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 143- 355 (I) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water service and each large community water system shall develop and implement water conservation measures to respond to drought or other water shortage conditions as set out in a Water Shortage Response Plan and submit to the Department for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, as required by the statute and in the interests of sound local planning, a Water Shortage Response Plan for the County of Brunswick has been developed and submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds that the Water Shortage Response Plan is in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (I) and that it will provide appropriate guidance for the future management of water supplies for the County of Brunswick, as well as useful information to the Department of Environmental Quality for the development of a state water supply plan as required by statute.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Brunswick that the Water Shortage Response Plan, dated July 6, 2026, is hereby approved and shall be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners intends that this plan shall be revised to reflect changes in relevant data and projections at least once every five years or as requested by the Department, in accordance with the statute and sound planning practice.

Adopted, this 6th day of July 2026.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

VII. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Commissioner Williams would like for staff to draft and send a letter to our State Legislators regarding the current issues with DEQ.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

1. Mr. Baton requested the Board enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(3) to approve Minutes from the June 1, 2026, Closed Session and to consult with its attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege.

   Vice – Chairman Cooke made the motion to enter Closed Session pursuant to the above cited statutes at 3:44 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

   Chairman Forte called the Regular Session to order at 4:08 p.m.

   Mr. Batton advised there is nothing to report from Closed Session.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:09 p.m. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

BRUNSWICK COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA