Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting
Monday, April 7, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room
805 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC

PRESENT:	Commissioner Brad George Commissioner Jerry Groves Chairman Randy Burton Vice Chair Brent Springer Commissioner Jimmy T. Tate
ABSENT:	
OTHER PRESENT:	Michael Silverman, County Manager Trey Thurman, County Attorney Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board Allen Vann, Assistant County Manager Other Staff and Members of the Press and Public

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burton called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

2. INVOCATION

Chairman Burton gave the invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Groves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

4.1 Appointment of Dr. Jimmy Tate as the District 4 County Commissioner — Board of Commissioners

Dr. Jimmy Tate was sworn in and signed his Oath of Office. He gave a few words of gratitude and support.

4.2 Selection of Vice Chair for the Board of Commissioners — Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Tate and Commissioner George both withdrew from being nominated. Commissioner Groves nominated Commissioner Springer. The Board approve Commissioner Springer as Vice Chairman.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Tate requested the Board pull items 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.6, and 9.7 from the Consent Agenda and address them under Approvals and Resolutions.

Vice Chair Springer made a motion to adopt the agenda with the aforementioned items moved to Approvals and Resolutions.

Commissioner Tate seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.1	TEFRA (Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act) Hearing	Charles Bowyer	4-14

Chairman Burton opened up the public hearing. Alice Adams gave a brief overview of the public hearing and asked to hear any comments. There were no sign-ups for public comment on the public hearing. Chairman Burton closed the hearing.

7. PUBLIC INFORMATION

7.1	Focus Broadband Update	Kris Ward	15-18

Kris Ward presented the item. Ward stated this was the last update until the project was completed. He reviewed the USDA Reconnect program and the NC Great Program. Ward reviewed the areas that were completed, in the process of completion, and the areas to be worked on in the final phase. The project is set to be complete by the end of the 2025 calendar year.

7.2	Proclamation Declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month	Coastal Horizons	19-21

Alandra Rose from Coastal Horizons read the proclamation aloud and provided statistics surrounding sexual assault across the nation. She asked the Board to sign the proclamation.

7.3	Proclamation Declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month	Amy Feath	22-23

April Feath from Carousel Center read the proclamation aloud and provided statistics about child abuse around the nation. Feath requested the Board approve th proclamation.

7.4	Annual Trillium Update	Victoria Jackson	24-38

Victoria Jackson, Regional Vice President, presented the item. Jackson reviewed Trillium's mission and gave a brief overview of the statistics in Pender County and the east region. She provided project updates and how-to on services. Jackson answered questions from the Board.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Giddeons spoke about Commissioner Tate and EMS and Fire.

Charlie Schumaker spoke about Union Rescue.

William Rivenbark spoke about Union Rescue.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve the consent agenda.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

9.1	Approval of Closed Session Minutes from the Years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002	Lexi Stanfield	39

Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board, reported this item was a housekeeping item. Her records do not indicate if the closed session minutes from 1999 to current have ever been approved by the Board officially. She requested the Board approve the minutes, so there was documentation of the approval.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

9.2	Approval of Sole Source vendor Graykey for Investigations for extraction technologies.	Alan Cutler	40-43

Sheriff Cutler presented the item. Culter explained the GrayKey equipment was utilized to pull information from phones and computers.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

9.3	Approval to increase Purchase Order # 446 and Budget Ordinance Amendment for Mike's Collision in the amount of $41,947.27 for vehicle repairs.	Alan Cutler	44-45

Ivan Blume, Permitting Director, presented the item. Blume reported the increase in the purchase order was to include an insurance check received by the County.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

9.4	Approval of Hach Service Contract	Anthony Colon	46-51
9.5	Approval of Amendment to US421 CFPUA Interconnection Contract with HighFill Engineering	Anthony Colon	52-65
9.6	Approval of the Purchase Order for the PFAS Study to Include 1, 4-Dioxane	Anthony Colon	66-72

Anthony Colon, Utilities Director, presented the item. Colon reported the purchase order would allow for additional testing of water in Pender County.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

9.7	Approval of Amendment to the McKim & Creed Current Contract on Highway 421	James Proctor	73-82

James Proctor, Deputy Utilities Director, presented the item. Proctor reported the amendment to the current contract would take the pressure off Burgaw for sewer and the amount would be $117,000.00.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

9.8	Budget Ordinance Amendment closing Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (STRAP) grant project	Daniel Adams	83-84
9.9	Approval of a Duke Energy Utility Easement on the Hampstead Kiwanis Park County Property for the Installation of Electrical Utilities.	Dario Ramirez-Duenas	85-91
9.10	Approval of Donation Application from Topsail Junior Pirates, Budget Ordinance Amendment, and Increased Purchase Order	Zach White	92-97
9.11	Motor Vehicle Releases and Refunds	Melissa Radke	98-100
9.12	Refund/Release Requests for items meeting NC G.S. 105-381	Melissa Radke	101-102

10. APPROVALS AND RESOLUTIONS

10.1	Requesting approval of Donation of (2 Polaris DAGOR) from Surplus Military Property Program	Alan Cutler	103

Sheriff Cutler presented the item. The donation is from the Military Property Program. It can be utilized by different departments as needed. The County would be required to keep both Polaris DAGOR for one year, but would be able to sell them later if needed.

Commissioner George made a motion to approve.
Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

10.2	Authority to Execute Contract Amendment with Bobbitt Construction for the Health and Human Services Facility for Tree Removal and Replacement in the amount of $44,961.	Dario Ramirez-Duenas	104-110

Vice Chairman Springer made a motion to table the item to the April 22, 2025, meeting.
Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

10.3	Approval of Deed for Abbey Nature Conservation Easement, Park Tract and Cost-Share Maintenance Agreement between Pender County (Grantee) and Clayton Properties Group (Grantor).	Dario Ramirez-Duenas	111-127

Dario Ramirez, Project Manager, presented the item. Ramirez reported the item was to approve the deed and property share with Clayton Homes. Ramirez reviewed the track, easement, and stormwater easement with the Board.

Commissioner George made a motion to approve.
Commissioner Tate seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

10.4	Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment and Additional Purchase Order with Waters Contracting for Central Pender Park Phase 1 in the amount of $330,000.00 to Establish Owner's Contingency.	Dario Ramirez-Duenas	128-129

Dario Ramirez, Project Manager, presented the item. Ramirez reported the money was moved from the project's fund to the general fund last year. He requested the Board approve moving the funds back into the project account to cover unforeseen costs associated with soil issues.

Commissioner George made a motion to approve.
Commissioner Tate seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

10.5	Approval of Kamstrup as the Sole Source Water Meter, Exclusively Distributed through Fortiline	Brian Terry	130-137

Brian Terry, Supervisor, presented the item. Terry reported the water meters currently being utilized by the County are costly and have a longer wait time. Many of them have broken down and need replacing. Terry requested the Board approve switching the Kamstrup instead as they cost significantly less, have shorter wait times, and have fewer problems.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

10.6	Approval of Purchase Order to Fortiline for AMI equipment for Maple Hill in the amount of $297,434.64	James Proctor	138-147

James Proctor, Deputy Utilities Director, presented the item. Proctor provided a rundown of the history of Maple Hill's utility system budget. This purchase order would have all the equipment need for the new water meters.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

10.7	Adoption of Pender County Mission Statement and Values	Sarah Fulton	148-153

Sarah Fulton, Assistant to the County Manager, presented the item. She reviewed the mission statement and Board Retreat feedback from the Board in March. Commissioner Tate voiced concerns over the lack of community engagement and requested the citizens have the opportunity to participate.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to tabled.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION

12. APPOINTMENTS

12.1 Appointments to the Board of Equalization and Review Lexi Stanfield 154-161

Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board, presented the item. Stanfield reviewed all applicants and relative history pertaining to the applications and the Board of Equalization and Review. All applicants were appointed for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

13. MAPLE HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

14. ROCKY POINT WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

15. SCOTTS HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

16. MOORE'S CREEK WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

17. CENTRAL PENDER WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

18. PENDER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

19. SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

20. ITEMS FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY, COUNTY MANAGER, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER, & COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Attorney Trey Thurman requested the Board make a motion to go into Closed Session for items three (3) attorney Client Privilege, item four (4) Economic Development, and item five (5) Acquisition of Real Property.
Attorney Hogan requested the Board add another Attorney Client Privilege item to the Closed Session Agenda.
Commissioner Groves discussed the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority, and the

County newspaper.
Commissioner George welcomed Commissioner Tate and thanked citizens.
Commissioner Tate thanked citizens, spoke about director requirements, and the return of the Priority One Workforce Committee.
Chairman Burton spoke about Topsail baseball and welcomed Commissioner Tate.

21. CLOSED SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)

Commissioner Tate made a motion to go into Closed Session for items three (3) Attorney Client Privilege, item four (4) Economic Development, and item five (5) Acquisition of Real Property.
Vice Chair Springer seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner George made a motion to return to open session and adjourn the meeting.
Vice Chair Springer seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

22. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Sprigner made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]