



Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting
Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room
805 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC

PRESENT: Commissioner Jerry Groves
Chairman Randy Burton
Vice Chair Brent Springer
Commissioner Jimmy T. Tate

ABSENT: Commissioner Brad George

OTHER PRESENT: Margaret Blue, Interim County Manager
Trey Thurman, County Attorney
Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board
Other Staff and Members of the Press and Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INVOCATION

Commissioner Groves gave the invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Springer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Tate made a motion to excuse Commissioner George.
Vice Chairman Springer seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Springer made a motion to adopt the budget.
Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVALS AND RESOLUTIONS

5.1 Approval of FY 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance and Fee Schedule

Meg Blue, Finance Director and Interim County Manager, presented the item. Blue reviewed the changes made since the June 16, 2025, Board of Commissioners regular meeting. Blue reported the budget maintains the current tax rate. The school budget was reported at \$29,789,270.00, which is higher than the required \$29,648,397.00. The schools' capital outlay budget was increased to \$4,017,768.00. Blue reviewed the Tourism department budget from the current fiscal year and the amount of Occupancy Tax received. Blue gave an overview of the new positions, reclasses, and raises. Vice Chairman Springer asked questions regarding sewer and ways the County can increase their monies received. Commissioner Groves requested the

Tourism department be budgeted for the new fiscal year. Commissioner Tate requested the budget include a ten percent (10%) raise for teachers, a seven (7%) to ten percent (10%) raise for employees, and a \$00.05 decrease in the Ad Valorem taxes, and money for the expansion of the Courthouse. Commissioner Springer also requested the Board meet with the Board of Education prior to adopting the budget. Don Hall, Board of Education member, addressed some of Vice Chairman Springer's concerns with the school board. He cited notice requirements as a possible hindrance to meeting prior to adopting the budget.

Commissioner Groves made a motion to adopt the budget as is. The motion went without a second and failed.

Vice Chairman Springer made a motion to recess the meeting.

Commissioner Tate seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

At 4:48PM the Board took a fifteen-minute recess.

The Board resumed at 5:00PM. Commissioner Groves called to question the item.

Commissioner Groves made a motion to adopt the budget as is. The motion did not receive a second and failed.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve the budget with the addition of \$150,000.00 added for merit raises and bonuses for employees.

Vice Chairman Springer seconded the motion.

Chairman Burton voted in favor of the motion.

Vice Chairman Springer voted in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Tate voted in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Groves voted in opposition of the motion.

The motion carried 3-1.

5.2 Approval of Amendments to the Noise Ordinance

Trey Thurman, County Attorney, presented the item. Thurman reported the amendment would not be approved tonight but discussed. The item will come back a second time for approval.

Thurman suggested the Board amend the noise ordinance to utilize decibels. He advised adding to the noise ordinance rather than taking items away. Thurman presented the idea of putting barking dogs in the ordinance. Vice Chairman Springer vocalized his opposition to adding dogs to the noise ordinance. Thurman will bring the legal language back to the Board at the July 14, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Springer made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Tate seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]