



Minutes

**Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting
Monday, October 6, 2025 at 6:00 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: Margaret Blue, Interim County Manager
Trey Thurman, County Attorney
Tracy Sholders, Interim 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 6:00PM.

2. INVOCATION

Commissioner Tate led the invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Springer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Springer made a motion to adopt the agenda.

Commissioner Tate seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

Rovenia Stringfeild - She spoke about water for 421.

Donald Huffman -He spoke about cleaning ditches.

5.1 Imagine Pender 2050 Comprehensive Land Use Plan Justin Brantley
Public Hearing

Justin Brantley, Interim Planning Director, presented the item. He went over the survey responses and the outcomes. The difference between the Unified Development Ordinance and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan was explained. The Commissioners asked if the Planning Department would be open to putting the survey out again for further responses and coming back to present it again. Brantley agreed.

6. PUBLIC INFORMATION

6.1 Pender County Extension 4-H Youth Program Update Mark Seitz

Tracy Spencer, Part-Time 4-H Program Agent, presented the item. Spencer went over the four H's: head, heart, hands and health. Some of the programs handled by 4-H were listed, the age groups and some of the medals won. Chairman Burton inquired how many kids were in 4- with Spencer responding 300 were enrolled.

6.2 90 Day Tap Reduction fee for Pender County residents. Anthony Colon

Anthony Colon, Pender Water and Sewer Director, presented the item. Colon explained that the 90-day tap reduction fee was for existing homes, with wells and a water line running across the front of the property. Commissioner Tate inquired if the 90 days could be adjusted since the month had already started and if the cost of \$2,500 could be reduced. Colon said the time frame could be adjusted and he would look at the numbers again to see if the cost could be reduced further.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Charlie Schoomaker, 725 Camp Kirkwood Road - spoke about the Pender EMS & Fire merger.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner George made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of items 8.5 and 8.6 for discussion.

Commissioner Tate seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

8.1 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment for Candy Drop Donations in the amount of \$2,150.00 Zach White

8.2 Approval of September 2, and September 15, 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes Tracy Sholders

8.3 Refund/Release Requests for items meeting NC G.S. 105-381 Mark Walker

8.4 Motor Vehicle Releases and Refunds Mark Walker

8.5 Approval of a Purchase Order for Just Appraised, Inc. for FY26 subscription in the amount of \$40,500. Mark Walker

Mark Walker, Tax Administrator, presented the item. Walker explained the reason for the request. Commissioner Tate inquired why this should be approved if the department is going with a new software. Walker explained that this software would allow the department to work with deeds electronically and was not for the tax side. The tax side uses a different software.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve.

Commissioner George seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 8.6 Purchase order and contract for Vincent Valuations' processing of new construction permits and related work in Tax Appraisal Mark Walker

Mark Walker, Tax Administrator, presented the item. Walker explained that this was needed to continue with tax appraisals. Chairman Burton wanted to know when the tax appraisal posting would be available. Walker responded he hoped to have it by the end of October.

Commissioner Tate questioned the time it would take to train this position and how many positions would be required. Walker stated he was looking for three individuals to start with and then increase to four and that it would take three to four months for training.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve.

Commissioner Georeg seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 8.7 Approve Purchase Order to Calgon Carbon in the amount of \$182,000.00 for Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Exchange James Proctor

- 8.8 Contract Award and Purchase Orders for Water Treatment Chemicals Anthony Colon

9. APPROVALS AND RESOLUTIONS

- 9.1 Imagine Pender 2050 Comprehensive Land Use Plan Justin Brantley

Justin Brantley, Interim Planning Director, presented the item. Brantley went over the Comprehensive Plan and explained that it is a road map of where the County wants to go, that it is like a framework. After some discussion, the Commissioner requested the Planning Department to try and get more feedback and bring the item back at the November 3 meeting.

- 9.2 Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans Michelle Leach

Michelle Leach, Veterans Services Director, presented the item. Leach requested to shine green lights on several buildings in the county in recognition of veterans.

Commissioner Springer made a motion to approve.

Commissioner George seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 9.3 Approval of a purchase order in the amount of \$58,733.70 to Capital Chevrolet for the purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 for Pender Water & Sewer Anthony Colon

Anthony Colon, Pender Water and Sewer Director, presented the item. Colon stated they had recently hired an additional utility inspector, and he would need a vehicle that could access the sites. After some discussion, the Commissioners requested Colon get the price of an F150 and bring the item back at the October 20th meeting.

9.4 Sign Handling Request

Justin Brantley

Justin Brantley, Interim Planning Director, presented the item. Brantley stated that a citizen had requested the approval of the Board to collect signs on the roadways. The Commissioners stated that due to liability issues, the Board could not authorize the individual to remove the signs.

Commissioner George made a motion for denial.

Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

9.5 Approval of the transfer of Right of Way, Temporary Construction Easements, and Improvements to NCDOT

Sarah Fulton

Sarah Fulton, Strategic Director, presented the item. Fulton explained the project would affect the Jail, the Jail Administration and the Court House and that DOT was going to provide the County with \$30,225 for any repairs needed. The commissioners requested Fulton contact DOT and have them present the item at a future meeting.

9.6 Pender EMS & Fire Retention and Recruitment

Margaret Blue

Margaret Blue, Interim County Manager, presented the item. Blue stated that Pender EMS was requesting funds for longevity, additional holiday pay to match the counties, and sign-on bonuses. After some discussion, it was requested that the County Attorney come up with an agreement for the employees by the Pender EMS Board meeting on October 13, 2025. The item was requested to be tabled until the October 20, 2025 meeting so that the agreement from the County Attorney was done and the Interim Manager and Chief could meet.

Commissioner Springer made a motion to table the item.

Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.

Commissioner Tate apposed

Commissioner George recused himself.

The motion passed 3 to 2.

10. DISCUSSION

11. APPOINTMENTS

11.1 Appointment(s) to the Pender Housing Initiative

Tracy Sholders

Tracy Sholders, Interim Clerk to the Board, presented the item.

Commissioner Tate made a motion for approval.

Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

12. MAPLE HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

13. ROCKY POINT WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

- 13.1 Approve the Deed of Dedication on Water Distribution System for Brookfield Branch Phase 1 Section 2 Anthony Colon

Anthony Colon, Pender Water and Sewer Director, presented the item. Colon stated this was for Hoover Road, Phase 1 Section 2.

Commissioner Springer made a motion for approval.
Commissioner Tate seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

14. SCOTTS HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

15. MOORE'S CREEK WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

16. CENTRAL PENDER WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

17. PENDER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

18. SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

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

Trey Thurman, County Attorney, requested to go into closed session for item three (3) Attorney Client Privilege and item six (6) Personnel.

Margaret Blue, Interim County Manager, mentioned the three (3) remaining Town Hall meetings, the Noise Ordinance meeting scheduled for 10/8/2025, the next BOCC meeting in Hampstead, and website scams.

Tracy Sholders, Interim Clerk to the Board, spoke about the show "Home" being presented at Thalian Hall.

Commissioner Groves spoke on political violence.

Commissioner Springer thanked the staff for working with the City of Burgaw to clean up a park.

Commissioner Tate spoke about Mr. Sunny Rowe, talking with Mrs. Stringfield and getting along on Boards for a united Pender.

Chairman Burton spoke on Pender EMS and Fire and individuals being afraid to come forward.

20. CLOSED SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)

Commissioner Groves made a motion to go into closed session.
Commissioner Springer seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner George made a motion to end closed session.
Commissioner Springer seconded,
The motion passed unanimously.

21. 7PM PUBLIC HEARINGS: SPECIAL USE PERMITS/ZONING MAP
AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS

22. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner George made a motion to close the meeting.
Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 10:04PM.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]