



MINUTES
Board of County Commissioners Meeting
Monday, November 6, 2023 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fred McCoy
Jacqueline A. Newton
Jerry Groves
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee
Brad George

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Andrews, County Manager
Trey Thurman, County Attorney
Patrick Buffkin, Staff Attorney
Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board
Allen Vann, Assistant County Manager
Other Staff and Members of the Press and Public.

1 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Chair Newton called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

2 INVOCATION

2.1 Chair Newton gave the invocation.

3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.1 Commissioner George led the pledge of allegiance.

4 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4.1 Chair Newton announced two (2) items needed to be added to the agenda. Item 6.2 County Water Update and item 9.5 Jury Commission Appointment.

Vice-Chair Hardee made a motion to add 6.2 County Water Update to the agenda. Commissioner Groves seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to add item 9.5 Jury Commission Appointment and adopt the agenda with the additional items.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
Brad George	x			
	5	0	0	0

CARRIED.

5 PUBLIC HEARING

6 PUBLIC INFORMATION

6.1 Veterans Services Office Fall 2023 Update

Michelle Leach, Veteran's Services Director, gave an update on upcoming events. Operation Greenlight starts today and will run to November 12th. Pender County Veteran's Services is asking citizens also show support for Veteran's by light their homes in green lights as well. There are two Veteran Coffee Talk events coming up. One will be held on November 9th, 2023, at 9:00AM at Heritage Place and the second will be held on December 1st, 2023, at 9:00AM at Topsail Senior Center. The Veterans Parade will be held on November 11th, 2023, on 3rd Street in Wilmington, NC. Wreathes Across American will be held on December 16th, 2023, at 12:00PM at Andrews Mortuary in Hampstead, NC. The Town of Burgaw Veterans Day Program will be on November 11th, 2023, at 11:00AM. Additionally, a documentary about Veteran struggles is premiering in New Hanover County. The date for the Pender County premiere has not been set.

6.2 Pender County Water Update

Anthony Colon, Utilities Director, gave the water update. Colon and James Proctor, Deputy Director of Utilities, wanted to meet with Sampson County to discuss the possibility of connecting the more western side to their water. They are still in the process of discussing water connections with neighboring counties. Samantha Jones connected Colon to Carson Smith to get funding in 2025. In total, there

are eighteen (18) miles needing coverage.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS

8 CONSENT AGENDA

- 8.1 Approval of Sole Source vendor for Quarter Circle 10 for supplies for Special Response Team.

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to adopt the consent agenda.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
Brad George	x			
	5	0	0	0

CARRIED.

- 8.2 2023 appeal release requests after adjournment of the Board of Equalization and Review
- 8.3 Approval of Sole Source vendor for the purchase of equipment from Avail Forensics, LLC.
- 8.4 Approval of Sole Source (Multi-year) vendor Motorola Solutions for Annual Preventative Maintenance on Portable and Mobile radios.
- 8.5 Approval to increase Purchase Order for Batteries of NC in the amount of \$25,000.
- 8.6 Approval of a Purchase order for Annual Software Licensing and Maintenance \$40,000.00
- 8.7 Refund of Overpayment of Excise Tax
- 8.8 2024 Calendar Regular Meetings
- 8.9 October 2, 2023, BOCC Meeting Minutes
- 8.10 Taxpayer request for release of late penalties
- 8.11 Release Request of Personal Property Value received timely within the appeal period
- 8.12 Present Use Value Release Request

- 8.13 Motor Vehicle Releases and Refunds
- 8.14 Release request due to application for Disabled Veteran processed after billing
- 8.15 Approval of Purchase Order for the purchase of a 2020 F-150 XLT truck in the amount of \$42,485.00.
- 8.16 Order to Advertise 2022 Tax Liens
- 8.17 Approval of a Purchase Order to i2i Systems, Inc in the amount of \$23,280
- 8.18 Approval of a Budget Amendment to Increase Health Department Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-2024: \$49,265
- 8.19 Approval to Increase Purchase Order to Target Specialty Products by \$20,000 for Chemicals to Spray Mosquitos.
- 8.20 Approval of a Budget Amendment to Increase Health Department Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-2024: \$82,000

9 APPROVALS AND RESOLUTIONS

- 9.1 Approval of the Scope of Services for the Pender Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees

Sarah Taylor, Assistant to the County Manager, presented the item to the Board. Pender Memorial Hospital is expanding the scope of work for the Board of Trustees following the deal with Novant. Pender County Board of Commissioners appoints six (6) of the eleven (11) members to the Board of Trustees, one being a commissioner. Staff ask the Board to approve the new scope of services.

Moved by Brad George, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to Approve the Scope of Services for the Pender Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
Brad George	x			
	5	0	0	0

CARRIED.

9.2 Pender County Water Tower Logo Design

Brandi Cobb and Anthony Colon, Communications Manager and Public Utilities Director respectively, presented the Pender County Water Tower Logo Design. Pender County Utilities previously paid \$20,000.00 for the Public Utilities Logo to be painted on the new water tower near Scotts Hill. Colon feels the Board should have had an opportunity to vote on the design prior to paying. The company who designed the template can change the logo for an additional \$2,000.00. The Board discussed the different options presented: County Seal, County logo, or Pender County Public Utilities logo.

Moved by Jerry Groves, seconded by Brad George

Motion to Approve Change in Water Tower Logo design from the Pender County Public Utilities Logo to the Pender County Turtle Logo. Moved by Brad George, Seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee. No additional votes to approve. Motion Failed.

Motion to Keep Water Tower Logo design as the Pender County Public Utilities Logo. Moved by Fred McCoy. No Second. Motion Failed.

Motion to Approve Change in Water Tower Logo design from the Pender County Public Utilities Logo to the Pender County Seal. Motion Carried.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
Brad George	x			
	5	0	0	0

CARRIED.

9.3 Approval of Purchase Order and Budget Amendment to Purchase a Truck for \$41,467.10

Anthony Colon, Public Utilities Director, presented the Approval of Purchase Order and Budget Amendment to the Board. The truck was budgeted for FY24, but more funding is needed to cover the cost of the purchase order. Public Utilities is experiencing a shortage in vehicles due to a car wreck recently. The lack of vehicles is interfering with

Utilities ability to fulfill their job tasks. Utilities will be receiving an insurance check in the amount of \$10,000.

Moved by Brad George, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to Approve Purchase Order and Budget Amendment to Purchase a Truck for \$41,467.10

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
Brad George	x			
	5	0	0	0

CARRIED.

9.4 Application for Gift - Eagle Scout Project

Zach White, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented the Application for a Bocce Ball Court as a part of an Eagle Scout Project by Skyler Scholtis. This court would be 10'x60' in size at the Kiwanis Park. White presented the excavation plan to the Board. The court would have a stone base foundation, recycled crushed oyster shell surface, and a pressure treated lumber frame. A permit or inspection is not required to build the bocce ball court. Skyler Sholtis addressed the Board and spoke about his desire to build the court. Mr. Sholtis is from California and wanted to bring a piece of California to North Carolina. The Bocce Ball Court is his contribution.

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Jerry Groves

Motion to approve the Application for Gift- Eagle Scout Project

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
Brad George	x			
	5	0	0	0

CARRIED.

9.5 Jury Commission Appointment

Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board, presented this item. Pender County's Jury Commission has one member appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Shayne Frey, who served last year, has volunteered to be reappointed to the Jury Commission for the 2024-2025 year.

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to appoint Shayne Frey to the Jury Commission

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
Brad George	x			
	5	0	0	0

CARRIED.

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 Discussion Regarding the Proposed Gift of a Historical Marker for the Courthouse Square

Commissioner McCoy requested this item to be on the agenda and opened discussion up among the Board. Commissioner McCoy is in favor of the historical marker. It would cost \$2,985.00 and be paid for by the Johanson family. The Johanson family previously requested family members be honored with their name listed at the bottom of the sign in .25-inch silver font. Chair Newton raised concerns of equity. Mike Taylor spoke on behalf of the family. If there is issue with their names being on the sign, they are willing to take the names off. Commissioner Groves requested the item be tabled.

11 APPOINTMENTS

12 MAPLE HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

13 ROCKY POINT WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

14 SCOTTS HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

15 MOORES CREEK WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

16 CENTRAL PENDER WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

17 PENDER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

17.1 Approval of the Job Description for the Health and Human Services Director

Carolyn Moser, Health and Human Services Director, presented this item. This is an annual item the Board must approve. There have been no changes in the job description since last year.

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Brad George

Motion to approve the Job Description for the Health and Human Services Director

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
Brad George	x			
	5	0	0	0

CARRIED.

17.2 Board of Health Handbook and Annual Training

Carolyn Moser, Health and Human Services Director, presented this item. The approval of this is a part of an accreditation. There were a few changes made since last year. The book mentions the advisory board. This board is mostly an advocacy board and holds no power in making formal decisions. The Organizational chart has been updated, as well as the adjudication. Section nine (9) has a new report and strategic Plan for 2023-2024. A new plan will take place starting January 1, 2024.

Moved by Brad George, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to Approve the Board of Health Handbook and Annual Training

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			

Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
Brad George	x			
	5	0	0	0

CARRIED.

18 SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

19 PUBLIC COMMENT

- 19.1 Cheryl Highsmith requested the Board honor Desmond Jordan for his World Championship record for deadlifts and his work in the Community. The Board agreed a resolution honoring him was needed and would be scheduled for the following meeting.

20 ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, COUNTY MANAGER, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGERS, & COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- 20.1 Chair Newton requested Norwood Blanchard be put on the agenda for the next meeting for reappointment to the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority. Chair Newton spoke about the railroad presentation and its future as energy. She also praised Senator Brent for his hard work with the Pender County Budget.
- 20.2 Allen Vann, Assistant County Manager, reminded the public of the temporary access to Abbey Nature Preserve. It is now open and is located at 1035 Scotts Hill Loop Rd. Vann also praised the Parks and Recreation department for their efforts in creating signage for the public to find the temporary access.
- 20.3 Trey Thurman, County Attorney, requested the Board go into closed session pursuant to item three (3) Attorney Client Privilege for 22 CVS 1029 and others. Thurman also notified the Board he had spoken to Anthony Colon and would be coming to the Board at the next meeting with a formal recommendation for a settlement.
- 20.4 Commissioner George recently attended the Train Depo. He found it very informative. He asked the citizens remember Friday is a holiday because of the veterans who served. Commissioner George thanked those who have served.
- 20.5 Commissioner McCoy praised the Meals on Wheels organization and briefly spoke about the Fall Festival.

- 20.6 Commissioner Groves spoke about his time attending the Train Depo alongside Commissioner George. He spoke about how informative it was and gave a short summary of where NC is at with that project. Commissioner Groves noted he would like another study done at Malpass Corner.
- 20.7 Vice-Chair Hardee informed the public of WMPO's \$11million grant awarded to North Carolina ports.

21 CLOSED SESSION (IF APPLICABLE).

Moved by Brad George, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to go into Closed Session Pursuant to item (3) Attorney Client Privilege regarding 22 CVS 1029 and other cases.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
Brad George	x			
	5	0	0	0

CARRIED.

22 ADJOURNMENT

- 22.1 A motion was made to return to open session. Motion was seconded and carried. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.