



Minutes

**Board of County Commissioners Budget Session Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2026 at 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room
805 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC**

PRESENT:

Vice Chair Brad George
Commissioner Jerry Groves
Chairman Randy Burton
Commissioner Brent Springer
Commissioner Jimmy T. Tate

ABSENT:

OTHER

PRESENT:

Colby Sawyer, County Manager
Meg Blue, Assistant County Manager
Katie Barber-Jones, Hartzog Law Group
Other Staff and Members of the Press and Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burton called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

2. INVOCATION

Chairman Burton led the Invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman George led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. 4:05PM OPENING PRESENTATION: COLBY SAWYER

Colby Sawyer, County Manager, started by stating the staff had done a good job with the instructions they were given, and the budget sessions were to look at expenditures. The County was still working on revenue neutral and property tax collection was ahead compared to this time last year.

5. 4:20PM SUMMARY OF ENHANCEMENTS: MEG BLUE

Meg Blue, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director, noted that final cuts had not been done. There were very few requests for vehicles. The plan was to have the budget at the first meeting in June.

6. 4:40PM WAY FORWARD: MEG BLUE & PAM BRAME

Pam Brame, Human Resources Director, explained that the county had done a salary study on every position in the county that included 26 surrounding counties. They looked at years of service, degrees, and certifications. They also came up with career development plans for each department.

7. 5:00PM FLEET, FACILITIES, CUSTODIAL: WYATT RICHARDSON

Troy Moore, Facilities and Fleet Deputy Director, went over a couple of buildings that needed some attention. Moore was asked about the old DHHS building, and he explained that

renovation would be cost prohibitive due to asbestos as well as sewer issues.

8. 5:25PM PARKS & RECREATION, SHOOTING RANGE, GROUNDS:
ZACH WHITE

Zach White, Parks & Recreation Director, went over his department's requests, explained the needs and possible cost savings.

9. 5:50PM BREAK

10. 6:00PM REGISTER OF DEEDS: SHARON WILLOUGHBY

Sharon Willoughby, Register of Deeds Director, stated there were no real changes. Blue noted there were some step changes requested to bring employees in line with neighboring counties.

11. 6:15PM ITS: MARCEL MIRANDA

Marcel Miranda, ITS Director, requested two (2) items, moving Tyler to the Clouds and a Ducan Parnel GPS unit.

12. 6:30PM TAX: JESSICA HUDSON & TAKIA MCINTIRE

Jessica Hudson & Takia McIntire, Joint Tax Administrators, stated there was no real change to their budget.

13. 6:45PM FINANCE: MEG BLUE

Meg Blue, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director, noted that a lot of positions were reclassified.

14. 7:00PM HR & FINANCE: PAM BRAME

Pam Brame, Human Resources Director, stated her budget did go up due to taking on new employees. This year she had to estimate, but next year she would be able to have a more accurate budget.

15. 7:15PM COUNTY MANAGER: COLBY SAWYER

Colby Sawyer, County Manager, stated he was requesting a Communication Specialist and a 2nd Assistant County Manager.

16. 7:30PM ATTORNEY, GOVERNING BOARD: QUINTON MORGAN &
MEG BLUE

Quinton Morgan, Staff Attorney, stated he had over 2000 cases pending. This is the first time his department has had an individual budget.

17. 7:45PM NON-DEPARTMENTAL, DEBT SERVICES: MEG BLUE

Moved to another meeting.

18. 8:00PM CLOSING REMARKS

Commissioner Springer made a motion to adjourn at 7:26pm.
Commissioner Groves seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]