MINUTES
Board of County Commissioners Meeting
Monday, October 2, 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 Vice Chair Hardee gave the invocation.

3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.1 Commissioner Groves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to adopt the 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.

5 PUBLIC HEARING

6 PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS

7 PUBLIC INFORMATION

7.1 Resolution Honoring Sarah G. Woolard Upon Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award

Patrick Buffkin, Staff Attorney, presented Sarah G. Woolard with an honorary resolution for her achievement of receiving the Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can receive. Ms. Woolard received this award for her Take Action Project. Ms. Woolard focused her project on raising awareness of the effects of social isolation on residents of skilled nursing facilities. Ms. Woolard was asked by the Board to speak on her experience throughout this project and why she picked this topic. The Board took a picture with Ms. Woolard and her parents.

7.2 Focus Broadband - Pender County Grant Update

Kris Ward, Business Development Director of Focus Broadband, presented the Board a grant update. Ward first spoke about the USDA Reconnect project. The USDA granted Focus Broadband $21.6 million in 2020 for this project. Focus Broadband is contributing $7.2 million to this project as well. Work in Burgaw and Wallace phases are to begin in the fourth quarter of 2023. Mapel Hill will likely begin in quarter one of 2024. Majority of this project should be complete by the end of 2024, with total completion estimated by mid-2025. Ward gave a brief overview of the NC Great Grant as well. Focus Broadband won a $4 million grant from the state in 2022. In addition to this, Broadband and Pender County are each contributing $547,000 in matching funds. The partnership agreement was finalized in March 2023, allowing Broadband to begin the design and permitting. The first customers are estimated to have service available by March 2024 or sooner. Project completion is estimated by mid-2025. Ward also spoke about current recruiting in Pender County for engineering positions in the new Focus Broadband store opening soon. The store should be open in the Winter of 2023. Ward answered questions from the Board.

7.3 WMPO FY 23 Annual Report Overview

Mike Kozlosky presented the WMPO FY 23 Annual Report overview to the Board. Kozlosky briefly spoke about the history of the WMPO, and the makeup of the establishment I.E., the board, services, etc. Kozlosky reviewed the WMPO organization assessment, long-range planning efforts, board highlights, 2050 metro transportation demand management program, and many other topics. Kozlosky answered all questions from the Board.

7.4 WMPO 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Development and Outreach

Vanessa Lacer from the WMPO presented this item to the Board. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan overview is federally mandated to be adopted by the MTP every five-years. It must be multi-modal (six modes), fiscally constrained, 20-year minimum planning horizon, along with other things. The WMPO 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Development and Outreach will be used by federal, state, and local government to guide transportation projects in our region over the next 25-years. Lacer went over the August 2022-November 2025 timeline. Lacer answered questions from the Board.

8 CONSENT AGENDA

8.1 BOA to close Country Court Account and Transfer Funds from the General County Fund to the Pender County Housing Authority Fund.

Moved by Brad George, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to Approve 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 Approval of a Purchase Order for the Central Square (Zuercher) Annual Subscription and Annual Maintenance fee in the amount of $95,407.63.

8.3 Approval of Budget Amendment for the transfer of revenue funds from insurance claims in the amount of $12,572.75.

8.4 Approval of a Purchase Order to McGill for sludge removal at the WWTP in FY24 for $50,000

8.5 August 21, 2023, BOCC Meeting Minutes

8.6 September 5, 2023, BOCC Meeting Minutes

8.7 September 12, 2023, BOCC/PB Joint Meeting Minutes

8.8 Personal Property Release Requests

8.9 Motor Vehicle Releases and Refunds

8.10 Approval of a Budget Amendment to close out project budgets in Fund 60 CIP fund

8.11 Approval of Resolution Authorizing Sale of Surplus Personal Property by Public Auction

8.12 Consideration of Approval of a Contract with Pond & Company for Design, Engineering, and Construction Administration for Central Pender Park

9 APPROVALS AND RESOLUTIONS

10 DISCUSSION

11 APPOINTMENTS

11.1 Re-appointments to the Advisory Board of Health

Lexi Stanfield, Clerk, presented this item to the board. Stanfield gave the background information all applicants. Stanfield answered any questions from the Board. The board voted to waive Rule 32, section C of the Board of Commissioners' Rules of Procedure and reappoint Kimberly Collins and Jan Dawson to the Advisory Board of Health for the Nurse and Public Member position, respectively. The Board also voted in favor to reappoint Denise Houghton for the optometrist position and appoint Bonita Pyler for the second available Public Member position.

Moved by Brad George, seconded by Fred McCoy

The Board voted to approve the reappointment of three applicants and the appointment of one new applicant.

	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.

11.2 Re-appointment to the Parks and Recreation Board

Lexi Stanfield, Clerk, presented this item to the board. Stanfield gave the background information all applicants. Stanfield answered any questions from the Board. The Board voted unanimously to reappoint Jamie Moore for the At-Large position and Daniel Price for the District Five Representative position.

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Jerry Groves

Motion to approve the reappointments.

	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.

12 MAPLE HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

13 ROCKY POINT WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

13.1 Approve Resolution Accepting the Deed of Dedication of Water Distribution System for Bridgewater Landing

James Proctor, Public Utilities Deputy Director, presented this item. A subdivision was built and has been given approval to be turned over to Pender County. Proctor went over the process it took to get the subdivision ready to be transferred over to the County and answered questions from the Board.

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Brad George

Motion to Approve Accepting the Deed of Dedication of Water Distribution System for Bridgewater Landing

	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.

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

18 SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

19 PUBLIC COMMENT

19.1 Carol Highsmith requested the original document(s) for the Broadband Internet. The Board advised her to speak with Kris Ward from Broadband.

19.2 Larry Highsmith also appeared before the Board to discuss Broadband Internet.

19.3 Cheryl Highsmith appeared before the Board to request a map of county water in Pender County.

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

20.1 Trey Thurman, County Attorney, requested the Board go into closed session pursuant to item three (3) Attorney Client Privilege including the case Coastal Pines vs Pender County 22 CVS 1029 and item six (6) Personnel.

Commissioner George reminded everyone October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Commissioner McCoy spoke about the Wallace airport name change.

Vice Chair Hardee expressed her gratitude to be at the meeting and a part of the Board.

Commissioner Groves spoke about tax bills and urged the Board to rethink their approval of the four-year reappraisal cycle.

21 CLOSED SESSION (IF APPLICABLE).

21.1 The Board made a motion and went into closed session pursuant to item three (3) Attorney Client Privilege including the case Coastal Pines vs Pender County 22 CVS 1029 and item six (6) Personnel.

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Jerry Groves

Motion to go into closed session.

	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 The meeting was adjourned at 6:47PM.

Moved by Brad George, seconded by Jerry Groves

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

	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.