



Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Budget Session Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room
805 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC

PRESENT: Vice Chair Brad George
Commissioner Jerry Groves
Commissioner Brent Springer
Commissioner Jimmy T. Tate

ABSENT: Chairman Randy Burton

OTHER PRESENT: Colby Sawyer, County Manager
Meg Blue, Assistant County Manager
Dan Hartzog Jr., Hartzog Law Group
Other Staff and Members of the Press and Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman George called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

2. INVOCATION

Commissioner Tate led the Invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman George led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. REVENUES: BLUE

Meg Blue, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director, presented the item. Blue went over the General Fund revenues and tax calculations for revenue neutral.

5. FEE SCHEDULE: ORMAN

Jacob Orman, Budget Manager, presented the item. Orman stated there were no major changes to the fees. James Proctor, Interim Utilities Manager, advised that utilities were under a multi-step rate increase program and was expecting a 19 to 23% increase. With the expected growth, this would be about a 4–5 dollar increase in the flat rate fee.

6. ENHANCEMENTS REVIEW: BLUE

Meg Blue, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director, presented the item. Blue stated that the enhancements had been presented by each department. Blue noted that larger enhancements would need to be cut in order to balance the budget.

7. UTILITIES: PROCTOR

James Proctor, Interim Utilities Director, presented the item. The department's enhancements, equipment and personnel needs were presented. The cost of the department having their own construction crew was also presented.

Commissioner Tate thanked Proctor, and Colby Sawyer, County Manager, for meeting with him

to discuss the water issues within Pender County. Sawyer noted they had come up with one option to effectively have clean water across the county. The county had a settlement coming and could take some of that money and set it aside for a revolving fund to help people put in deeper wells. There would be a monthly charge with interest on their bill to help fund the growth, a lien on their property, a meter on the well, so if they decide not to pay the bill, the water can be turned off, and if public water becomes available, they must hook up to it. Depending on the cost of the wells, they should be able to start with somewhere between 66 and 99 wells.

8. CLOSING REMARKS: SAWYER

Colby Sawyer, County Manager, asked the Commissioners to review the budget books, ask any questions, and let them know what they wanted to see in the budget.

Meg Blue, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director, stated they hoped to have the budget for the board at the first meeting in June, but it depended on if they could get it advertised in time.

Vice Chairman George was concerned about enough custodians, grounds crew and IT for the new Law Enforcement Center. Sawyer and Blue stated these had been addressed in the individual department budgets. Vice Chairman George also questioned if things approved in the budget would not have to come back to the board for approval a second time. Blue confirmed this was accurate but that some documents needed to be changed to make it official.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]