



MINUTES
Board of County Commissioners Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 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 Commissioner McCoy gave the invocation.

3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.1 Commissioner Groves lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4.1 David Andrews, County Manager, requested the Board add an additional item to the agenda. Commissioner McCoy made a motion to add the item as 9.2. Vice Chair Hardee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Jerry Groves

Motion to adopt the agenda with the additional item added as item 9.2.

	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 State of the Fire Marshal's Office

Amy Burton, Fire Marshall, gave a brief overview of the Pender County Fire Department. Fire Marshall Burton outlined the future plans she would like to carry out in order to serve Pender County better, including hiring more staff and restructure and reorganize the Fire Commission. Fire Marshall Burton answered the Board's questions.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS

8 CONSENT AGENDA

8.1 Approve Purchase Order to purchase a mini-excavator

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Jerry Groves

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 A Resolution of the Pender County Board of Commissioners Authorizing Upset Bid Process with respect to the Disposition by Sale of Parcel 3332-88-7049-0000
- 8.3 A Resolution of the Pender County Board of Commissioners Accepting High Bid for Property with Respect to the Disposition by Sale of Parcel 2353-74-1898-0000
- 8.4 A Resolution of the Pender County Board of Commissioners Accepting High Bid for Property with respect to the Disposition by Sale of Parcel 2385-65-4988-0000
- 8.5 Approval to Accept a Donation for Foster Care Children's Fund \$3155
- 8.6 Approval of a Purchase Order to Axon Enterprises, Inc. in the Amount of \$44,437.20 for the Lease of the Tasers. This will be year 5 lease payment.
- 8.7 Approval of Resolution to Adopt 2022 Local Water Supply Plan
- 8.8 Approval of Purchase Order for the purchase of 2023 Dodge Charger from Performance Auto in the of amount of \$50,004.67.
- 8.9 August 7, 2023, BOCC Meeting Minutes
- 8.10 Second approval of revisions to the Solid Waste Ordinance to include criminal penalties
- 8.11 Motor Vehicle Releases and Refunds
- 8.12 Approval of a Purchase Order to Software House International (SHI) for Manage Engine's IT Service Management Annual Software Licensing Renewal in the amount of \$81,347.71.
- 8.13 Approval of a Purchase Order for a 2024 Ford Bronco Sport to Performance Ford for \$31,890.24
- 8.14 Approval of a Budget Amendment to move revenues in the amount of \$4,240.74 to expenditures.
- 8.15 Approval of a Budget Amendment to increase Health Department Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-2024: \$300,000
- 8.16 Approval of Contract for 2026 Reappraisal Services with Vincent Valuations

9 APPROVALS AND RESOLUTIONS

- 9.1 Resolution Advancing the Real Property Revaluation Cycle from Eight to Seven Years, Effective Jan. 1, 2026, and Every Four Years Thereafter

Melissa Radke, Tax Administrator, present the Resolution Advancing the Real Property Revaluation Cycle from Eight to Seven Years,

Effective Jan. 1, 2026, and Every Four Years Thereafter. Radke gave a brief overview of the resolution advancing the Real Property Revaluation Cycle, an item that has been brought before the Board a few times. Radke also requested the Board consider/approve changing the reevaluation cycle to every four (4) years after this upcoming reevaluation. Radke explained the benefits of reducing the years in-between reevaluations. Radke answered the Board's questions.

Moved by Brad George, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to Approve the Resolution Advancing the Real Property Revaluation Cycle from Eight to Seven Years, Effective Jan. 1, 2026, and Every Four Years Thereafter.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton		x		
Jerry Groves		x		
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
Brad George	x			
	3	2	0	0

CARRIED.

9.2 Approval of Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults

David Andrews, County Manager, presented this item. This grant is an agreement between Pender Adult Services and Cape Fear Council of Government. The grant is for \$476,906.00 to Pender County for adult programs such as transportation, home delivered meals, in-home aid, senior center operations, etc. and requires a \$52,000.00 match. This grant is annually presented to the Board.

Moved by Brad George, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to approve the Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults.

	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

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 Presentation of Child Fatality Team Report for 2022

Carolyn Moser, Health and Human Services Director, presented the Child Fatality Report for 2022. This is a statutorily mandated report. According to the report, there were seven (7) child deaths reviewed in 2022. Four (4) of the seven cases were closed out and two (2) are waiting for additional information. Moser covered the different causes assessed. None of the cases were results of improper case. Moser recommends the Health Department continue to work like they have been.

18 SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

19 PUBLIC COMMENT

19.1 Muriel Seabrooks addressed the Board to discuss the lack of internet access at her home and the water issues she has faced. Ms. Seabrooks feels the west side of Pender County has been forgotten when it comes to the Broadband Internet.

Chair Newton addressed Ms. Seabrooks concerns and offered an update on the Broadband Internet from David Andrews, County Manager. Andrews stated he spoke to Kris Ward from Broadband and was told it should be up by December 2023.

- 19.2 Tommy Carr also discussed internet and water issues he has been facing. Mr. Carr stated he had to have head surgery due to alleged bacteria in his well water. He also noted he has to use bottled water for almost everything. Mr. Carr briefly spoke about internet issues as well.
- 19.3 Robert Highsmith addressed water issues. Mr. Highsmith stated his interest in getting on city water.
- 19.4 Brenda Galvan appeared before the Board to discuss water and internet issues.
- 19.5 Larry Highsmith appeared before the Board to discuss water issues. Mr. Highsmith stated he has a deep well, but his water is still appearing contaminated. Mr. Highsmith reports his water rusts everything and he has to use bottled water for everything.
- 19.6 Carol Highsmith appeared before the Board to address water and internet issues. Ms. Highsmith did not go into depth about water issues since so many had before. She did note that no one had called her from the last Board meeting about internet issues.
- 19.7 Mercedes Clements appeared before the Board to discuss internet and water. Ms. Clements thanked Chair Newton and David Andrews for their hard work.
- 19.8 Joyce Carr appeared before the Board to discuss internet and water. Ms. Carr noted that water and internet are necessities not luxuries.
- 19.9 Jeffrey Newton appeared before the Board to discuss internet and water. Mr. Newton voiced his belief that there is a link in the lack of clean water and internet and the racial makeup of the area. Mr. Newton stated he had called Chair Newton years ago but he never heard back from her.
- 19.10 Timothy Dittmar appeared before the board to discuss the sign for Millers Pond Park. Mr. Dittmar stated he had spoken to NCDOT and went over a few ideas to fix the issue. He asked the Board to also help by getting in contact with DOT.
- 19.11 Cheryl Highsmith appeared before the Board to discuss the internet and water issues. Ms. Highsmith gave grant statistics and raised concern about her area not having internet. She also spoke on water issues in her area. Ms. Highsmith voiced she felt the Board does not accurately represent her without former commissioner Jimmy Tate. Ms. Highsmith asked Chair Newton and Commissioner Groves about racial remarks.
- 19.12 Brett DeSelms addressed the Board on Behalf of a Pender County resident in regard to Carl Meeks, LLC., a motorbike Airbnb. Mr. DeSelms asked the Board to help with the noise.
- 19.13 Georgia Smith addressed the Board. She purchased a home for

Stephen's Fine Homes and is currently having septic tank issues. Ms. Smith requests the Board to help her and other residents with similar issues.

- 19.14 Gary Helm, the resident who hired Brett DeSelms, expressed the motorbikes are too loud and he feels his life has been destroyed.
- 19.15 Terrell Pridgen appeared before the Board to discuss the lack of internet in his area. Mr. Pridgen voiced his belief that internet plays a crucial role in society today in areas such as education and employment.
- 19.16 Roy Harris appeared before the Board to discuss the Carl Meeks, LLC. motorbikes and river flooding. Mr. Harris asked for help with the noise of the bikes, and suggested the Board close the river whenever flooding is predicted. Mr. Harris asked the Board to be better and asked Trey Thurman, county attorney, not to be rude to residents.

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

- 20.1 David Andrews, County Manager, introduced Brandi Cobb as the new Communications Manager.

Allen Vann, Assistant County Manager, reported Zach White was promoted to be the new Parks and Recreation Director. Pender County has hired Jared Crass to be the new Project Manager and will start on Monday, September 18th, 2023.

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 five (5) Acquisition of Real Property.

Commissioner George discussed his time at the NCACC Conference in August. He also gave notice to residents that the solid waste fees are changing and to look at their tax bills.

Commissioner McCoy thanked county staff for their storm preparedness. He discussed calls he's received regarding highway 117.

Commissioner Groves reported his time at the NCACC Conference in August. He thanked Forest Hill Baptist Church for the card he received in the mail. Groves addressed racial comment.

Vice Chair Hardee also spoke about her time at the NCACC Conference in August. She also touched down on the loss of farmland in relation to the population growth Pender County is seeing.

Chair Newton spoke on her time at the NCACC Conference in August. She also addressed the racial comment. Chair Newton noted she did not approve of outburst from a fellow commissioner.

21 CLOSED SESSION (IF APPLICABLE).

- 21.1 Motion to 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 five (5) Acquisition of Real Property.

Moved by Fred McCoy, 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 A vote to adjourn the meeting was made. The vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.