



MINUTES
Board of County Commissioners Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2023 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: David Andrews, County Manager
Trey Thurman, County Attorney
Nancy Avery, Interim 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 4:00 pm.

2 INVOCATION

2.1 Vice Chair Hardee gave the invocation.

3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.1 Commissioner McCoy led the Pledge of Allegiance

4 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Brad George

Motion to adopt the agenda as presented

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			

Brad George	x			
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
	5	0	0	0

CARRIED.

5 PUBLIC INFORMATION

5.1 Trillium Health Resources annual report

Cecelia Peers gave the Board an update on Trillium services stating Trillium is an insurer provider and manages health care plans for local entity and members of regional government. Commissioners from all counties serve on their board. Plans offered as of July 2021 were Amerihealth Caritas NC Inc., Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC, UnitedHealthcare of NC Inc., and WellCare of NC Inc. Most of their counties are rural with barriers to accessing care and doctors. We are adding additional call lines for pharmacy benefits, nurse and a behavioral health crisis line. We will support opioid settlement projects. There are three tribes in their area and we are working with them to ensure correct coverage. We partnered with New Hanover County on the Healing Place, a 200-bed program that is peer led for opioid use disorder. The company also provides Community Outreach and Education.

Chair Newton asked how residents reach Trillium.
Ms. Peers said they call Help Care line at 877-685-2415.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

6.1 None

7 CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1** Approval of Budget Amendment for the transfer of revenue funds from insurance claims in the amount of \$45,302.33.
- 7.2** Approval of minutes
- 7.3** Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds
- 7.4** Increase PO# 58 to Professional Mail Services Inc for Postage & Mailing of PCU Water Bills
- 7.5** PCU Full-Service Odor Control Program

Moved by Jerry Groves, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

CARRIED.

8 APPROVALS AND RESOLUTIONS

8.1 Consideration of Granting an Easement to NCDOT for Drainage Infrastructure and Roadway Improvements

Planning Director Adams introduced Katie Hite, Division Project Development Engineer with NC Department of Transportation.

Ms. Hite stated she is here to speak about the Pender Commerce Park on Highway 421. Proposed roadways improvements are necessary for safety and future development. DOT received \$4 million in funding for these improvements. Construction is expected to begin in April and be completed in August of this year. Improvements will be at Corporate Drive, Quality Way, Vitamin Drive, and the I-140 ramp. DOT needs right of way donations from the County at Corporate Drive and Quality Way for this project to move forward. Corporate Drive at US 421 will have a new signal, offset lefts north and southbound for easier site lines. A temporary construction easement is needed for this location. Quality Way will have offset lefts and be a new intersection. A temporary construction easement and permanent drainage/utility easement is needed. Vitamin Drive will have an offset left installed off Highway 421. Changes will also be made at Highway 421 and I-140 intersection.

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to allow DOT a temporary construction easement and drainage easement for Quality Way and a temporary construction easement for Corporate Drive improvements as requested.

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

CARRIED.

8.2 Resolution in support of stoplight

Manager Andrews explained that DOT is requesting a resolution of support for a stoplight at intersection of Grandview and Highway 17. They conducted a study that supports the need and they have funds available. There is no cost to the County.

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Brad George

Motion to approve resolution in support of a stoplight at the intersection of Grandview and Highway 17 in Hampstead.

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

CARRIED.

8.3 Resolution for current and future NC DOT petitions

Interim Clerk Avery stated DOT is requesting approval of petitions to add the following roads to the state maintained system:

1. Preswick Drive, Trevor Court, Sterling Glenn Drive, and Brisbane Drive in the Avendale subdivision in Hampstead
2. Dreyton Hall Court and Transfer Station Road Extension

Interim Clerk Avery also asked the Board to approve in the resolution issuing a blanket approval to DOT for all future roads petitions for

addition to the state maintained system so each one does not have to appear before the Board.

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Jerry Groves

Motion to approve resolution for current road petitions as presented and issue blanket authorization to DOT for future road petitions.

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

CARRIED.

8.4 Approval of EverBridge for Mass Notification and ending contract with CodeRed

Emergency Manager Batson stated he is requesting the Board approve ending the expiring contract with CodeRed and entering into a contract with Everbridge for mass notification. The County has used mass notification via phone call, text and email notification since 2013 through CodeRed at a cost of around \$20,000 annually. As the contract is expiring, we would like to switch to Everbridge starting July 1, 2023. Cost savings would be \$12,000 annually.

Discussion:

Chair Newton asked how will we change folks over?

Manager Batson stated 60% of data is old and not usable. We will do a mass advertisement to sign up everyone with current information. We had multiple vendors apply and reviewed all of the proposals and Everbridge is the staff recommendation.

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Brad George

Motion to approve changing contracts for mass notification system to Everbridge, as presented.

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

CARRIED.

8.5 Approval of Offer & Authorize Closing Process for Sale of Surplus Property - Parcel 2277-21-5048-0000 - Off of McDuffie Road, Grady

Finance Director Blue said this was readvertised at minimum tax value of \$4,200 and this bid was received from Reem Yousif in the amount of \$5,050. Staff requests Board approval to move forward with the sale.

Moved by Jerry Groves, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to accept bid and sell.

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

CARRIED.

8.6 Approval of Offer & Authorize Closing Process for Sale of Surplus Property - Parcel 2277-87-5471-0000 - King's Estates, Burgaw

Finance Director Blue said tax value on this property is \$6,175 and a bid was received from Terry Xiong of \$6,175. Staff requests authorization to accept the bid and move forward with selling the property.

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to accept bid as presented.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			

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

CARRIED.

8.7 Approval of Offer & Authorize Closing Process for Sale of Surplus Property - Parcel 2354-71-6682-0000 - Off of Little Egypt Road, Columbia

Finance Director Blue stated tax value is \$131,250 and a bid was received from Gabriel Romero for \$149,250. Staff is requesting Board approval to accept the bid and move forward with the sale of the property.

Moved by Brad George, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to accept bid and sell the property.

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

CARRIED.

8.8 Approval of Primary & Secondary Contract and Purchase Order for Professional Services related to future land planning - RFQ#230119-241

Finance Director Blue stated we put out a Request for Qualifications for due diligence and suitability evaluations of potential property such as surveying and master plan design for potential purchase of future property. Property purchased may be used for schools, parks, water treatment plants, etc.

Staff received two responses and after review, staff recommends entering into two contracts: one with a primary contractor to be ECS for \$40,000 and a secondary contractor to be Summit for \$10,000.

Moved by Brad George, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to approve primary contractor as ECS and secondary contractor as Summit as presented.

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

CARRIED.

- 8.9 Approval of Purchase Order for the Axon Body Camera 3 & Axon Air Contract in the amount of \$45,811.81.

Sheriff Cutler stated this is a contract re-write for Axon body cameras. Some cameras are on unlimited storage basis, and some are ala carte. This rewrite consolidates all cameras with unlimited storage and consolidates two contracts into one for a savings. He is requesting approval from the Board to rewrite existing contracts with Axon into one contract. Funding is already in place.

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to approve rewriting of Axion contracts into one contract as presented.

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

CARRIED.

- 8.10 Resolution Requesting Funding of a 10 Mile Parallel Line Phase 2 For the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority

Utilities Director Keel stated the Lower Cape Fear Water/Sewer Authority provides raw (untreated) water from the Cape Fear River to Pender County as the supply to our surface water treatment plant off US 421.

Phase 1 of the 48" parallel pipeline project is approved, funded, and underway, and will provide a redundant supply pipeline all the way to the Pender County surface water plant intake. The Phase 2 project is seeking funding to parallel the pipeline from the Pender County intake to the CFPWA intake, which will also include the US 421 industries. The Pender County Board has previously committed to a \$1.53 million contribution to Phase 1 of the parallel line project. The Phase 2 project will not require any Pender County contribution, as it will only benefit downstream users. This resolution will support LCFWASA's efforts to obtain funding from the state legislature.

He asked the Board to approve the resolution requesting the General Assembly to appropriate in the FY24-FY25 state budget an allocation of funding for the second phase of the ten-mile parallel line project for redundancy, reliability, and emergency management of the critical regional water supply in Eastern North Carolina.

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to approve resolution requesting the General Assembly to appropriate in the FY 23-25 state budget an allocation for funding for second phase of the ten-mile parallel line project for redundancy, reliability and emergency management of the critical regional water supply in Eastern North Carolina.

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

CARRIED.

- 8.11 Resolution authorizing execution of opioid settlements and approving the supplemental agreement for additional funds between the state of

North Carolina and local governments on proceeds relating to the settlement of opioid litigation.

Health Director Moser said five new national opioid settlements have been reached with Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart. (Wave Two). This resolution and the Supplemental Agreement must be approved in order to directly share in the settlement funds.

Pender allocations are as follows:

Wave One - \$3,772,960.81 from 2022-2038

Wave Two - \$3,020,171.24 from 2023-2036

She requested the Board approve the resolution to receive opioid settlement proceeds.

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to approve resolution to receive opioid settlement proceeds as presented.

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

CARRIED.

9 APPOINTMENTS

9.1 Appointment to Southeastern Partnership Inc.

Interim Clerk Avery requested appointment of County Manager David Andrews as representative to the Southeastern Partnership. This organization provides economic development services for 20 counties. The former County manager was the representative.

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Jerry Groves

Motion to appoint County Manager Andrews as the representative to the Southeastern Partnership.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			

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

CARRIED.

10 SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

10.1 Medicaid expansion update

Social Services Director Stewart stated House Bill 76 is for Medicaid expansion. It appears the House and Senate have come to some sort of an agreement on this that provides support for counties, enrollment expansion, upcoming technology and process improvements to support expansion and implementation by July 1, 2023. Pender County may increase by 6,000 new recipients under this expansion. House Bill calls for \$4 million in funding to counties to start implementation, then \$70 million in Fiscal Year 2023-2024, with \$30 million to Social Services; \$20 million for incarcerated people and \$20 million for improvements in system and staffing. The Senate bill has not been passed and no funding was included in that version.

Director Stewart said this will be a challenge for my department to handle an additional 6,000 cases to hire and train additional staff in addition to the fact that we are required to recertify all participants on an annual basis.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Michael Thurlow, 5263 Highway 117 South, Burgaw, questioned the change in policy about tire disposal. He used to haul them all at once a mile down the road from his shop. Last week they told me I could only go to Rocky Point and to Hampstead. This is a big county. Why is Pender County making us do all this driving?

Manager Andrews will follow up with him on this.

2. Kim Meyer, 102 Leslie Lane, stated she proposes making a permanent position for stormwater manager or supervisor in Pender County. She has been attending a lot of planning meetings and she is concerned that when new projects are evaluated do have stormwater evaluation done but not by anyone local who is looking at surrounding communities for new developments to look

at stormwater management. She proposes an annual meeting with the individual commissioner for their district to discuss what is going on in that area.

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

Manager Andrews reminded Board members of the retreat this Thursday and Friday in Hampstead. He stated we have recruited and hired a staff attorney effective April 17th. We started internal budget reviews with department heads today.

Attorney Thurman stated the Board needs to go into closed session as per NCGS 143-318.11(3) attorney client privilege, item (5) land acquisition and item (6) personnel.

13 CLOSED SESSION (IF APPLICABLE).

Moved by Jerry Groves, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to go into closed session as per NCGS 143-318.11(3) attorney client privilege, (5) land acquisition and (6) personnel at 6 pm.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Jerry Groves	x			
Fred McCoy				
Jacqueline A. Newton				
Brad George				
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee				
	1	0	0	0

CARRIED.

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to return to Open Session at 7:04 pm.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
Brad George	x			

Wendy Fletcher-Hardee	x			
	5	0	0	0

CARRIED.

**14 7PM PUBLIC HEARINGS: SPECIAL USE PERMITS/ZONING MAP
AMENDMENTS/ RESOLUTIONS**

**14.1 SUP 2023-41: Special Use Permit request for Artisan Manufacturing in
the Rocky Point Township**

Attorney Thurman administered the oath to all those wishing to testify.

Chair Newton opened the Public Hearing at 7:06 pm.

Planner Feldman stated this is case 2023-41 by applicant Allan McVay on behalf of owner Joseph Brian West, for a Special Use Permit for Artisan Manufacturing to allow design, modification and crafting of custom artisan wood furniture, shelving and cabinetry. Property is located on NC Highway 133 approximately 1000 feet west of the intersection with Cheshire Road in the Rocky Point Township.

Testimony

1. Applicant McVay testified he would have no more than four employees and he plans to manufacture cabinets. He said no customers will be onsite and it will be open one to two days a week. There will be no motion light on the property.
2. Sabrina Vincent, 311 Apple Blossom Drive, testified her mother is a resident nearby. She owns the property, and her mother lives there. She is concerned that the property will be rezoned commercial and change the community. She asked if material will be brought in and out that will affect traffic?

Chair Newton closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 pm as there were no more witnesses to testify.

Board discussion

The Board discuss hours of operation planned, distance of the closet neighbor, dust collection method and possible traffic impact.

Moved by Jerry Groves, seconded by Brad George

Motion to approve SUP Case 2023-41 for Artisan Manufacturing as presented.

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

CARRIED.

15 Closed session

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to go into Closed Session at 7:21 pm as per NCGS 143-318.11(3) attorney client, (5) land acquisition, (6) personnel.

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

CARRIED.

16 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to return to open session at 7:59 pm and adjourn.

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

CARRIED.