



MINUTES
Board of County Commissioners Meeting
Monday, February 6, 2023 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fred McCoy
Jacqueline A. Newton
Jerry Groves
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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 pm.

2 INVOCATION

2.1 Vice Chair Hardee delivered the invocation.

3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.1 Commissioner Groves led in the Pledge of Allegiance

4 BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION

Moved by Wendy Hardee, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to confirm and accept Jimmy Tate's resignation from the Board of County Commissioners effective 6 pm on January 27, 2023.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Wendy Hardee	x			

Jerry Groves	x			
	4	0	0	0

CARRIED.

5 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Wendy Hardee

Motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Wendy Hardee	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
	4	0	0	0

CARRIED.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Christina Simpson of Pender County, said she is concerned that Pender County has funds for childcare, but when parents come to apply for it they are being put on a waiting list. The parents keep calling asking where the funds are. I understand we are short on staff, but if a service is available why not assist people with that service rather than putting their name on a sheet. The state says the funding is there, but the parents cannot get it. A lot of parents are suffering now with the rise of prices.

2. Kim Kindall stated she does not reside in Pender County but works at Pender Hospital. As relates to Novant Health, I have worked for them for two years. I have been a nurse for twelve years and never had a disciplinary action against me. Patient satisfaction is the highest around. I have been informed her position will be terminated because she is unwilling to follow Covid policy to wear a mask at all times regardless of what area you work in.

3. Anne Scott said she previously spoke with the Board about Duke Health system's excellent care. I need an MRI. Local facilities did not have machines that worked. Staffing is a problem according to the newspaper. I will go back to Duke because I do not trust local conditions. Trust in your healthcare providers is important. Please keep this in mind as you choose your healthcare provider.

4. Mike Taylor stated he is the former county library director and is a friend of the Burgaw library. He read a letter he received about the county cutting the library's budget. The library provides services to all populations in the county. Funding the library should be a priority.

Doug Holstein, 313 Creekview Drive, Hampstead. I am the head of the Deerfield Association community. I am here because I hate social media.

There is a project going on near Deerfield. A recent posting stated the Board held a secret meeting and changed the approval from 174 apartments to 423 low income, Section 8, units. The Deerfield residents are upset so I am asking this Board if such a meeting occurred.

Chair Newton directed Mr. Taylor to speak with Planning Director Adams.

7 CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds
- 7.2 Approval of Releases and Refunds
- 7.3 Approval to Accept a Donation for the Foster Care Children's Fund: \$4,695 and Budget Amendment
- 7.4 Resolution authorizing Pender Adult Services to submit grant app NC DOT
This was initially on the January 17, 2023, agenda when a public hearing was held but did not get voted on.
- 7.5 Approval of a Purchase Order to Courthouse Computer Systems for \$40,000.00

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Jerry Groves

Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Wendy Hardee	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
	4	0	0	0

CARRIED.

8 APPROVALS AND RESOLUTIONS

- 8.1 Request Disaster Debris Clearance and Removal Services RFP # 221129-237 approval

Emergency Manager Batson requested approval for debris clearance and removal services RFP #221129-237 approval. Nine Requests for Proposals (RFP) were received and reviewed by a committee. The intention is to enter into two contracts: one as primary and one as secondary.

Staff recommends awarding primary contractor to Crowder Gulf of Mobile, AL and secondary contract to CERES of Sarasota, FL.

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Wendy Hardee

Motion to award primary contract to crowder Gulf of Mobile, AL and secondary contract to CERES of Sarasota, FL.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Wendy Hardee	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
	4	0	0	0

CARRIED.

8.2 Consideration of Memorandum of Agreement with NC Division of Emergency Management to Execute the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Hurricane Florence Acquisition Project

Planning Director Adams stated this is the buyout program the Board has heard about for the last few years. There are people in the county still recovering from hurricane Florence from four and a half years ago. The Memo of Agreement formalizes the agreement between the County and NC Emergency Management for implementation. The state has taken the lead on hiring service providers, such as appraisers. The county will not be responsible for fronting the money and requesting reimbursement as was done in the past. We have been told it will take 300 days for the entire process from surveying, appraisal, demolition, etc. The County has to be the owner of the property before demolition can begin. Applications have been approved and the work can now begin. We will send letters and call all involved.

Moved by Wendy Hardee, seconded by Jerry Groves

Motion to approve Memorandum of Agreement with NC Division of Emergency Management to execute Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Hurricane Florence as presented.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Wendy Hardee	x			

Jerry Groves	x			
	4	0	0	0

CARRIED.

- 8.3 Approval of Budget Amendment for Governor's Crime Commission 2022 Investigative Technology Tools for Digital Devices Grant in the amount of \$24,500.00.

Sheriff Cutler stated this is a non-matching grant that has been awarded for investigative tools for digital devices for forensic analysis on cell phones. There is no county money involved.

Moved by Jerry Groves, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to approve budget amendment for Governor's Crime Commission 2022 Investigative technology Tools for Digital Devices Grant in the amount of \$24,500.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Wendy Hardee	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
	4	0	0	0

CARRIED.

- 8.4 Approval to add Schedule 003 to the Master Technology Lease Agreement with Huntington Leasing Corporation in the Amount of \$399,981 for the Lease of Sheriff's Office IT Equipment for 60 months and a PO in the amount of \$94,914 for year one (1).

IT Director Harvey stated it is time to replace antiquated hardware and licensed software in the Police Department. We need to add another schedule to our lease to perform these updates. We request approval of a purchase order in the amount of \$94,914 which has already been budgeted.

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Jerry Groves

Motion to approve add Schedule 003 to the Master Technology Lease Agreement with Huntington Leasing Corporation in the Amount of \$399,981 for the Lease of Sheriff's Office IT Equipment for 60 months and a PO in the amount of \$94,914 for year one (1) as presented.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Wendy Hardee	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
	4	0	0	0

CARRIED.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Certified Retirement Communities

Tourism Director Proctor stated this is a matter just for discussion. We have an opportunity to take part in this, if the Board desires. Growing counties are joining the Certified Retirement Community. It is a program through the state's economic development partnership with Visit NC. Cost is \$3,000 a year with a five-year obligation and requires a marketing program, which we already do through tourism. The program is dedicated to attracting retirees which lessens the burden on the school system. For one retiree couple, that is a \$9,600 savings of what taxpayers would pay to school system for pupil expenditures. There are currently 17 Certified Retirement Communities. More information is at Retirenc.com website. Retirees usually have solid, disposable income. They often start businesses and volunteer.

10 APPOINTMENTS

10.1 Board appointment T. Savage

Interim Clerk Avery requested appointment of Tamara Savage to a second term on the Novant Health Pender Medical Center Board.

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Wendy Hardee

Motion to appoint Tamara Savage to the Novant Health Pender Medical Center Board.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Wendy Hardee	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
	4	0	0	0

CARRIED.

10.2 Board appointment S. Malpass

Interim Clerk Avery requested the Board re-appoint Sanda Malpass to the Library Board for a second term.

Moved by Wendy Hardee, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to re-appoint Sandra Malpass to a second term on the Library Board.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Wendy Hardee	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
	4	0	0	0

CARRIED.

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

Assistant Manager Vann introduced Michelle Leach as the new Veteran Services Director. She has a great deal of experience from other districts in the state and has served as interim Director.

He also introduced Buddy Avery as new Project Manager with 20+ years of commercial construction experience.

Attorney Thurman stated items for closed session are 3 attorney client privilege, item 5 acquisition of land and item 6 personnel.

12 CLOSED SESSION (IF APPLICABLE).

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Jerry Groves

Motion to go into closed session as per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(3) attorney client privilege, (5) land acquisition, and (6) personnel.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Wendy Hardee	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
	4	0	0	0

CARRIED.

13 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Wendy Hardee

Motion to return to open session and adjourn.

	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Fred McCoy	x			
Jacqueline A. Newton	x			
Wendy Hardee	x			
Jerry Groves	x			
	4	0	0	0

CARRIED.