Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room
805 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC

PRESENT:	Commissioner Brad George Commissioner Jerry Groves Chairman Randy Burton Commissioner Brent Springer Commissioner Ken Smith
ABSENT:	
OTHER PRESENT:	Michael Silverman, County Manager Trey Thurman, County Attorney Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board Allen Vann, Assistant County Manager Other Staff and Members of the Press and Public

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1. CALL TO ORDER

   Chairman Burton called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

2. INVOCATION

   Vice Chair Smith gave the invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

   Commissioner Springer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

   Commissioner Springer made a motion to amend the agenda to include additional applications for Item 11.2 Appointment to the Pender EMS and Fire Board of Trustees. Chairman Burton, Vice Chair Smith, Commissioner Groves, and Commissioner Springer voted in favor of the amendment. Commissioner George voted in opposition. The motion did not carry, and the agenda remained as originally presented.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

6. PUBLIC INFORMATION

6.1	Status Update for the Law Enforcement Center Project	Dario Ramirez-Duenas, Jeremiah Daniels, Stephen Nally	3-15

Dario Ramirez-Duenas, Project manager, presented the item. Dario introduced Stephen Nally and Jeremiah Daniels from Mosley Architect and Daniels and Daniels respectively. Ramirez reviewed the project schedule and the percentage of completion. He went over the budget and how much money has been spent on the project so far. The mobilization, building pad, and groundbreaking have all taken place. Currently, the plumbing, mechanical, and electric is being installed. Dario reviewed future milestones. Nally and Daniels provided additional information and answered Board questions.

6.2	Status Update for the Health and Human Services Facility Project	Dario Ramirez-Duenas, Austin Nastasi	16-25

Dario Ramirez-Duenas, Project Manager, presented the item. Ramirez introduced Austin Natasi from Bobbit Construction. Natasi reviewed the timeline of the building of the New Health and Human Services building. Currently, the foundation has been laid, and the steel erection is at 35% completion. Nastasi provided a budget break down and reported that 16% of the project had been paid.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Benjamin Wiles spoke about Pender EMS and Fire.
Everrett Baysden spoke about EMS and Fire.
Joy Pittman spoke about the salaries of Pender EMS and Fire.
Jamie Lawrence spoke about EMS and Fire merging with the County.
Rodger Rossell spoke about EMS and Fire merging with the County.
Charles Schumaker spoke about Union Rescue and funding.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Smith made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Commissioner Groves seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8.1	Approval of Corrective Easement for Rocky Point Topsail Water and Sewer District	Andre Hogan	26-34
8.2	Approval of Donation application from Burgaw Dixie Youth for a metal storage building	Zach White	35-36
8.3	Resolution of the Pender County Board of Commissioners Authorizing upset bid process with respect of the Disposition by sale of Parcel ID# 2375-80-5798-0000 located in Willard, NC.	Margaret Blue	37-42
8.4	Approval is requested for a Budget Ordinance Amendment to fund the Opioid Program Coordinator position and associated costs.	Carolyn Moser	43-45
8.5	Motor Vehicle Releases and Refunds	Melissa Radke	46-48

8.6	Refund/Release Requests for items meeting NC G.S. 105-381	Melissa Radke	49-50

9. APPROVALS AND RESOLUTIONS

9.1	Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment with the Request for a Tourism Department Vehicle	Gabrielle Dawson	51-57

Olivia Dawson, Tourism Director, presented the item. Dawson requested the Board approve a vehicle for the Tourism department specifically and the related budget amendment. Dawson reported she has tried numerous times to obtain a vehicle from Facilities and Fleet, but there hasn't been one available. Dawson reported that mileage reimbursement is costly on the County and hauling the necessary materials in their personal cars is not always a viable option due to the size of their cars.

Commissioner George made a motion to approve the purchase order and budget ordinance amendment.
Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.
Commissioner Groves and George voted in favor of the motion.
Commissioner Springer, Vice Chair Smith, and Chairman Burton voted opposed.

9.2	Pender County School System Funding Request for Chromebooks and Buses	Dr. Brad Breedlove	58-59

Dr. Brad Breedlove, Pender County Schools Superintendent, presented the item. Dr. Breedlove requested the Board authorize a funding request to go towards a wage increase for bus drivers, radios and installation in the County School buses, and 2,000 Chromebooks for students. Dr. Breedlove reported that the wage increases and radios aligns with the Transportation Improvement Plan approved by the Board of Education. The wage increases will keep Pender County Schools competitive with surrounding Counties and the radios will allow drivers to communicate with the school and Sherrif's Office in case of emergencies.

Commissioner Smith was recused by the Board for this item.

Commissioner George made a motion to approve.
Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.
Commissioner George, Groves, and Chairman Burton voted in favor.
Commissioner Springer voted in the opposition.
Motion carried.

9.3	Resolution opposing Senate Bill 382, Part III, Subpart III-K, Local Government	Daniel Adams	60-62

Daniel Adams, Planning Director, presented the item. Adams reported the Senate Bill 382, Part III, Subpart III-K, Local Government enacted limits on the County's abilities to change or amend zoning and other maps. Adams requested the Board sign a resolution opposing the bill.

Commissioner George made a motion to approve the resolution.
Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

9.4	Approval of Purchase Order for the Playground at	Zach White	63-69

Central Pender Park in the amount of $234,385.10

Zach White, Parks and Recreation Director, presented the item. This item is budgeted and is the last part of Phase One for Central Pender Park.

Commissioner Springer made a motion to approve.
Commissioner Groves seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

9.5	Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment to transfer proceeds of $545,679.53 from sale of Country Court from General Fund to Housing Authority	Sue Sava	70-71

Sue Sava, Housing Director, presented the item. Sava requested the Board approve a budget ordinance amendment transferring the proceeds from the sale of Country Court. The moneys are currently in the General Fund.

Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to approve.
Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

10. DISCUSSION

10.1	Planning and Land Use Regulation Presentation	Daniel Adams	72-84

Wes MacLeod, Cape Fear Community College Government Services Director, provided a brief informational session on zoning, land use decisions, legal text, and other information necessary for County Commissioners to know.

10.2	Pender County Courthouse Square Master Plan	Michael Silverman	85-87

Michael Silverman, County Manager, presented the item. Silverman requested the Board discuss the Parks and Recreation comprehensive plan. Silverman reported there is moneys budgeted for the Courthouse Square. The comprehensive plan takes into consideration accessibility, land scaping, and other necessary plans.

11. APPOINTMENTS

11.1	Appointment to the Board of Adjustment	Lexi Stanfield	88-93

Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board, presented the item. Stanfield reviewed Max Southworth-Beckwith's application for the Board of Adjustment. The Board discussed the applicant among themselves. The Board appointed him as the District Four Representative with a term that began on January 1, 2025, and expire on December 31, 2028.

Commissioner Groves made a motion to appoint Mr. Southworth-Beckwith as the district four representative.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

11.2	Appointments to the Pender EMS and Fire Board of Trustees	Lexi Stanfield	94-109

The Board tabled this item until the April 7, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner George made the motion to table.
Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

11.3 Commissioner Appointments to Various Boards Lexi Stanfield 110

The Board appointed Commissioner Spring to the Fire Commission, Priority One Committee, Advisory Board of Health, Cape Fear RPO-RTAC, Work First Planning Committee, Adult Care and Nursing Home Committee.
The Board appointed Vice Chairman Smith to Wallace Airport, Housing Initiative, Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
The Board appointed Chairman Burton to the WMPO Board as an Alternate,
The Board appointed Commissioner Groves to the Cape Fear River Program.
The Board appointed Commissioner George to the JCPC Board.

11.4 Appointment to the Volunteer Agricultural District Board Lexi Stanfield 111-116

Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board, presented the item. The Volunteer Agricultural Board consists of five members, one being chosen by the North Carolina Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Stuart Baucom was selected by the NCFB Board and is requesting appointment by the commissioners.

Commissioner Groves made a motion to appoint the applicant.
Commissioner Springer seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

12. MAPLE HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

13. ROCKY POINT WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

14. SCOTTS HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

15. MOORE'S CREEK WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

16. CENTRAL PENDER WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

17. PENDER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

18. SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

19. ITEMS FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY, COUNTY MANAGER,

ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER, & COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Trey Thurman, County Attorney, requested the Board go into closed session for item three (3) Attorney Client Privilege, item four (4) Economic Development, and item five (5) Personnel. Thurman also spoke about E-Filling with the courts.
Commissioner Groves requested staff add the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Schedule and the Tax Reappraisal Cycle to the February 18, 2025, agenda for reconsideration.
Commissioner George spoke about the complaint filed with the SBI and Elections regarding his paperwork.
Vice Chair Smith spoke about motorcross bikes and gun shootings in residential areas.
Chairman Burton spoke about EMS and Fire.

20. CLOSED SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)

The Board went into closed session for item three (3) attorney client privilege, item four (4) economic development, and item five (5) personnel.

Commissioner Groves made a motion to go into closed session.
Commissioner George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

21. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:35PM.