

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
COUNTYWIDE GOALS WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 19, 2018
9:00 A.M.**

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners held a Workshop on the above date at 9:00 a.m., Commissioners' Chambers, David R. Sandifer Administration Building, County Government Center Bolivia, North Carolina.

PRESENT: Commissioner Frank Williams, Chairman
 Commissioner Randy Thompson, Vice-Chairman
 Commissioner J. Martin Cooke
 Commissioner Pat Sykes
 Commissioner Mike Forte

STAFF: Ann Hardy, County Manager
 Steve Stone, Deputy County Manager
 Bob Shaver, County Attorney
 Andrea White, Clerk to the Board
 Julie Miller, Finance Director
 Jared Galloway, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Board Action, containing all items in this set of minutes, is filed within the Clerk to the Board's Office.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Williams called the Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Williams gave the Invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve.

Commissioner Sykes moved to approve the agenda. The vote of approval was unanimous.

County Manager Ann Hardy gave the welcome and stated that the goals presented were to help formulate the Commissioners' goals for FY 2019, as well as to provide staff directives for preparing the budget.

Mrs. Hardy presented an overview of the overarching funding and service delivery focus areas for the FY 19 budget.

- **Tax Administration - 2019 Revaluation Update - (Jeff Niebauer, Tax Administrator)**
Received information on the 2019 Tax Revaluation.
- **Administration - Midyear Financial Update (Ann Hardy, County Manager)**
Received the midyear financial update for general and enterprise funds.

- **Human Resources - Employee Compensation and Health Plan Updates (Melanie Turrise, Director of Human Resources)**

Received information on the Employee Compensation and Health Plan updates, to include information on ABA Therapy and the Employee Clinic. Staff requested direction moving forward.

Vice-Chairman Thompson moved that the County join the NCHIP plan (N.C. Health Insurance Pool), designate a representative on the NCHIP Board, begin preparations for the budget to include spousal coverage, and transition to this plan.

Following discussion, Vice-Chairman Thompson amended his motion to include the designation of Melanie Turrise as the County representative on the NCHIP Board, staff direction to conduct open enrollment in May, and elimination of the employee health clinic.

Chairman Williams restated the four-part motion to move to NCHIP, designate Melanie as the County's representative to the NCHIP Board, include spouse insurance, and eliminate the employee health clinic at the same time the County transitions to the new plan.

County Manager Hardy asked that the Board set the rate for spouses at \$407, plus \$29 for dental, plus \$200 if the spouse has an alternate health insurance.

It was the consensus of the Board to vote on the rates in a separate motion.

Chairman Williams asked for any discussion on the four-part amended motion on the floor by Vice-Chairman Thompson. Hearing none, he called the question. The vote of approval was unanimous.

Following discussion on the rates for spousal insurance, Vice-Chairman Thompson moved to implement the \$200 per month surcharge for spouses who have alternate insurance through their employer.

Chairman Williams asked for discussion on the motion.

Following discussion, Chairman Williams called the question. The motion passed 4 to 1. (4 Ayes – Chairman Williams, Vice-Chairman Thompson, Commissioner Sykes, Commissioner Forte; 1 Nay – Commissioner Cooke).

The ADA Therapy option was discussed. No action was taken.

Mrs. Hardy clarified the action taken as follows: Melanie will be the representative on NCHIP; the County will move into NCHIP; open enrollment will be conducted in May for employees, children and spouses; the rate for spouses, if they do not have insurance offered through their employer, will be \$407 plus \$29 for dental; if the spouse does have insurance offered through their employer, the employee can pay an additional \$200 for a total of \$607 plus \$29 to cover their spouse. It was the consensus of the Board that this clarified action is a correct reflection of the action taken.

- **Break**

Chairman Williams recessed the meeting for a 15-minute break at 10:17 a.m.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

Commissioner Forte moved to include all five County Commissioners and spouses in the health plan.

Chairman Williams asked for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, he called the question. The motion passed 4 to 1. (4 Ayes – Chairman Williams, Vice-Chairman Thompson, Commissioner Cooke, Commissioner Forte; 1 Nay – Commissioner Sykes).

- **Administration - Draft County Capital Improvement Plan (Stephanie Lewis, Director of Operation Services, Bill Pinnix, Director of Engineering, Aaron Perkins, Director of Parks & Recreation, Steve Stone, Deputy County Manager, Marc Pages, Senior Planner)**

Received information on the draft Capital Improvement plan.

Following the information presented on the C&D Landfill Closure, Mrs. Hardy stated that it was staff's recommendation to increase the current hauling contract from 50% to 75% and to bring forth a budget amendment at the March meeting for the increase to take effect in FY 2018.

Commissioner Sykes moved to increase the contract from 50% to 75% as recommended.

Chairman Williams asked for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, he called the question. The vote of approval was unanimous.

Following the information presented on the transfer station replacement, the Board directed staff to consult with Waste Industries to determine if a joint venture would be feasible under the condition that the County retain ownership of the transfer station.

Mrs. Hardy requested that the remaining CIP presentation be held following the Board of Elections presentation and the Sheriff's Office presentation. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed as requested.

- **Board of Elections - Voting Equipment (Sara Knotts, Director of Elections)**

Received information on the mandated replacement of voting equipment.

- **Sheriff's Office - Software Needs (Tom Rogers, 911 Communications & Technology Director)**

Received information on operational software needs for the Sheriff's Office operations.

It was the consensus of the Board to direct staff to look at the budget impact of the software and come back with a recommendation as to the feasibility of moving forward with the project by paying a portion now and the remainder after the beginning of the fiscal year. Mrs. Hardy agreed that staff could have a recommendation at the March meeting.

- **Caw Caw Swamp Watershed Update (Stephanie Lewis, Director of Operation Services & William Pinnix, Director of Engineering Services)**

Received an update on the Caw Caw Swamp Watershed.

Commissioner Forte stepped out of the meeting, unexcused, at 11:35 a.m. and returned at 11:37 a.m.

Commissioner Sykes momentarily stepped out of the meeting, unexcused, at 11:49 a.m. and returned at 11:49 a.m.

- **Report from Town of Carolina Shores on Drainage (Jon Mendenhall, Town Administrator)**

Received information from the Town of Carolina Shores on emergency relief of the Caw Caw System and the possibility of a partnership with the County to explore a solution.

Vice-Chairman Thompson momentarily stepped out of the meeting, unexcused, at 12:05 p.m. and returned at 12:05 p.m.

Mrs. Hardy requested that the Board return to the Capital Improvement Plan Presentation and move the County Attorney presentations to the end of the day. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed as requested.

- **Continued County Capital Improvement Plan Presentation (Bill Pinnix, Director of Engineering, Aaron Perkins, Director of Parks & Recreation, Steve Stone, Deputy County Manager, Marc Pages, Senior Planner)**

Received the remaining information on the draft Capital Improvement plan with regard to current projects, future projects, park projects, shoreline protection and the Shoreline Protection Consortium.

- **Recess for Lunch**

Chairman Williams recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.

- **Emergency Services - Fire Commission Update (Walt Eccard, Chairman of Fire Commission, Brian Watts, Director of Emergency Services)**

Received an update on the Fire Commission, to include a request that the Board of Commissioners assist with the following: the primary goal of the Fire Commission is to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners that emphasize the goal of providing a minimum level of service for all county residents; affirmation that the work of the Fire Commission is not designed to produce a recommendation for a county-operated single fire department; to the maximum extent possible, the end product of the Fire Commission is to provide the Board of Commissioners with alternatives rather than a single recommendation on the seven tasks given to the Fire Commission; and that the success of the Commission depends on the active cooperation of the members of the Commission and the Fire Chiefs.

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Following a discussion on the request, it was the consensus of the Board that staff draft a letter, to be reviewed by each Commissioner prior to distribution. It was also the consensus of the Board that the letter be sent to each Fire Chief along with a request that each firefighter receive a copy.

Chairman Williams moved to approve the drafting of a letter to be sent to the Fire Chiefs, clarifying that this is not a move toward a countywide fire department.

Chairman Williams asked for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, he called the question. The vote of approval was unanimous.

Mr. Watts introduced Mr. Malcom “Mac” Smith, Fire Administrator. The Board received a presentation from Mr. Smith on the membership of the Fire Commission, goals and priorities, next steps and the budget process.

- **Emergency Services - Community Paramedic Program (Kevin Mulholland, EMS Operations Manager)**

Mr. Watts introduced Mr. Mulholland. The Board received a presentation on a proposed Community Paramedic Program.

Vice-Chairman Thompson recommended that staff have a meeting with the hospitals to discuss partnering with the County to offset the cost associated with the program. He also recommended that staff contact Buncombe County to determine if there was a cost savings utilizing paramedics in the jail instead of nurses and report to the Board.

- **Health and Human Services - Opioid Task Force Report Presentation (David Stanley, Executive Director of Health & Human Services)**

Received a presentation on the Opioid Task Force initiatives, budgetary initiatives, and a proposed Mental Health Commission.

Following a discussion of the information presented, Vice-Chairman Thompson moved to commit to 12 beds at the Healing Place in New Hanover County at a cost of \$13,000 per bed annually for Brunswick County.

Chairman Williams asked for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, he called the question. The vote of approval was unanimous.

Chairman Williams asked that the record reflect his concerns with the timing of this commitment.

Mrs. Hardy asked for direction on the creation of a Mental Health Commission. It was the consensus of the Board to request that staff bring a more formal proposal to the Board and to include a change to number 2 on the draft concept to be representatives from x-number of health care or treatment providers in Brunswick County.

Mrs. Hardy stated that staff would bring this item back to the Board to include a combination of both Stepping Up and the Opioid Task Force in one group.

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- **Health and Human Services - Stepping Up Report Presentation - (David Stanley, Executive Director of Health & Human Services)**

The Stepping Up Report was included in the previous discussion and presentation of the Opioid Task Force initiatives.

- **Break**

Chairman Williams recessed the meeting for a 10-minute break at 2:45 p.m.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 2:55 p.m.

- **Administration - Draft Enterprise Capital Improvement Plan (Bill Pinnix, Director of Engineering, John Nichols, Director of Public Utilities, Bill Early, Director of Brunswick BID)**

Received information on the draft Enterprise Capital Improvement Plan.

Mrs. Hardy introduced Mr. Bill Early, Director of Brunswick BID. Mr. Early presented information on a project in partnership with Brunswick BID to provide water and sewer services to the International Logistics Park, which will also serve the Mid-Atlantic Industrial Rail Park.

Mr. Pinnix and Mr. Nichols presented an update on several ongoing and future Enterprise Capital Improvement Projects.

- **County Attorney - Legislative Update (Bob Shaver, County Attorney)**

Received information with regard to current legislative matters of relevance.

- **County Attorney - Abandoned Boat Ordinance (Bob Shaver, County Attorney)**

Received information on the Abandoned Boat Ordinance with regard to enforcement measures currently available in the ordinance.

- **Closing Remarks - (Commissioners)**

Mrs. Hardy asked for any additional direction from the Board.

Vice-Chairman Thompson requested that staff research the feasibility of amending the current Brunswick Guarantee agreement to include the total cost of tuition and books rather than placing a cap on the cost of books.

Commissioner Sykes briefly stepped out of the meeting, unexcused, at 4:02 p.m. and returned at 4:02 p.m.

A brief discussion was held regarding extra days off provided by the College through county dollars. Staff will provide the Board with information with regard to locally paid employees and state paid employees.

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Chairman Williams directed staff to strive to keep the same tax rate as the budget process moves forward.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cooke moved to adjourn the Agenda Meeting at 4:06 p.m. The vote of approval was unanimous.

Frank Williams, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Andrea White, Clerk to the Board