

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MAY 2, 2022
1:00 P.M.**

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners held a Workshop on the above date at 1:00 p.m., Commissioners’ Chambers, David R. Sandifer Administration Building, County Government Center, Bolivia, North Carolina.

- PRESENT:

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

Steve Stone County Manager
Bob Shaver, County Attorney
David Stanley, Deputy County Manager
Haynes Brigman, Deputy County Manager
Aaron Smith, Finance Director
Daralyn Spivey, Clerk to the Board
Meagan Kascsak, Communications Director
Currie Elkins, MIS

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 Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Thompson gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Manager, Steve Stone provided opening remarks and reviewed the agenda for the day.

The following items were presented and discussed:

- **Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Preliminary Recommended Budget, Fees, and Capital Improvement Plan**

Mr. Stone explained that the preliminary budget was a working document, and the Board would have an opportunity to adjust and revise the budget prior to approval.

A brief discussion was held regarding an update on the countywide population, construction permit numbers, expected increase in tax values and tax revenue.

Mr. Stone recommended no property tax rate increase for FY23.

- **Preliminary General Government Recommended Budget**

Received a presentation on:

General Government: The draft total general government departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$16.5M with increases to include additional personnel, fuel charges, increase of salaries and benefits tied to the recently completed Classification and Total Compensation Study, and items related to the revaluation.

Central Services: The draft total Central Services departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$22.2M with increases for IT related items such as technical support, security and database services, increase in motor fuels, additional vehicles, generators, repairs to existing vehicles, additional personnel, increase electrical fees, upgrades to parking lots and an increase of salaries and benefits tied to the Classification and Total Compensation Study recently completed.

Public Safety: The draft total Public Safety departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$61.8M with increases in fuel charges, replacement vehicles,

equipment (both office and vehicle), additional staff, unscheduled overtime, increase in contracted services, medical supplies, and an increase of salaries and benefits tied to the Classification and Total Compensation Study recently completed.

Transportation: The draft total Transportation departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$161K with no proposed changes.

Environmental Protection: The draft total Environmental Protection departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$20.9M with increases in garbage collection, state contracted services and an increase of salaries and benefits tied to the Classification and Total Compensation Study recently completed.

Economic Development: The draft total Economic Development departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$8.8M with an increase in personnel, increase in the revenue transfer for the Tourism Development Authority, no proposed changes to the funding of Brunswick BID, and an increase of salaries and benefits tied to the Classification and Total Compensation Study recently completed.

Public Housing: The draft total Public Housing departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$109K which holds consistent with operations from last year.

Health Services: The draft total Health Services departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$6M with increases for additional personnel, and costs associated with mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.

Social Services: The draft total Social Services departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$9.3M with an increase in personnel, replacement vehicles, contracted services, motor fuel increases.

Human Services The draft total Health Services departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$33.8M with an increase in personnel and an increase of salaries and benefits tied to the Classification and Total Compensation Study recently completed.

Education: The draft total Education departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$56.6M with an increase in capital outlay, building repairs and vehicle purchase.

Culture & Recreation: The draft total Culture and Recreation departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$5.6M with an increase in personnel, vehicle, books, equipment and an increase of salaries and benefits tied to the Classification and Total Compensation Study recently completed.

Debt Service: The draft line item for Debt service shows a 17.7% decrease. Current policy is the percentage needs to be 10-13% of total expenditures, this FY recommendation is 5.5%.

Expenditures: The draft total Expenditures for FY23 which includes salaries (with overtime), fringe benefits, operating costs, capital outlay and debt service is at \$239,475,222.

Transfer to other funds: Recommended for FY23 is \$8.3M statutorily and contract required to schools.

Commissioner Williams called for a recess at 2:50 p.m. to begin the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting to begin at 3:00. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0)

Chairman Thompson called the meeting back to order at 4:42 p.m.

Mr. Stone continued the meeting with a report from John Nichols, Utility Director with an explanation of the requested FY23 fee increase for the department. Mr. Nichols and Mr. Dixon discussed in detail the reasoning for the fee increases in both the water and wastewater divisions.

Total Capital Improvement Plan draft funding will be \$16,033,940.

Brunswick County Schools Capital Improvement Plan draft for FY23 is \$157,283,284.

Water Fund – Revenue: The draft total Water Fund departmental budget for FY23 is recommended to be \$35M with an increase due to growth and the rate increase set effective January 1, 2022.

Water Fund – Expenditures: In the draft total Water Fund departmental budget for FY23, the recommended expenditures are \$35.4M with increases of salaries and benefits tied to the Classification and Total Compensation Study recently completed, additional vehicles, raw water main, Northwest Plant expansion with low pressure reverse osmosis and “Pay Go” project transfer.

Wastewater Fund – Revenue: In the draft total Water Fund departmental budget for FY23 is recommended \$29.3M with an increase due to growth on the County.

Wastewater Fund – Expenditure: In the draft total Water Fund departmental budget for FY23 is recommended expenditures are \$30.6M with increases of salaries and benefits tied to the Classification and Total Compensation Study recently completed, additional personnel, vehicles, equipment and debt services.

Utility Considerations Not Included in the Recommended Draft Budget: Lead and Copper program expenditure and funding sources, water and sewer master plans, demands of growth throughout the county, and eligibility of the ARP funds.

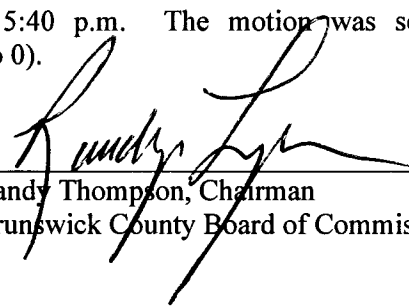
Preliminary Water CIP: \$1,866,500
Preliminary Wastewater CIP \$27,807,687
General Government Fee Changes: Recommended changes in Building Inspections/Central Permitting, Fire Inspections, Health Administration, Environmental Health, Water, Wastewater.

Mr. Stone presented a balanced budget and reviewed the following steps in the budget process:

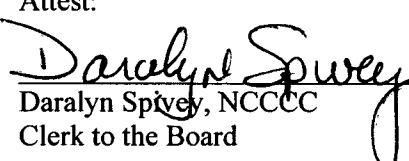
- May 16 at 6:00 p.m. – Presentation of the recommended budget
- June 6 at 1:00 p.m. – Board Budget Workshop, if needed
- June 20 at 6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing regarding the Budget, followed by adoption of the Budget Ordinance, Capital Improvement Plan and Fees for FY23

III. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).



Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

