



MINUTES
Board of County Commissioners Meeting
Monday, February 5, 2024 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: David Andrews, County Manager
Trey Thurman, County Attorney
Patrick Buffkin, Staff Attorney
Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board
Allen Vann, Assistant County Manager
Other Staff and Members of the Press and Public.

1 CALL TO ORDER

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

2 INVOCATION

2.1 Commissioner Hardee gave the invocation.

3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.1 Commissioner Groves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4.1 Vice Chair Newton requested to continue item 6.1 to the March 11, 2024, BOCC Meeting, move item 8.1 to Public Information, and to continue item 9.1 to the February 20, 2024, BOCC Meeting.

Moved by Jacqueline A. Newton, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to Approve the Agenda with the changes.

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

CARRIED.

5 PUBLIC HEARING

6 PUBLIC INFORMATION

6.1 Presentation from Wallace Police Department to an Employee with Pender County Sheriff's Office.

Item continued to the March 11, 2024, BOCC meeting.

CARRIED.

6.2 Tax Office Update

Melissa Radke, Tax Administrator, updated the Board on the current status of the Tax Office. The last update was given on June 5, 2023. Vincent Evaluations was hired in June 2023. There were 1800 permits backlogged. The permit field is currently up to date. All permit work for 2023 and date entry is to be completed by February 28, 2024. Pender County has seen \$1,166,279.00 in revenue. Pender County has three field appraisers currently. The appraisers have car magnets, ID badges, door hangers, and High-Vi vests so the public are able to recognize them. Currently, the Tax office has three vacant positions. Radke went over future plans for the tax office. Radke answered questions from the Board.

6.3 Pender County Utilities Update

Anthony Colon, Utilities Director, gave the Board an update on Pender County Utilities. Batson Road citizens have paid for water lines and are waiting for water. A project was award to Highfill Engineering. This project will cost \$425,000.00 and is already allocated. The expected completion date is December 2024. Hampstead is getting three new ground water wells. Pender County is currently waiting for final approval from the state. The wells should be in operation by the end of March. The wells come at a cost of \$10,776,140.00. There are 133 feet of

waterlines available to be connected and looped to Pelican Reef to given citizens better water quality. Completion of Pelican Reef is expected by the end of February 2024. The membrane water treatment plant project was awarded to CDM Smith. The Corbette and Weirs property has been obtained by Pender County and the deeds were filed at the Register of Deeds. Utilities is currently selecting the layout of the plant. The expected cost of the property is \$110,000,000.00. The Scotts Hill Elevated Tank project was also awarded to CDM Smith. The structure has been completed and painted. The contractor will be working on the electrical power and control to the altitude valve. over the next two weeks. The cost was \$3,000,000.00. Pender County Utilities met with the engineers for the Falls Mist developers to discuss the water and sewer system for the new Rocky Point development. There are more meetings planned in the upcoming weeks. The parallel waterline from 421 to Rocky Point water tank is underway. Harrell's has agreed to connect with Pender County. Colon met with Harrell's Board on January 23rd. CDM Smith is to submit a proposal and scope of work to Pender Utilities soon. The CFPUA has agreed to the interconnection which will allow Pender County to provide water and sewer to the BASF side. Highfill Engineering was awarded this project. The projected cost is \$185,000.00. There is not a projected date of completed yet. The water treatment plant off of US 421 is getting a new high service pump. The project has been awarded to LR Thomas and Son Contracting. The cost is \$937,120.00. The projected completion date is June 2024. For the US 421 water and sewer extension to Blueberry Rd. was awarded to McKim and Creed. There is not a project completion date yet. Colon answered questions from the Board.

6.4 Rocky Point Volunteer Fire Department Fire Truck Purchase

Amy Burton, Fire Marshall, and Deputy Chief Short presented the item. The Rocky Point Fire Department is purchasing a 2024 Pierce Saber Pumper. The truck is NTPA compliant. It will hold 1000 gallons of water. The cost is \$1,849,357.00 with a five-percent financing rate. Currently, the Rocky Point Volunteer Fire Department has two (2) 2001 fire trucks that need to be replaced.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS

8 CONSENT AGENDA

- 8.1 Approval of Sole Source vendor for Carahsoft (Cellebrite) for Investigations for extraction technologies.

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Jacqueline A. Newton

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda.

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

CARRIED.

- 8.2 Approval of SRT equipment from CNVG in the amount of \$75,171.60.
- 8.3 Approval of Mission Critical Partners Professional Services Agreement.
- 8.4 Motor Vehicle Releases and Refunds
- 8.5 Approval to accept \$90,000 NC SCIF Grant, Budget Amendment & PO to Modern Chevrolet
- 8.6 Approval of a Budget Ordinance Amendment to Move Monies Collected from Ghostwalk of Penders Past

9 APPROVALS AND RESOLUTIONS

- 9.1 Approval of Vehicle Replacement Policy

Moved by Jacqueline A. Newton, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to Continue Item to the February 20, 2024, BOCC Meeting.

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

CARRIED.

- 9.2 Approval of Award to Highfill Infrastructure Engineering for Engineering Services related to the US 421 CFPWA Water Interconnection Project for \$185,000

Moved by Jacqueline A. Newton, seconded by Fred McCoy

Anthony Colon, Utilities Director, presented the item. Colon stated he needed Board approval to award the US-421 CFPWA Water Interconnection project to HighFill Engineering. The project will cost \$185,000.

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

CARRIED.

9.3 Proposed Animal Ordinance Revision for Pender County Parks

Zach White, Parks and Recreation Director, presented the item. The proposed ordinance will allow dogs into parks, something that is not currently allowed. Dogs will not be allowed on sports fields. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommended the approval of the ordinance revisions. White answered questions from the Board.

Moved by Jacqueline A. Newton, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to Approve Animal Ordinance Revision for Pender County Parks.

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

CARRIED.

9.4 Resolution Establishing the Board of Equalization and Review

Melissa Radke, Tax Administrator, presented the item. The resolution was first presented at the January 16, 2024, BOCC meeting and was tabled. Radke brought the Board two options for the Board of

Equalization and Review. The first option is a five-member board, and the second option was a six-member board. Both options exclude county commissioners from being appointed to the Board of Equalization and Review. Staff recommend a five-member Board to avoid deadlocks. Radke answered Board questions.

Moved by Jacqueline A. Newton, seconded by Fred McCoy

Motion to Approve Resolution Establishing the Board of Equalization and Review with Five Members.

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

CARRIED.

10 DISCUSSION

11 APPOINTMENTS

11.1 Appointment to the Library Advisory Board

Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board, presented Ms. Catherine Ford's application for the Library Advisory Board. She applied for the district 2 seat. Stanfield went over Ms. Ford's experience. The Board discussed the applicant.

Moved by Jacqueline A. Newton, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to Approve the Appointment to the Library Advisory Board.

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

CARRIED.

11.2 Application to the Pender County Boards

Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board, presented Ms. Brandy Watt's application for the Tourism Development Authority, Advisory Board of Health, and the Nursing and Adult Care Homes Committee. Stanfield went over Ms. Watt's experience. The Board discussed the options of the different boards.

Moved by Jacqueline A. Newton, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to Approve the Appointment to the Nursing and Adult Homes Care Committee.

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

CARRIED.

12 MAPLE HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

13 ROCKY POINT WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

14 SCOTTS HILL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

15 MOORES CREEK WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

16 CENTRAL PENDER WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

17 PENDER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

18 SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

19 PUBLIC COMMENT

19.1 Michael Taylor expressed his appreciation to the Board for giving funds to the Historical Society for repairs.

20 ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, COUNTY MANAGER, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER, & COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- 20.1 Trey Thurman, County Attorney, requested the Board go into closed session pursuant to item three (3) Attorney Client Privilege, item four (4) Economic Development, and item six (6) Personnel.
- 20.2 David Andrews, County Manager, stated the Budget Retreat would be on March 14th and 15th. Staff are currently working on building the agenda.
- 20.3 Vice Chair Newton stated she attend the water summit that was sponsored by Senator Rouzer and Senator Murphy recently. She went over the business conducted at the summit.
- 20.4 Commissioner Hardee announced the closure of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. She also discussed misconceptions about the future plans of the bridge.
- 20.5 Commissioner Groves spoke about NCDOT in Rocky Point addressing drainage. He briefly spoke about a speed study he is working with staff on. He also addressed complaints he'd received from citizens.
- 20.6 Chair George spoke about the Flood Resiliency Champion Award. He also mentioned the Board changing closed session to 4:00PM to give citizens a better opportunity to attend meetings.

21 CLOSED SESSION (IF APPLICABLE).

Moved by Jacqueline A. Newton, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to go into closed session pursuant to item three (3) Attorney Client Privilege, item four (4) Economic Development, and item six (6) Personnel.

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

CARRIED.

Moved by Jacqueline A. Newton, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to Return to Open Session.

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

CARRIED.

22 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Fred McCoy, seconded by Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 7:02PM.

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

CARRIED.