

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 20, 2009
6:30 P.M.**

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on the above date at 6:30 p.m., Commissioners' Chambers, David R. Sandifer Administration Building, County Government Center, Bolivia, North Carolina.

PRESENT: Commissioner Phil Norris, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner J. Marty Cooke
Commissioner Charles Warren
Commissioner Scott Phillips
Commissioner William Sue, Chairman

STAFF: Marty K. Lawing, County Manager
Steve Stone, Assistant County Manager
Huey Marshall, County Attorney
Debby Gore, Clerk to the Board
Ann Hardy, Fiscal Operations Director

Sgt. Mark Trull

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sue called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
(Attached to these Minutes is an item called Board Action containing all items on this agenda and those items are incorporated herein.)

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chairman Norris gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Sue asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. The following adjustments were made:

1. Commissioner Warren requested Board approval of a Resolution to Assist the Elderly in Property Taxes approved and presented by the Tax Task Force, to be added as Item X-1. Commissioner Cooke moved to approve the agenda as amended. The vote of approval was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Sue asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to speak regarding any item on the agenda or any matter that was not included in the agenda. The following citizens addressed the Board:

1. Don Yousey, Health Director, asked for support in opposing Senate Bill 202. There was a short discussion involving the effects that this bill could have on Brunswick County citizens.

Vice-Chairman Norris moved to direct the County Attorney to draft a Resolution in Opposition to Proposed Senate Bill 202 and authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution. The vote of approval was unanimous.

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED HEALTH
DEPARTMENT FUNDING IN SENATE BILL 202**

Whereas, the third sentence of the Declaration of Independence states that “. . . Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed . . .” which not only implies but fully states that it is the will of the people that shall control the will of the government, and that supplying ten percent of a budgeted item does not authorize one hundred percent of the control of that same item, and

Whereas, the hard work, planning, foresight, hours of dedication and sheer grit that have gone into the management of a local health department have produced a solid working enterprise, one that has been the model for other government enterprises, because of frugal management and hard-scrapple tactics of supervision, and

Whereas, there is evidence that mental health facilities of this state were in need of supervision and/or reorganization, but that those plans fell far short of their goal, and certain provisions of past budget

bills forced a painful issue into an even worse status now that has hurt those people that seek mental health assistance, and there is now little hope for an improvement in the provision of mental health assistance, and

Whereas, those people and local governments that have taken the initiative to create a stable and steadfast Health Department have now been considered expendable, and in the Senate’s Budget bill restrictions that cannot be met are imposed, and funding will be vacated if artificial goals that have been set arbitrarily are not met or exceeded.

Now therefore, the Brunswick County Commissioners are hereby resolved to inform the State, and its General Assembly, that the County has a viable Health Department, and that its funding is solid and frugal, and that the Brunswick County Health Department has set goals that the people of Brunswick County want, and are providing services that have been requested by the Brunswick residents, and that the Brunswick County Health Department appreciates funding from whatever source, but that the five percent of current funding provided by the State of North Carolina does not, by any code of laws or regulations, entitle the state to redirect the focus of the Department, to set aside the will of the local people, and to change the services provided, cripple the provision of current services, and essentially, bankrupt the Brunswick County Health Department.

This the 20th day of April, 2009.

s/William M. Sue, Chair
Brunswick County Commissioners

Attest:

s/Deborah S. (Debby) Gore, Clerk to the Board

2. Diane Mesaris, Bald Head Island resident asked that Bald Head Island Fire and Rescue be included in the Stop Hunger efforts and have a bin located there for residents to bring their items adding that residents had already collected 241 pounds of food donations.

3. Carol Scott, Sunset Beach resident presented 3,000 petitions supporting 30 year financing for Sunset Beach sewer and asked for consideration of staff to explore every avenue to help make affordable financing available with the proposed sewer.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Norris moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote of approval was unanimous. The following items were approved:

A. Minutes

B. Tax

1. April 2009 Tax & Motor Vehicle Releases/December 2008 Motor Vehicle Val and Levy.....
2. Monthly Tax Collection Report

C. Finance

The Budget Amendments and Capital Project Ordinances are recommended for approval on the consent agenda of the Board of Commissioners.

Fund	Description	Code	Increase	Decrease
General Fund	Other Permits & Fees	104960-383958	\$642	
General Fund	Misc Expenses	104960-449900	\$642	

The budget amendment above is to appropriate revenues in excess of amounts budgeted for Farm Bureau for in the Soil & Water Budget for education.

Fund	Description	Code	Increase	Decrease
General Fund	Fitness Program Revenue	106131-383314	\$2,826	
General Fund	Fitness Program Expenditures	106131-423117	\$2,826	

The budget amendment above is to appropriate revenues in excess of amounts budgeted for use in the fitness program.

Fund	Description	Code	Increase	Decrease
Health Fund	Clinic Fees	135164-335006	\$8,997	
Health Fund	Contracted Services	135164-439900	\$8,997	

The budget amendment above is to appropriate clinic fees earned in excess of amounts budgeted for contracted services in the Family Planning program.

Fund	Description	Code	Increase	Decrease
General Fund	Video Programming Revenue	100000-335025	\$51,653	
General Fund	Permits & Fees	104310-383958		\$101,153
General Fund	Investment Earnings	100000-383100	\$49,500	
General Fund	Misc. Revenue	104310-383900	\$51,653	
General Fund	Undercover Money	104310-449901	\$51,653	

The budget amendment above is to correct other permits and fees revenue duplication of estimated revenues appropriated in March for personnel in the Sheriff's department and to appropriate the video poker revenues to the undercover account in the Sheriff's department.

Fund	Description	Code	Increase	Decrease
Education Capital Project	Town Creek School Debt Proceeds	428213-396001	\$1,500,000	
Education Capital Project	Town Creek School Project Costs	428213-464118	\$1,500,000	
Education Capital Project	Cedar Grove School Debt Proceeds	428212-396001		\$1,500,000
Education Capital Project	Cedar Grove School Project Costs	428212-464118		\$1,500,000

The budget amendment above is to redistribute the debt proceeds between the projects based on costs. The proceeds were originally assigned to a project based on bid estimates. Now that actual costs have been determined the Town Creek project is in need of funds and the Cedar Grove has excess funds. Below is the budget ordinance for the redistribution.

**County of Brunswick, North Carolina
Capital Project Ordinance
Town Creek Education Capital Project (428213)**

Be it ordained by the Board of County Commissioners of Brunswick County that pursuant to Section 13.2 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1. The following amounts are hereby appropriated for project costs:

Project Cost \$17,545,957

Section 2. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Education Capital Projects Fund:

Investment earnings on debt proceeds	\$109,057
Proceeds from 2008B BB&T installment debt obligation	<u>\$17,436,900</u>
Total Project	\$17,545,957

Section 3. This Capital Project Ordinance shall be entered into the minutes of the April 20, 2009 meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

**County of Brunswick, North Carolina
Capital Project Ordinance
Cedar Gove Education Capital Project (428212)**

Be it ordained by the Board of County Commissioners of Brunswick County that pursuant to Section 13.2 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1. The following amounts are hereby appropriated for project costs:

Project Cost \$19,085,722

Section 2. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Education Capital Projects Fund:

ADM Fund	\$851,203
Investment Earnings on debt proceeds	\$171,419
Proceeds from 2008B BB&T installment debt obligation	<u>\$18,063,100</u>
Total Project	\$19,085,722

Section 3. This Capital Project Ordinance shall be entered into the minutes of the April 20, 2009 meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

D. Brunswick County Arts Council

Gary Halberstadt, Brunswick County Arts Council President, requested at the March Budget Retreat, to receive an additional \$20,000 appropriation for the Brunswick County Academy Brunswick Arts Council Arts in School Initiative VoArt program. The \$20,000 appropriation was made contingent upon a matching appropriation from the Board of Education. Brunswick County has paid a total of \$30,000 and a payment of \$20,000 to the Arts Council was confirmed by the Board of Education for FY 2008-2009.

E. Operation Services

Staff requests approval for the purchase of a pesticide storage building for mosquito control to comply with the NC Pesticide Laws and Regulations.

F. Operation Services-Mosquito Control Division

Staff requests approval of a proposed water management project by the Mosquito Control Division for 4235 Whiteville Road project and 3403 Whiteville Road project.

G. Rural Center Reuse & Renovation Grant/Contract & Loan/Performance Agreement for Patronies Pizza

Staff requests approval of Rural Center Reuse and Renovation Grant Contract 2009-274-60501-117 and Loan Performance Agreement.

H. "Walking Through the Door" Domestic Violence Grant Application

Staff request approval of Funding Request for 2nd Year Funding for the Governor's Crime Commission.

VI. PRESENTATION

1. Local Government Award-NC Recycling Association (Steve Stone)

Steve Stone, Assistant County Manager, presented the Local Government Award to Stephanie Lewis, Operation Services Director, which was received by the Solid Waste and Recycling Department at the Annual Conference. The Board voiced appreciation for all the efforts made on behalf of the county.

2. Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (Marty Lawing)

Marty Lawing, County Manager, presented the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Ann Hardy and the Finance Department. This is the ninth year that the department has qualified for the Certificate of Achievement. The Board thanked Ms. Hardy and staff for their hard work and achievements.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Utility Operations-HDR Engineering Services Contract (Jerry Pierce)

Staff recommends Approving Engineering Services Contract with HDR Engineering Inc. of the Carolinas.

Jerry Pierce, Utility Operations Director, explained that on May 3, 2005, the Division of Water Quality issued acceptance of the Final Engineering Certification for Phase V of Oyster Harbour (WQ 0023209) serving 83 units. The permit was for "construction only" since the Oyster Harbour Phase V project was constructed prior to completion of the County's Regional downstream pump station (Boones Neck) and required a permit modification once the system is put into operation. Currently, there are existing customers in Phase V Oyster Harbour.

The main trunk of the low pressure force main runs through other phases of Oyster Harbour that have not been permitted for sewer; some of which contain lots that will not "perk" for septic systems. Many of these lot owners have requested sewer service from Brunswick County Public Utilities but no connections are possible without the lots being permitted. Modification of the permit with associated sewer modeling will allow these additional connections without the need for additional force main construction and will modify the original Oyster Harbour Phase V permit to allow for operation of the sewer system. This will make sewer service available to approximately 130 new customers within Oyster Harbour. This contract includes some additional lower pressure sewer permitting on Thicketwood Drive off Pinewoods Drive where residents have requested sewer service and County forces can install the small diameter low pressure lines to serve them if a permit is in place.

Vice-Chairman Norris moved to authorize the Chairman and Clerk to the Board to execute an Engineering Contract with HDR Engineering, Inc., for engineering services associated with sewer

collection system permitting in the southwest area of the county including specifically the Oyster Harbour development. The vote of approval was unanimous.

2. Utility Operations-Boiling Spring Lakes Sewer Service Proposals (Jerry Pierce)

Staff recommends Discussing Sewer Service Proposals for the City of Boiling Spring Lakes.

Jerry Pierce, Utility Operations Director, explained that on February, the City of Boiling Spring Lakes asked the County to provide it with proposals for the provision of sewer service to the City. The County staff has evaluated the potential options for the City to receive sewer service and developed three options for the City's consideration. The options are as follows:

Option 1 Regional Approach

Under this option, the City would create a sewer utility and be responsible for the construction of a wastewater collection system within the City limits. The City would establish the rates and fees to be charged to their customers and be responsible for operation and maintenance of the collection system. The County would be responsible for the construction of the regional facilities including a 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) treatment plant, regional pump station, and regional transmission main. The City would purchase 80,000 gpd of capacity in the regional system and the County would be responsible for the remaining 20,000 gpd of capacity.

Option 2 City Only Approach

Under this option, the County would enter into a 10-year renewable lease with the City for the County-owned property located off of Sunny Point Road. The lease would give the City authority to construct a wastewater treatment plant and effluent disposal system on the County property. All design, permitting, and construction costs would be the responsibility of the City. At such time that the County elects to build a regional facility on the Sunny Point property, the City would receive credit for facilities that have been constructed on the Sunny Point property that are used as a part of the regional facility.

Option 3 County Only Approach

Under this option, the County would construct a 100,000 gpd wastewater treatment plant and associated effluent disposal system, regional pump station, and transmission line. The County would be responsible for construction of the wastewater collection system within the City limits to serve the current commercial area. The County would own and operate the collection system and the customers would be County customers. They would be billed based upon similarly situated sewer customers in the County system. The cost of the collection system would be assessed to the property owners receiving sewer service. The City would agree to transfer its water system to the County including all lines and customers. The current City customers would become County water customers and be charged as similarly situated County water customers.

County staff recommends the submission of these proposals to the City for their consideration. The County staff would meet with the City staff to explain the proposals in more detail and modify the proposals based upon input from the City staff. If an agreement can be reached, a Sewer Service Agreement would be drafted and submitted to the County Board of Commissioners and City Board of Commissioners for their consideration.

Commissioner Warren moved to authorize submission of three proposals for the provision of sewer service to the City of Boiling Spring Lakes. The vote of approval was unanimous.

3. Utility Operations-Northwest Sewer Operations and Maintenance Proposal (Jerry Pierce)

Staff recommends Authorizing Submittal of Operation and Maintenance Proposal for City of Northwest Sewer System.

Jerry Pierce, Utility Operations Director, explained that in March, the City of Northwest asked the County to provide it with a proposal for operation and maintenance of its newly constructed sewer system. The sewer system is presently under construction and is expected to be completed by July 1, 2009.

Under the terms of the recommended proposal, the County would provide the following services to the City:

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES REQUIRED BY NC DENR COLLECTION SYSTEM PERMIT

1. Keep System Map Updated
2. Provide Grease Control Plan and Inspection
3. Contingency Plan for Pump Station Failure
4. Recurring Problem Log

5. Scheduled Testing of Standby and Emergency Equipment
6. Pump Station Inspection
7. Right-of-Way Inspection
8. Response Action Plan
9. Sanitary Sewer Overflow Log
10. System Inspection Logs
11. Record Drawing Review
12. General Observation Log
13. High Priority Line Inspection Form
14. Complaint Log

The following services will be provided at an additional cost. The fees for these services must be paid by the City to the County; however, the City may collect the fees from the property owner in advance of sending a work order to the County.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR A FEE

- | | | |
|----|--|----------------|
| 1. | 2" or Smaller Sewer Force Main Tap | \$1,000 |
| 2. | Residential Simplex Grinder Pump Station & Tap | \$4,000 |
| 3. | Valve Pit Installation | \$4,000 |
| 4. | Grinder Pump Station Repairs | \$5/month/pump |
| 5. | | |

The City of Northwest would be billed a flat rate per connection for the services outlined above. The amount would be negotiated with the City as a part of the development of an Operation and Maintenance Agreement.

County staff recommends the submission of this proposal to the City for their consideration. The County staff would meet with the City staff to explain in more detail the proposal and modify it based upon input from the City staff. If an agreement can be reached, an Operation and Maintenance Agreement would be drafted and submitted to the County Board of Commissioners and City Council for their consideration.

Chairman Sue moved to authorize submittal of a Proposal for Operation and Maintenance for the City of Northwest Sewer System. The vote of approval was unanimous.

4. **Finance-Standard & Poor's Revenue Bond Rating Upgrade to AA (Ann Hardy)**
Staff recommends receiving information on Revenue Bond Rating Upgrade as information.

Ann Hardy, Fiscal Operations Director, informed of the following:

Background Information

The County issued revenue bonds for the expansion of the West Brunswick Regional Water Reclamation Facility in January 2008. At that time, Brunswick County was awarded rating upgrades by all three major rating agencies, Standard and Poor's, Fitch and Moody's for the Series 2008A Revenue Bonds. Fitch and Standard and Poor's Rating Services increased the county's revenue bond rating from A to A+ and Moody's Investor Services increased the county's bond rating from A3 to A2.

Current Information

Standard & Poor's reviewed the underlying rating on the County's Enterprise System (Water and Sewer) and issued a notice that the service changed the rating to AA from A+ and affirmed a stable outlook for the county's system. Their report and rationale is attached. The improved rating will save the Brunswick County Enterprise System customers substantial amounts of interest from the reduced cost of borrowing in the future and protect the County's current bondholders.

The Board accepted as information and thanked Staff for their efforts.

5. **Finance-Financial Reports for period ending March 31, 2009 (unaudited) (Ann Hardy)**
Staff recommends receiving March 31, 2009 Financial Reports as information.

Ann Hardy, Fiscal Operations Director, reviewed Financial Reports ending March 31, 2009.

General Fund

Presented in the board packet is a schedule of revenues and expenditures-budget and actual and changes in fund balance for the General Fund for the period ended 3/31/2009 on the cash basis with comparative actual amounts for the year ended June 30, 2008 and for the period ended 3/31/2008. In addition projections for the current fiscal year are provided. Total revenues for the General Fund at 3/31/09 are \$133.1 million compared to \$134.8 million at 3/31/08 for a decrease

of (\$1.7) million or (1.26%). Total revenues collected are currently 88% of the amended budget for the fiscal year.

Total expenditures for the General Fund at 3/31/09 are \$108 million compared to \$101.1 million at 3/31/08 for an increase of \$6.9 million or 6.82%. Total expenditures are currently 68% of the amended budget for the fiscal year. Net transfers to the County and Schools Capital Reserves and Capital Projects Funds of \$11.6 are reported. If the current trends continue, it appears that annual revenues will be in the range of \$153.5 million and expenditures will be in the range of \$155.5 million resulting in an estimated \$2 million use of fund balance for the operating budget which can all be associated with purchases of capital outlay. The March sales tax and ad valorem receipts and were better than projected at the budget retreat.

Revenues and other financing sources are greater than expenditures and other financing uses by \$14.1 million as of March 31, 2009 compared to \$28.9 million as of March 31, 2008.

Water Fund

Presented in the board packet is a schedule of revenues and expenditures-budget and actual and changes in fund balance for the Water Fund for the period ended 3/31/2009 on the cash basis with comparative actual amounts for the year ended June 30, 2008 and for the period ended 3/31/2008. Total revenues for the Water Fund at 3/31/09 are \$14.9 million compared to \$15.6 million at 3/31/08 for a decrease of (\$0.7) million or (4.5%). Total revenues collected are currently 77% of the amended budget for the fiscal year.

Total expenditures for the Water Fund at 3/31/09 are \$9.0 million compared to \$9.4 million at 3/31/08 for a decrease of (\$0.4) million or (4.3%). Total expenditures are currently 59% of the amended budget for the fiscal year.

Net transfers to the Water Capital Reserve for Water Capital Projects of \$8.8 million are reported. Revenues and other financing sources are under expenditures and other financing uses by (\$2.8) million as of March 31, 2009 which appears reasonable with amounts budgeted as transfers from Retained Earnings to capital projects.

Wastewater Fund

Presented in the board packet is a schedule of revenues and expenditures-budget and actual and changes in fund balance for the Wastewater Fund for the period ended 3/31/2009 on the cash basis with comparative actual amounts for the year ended June 30, 2008 and for the period ended 3/31/2008. Total revenues for the Wastewater Fund at 3/31/09 are \$7.6 million compared to \$8.3 million at 3/31/2008 for a decrease of (\$0.7) million or (8.4%). Total revenues are currently 69% of the amended budget for the fiscal year.

Total expenditures for the Wastewater Fund at 3/31/09 were \$5.6 million compared to \$5.3 million at 3/31/08 for an increase of \$0.3 million or 5.7%. Total expenditures are currently 44% of the amended budget for the fiscal year.

Transfers of \$1.5 million from the wastewater reserve are reported. Revenues and other financing sources are greater than expenditures and other financing uses by \$3.5 million as of March 31, 2009 of which \$1.5 million is due to the transfer from the reserve fund for the reduction in expected reimbursement for debt service from the Town of Oak Island. The reimbursement is delayed until completion of the line to serve the town.

Capital Project Funds and Capital Reserve Funds

The packet contains grant and project life revenue and expenditure reports for major grants and capital projects and reports of the capital reserve fund balances and project designations for the County, Water, Wastewater, School and Special School Capital Reserve Funds.

Key Indicators of Revenues and Expenditures

The packet contains charts with actual history, current month, budget information and monthly projects for the remainder of the fiscal year for major revenues and expenditures in both the enterprise and general funds.

Cash and Investments

A Summary of Cash and Investments as of March 31, 2009 reports that the County has \$154.6 million of cash and investments in all funds including those accruing for outside agencies that the county performs collections for plus \$37.9 million of capital project restricted debt proceeds. All cash and investments are earning an average yield of 1.31%. The total of cash of March 31, 2009 was \$79.5 million General Fund, \$16.8 million in the Water Fund, \$0.8 million in the Wastewater Fund. This information is presented for information and no action is requested.

The Board received the reports as information.

6. Admin-Southport/Oak Island Committee of 100 Funding Request (Marty Lawing)

Staff recommends Approving request of Committee of 100 and the associated FY 2008-2009 Budget Amendment and Capital Project Ordinance.

Marty Lawing, County Manager, explained that the Southport - Oak Island Area Committee of 100 is developing Phase II of the Industrial Park off of NC Highway 211. The water and sewer infrastructure has been installed but the roadway for Committee Drive remains unpaved. Existing facilities on Committee Drive include the County Emergency Medical Services substation and the recently constructed offices of the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District.

Grant funding was obtained from the NC Rural Center for the water and sewer construction and an industrial prospect for the park had agreed to grant commitments for job creation that would have led to additional grant funding for the road improvements, however due to the economic slowdown, the developer was unable to proceed with the project at this time. The Committee of 100 sold the building site to the Sanitary District with the agreement that the infrastructure would be in place, including the paved road. Since the grant assistance will not materialize without a commitment to create jobs, Don Hughes, President of the Committee of 100 is requesting that the paving project be funded locally with Brunswick County, the Committee of 100 and the developer each paying one-third of the total cost. The Committee has obtained a bid of \$57,705 to pave an 850' section of Committee Drive and is requesting that Brunswick County pay one-third or \$19,235. The justification would be the benefit to the EMS Station and to promote economic development in the park.

Commissioner Warren moved to approve the request from the Southport-Oak Island Committee of 100, Inc. for funding assistance in the amount of \$19,235 for road paving in Phase II of the Industrial Park and the associated Budget Amendment and Capital Project Ordinance. The vote of approval was unanimous.

7. Admin-Proposal for ECS Carolinas Inc. for Additional Wetland Delineation Services (Marty Lawing)

Staff recommends approving Proposal of ECS Carolinas, LLP for Additional Wetland Delineation Services.

Marty Lawing, County Manager, explained that in January 2008, the County contracted with ECS Carolinas to perform wetland delineation services on the 825 acre tract of land owned by the County on Highway 211. The purpose of the wetland survey was to clearly identify the buildable areas prior to contracting with a consultant to develop a Master plan for the site. ECS completed the wetland delineation in February 2008 and requested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to verify the delineation on site. The Corps of Engineers representative was unable to visit the site until September 2008. The Corps requested that the delineation be updated since the initial delineation was performed during a period of drought.

To comply with the request of the Corps of Engineers ECS provided the County with a proposal to re-evaluate and re-flag the wetlands, which was authorized in October. The re-flagging was completed in December and the Corps of Engineers representative visited the site on January 7, 2009 to verify the wetland flags. The Corps indicated that the flags appeared to be approximately 10 to 30 feet off in various locations throughout the site. ECS indicated that their personnel were unable to access the actual wetland borders due to the dense vegetation. The Corps recommended that the vegetation be bush hogged and the wetlands be re-flagged before they would verify and sign off. ECS has presented a proposal to re-flag the wetlands subsequent to the County bush hogging the areas of dense vegetation. The proposed fee estimate is \$8,000.

Chairman Sue moved to approve a Proposal from ECS Carolinas, LLP for Additional Wetland Delineation Services for the county owned 825 acre tract on Highway 211. The vote of approval was unanimous.

8. Admin-National County Government Week Proclamation and Proposed Activities (Marty Lawing)

Staff recommends approval of Proclamation and Proposed Activities.

Marty Lawing, County Manager, explained that the National Association of Counties created National County Government Week in 1991 to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties. May 3-9, 2009 has been designated National County Government Week with the theme of "Greening Our Future". Staff requests approval of a Proclamation encouraging Brunswick County Officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government week activities.

A National County Government Week Planning Committee was appointed by the County Manager to plan events and activities for National County Government Week. The members of the committee are Stephanie Lewis, Starie Grissett, Reecie Tate, Andrea White, Steve Stone, Don Yousey, Steve Randone, Jeff Phillips and Jim Pryor. The committee recommends the following schedule of events and activities for National County Government Week in Brunswick County:

MONDAY, MAY 4th

Green Event and Activities Day

10:00am to 4:00pm Recycling Event at County Complex. Drop off recyclables and pick up educational material regarding recycling in conjunction with a Fight Hunger Food Donation Drive.

10:00am to 2:00pm Mosquito Control Demonstration and Display

10:00am to 12:00noon Rain Barrel Demonstration and Sale

10:00am to 12:00 noon Master Gardeners Demonstration and Garden Tour

TUESDAY, MAY 5th

County Facility Tour Day

9:00am to 11:00am Construction and Demolition Landfill Tours

9:00am to 11:00am Detention Center Tours and K-9 Demonstration

9:00am to 4:00pm Digital Government Demonstration

10:00am to 12:00noon Northwest Water Treatment Plant/Northeast Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour

2:00pm to 4:00pm Brunswick County Courthouse Tours

2:00pm to 4:00pm 911 Emergency Communication Center/Emergency Operations Center Tours

3:00pm to 5:00pm Emergency Medical Station (Shallotte) Tour

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6th

Public Library Day

10:00am Pre-School Story Time (All Branches)

9:00am to 4:00pm Tours (All Branches)

9:00am to 5:00pm Friends of the Library Membership Drive

9:00am to 5:00pm Library Card Sign-Up (Please Bring Identification)

THURSDAY, MAY 7th

5:00pm to 8:00pm County Government Informational Fair, South Brunswick High School

All County Departments will be available to provide information and answer questions about County services.

FRIDAY, MAY 8th

8:30am to 4:00pm Clean Your Files Day for County Employees

8:30am to 5:00pm Green tips for Home and Work Provided to County Employees

Commissioner Warren moved to approve the Proclamation and schedule for National County Government Week and to invite Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc., the Economic Development Commission and the Employment Security Commission to participate in the Informational Fair. The vote of approval was unanimous.

**NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK
MAY 3-9, 2009
“GREENING OUR FUTURE”**

WHEREAS, the nation’s 3,068 counties provide a variety of essential public services to communities serving 300 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County and all counties take seriously their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in sensible and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, many county government initiatives and programs involve the protection of valuable and vulnerable environmental resources in communities; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties created National County Government Week in 1991 to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation’s counties to meet the needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, NACo and Brunswick County are working together to Restore the Partnership between all levels of government to better serve American communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim May 3-9, 2009 as National County Government Week and encourages all Brunswick County officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government week activities.

This the 20th day of April, 2009.

s/William M. Sue, Chairman
Brunswick County Commissioners

Attest:

s/Deborah S. (Debby) Gore, CMC

Clerk to the Board

VII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (Commissioner Appointment)

Commissioner Warren volunteered to serve as the Ex-Officio member of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Commissioner Phillips moved to close the nominations. The vote of approval was unanimous. Vice-Chairman Norris moved to approve the appointment of Commissioner Warren. The vote of approval was unanimous.

2. Brunswick Community College (1 appointment)

Chairman Sue nominated Art Skipper. Vice-Chairman Norris moved to close the nominations. The vote of approval was unanimous. Commissioner Warren moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Skipper. The vote of approval was unanimous. Art Skipper was reappointed to serve another four-year term that will expire on June 1, 2013.

VIII. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

1. Deed of Dedication for Eagle Pines Subdivision Water Lines (Huey Marshall)

Huey Marshall, County Attorney, explained that these lines are ready for acceptance into the county system with a worth of \$110,000 for water lines.

Vice-Chairman Norris moved to approve the Deed of Dedication for Eagle Pines Subdivision Water Lines. The vote of approval was unanimous.

2. Deed of Dedication for St. James Plantation, The Reserve, Ellington Lots 1-42 and Moss Hammock Lots 1-46, 54-94, 127-167, 168-177 and 178-182 for Water and Sewer (Huey Marshall)

Huey Marshall, County Attorney, explained that these lines are ready for acceptance into the county system with a worth of \$577,008.13 for water lines and \$238,718.84 for sewer lines.

Vice-Chairman Norris moved to approve the Deed of Dedication for St. James Plantation, The Reserve, Ellington Lots 1-42 and Moss Hammock Lots 1-46, 54-95, 127-167, 168-177 and 178-182. The vote of approval was unanimous.

3. Closed Session 7:38 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Norris moved to enter Closed Session at 7:38 p.m. pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (1) (a) (3) (a) (4) and (a) (6) to prevent the disclosure of privileged information, to protect the attorney-client privilege, to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business in the area served by this body and to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against a public officer or employee. The vote of approval was unanimous.

BREAK

Chairman Sue called a 5-minute break.

Reconvened

Chairman Sue called the Open Session back to order at 9:21 p.m. and announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

1. Tax Task Force – Resolution to Assist the Elderly in Property Taxes (Added Under Adjustments to the Agenda)

Commissioner Warren informed that the Tax Task Force recommends approval of a Resolution to Assist the Elderly with Property Taxes. There was a short discussion and it was consensus to also ask for adoption of the Resolution by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and local Legislators.

Commissioner Warren moved to approve the Resolution and forward to the NCACC and local Legislators. The vote of approval was unanimous.

RESOLUTION TO ASSIST THE ELDERLY IN PROPERTY TAXES

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Statutes currently exempts from property taxes \$25,000 in value or 50% of the value of the homeowners property, whichever is greater, for those individuals that are either over the age of 65 years or are permanently disabled whose income does not exceed \$25,000 for 2009, and **WHEREAS**, the requirement to qualify for the exemption is based on adjustments to benefits under Title II and XVI of the Social Security Act, a formula that began at an arbitrary income of \$18,000 in tax year 2003, the year the law was changed to make periodic changes and

WHEREAS, that income level is no longer realistic with the dramatic increases in property values across much of North Carolina and particularly Brunswick and its municipalities due to the required revaluation process pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 105-286 which specifies the frequency the revaluation must be completed and 105-283 which states that all property must be valued at it's "true value" in the year of the revaluation and

WHEREAS, these individuals are the ones most likely to be affected by these tax increases and are the least capable of absorbing the increased tax burden because of their limited income and their special needs due to age and disabilities ,

THEREFORE, be it resolved the Brunswick County Tax Task Force does hereby request the Brunswick County Commissioners and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners to endorse an increase in the exempt amount from \$25,000 or 50% of the value of the property to \$40,000 or 50% of the value of the property, whichever is greater, and further, the income level for tax year 2009 be increased to \$30,000 and adjusted according to benefits under Title II and XVI of the Social Security Act for tax years 2009 forward.

This the 20th day of April, 2009.

s/William M. Sue, Chair
Brunswick County Commissioners

ATTEST:

s/Deborah S. (Debby) Gore, CMC
Clerk to the Board

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cooke moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:23p.m. The vote of approval was unanimous.

William M. Sue, Chairman

Deborah (Debby) Gore, Clerk to the Board