

OBSERVER REPORTING FORM

League of Women Voters, Lower Cape Fear Organization

Date: 12/18/17

Type of meeting: Regular Session

The Brunswick Count Board of Commissioners meeting was held 12/18/2017 at 6PM. The agenda discussion topics relevant to LWV positions/programs:

Education: NC House Bill 13 (version 5) requiring smaller K-3 class sizes, has impacted Brunswick Count School funding flexibility. Durham County Board of Commissioners adapted a resolution and requested feedback from the Brunswick Board of Commissioners as well as Boards of Education. The discussions on the actions taken to comply with the new NC law and the affects at Brunswick Schools, included adding 23 class rooms, reassigning funds from high grade teaching assistants to support the hiring of new K-3 teachers, and repurposing computer labs as classrooms. Commissioner Randy Thompson verbalized concern as to why the impacts had not been brought to the Board of Commissioners by the Schools prior to the request from Durham. Several members agreed that they had not heard about the negative affects on Brunswick's reading programs, 4th grade class sizes, arts, music, and Physical Education programs. Commissioner Mike Forte stated he had discussed this issue with his state representative and had been told the required class size change had been funded. Chairman Frank Williams proposed a sit-down meeting with the Brunswick School representatives to verify, and clarify the current NC House Bill 13 implementation strategy's results. After the meeting between the Board of Commissioners and School representatives a three way meeting with the state representatives is proposed. Page190-5 of Agenda_12_17

Environmental: A request from Oak Island for the Board to authorizing signing of a letter of support allowing the town of Oak Island to become a party to an existing federal permit for dredging and sand placement from the Lockwood Folly Inlet, was delayed. This request was presented by Steve Stone, Deputy County Manager. The addition would allow Oak Island to receive some of the sand to nourish Oak Island's beach, currently only Holden Beach is on the federal permit and receives the sand. The discussion included points from Commissioner Mike Forte that it would be more expensive to put the sand on Oak Island, and the sand drifts West naturally. Chairman Frank Williams, stated that as the county board he would have no preference on what town would receive the sand and costs could be negotiated. The board will wait until the next board meeting to take the vote, and will see if there is a response from Holden Beach at that time. Page 166 of Agenda_2017_12_18 for more details
The plan to Dredge Lockwood Folly Inlet was approved after discussions. Commissioner Randy Thompson and Pat Sykes voiced concern on the costs of repeated dredging with several suggested alternatives. The project will be funded by transferring \$168,000 to the NC Division of Water Resources, and a letter will be written to the Town of Holden Beach requesting reimbursement for \$84,000. Page 167 of Agenda_2017_12_18 for more details

Observer: Sarah Hoss

Date report submitted: December 19/2017