

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2000. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Albert H. Toon
Vice-Chairman "C.W." Pete Bland
Commissioner Lee K. Allen
Commissioner Donald L. Phillips
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Commissioner J. Harold Talton
Commissioner Charles F. Tyson, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
George B. Sawyer, Assistant County Manager
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer
Ray H. Moser, Human Resources Director
James R. Sugg, County Attorney
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board

Following an invocation by Commissioner Bland and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Phillips moved to approve minutes of the August 14, 2000 reconvened session and the August 21, 2000 regular session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

Brian Ipock had requested to appear before the Board but was not present.

Ray Griffin spoke to the Board concerning the posting of the Ten Commandments in public facilities. He was informed that a resolution supporting such action has been forwarded to the North Carolina legislative delegation from Craven County, as well as the congressional delegation; however, it was emphasized to Mr. Griffin, again, that the County is confronted with constraints imposed by federal and constitutional law.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Board received a recommendation from the Craven County Economic Development Commission that Urethane Innovators be approved to expand 7800 sq. ft. in the Craven County Industrial Park. Commissioner Talton moved to approve the recommendation of the Economic Development Commission, seconded by Commissioner Tyson and unanimously carried.

TAX DEPARTMENT MATTERS

Tax Releases and Refunds

Craven County Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, presented the following routine requests for tax releases and refunds. Commissioner Allen moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner Bland and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET#	AMOUNT
JACKSON, SALLIE HEATH REINSTATED UNDER USE VALUE PER BOARD OF E & R	2000-0090069	\$ 374.23

tax situs dispute. Mr. Antry expects that tax will not be collected on this boat; however, there has been no official notification to date. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, stessed to the Board that although the rate of collection is lower than in 1998, the collection rate is still one of the highest in the State of North Carolina.

***CRAVEN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2000***

General Fund Original Levy	\$ 23,395,589.71
Fire District Original Levy	928,625.17
	\$ 24,324,214.88
Add:	
Afterlists	\$ 1,748,597.72
Additions	5,808.69
Plus Adjustments	443.00
	\$ 26,079,064.29
Less:	
Write offs	\$ 9,752.59
Adjustments	204.56
Releases	470,004.23
	\$ 25,599,102.91
	\$ 24,889,061.23
Uncollected as of June 30, 2000	\$ 710,041.68
NET TAXABLE VALUATION	\$ 4,309,639,445

Percentage of 1999 taxes collected---97.23

***ANNUAL REPORT OF REAL PROPERTY, CERTIFIED VALUATION AND
PERSONAL PROPERTY OTHER THAN REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES***

General fund original levy	\$ 19,660,461.10
Fire District original levy	780,117.67
	\$ 20,440,578.77
Add:	
Afterlists	\$ 1,748,597.72
Additions	5,604.43
	\$ 22,194,780.92
Less:	
Write-offs	\$ 1,620.17
Less adjustments	.30
Releases	103,564.59
	\$ 22,089,595.86
	\$ 21,706,232.84
Uncollected as of June 30, 2000	\$ 383,363.02
NET TAXABLE VALUATION	\$ 3,713,490,290

Percentage of 1999 taxes ---98.26

ANNUAL REPORT OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES

General fund original levy	\$ 3,735,128.61
Fire District original levy	148,507.50
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Total original levy	\$ 3,883,636.11
Add:	
Additions	\$ 204.26
Plus Adjustments	443.00
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	\$ 3,884,283.37
Less:	
Write-offs	\$ 8,132.42
Less adjustments	204.26
Releases	366,439.64
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Net Levy	\$ 3,509,507.05
Collected	\$ 3,182,828.39
Uncollected as of June 30, 2000	\$ 326,678.66
NET TAXABLE VALUATION	\$ 596,149,155

Percentage of 1999 taxes collected---90.69

Charge to Tax Collector

Mr. Antry requested that the Board charge him with collection of the 2000 taxes. Commissioner Allen moved to adopt the 2000 Charge to the Craven County Tax Collector, as follows, seconded by Commissioner Bland and unanimously carried.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CRAVEN

TO THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN

You are hereby authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the taxes set forth in the tax records filed in the office of the Craven County Tax Collector and in the tax receipts herewith delivered to you, in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise therein set forth. Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien upon all real property of the respective taxpayers in the County of Craven, and this order shall be a full and sufficient authority to direct, require, and enable you to levy on and sell any real or personal property of such taxpayer, for and on account thereof, in accordance with law.

Witness my hand and official seal, this 5th day of September, 2000.

Mr. Antry advised the Board that tax bills are expected to be printed and mailed within the next two (2) days. Commissioner Tyson asked that the tax bills not be delayed in order to make the suggested change for itemizing the tax total. He stated that if it could not be done without delay, Mr. Antry should wait until the next tax year.

APPOINTMENTS

The Board was advised of the pending expiration of the term of Lisa Weems on the EMS Advisory Council. Fire Marshal, Stanley Kite, explained to the Board that Ms. Weems is serving by virtue of her position as an Emergency Room nurse at Craven Regional Medical Center and recommended that she be re-appointed. Commissioner Phillips moved to re-appoint Ms. Weems, seconded by Commissioner Tyson and unanimously carried.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT MATTERS

Craven County Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, presented the following items for the Board's consideration.

Road Addition Request

The Planning Board forwarded a request by the North Carolina Department of Transportation district engineer that Nichols Drive in the Summerwood Subdivision be added to the state maintenance system, indicating that the road meets all of the requirements for addition. A standard SR-2 Road Addition Resolution was requested. Commissioner Talton moved to adopt the standard SR-2 Road Addition, seconded by Commissioner Bland and unanimously carried.

Subdivisions and Mobile Home Park for Approval

Mr. Baumgardner presented the following Subdivisions and Mobile Home Park for the Board's approval. Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the recommendations of the Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Bland and unanimously carried.

Country Springs Phase Three, Section 4-A – Final: The property, owned by Barakh Properties, LLC and surveyed by Barrow & Barrow, is located within Twp 9 off of SR 1424 (Pate Road). The subdivision contains 11 lots and is proposed to be served by county water and individual septic systems. The Planning Board reviewed and recommended the subdivision for final approval.

River Bluffs Section Five – Final: The property, owned by River Bluffs Ltd. Partnership, LLC and surveyed by Joe Riddick, is located within Twp 7 off of US Hwy 70. The subdivision contains 12 lots and is proposed to be served by county water and individual septic systems. The Planning Board reviewed and recommended the subdivision for final approval.

Holly Farm Acres MHP Section 3 – Final: The property, owned by Wilmer and Hilda Wetherington and surveyed by Jerome Norman, is located within Twp 1 off of SR 1444 (Piney Neck Road). The park contains 8 lots and is proposed to be served by the central county water system and individual septic systems. The Planning Board reviewed and recommended the park for final approval.

Request to Release Grant Deed of Trust

The Board was requested to release CDBG Deed of Trust for Helen Campbell to allow disposal of her assets for receipt of extended care assistance. Mr. Baumgardner and County Social Services Director, Donn Gunderson, explained the request in some detail, indicating that the original amount of the Deed of Trust was \$8,000.00, with \$5,000-\$6,000 currently remaining. There was extensive discussion concerning potential disposal of the property and what options the County has to ensure some party does not emerge after the Deed of Trust is released to collect a windfall on the property. Commissioner Sampson moved to approve release of the Deed of Trust to allow the Planning and Social Services Departments flexibility in disposing of the property, with the understanding that it will transpire in a manner that precludes any other individual

from collecting a windfall on the property once it is released. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bland. Details about the final disposal arrangements for the property are expected to be known prior to the finalization of the release documents. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bland and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Selection of Appraisal Services for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Buyout

Mr. Baumgardner informed the Board that proposals were received on August 29, 2000 for appraisal services for the buyout program. Proposals received were from Robert Cardini, at \$225.00 per appraisal for all appraisals, and from Drew Willis, in the amount of \$250.00 per appraisal for all appraisals and \$275.00 per appraisal for a portion of the appraisals. Mr. Baumgardner recommended that the bid be awarded to Mr. Cardini, in the amount of \$225.00 per appraisal. Commissioner Bland moved to approve the recommendation of the Planning Director, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Craven County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, presented the following budget amendments for the Boards approval. Commissioner Talton moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

DSS Mandated Program & TANF

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
10-3-349-10-456 Day Care Combined	\$ 270,979.00	10-4-619-10-456 Pur Ser-Child Day Care	\$ 270,979.00
10-3-349-16-619 Smart Start Day Care	\$ 47,802.00	10-4-619-12-456 Smart Start Day Care	\$ 47,802.00
10-3-349-26-613 CCDF Admin	\$ 14,215.00	10-4-613-00-214 Travel-Training	\$ 23,141.00
10-3-349-38-613	\$ 8,926.00		
TOTAL	\$ 341,922.00	TOTAL	\$ 341,922.00

Justification: Funding authorization from Division of Child Development. Initial allocations are higher than budget estimates of Feb. 2000.

DSS – Adult Child Services

10-3-349-78-612 Adult Day Care	\$ (505.00)	10-4-612-00-448 Adult Day Care	\$ (578.00)
10-3-399-01-000 General Fund	\$ (73.00)		
TOTAL	\$ (578.00)	TOTAL	\$ (578.00)

Justification: State funding authorization decreased the amount of estimated allocation. There is a 12.5% County match.

Sheriff’s Department

14-3-399-00-000 Fund Balance	\$ 34,600.00	14-4-510-00-351 Misc. Expense	\$ 34,600.00
14-3-348-10-000 Substance Abuse Tax	\$ 11,211.00	14-4-510-10-351 Substance Abuse Tax	\$ 11,211.00
TOTAL	\$ 45,811.00	TOTAL	\$ 45,811.00

Justification: Budgeting fund balance and new funds received to cover special police items.

Recreation & Parks

73-3-348-09-000	\$ 30,000.00	73-4-620-09-758	\$ 30,000.00
State Grants-Roadway		Roadway Const	
TOTAL	\$ 30,000.00	TOTAL	\$ 30,000.00

Justification: Total amount of contract with DOT for connector road is \$250,000. Only \$220,000 was budgeted in FY 00-01 because Recreation thought they would have gotten some of the funds in 99-00.

Emergency Services

10-3-349-18-530	\$ 1,000.00	10-4-530-03-410	\$ 1,000.00
Hazardous Materials LEPC		Cont Ser	
TOTAL	\$ 1,000.00	TOTAL	\$ 1,000.00

Justification: Budget LEPC Grant for Hazardous Materials handling.

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

County Attorney, Jim Sugg, asked that the Board go into closed session on two (2) matters, however he deferred the closed session until the end of the meeting.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, informed the Board that staff is still reviewing a previous request made by Vanceboro Christian Help Center to allow them to coordinate volunteer agencies within Craven County. Mr. Blizzard projected that the request will be ready to be placed on the Board’s next agenda.

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

Commissioner Phillips reported on the Core Creek project, stating that extensive rains in recent weeks have caused the creek to rise to a level where the project is compromised. He asked if there is any flexibility in the grant contract to delay the project until spring. He asked if staff would explore with the Corp of Engineers the ability of their contract to accommodate this request, inasmuch as he does not expect the project can be completed before the season passes. Assistant County Manager, George Sawyer, indicated that he would talk to Soil and Water Conservationist, Andy Metts.

Commissioner Sampson spoke about the need to somehow address the rising cost of electricity and fuel.

Commissioner Allen distributed information on the Intertribal Pow Wow being held in Craven County in May of 2001.

Commissioner Bland inquired about the status of the Swift Creek project and speculated that high water may be a problem that would compromise that project, as well. Mr. Sawyer indicated that the Swift Creek project is included in the same grant agreement as the Core Creek project and whatever would be allowed for one, would be allowed for the other.

Commissioner Toon reported on a beaver problem in the Adams Creek Road area and asked if the County could contract with Claudie Taylor to upset the beaver dams on a regular basis. Mr. Sawyer explained that Mr. Taylor is now working with the Core Creek project; however, he stated that an auxiliary person has been brought in to assist with beaver control in other areas. He stated that he would look into the matter. Commissioner Toon also asked that the Corp of Engineers be contacted to see if they

have any responsibility for creek snagging in the area of the Harlowe Canal project and Mr. Sawyer agreed, in conjunction with Don Baumgardner, to look into this matter as well.

At 9:00 p.m. Commissioner Phillips moved to go into closed session, as requested by the County Attorney, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(7), concerning investigation of alleged misconduct, and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3), concerning property acquisition.

At 10:00 p.m. Commissioner Phillips moved to return to regular session, seconded by Commissioner Bland and unanimously carried. The Attorney announced that in regard to item number one in closed session, discussion of investigation of alleged misconduct, there had been no action taken. Relative to item number two, acquisition of property, the Board had been advised of the Committee's report relative to the Cove City Fire Department Building, but no action taken.

At 10:05 p.m. Commissioner Phillips moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously carried.

Chairman, Albert H. Toon
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board