

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 MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2002. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

Following an invocation by Commissioner Sampson and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Talton moved to approve minutes of the February 18, 2002 regular session, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Tax Releases and Refunds

Craven County Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, submitted the following routine requests for tax releases and refunds for the Board's approval. They were approved by motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET #	AMOUNT
ACEVES, FRANCISCO BILLED FOR INCORRECT YEAR AND SIZE OF MOBILE HOME	2001-0000080	\$ 148.52
AUSFELD, EDWARD J DOUBLE LISTING ON ACCOUNT #238655	2001-0001675	\$ 360.79
BAKER, JAMES DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACCOUNT #284850	2001-0091689	\$ 241.30
BARFIELD, FRANCINE DID NOT OWN 1/1/2001	2001-0002441	\$ 106.13
BARFIELD, FRANCINE DID NOT OWN 1/1/2000	2000-0002425	\$ 106.73
BERNTSON, DEBORAH BOAT NOT IN CRAVEN CO SINCE 12/2000	2001-0003971	\$ 3.20
BRINSON, RICHARD COLLIER & MEL DID NOT OWN BOAT AS OF 1-1-1996	2001-0090096	\$ 127.37

CARROW, CARLA SMITH DID NOT OWN MOBILE HOEM 1/1/01	2001-0008036	\$ 105.28
CARTER, WALTER D & FRANCES MOBILE HOME VACANT	2001-0008215	\$ 32.88
COLETTE, PORTER DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACCOUNT #39328	2001-0009957	\$ 42.99
DALRYMPLE, TONY CARMEN DID NOT OWN MOBILE HOME 1/1/1997	1997-0010815	\$ 48.76
DALYRMPLE, TONY CARMEN DID NOT OWN MOBILE HOME 1/1/1998	1998-0091780	\$ 41.29
DALRYMPLE, TONY CARMEN DID NOT OWN MOBILE HOME 1/1/1999	1999-0011466	\$ 38.01
DALRYMPLE, TONY CAREMN DID NOT OWN MOBILE HOME 1/1/2000	2000-0011724	\$ 34.60
DALRYMPLE, TONY CARMEN DID NOT OWN MOBILE HOME 1/1/2001	2001-0011840	\$ 40.06
DARDEN, KATHLEEN ROACH DID NOT OWN 1/1/01	2001-0091502	\$ 162.26
DUNNEHOO, DONNA M DID NOT OWN 1/1/2001	2001-0014299	\$ 20.79
FAISON, NORMA G & MURHPY, JEFF DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACCOUNT #5288300	2001-0015719	\$ 176.70
FAISON, NORMA G & MURPHY, JEFF DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACCOUNT #5288300	2000-0015598	\$ 184.12
FAISON, NORMA G & MURPHY, JEFF DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACCOUNT #5288300	1999-0015177	\$ 207.80
FRANKS, TUYET ANN & WHITEHEAD MOBILE HOME LISTED AS REAL ON ACCOUNT #36332	2001-0017179	\$ 289.42
HINTON, ELIZABETH DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACCOUNT #3440050	2001-0023713	\$ 108.29
JAPHET, KIMBERLY A MILITARY-HER NAME ONLY-02 LES-TX	2001-0025725	\$ 309.80
KEIM, STEVEN MARK MILITARY-HIS NAME ONLY-EXEMPT	2001-0027591	\$ 11.52
KELLY, STEPHEN A & RENELLE L MILITARY-HIS NAME ONLY OF LES-LA ECC-10/0	2001-0027695	\$ 192.55
KING, DAVID R & JANET U DID NOT OWN 1/1/2001	2001-0028016	\$ 3.15
LANCASTER, DANNY E MOBILE HOME VACANT SINCE 1995	2001-0028940	\$ 32.00

LANCASTER, ELLEN WIGGINS MOBILE HOMES VACANT SINCE 1992	2001-0028946	\$ 96.00
MANNING, JAMES LEE JR MOBILE HOME USED FOR STORAGE ONLY	2001-0031396	\$ 39.80
NOLAN, MATTHEW HRS DWELLING VACANT SINCE 1992	2001-0036978	\$ 46.65
PUGH, JOSEPH MOBILE HOME VACANT	2001-0040207	\$ 32.00
RIGGS, HERBERT B JR MOIBLE HOME REPO IN 1999 & MOVED	2001-0041470	\$ 192.08
SHAFFER, RYAN M REVALUED PER BILL OF SALE	2001-0091339	\$ 12.68
SHAFFER, RYAN M REVALUED PER BILL OF SALE	2001-0091458	\$ 13.36
TOLER, BILLY F DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACCOUNT #32126	2001-0048881	\$ 359.95
UNITED COMPANIES LENDING DID NOT OWN 1/1/01 REBILLED ON SUPPLEMENT	2001-0050132	\$ 343.47
WHITEHURST, SAMUEL LATHAM DEFERRED TAX CONTINUED ON PROPERTY BILLED IN ERROR	2002-0090031	\$ 213.07

37 – CREDIT MEMO(S) \$4,525.37

Refunds

ACEVES, FRANCISCO INCORRECT YEAR AND SIZE BILLED ON MOIBLE HOME	2000-0090628	\$ 161.94
COLETTE, PORTER DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACCOUNT #39328	2000-0009830	\$ 34.85
FLEET CAPITAL CORPORATION PROPERTY LOCATED IN HALIFAX COUNTY	2001-0016467	\$ 816.72
NOLAN, MATTHEW HRS DWELLING VACANT SINCE 1992	2001-0036978	\$ 19.11
PADRICK, SUSAN P MOBILE HOME SOLD JULY, 2000	2001-0037860	\$ 10.28
PERDEW, RICHARD ALLEN & SHELLY INCORRECT TOWNSHIP SHOULD BE 9L	2001-0038697	\$ 7.71
ROBERTS, CATHERINE DWELLING VACANT SINCE FLOOD IN 1999	2001-0041945	\$ 32.00
ROGERS, OVELLA DOUBLE LISTED AS PERSONAL AND REAL	2001-0042264	\$ 46.52
TABERNA HOMEOWNERS ASSOC NOT CODED AS EXEMPT PROPERTY	2001-0047558	\$ 43.20

Road Addition Requests

The Planning Department requested to have the Department of Transportation add the following roads to the state maintenance system. Commissioner Allen moved to approve a standard SR-2 Road Addition Resolution, as requested by the Planning Department, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

- Laura Drive, Timothy Court and Teachey Court within the Forest Run Subdivision, Twp 7
- Salter Harris Farm Road, Twp 5

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REQUEST FOR ADDITION TO STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD
SYSTEM**

North Carolina

County of Craven

Road Description Laura Dr., Timothy Ct., Teachey Ct., Forest Run (Twp 7)

Length: Laura Dr. 1160', Timothy Ct. 355', Teachey Ct. 634' Width 20'

WHEREAS, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Craven requesting that the above described road, the location of which has been indicated in red on the attached map, be added to the Secondary Road System; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the above described road should be added to the Secondary Road System, if the road meets minimum standards and criteria established by the Division of Highways of the Department of Transportation for the addition of roads to the system.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Craven that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the above described road, and to take over the road for maintenance if it meets established standards and criteria.

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REQUEST FOR ADDITION TO STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD
SYSTEM**

North Carolina

County of Craven

Road Description Salter Harris Farm Road – Twp 5

Length: 0.26 Miles Width: 20 feet

WHEREAS, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Craven requesting that the above described road, the location of which has been indicated in red on the attached map, be added to the Secondary Road System; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the above described road should be added to the Secondary Road System, if the road meets minimum standards and criteria established by the Division of Highways of the Department of Transportation for the addition of roads to the system.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the board of County Commissioners of the County of Craven that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the

above described road, and to take over the road for maintenance if it meets established standards and criteria.

Just Compensation Resolution for Hazard Mitigation

Craven County Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, submitted for adoption the following Resolution to Establish Just Compensation for the Hazard Mitigation Acquisitions. Commissioner Allen moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

**CRAVEN COUNTY
RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH JUST COMPENSATION
HAZARD MITIGATION ACQUISITIONS**

WHEREAS, appraisal reports prepared by Robert Cardini Appraisal Service for the parcels indicated below to this resolution, was presented to the Craven County Board of Commissioners for their review; and

WHEREAS, information pertaining to the name of owner, parcel number and location was available to each member of the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to establish Just Compensation for each parcel acquired by Craven County; and

WHEREAS, the delimits of the property and the interest to be acquired therein was presented to the Board of Commissioners:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, the Department of Planning and Community Development of Craven County certified that the work of the appraiser, with respect to each property has been performed in a competent manner in accordance with applicable State law, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, Public law 91-646, State and Local policies and requirements; and

THAT, Just Compensation is hereby established for each of the parcels as follows:

<u>Address of Unit</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Interest to be Acquired</u>	<u>Estab. Fair Market Value</u>
780 Streets Ferry Road Vanceboro	Tammy Swindell	100%	\$60,000

Adopted this 4th day of March, 2002.

Budget Amendments

Craven County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, submitted the following budget amendments for the Board’s approval. Commissioner Allen moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Special Appropriations

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0000-399-01-00 Fund Balance	\$ 700.00	101-0190-420-96-27 Northwest Creek Aquatic Weed Control	\$ 700.00
TOTAL	\$ 700.00	TOTAL	\$ 700.00

Justification: To provide matching funds for State treatment of Northwest Creek alligator weed.

Home Health/Hospice Foundation

101-6506-336-25-00	\$10,000.00	101-6506-440-96-52	\$10,000.00
Revenue/Donations		Health Foundation	
TOTAL	\$10,000.00	TOTAL	\$10,000.00

Justification: Increase in Home Health Foundation donations. Budget has currently exceeded the original amount. This amendment has been previously discussed with Linda LeDrew.

Health/Child Health

101-5800-370-11-00	\$ 8,500.00	101-580-440-32-05	\$ 8,500.00
Medicaid Revenue		Prescription Drugs	
TOTAL	\$ 8,500.00	TOTAL	\$ 8,500.00

Justification: Request to cover cost of Roceplin. Clinic seeing an increase in children with pneumonia and ear infections and not responding to oral antibiotics. CDC recommends Roceplin treatment for three days to keep children out of the hospital. Cost of medicine is reimbursable through Medicaid and private insurance. Line item is 86% expended at this time.

Health/Family Planning

101-6400-370-07-00	\$13,200.00	101-6400-440-32-05	\$13,200.00
Medicaid Revenue		Prescription Drugs	
TOTAL	\$13,200.00	TOTAL	\$13,200.00

Justification: Budget amendment needed to cover cost of birth control pills and Depo Provero. Cost of medication has increased this year. Expended 94% of line (prescription drugs). This request will carry the line item through year ends 6/02.

Health/Dental

101-5500-370-12-00	\$147,000.00	101-5500-440-40-50	\$147,000.00
Medicaid Revenue		Temp Contractual Services	
TOTAL	\$147,000.00	TOTAL	\$147,000.00

Justification: Additional revenue required to cover cost of two contractual dentists plus payment to TESI for Medicaid. Current revenue actuals indicate an upward trend by using two dentists.

Health/Environmental Asthma

101-3136-324-28-00	\$15,000.00	101-3136-420-27-00	\$ 7,500.00
Asthma		Advertising	
		101-3136-420-32-40	\$ 5,500.00
		Other Supplies	
		101-3136-420-40-50	\$ 2,000.00
		Cont Services Temp. Employees	
TOTAL	\$15,000.00	TOTAL	\$15,000.00

Justification: Continuation of other smoking cessation programs.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

Mr. Charles Simmons requested to appear before the Board but was not present.

Mr. John Riley of the Neuse River Foundation, presented a request and petition concerning a proposed weed eradication program for Northwest Creek, adjacent to Fairfield Harbour. He explained that there is an opportunity to receive a grant from the State's Aquatic Weed Control Program to eradicate alligator weed, which is beginning to infest the creek and is very aggressive in spreading. The grant would necessitate a match from Craven County in the amount of \$700.00. There was discussion concerning the budget constraints faced by the County at this time, as well as the potentiality of having the match privately paid, as was previously done with Matthews Point Marina. Mr. Dick Goodwin, Creek Keeper for Neuse River Foundation, explained that the two situations are not the same because Northwest Creek is not a privately owned area, but rather a part of the public trust waters. He also explained to the Board that waiting until a new fiscal year budget is passed would not be advisable, as treatment should begin no later than mid-May. Commissioner Tyson moved to allocate \$700.00 from fund balance to match the grant, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously carried in a roll call vote. Commissioner Tyson moved to adopt the following resolution requesting the State grant, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously carried.

AQUATIC WEED CONTROL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Craven County Board of Commissioners desires assistance from the North Carolina Aquatic Weed Program for eradication of alligator weed in Northwest Creek, to halt rapid proliferation in creek and spread to Neuse River.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The Board requests that the North Carolina Aquatic Weed Control Program conduct the Northwest Creek aquatic weed control project in the County of Craven.
- 2) The Board assumes full obligation for payment of fifty percent of non-federal costs associated with Northwest Creek aquatic weed control project.
- 3) The Board will assist the North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources and/or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in quantifying its aquatic weed problems and determining the public benefits of the proposed control project;
- 4) The Board will assure that the public will have access to the waters that are benefited by the control project.
- 5) The Board will hold the State harmless from any damages that may result from the implementation of the project.
- 6) The Board will be responsible for notifying all landowners whose property is adjacent to the body of water in which the control project is located and for sponsoring any public information meetings that may be needed; and
- 7) The Board will notify the public of any temporary restrictions on use of the body of water as required by the specific method of treatment used.

Adopted by the Craven County Board of Commissioners this 4th day of March, 2002.

Mr. Mike Thompson, President of the Havelock Chamber of Commerce, requested that the Board endorse the potential siting of a Veterans' Administration Clinic in Havelock. Commissioner Allen moved to adopt the following resolution to support the location of the proposed clinic for eastern North Carolina in Havelock. Commissioner Sampson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A VETERANS
AFFAIRS HEALTH CLINIC IN HAVELOCK**

WHEREAS, the Craven County Board of Commissioners has had an interest in the location of a veterans' medical facility in eastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Craven County Board of Commissioners has learned of a potential opportunity to have a VA Clinic sited in the City of Havelock; and

WHEREAS, Craven County is the home to numerous retired and separated veterans; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County has a long and successful history of supporting the veterans of the U.S. Military, as well as active duty military; and

WHEREAS, Havelock is a central location that would be readily accessible to the many veterans of this region; and,

WHEREAS, Halyburten Naval Hospital aboard MCAS Cherry Point is situated within the corporate limits of the City of Havelock; and,

WHEREAS, it appears that the plan calls for Halyburten Naval Hospital to provide the staff and personnel for the proposed VA clinic; and,

WHEREAS, the veterans of Craven County would derive the greatest benefit from such a facility by locating it in Havelock; and

WHEREAS, locating the proposed facility in Havelock would not be to the detriment of veterans in other areas of eastern North Carolina.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Craven County Board of Commissioners meeting in regular session on this the 4th day of March, 2002, does support the location of the proposed VA Clinic in Eastern North Carolina; further,

RESOLVED THAT, the proposed VA Clinic should be located in the City of Havelock or its immediate environs; further

RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this document shall be furnished to the appropriate Office of Veteran's Affairs.

ADOPTED, this the 4th day of March, 2002.

Ms. Joan Bottcher requested to appear before the Board but was not present.

DAY REPORTING CENTER

Approve Application for Continuation of Implementation Funding

Candy Maestretti, Director of the Day Reporting Center, presented her proposed budget and the Application for Continuation of Implementation Funding for operation of the center for the next fiscal year, with a budget line item total of \$99,370. Commissioner

Sampson moved to approve the application for continuation funds, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Talton and unanimously carried. There was discussion concerning the availability of other training facilities that could be utilized by the Day Reporting Center, such as the Work Release Center.

Appointments

Ms. Maestretti presented a slate of nominees for the Craven County Criminal Justice Advisory Board, along with proposed terms. A requirement of the grant being implemented is that the Board have specific beginning and ending dates of the terms. Commissioner Allen placed in nomination the names on the list submitted, as follows, and moved that the rules be suspended to waive the one meeting waiting requirement, seconded by Commissioner Talton and unanimously carried.

- Mr. Clement Brown – Neuse River Sentencing Services
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2005
- Ms. Judy Cox – Craven Community College
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2004
- Sheriff Jerry Monette – Craven County Sheriff's Department
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2003
- The Honorable James Ragan – Chief Resident Superior Court Judge
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2005
- Ms. Vicky Daniel – NC Division of Community Corrections
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2004
- Mr. Harold Blizzard – Craven County Manager
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2003
- Ms. Jan Cahoon – Craven County Clerk of Superior Court
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2005
- Mr. Jeffrey Croom – Neuse Center TASC
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2004
- Mr. Pete Bland – Craven County Board of Commissioners
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2003
- Ms. Joy Strickland – Judicial District 3B District Attorney's Office
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2005
- Ms. Caroline Tinsley – Vocational Rehabilitation
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2004
- Ms. Judy McCoy – Neuse Center for Mental Health
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2003
- Mr. Dan Potter – Craven County Defense Bar
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2005
- Ms. Lexan Huffman – Administrative Office of the Courts
Board Term: April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2004

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution in Support of Cherry Point

The following resolution was presented to the Board at its last meeting by Commissioner Talton, who requested that it be considered for adoption at this meeting. The resolution was read into the record. Commissioner Talton moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Allen. The motion carried with six (6) "Ayes", there being one (1) "Nay" from Commissioner Bland. Commissioner Bland went on record to state that his action was a reflection of the wishes of his constituents in attendance at the meeting who were unanimously opposed to an outlying landing field being placed in the Vanceboro area.

RESOLUTION OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN SUPPORT OF MCAS CHERRY POINT AND THE NAVAL AVIATION DEPOT

WHEREAS, Craven County is the home of MCAS Cherry Point, widely recognized as one of the finest military installations in the world, and

WHEREAS, the Naval Aviation Depot (NADEP), an outstanding aircraft maintenance facility with over 3,000 civilian employees that is the largest employer in Craven County and Eastern North Carolina, is located at MCAS Cherry Point, and

WHEREAS, MCAS Cherry Point and NADEP are vital to the economic well-being and community life of Craven County and the entire region; and

WHEREAS, the United States Navy is considering the deployment of several squadrons of F/A-18 Super Hornet aircraft, with MCAS Cherry Point being one of four alternative locations under study, and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the deployment of F/A-18 Super Hornets, the Navy is studying seven possible alternative locations for a new Outlying Landing Field (OLF) that could support carrier landing training exercises for the F/A-18 aircraft, two of which sites are located in the Craven County area, and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has gone on record as supporting the establishment of a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to conduct a new round of base closures and/or realignment in 2005, which review could threaten the continued existence of MCAS Cherry Point and NADEP, and

WHEREAS, the Craven County Board of Commissioners wishes to express its strong support for the assignment of additional assets to MCAS Cherry Point and the continued viability of NADEP and MCAS Cherry Point during the upcoming BRAC review, and to offer its cooperation in identifying a suitable OLF site in support of those additional assets,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the assignment of additional assets to MCAS Cherry Point, specifically including F/A-18 aircraft, and pledges its continued cooperation to the Navy in making all the necessary arrangements in support of such assignment.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners strongly supports NADEP and expresses its appreciation to the Navy, NADEP personnel

and NADEP management for the outstanding service this facility provides to our Nation and NADEP's contribution to the well-being of Craven County.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners urges the Navy to give full consideration to the exceptional quality of life, schools, community activities, natural surroundings, and the unflinching community support for the military that characterizes Craven County and its citizens during the Navy's deliberations concerning the deployment/realignment of East Coast fighter squadrons.

FINALLY, IT IS REOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners will cooperate with the Navy to the fullest extent in identifying a suitable site for a new OLF in the region that would support additional assets assigned to MCAS Cherry Point, consistent with a thorough evaluation of the potential impacts and benefits of such an OLF to the citizens of Craven County.

Adopted this the 4th day of March, 2002.

At 8:00 p.m. the Chairman declared a recess.

At 8:12 p.m. the meeting reconvened.

Resolution to Governor Protesting Withholding of Funds

The Board entertained adoption of the following resolution to be sent to Governor Michael F. Easley, requesting release of State collected local revenues. Commissioner Tyson moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION
IN PETITION FOR
RELEASE OF LOCAL REVENUES**

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina is experiencing a severe budget shortfall; and

WHEREAS, revenues collected by the State for local government units have been sequestered as a measure to address the State's budget crisis; and

WHEREAS, the direct impact of this action to Craven County is \$660,000 lost in inventory tax reimbursement, senior citizen exemption and beer and wine taxes; and

WHEREAS, Craven County has, in addition, already experienced a downward turn in sales tax collected and other revenues as a result of the current economic slowdown, while demands on services are ever increasing; and

WHEREAS, measures have been swiftly instituted to minimize the effects of these forces, including a moratorium on hiring, capital expenditures, and travel and training in order to balance the current fiscal year budget; and

WHEREAS, the total negative effect of these factors in concert is likely to result in a \$2 million reduction in Craven County's fund balance, thus, threatening the County's financial standing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners respectfully petitions Governor Michael F. Easley to release inventory tax reimbursements and other State collected revenues scheduled for disbursement to local governments.

Adopted this 4th day of March, 2002.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Request from Craven Community College

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, presented a request from Craven Community College, that he be authorized to sign a certification that funds in the amount of \$2 million will be available at the appropriate time for new construction at the New Bern campus. The Board was reminded that it had committed to this action at its meeting of March 19, 2001, at which time it agreed to replace bond monies that the Board desired to have directed to the Havelock facility. This was done to create savings for the County. By consensus of the Board, the Manager was authorized to sign the certification, as reflecting the prior agreement.

Refinancing Existing Debt

Mr. Hemphill outlined for the Board several measures that he is taking to save money by refinancing existing debt, as follows: the 1996 school bond, the 1990 Twp 6 and Northwest Craven general obligation bonds, renegotiation of existing loans, including the installment loans for the Courthouse Annex and the Human Service complex.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Toon reported on the Civilian Military Community Council Annual Banquet and highlights from the speaker concerning the possibility of future asset additions at Cherry Point MCAS.

Commissioner Sampson reported on a meeting which he attended concerning bio-terrorism at the local level and measures that are recommended for local community readiness.

Commissioner Phillips emphasized that he will not run for re-election in the next Commissioner election, and expressed some thoughts upon leaving office. He expressed the opinion that there should be term limits, and the desirability of having younger citizens and female citizens to seek office. He stated opposition to additional sales taxes without a referendum, and highlighted the Boards' achievements over the last eight years. He asked that the Board consider implementing an internal auditor position and establishing a vocational and technical high school in the County in the future; however, he conceded that the timing is not right.

At 8:50 p.m. the Board was declared in recess to convene the Water and Sewer Board of Directors Meeting.

At 9:15 p.m. the Board returned to regular session.

The Chairman asked for a motion to adopt previous closed session minutes. Commissioner Talton moved to adopt the recommendation of the County Attorney regarding approval and release of closed session minutes, as follows: Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approve and Unseal

2/2/98, 2/16/98, 3/16/98, 5/21/98, 6/1/98, 8/17/98, 9/8/98, 10/19/98, 1/19/99, 2/1/99, 2/15/99, 3/19/99

Approve and Remain Sealed

7/2/01, 8/6/01

At 9:16 p.m. Commissioner Phillips moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

Chairman C.W. "Pete" Bland
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk