

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, AUGUST 4, 2003. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
 Vice-Chairman Lee Kyle Allen
 Commissioner George Brown
 Commissioner Bill Harper
 Commissioner Perry Morris
 Commissioner M. Renée Sisk
 Commissioner Leon C. Staton

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
 George B. Sawyer, Assistant 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 Allen and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Brown moved to approve minutes of the July 21, 2003 regular session, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Staton requested that the subdivision for approval be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

Tax Releases

Craven County Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, submitted the following routine requests for tax releases for the Board's approval. Commissioner Morris moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET #	AMOUNT
BATTLES, RONALD C MILITARY-HIS NAME ONLY 03 LES-OR ECC-04/26/03 (18YR)	2001-0002980	\$ 30.61
CARTER GINA T CORRECTED APPRAISAL ERROR-REBILLED TO CORRECT OWNER	2001-0008119	\$ 151.37
CARTER, GINA T CORRECTED APPRAISAL ERROR-REBILLED TO CORRECT OWNER	2001-0008228	\$ 191.97
MOORE, EDWARD RANDALL & RENE DID NOT OWN 1/1/2000	2000-0034514	\$ 300.80
MOORE, EDWARD RANDALL & RENE DID NOT OWN 1/1/1999	1999-0090559	\$ 331.13
O'DOR, RICHARD CORRECTED VALUE-BOAT OWNED NOT SAME AS BOAT VALUED	2002-0091041	\$ 191.62

Budget Amendments

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

Pass Through

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0564-348-54-00 CJPP Structured Day	\$99,370.00	101-0564-410-94-40 Neuse Center	\$99,370.00
TOTAL	\$99,370.00	TOTAL	\$99,370.00

Justification: Budget CJPP Budget for Pass Through to Neuse Center.

DSS 7291 Mandated Services

101-7291-349-32-00 Energy CIP	\$10,490.00	101-7291-450-23-04 CIP	\$10,490.00
101-7221-349-22-00 Services Staff & Ovhd	\$10,485.00	101-7201-450-40-00 Contractual Services	\$10,485.00

Justification: Funding authorizations received for the Crisis Intervention Program. Original State estimates were for \$23,649 (budget amount for 0304). Two funding authorizations attached are for CIP payments, total is \$34,139. This authorization is for the difference, which is \$10,490 that needs to be added to the budget. The other \$10,485 is the administrative funding for the program which will help to pay for the contracted temporary workers for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. Funds are 100% Federal, no County match required.

Health/CVH-Million Pound Project (6706)

101-6706-348-00-00 Million Pound Project	\$ 7,200.00	101-6706-440-40-00 Contractual Services	\$ 7,200.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,200.00	TOTAL	\$ 7,200.00

Justification: State funded grant to complete study on countywide obesity to help bring down the CVD death rates. The goal for this project will be to address physical inactivity, unhealthy eating, tobacco use, hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes and overweight/obesity.

Health/KB Reynolds-NEW BUDGET

101-6604-348-17-00 Kate B. Reynolds Grant	\$20,000	101-6604-440-20-00 Postage	\$ 500.00
		101-6604-440-24-0 Meeting	\$ 2,000.00
		101-6604-440-25-0 Travel/Training	\$ 1,200.00
		101-6604-440-27-0 Advertising	\$ 1,200.00
		101-6604-440-32-40 Other Supplies	\$ 2,620.00
		101-6604-440-40-0	

		101-6604-440-41-0 Contractual Services	\$12,480.00
TOTAL	\$20,000.00	TOTAL	\$20,000.00

Justification: Funds to be received from Kate B Reynolds to support Healthy Carolinians.

BJA Vests

101-2005-377-03-00 BJA Vests	\$ (5,000.00)	101-2005-410-32-40 Other Supplies	\$ (5,000.00)
TOTAL	\$ (5,000.00)	TOTAL	\$ (5,000.00)

Justification: BJA Vest Grant has not been applied for nor awarded for FY 2004. When the amount and match is decided, a budget amendment will be presented to the Board.

EMS Projector Project

101-2305-348-89-00 Crime Control	\$ 2,500.00	101-2305-410-73-21 C/O Under \$5,000	\$ 2,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,500.00	TOTAL	\$ 2,500.00

Justification: Department of Crime Control and Public Safety grant to purchase projector. Projector is \$2,546 so EMS other supply line item will pay additional cost of \$46.

Bridgeton Rescue

101-0000-399-01-00 Fund Balance	\$21,000.00	101-2828-410-96-35 Bridgeton Rescue	\$21,000.00
TOTAL	\$21,000.00	TOTAL	\$21,000.00

Justification: Increase annual appropriation from \$75,000 to \$96,000.

SUBDIVISION FOR APPROVAL

The Health Department was requested to give some background concerning the request for approval of eight lots in Pointe Landing. Ray Silverthorne of the Environmental Health Department, advised the Board that the developer had originally requested twenty-two lots for septic improvements; however, the Health Department was unable to approve all of them. Soil scientist, Tom Henson of CPE, Inc., determined that eight lots were acceptable for septic permits. He also stated that three additional lots are still under study. Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, assured the Board that the Planning Board had reviewed and recommended the eight lots being requested for approval. Commissioner Allen moved to approve the eight lots in the subdivision, as requested and recommended by the Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried. Commissioner Staton requested address and contact information for the soil scientist who had reviewed the lots.

Pointe Landing – Final: The property, owned by Harry Taylor and surveyed by Powell Surveying, is located within Twp 5 off of SR 1700 (Adams Creek Road). The subdivision contains 8 lots on 25.88 acres of land. The lots are proposed to be served by community water and individual septic systems.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

Mr. Sean Cormican had requested to address the Board concerning the County's Animal Control Ordinance; however, he did not appear.

Mr. Michael Speciale addressed the Board concerning public expenditures for memorials. He expressed the opinion that taxpayer funds should only be used on essential government services. A memorial, as was requested by Commissioner Staton in recognition of Commissioner Toon's service to the County, should be funded by private donations if it is supported by the community.

Mr. Byrd Hinshaw requested that the Board adopt a resolution seeking the cessation of public funds to North Carolina's Eastern Region (Global Transpark). Commissioner Harper moved to adopt the resolution. The motion died for lack of a second.

UNITED SENIOR SERVICES

Presentation by Board Chair

Mr. Al Otto, Chairman of the United Senior Services Board, presented an Action Plan and revised draft budget for the agency as requested by the Board of Commissioners. He highlighted the changes that have been made by the agency in response to the Commissioners' request, including a reduction of staff from thirty-one to seventeen, four of whom are full-time employees, reduction in programs, reduction in Meals on Wheels by one-third and congregate meals by one-half. Mr. Otto explained that the measures taken will yield approximately \$92,000 in projected annual cost savings.

Evaluation Team Follow-up Report

As part of the funding plan for United Senior Services, Inc., the evaluation team performed a follow-up review of the United Senior Services operations ending July 29th. Alfreda Stout of the Craven County Department of Social Services, and a member of the study team, presented a summary of the follow-up review which took place on July 29th. She highlighted measures that had been taken by the agency that had been completed successfully, including returning to the George Street facility and receiving a waiver from the Department of Aging. She stated that the study team had requested supporting financial documentation prior to the review on July 29th; however, the documents were not received in advance and the two sets that were submitted were not consistent. She stated that the agency had not been forthcoming in providing the information needed for the study team to function. The study team recommended that the Dover congregate meal site not be reopened until it can be documented that funding support is there for that site. They further recommended that a revised detailed budget be submitted by August 11th, prior to a scheduled audit on August 17th, and requested that the supporting documents needed by the team be provided. In comments following the presentations, Commissioners Allen and Sisk expressed deep concerns also about the continued operation of the agency. Commissioner Sampson expressed concern also and emphasized the study committee's need for cooperation. He stated that if there is no progress demonstrated in the committee's next report and the agency's fiscal matters are not in order, he would recommend that the County begin laying the groundwork for taking over the programs so that the County's senior citizens would not suffer. The Board reached consensus to fund the agency for the month of August, but emphasized that a report will be expected at the Board's meeting on September 2nd, with an accurate budget and documented results.

REPORTS OF CONVENTION CENTER AND VISITORS CENTER

Sandra Richardson, Director of the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center and Craven County Visitors Center, provided favorable annual reports. She advised the Board that the occupancy tax was up seven percent (7%) in 2003 and the current Convention Center bookings, confirmed and tentative, for 2004 are already equal to the total bookings in

2003. During FY 2003, the Convention Center attracted over 107,024 attendees to events, produced an estimated 11,629 overnight rooms and generated \$6,897,955 in economic impact on Craven County. To date, the Convention Center has out performed the projections formulated in the Coopers & Lybrand feasibility study. The Craven County Visitors Center, after reorganizing and relocating, welcomed over 17,220 visitors in addition to assistance given in phone and e-mail inquiries.

At 7:55 p.m. the Board was declared in recess.

At 8:05 p.m. the Board was declared back in session.

TAX MATTERS

2002 Tax Settlement

Craven County Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, presented the 2002 tax settlement, as follows. Commissioner Brown moved to accept the settlement and enter it into the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Staton and unanimously carried.

**CRAVEN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2003**

General Fund Original Levy	\$ 31,547,104.84
Fire District Original Levy	<u>1,127,275.64</u>
Total Original Levy	\$ 32,674,380.48

Add:

Afterlists	\$ 1,614,410.73
Additions	452.48
Plus Adjustments	<u>271.68</u>
Total	\$ 34,289,515.37

Less:

Write-offs	\$ 5,637.38
Adjustments	4.64
Releases	<u>1,743,906.80</u>

Net Levy \$ 32,539,966.55

Collected \$ 31,601,138.66

Uncollected as of June 30, 2003 \$ 938,827.89

Percentage of 2002 taxes collected----- 97.11

Net taxable valuation-- \$5,396,475,812

ANNUAL REPORT OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES

General Fund Original Levy	\$ 4,281,038.24
Fire District Original Levy	<u>163,055.55</u>
Total Original Levy	\$ 4,444,093.79

Add:

Additions	4.64
Plus Adjustments	<u>267.81</u>
Total	\$ 4,444,366.24
Less:	
Write-offs	\$ 4,189.83
Adjustments	4.64
Releases	<u>396,084.73</u>
Net Levy	\$ 4,044,087.04
Collected	\$ 3,571,462.26
Uncollected as of June 30, 2003	\$ 472,624.78

Percentage of 2002 taxes collected----- 88.31

Net taxable valuation-- \$665,218,554

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

General Fund Original Levy	\$ 27,266,066.60
Fire District Original Levy	<u>964,220.09</u>
Total Levy	\$ 28,230,286.69
Add:	
Afterlists	1,614,410.73
Additions	447.84
Plus Adjustments	<u>3.87</u>
Total	\$ 29,845,149.13

Less:	
Writeoffs	1,447.55
Releases	<u>1,347,822.07</u>
Net Levy	\$ 28,495,879.51
Collected	\$ 28,029,676.40
Uncollected as of June 30, 2003	\$ 466,203.11

Percentage of 2002 taxes collected----- 98.36

Net taxable valuation--\$4,731,257,258

2003 Charge to the Craven County Tax Collector

By motion of Commissioner Allen, the Board issued the following charge to Mr. Antry to collect the 2003 taxes, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried. Mr. Antry advised the Board that the tax billing is scheduled to be mailed within the week.

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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

Stanley Kite, Emergency Services Director, presented three Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) for the Department of Homeland Security FY 2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP). The Grant is available in three (3) categories as follows: Equipment-\$78,615.00, Exercises-\$13,362.00, & Training-\$4,256.00. Commissioner Sisk moved to approve authorization for the Chairman and the Manager to accept the grant offer and designate Mr. Kite as the authorized agent and point of contact for the grant program. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion, which carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

APPOINTMENTS

Airport Authority

The Board considered appointments to the expiring terms of Curtis Bare, Dwight Merchant and Royce Jordan, and received resumes and letters of interest from Sabrina Bengel and Fletcher Watts for consideration. Commissioner Allen nominated Curtis Bare and Sabrina Bengel. Commissioner Sampson nominated Royce Jordan and Fletcher Watts. Commissioner Harper nominated Dwight Merchant. Commissioner Sisk moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried. In a roll call vote Curtis Bare received six (6) votes from Commissioners Brown, Morris, Sisk, Staton, Allen and Sampson. Sabrina Bengel received three (3) votes from Commissioners Harper, Sisk and Allen. Dwight Merchant received one (1) vote from Commissioner Harper. Fletcher Watts received five (5) votes from Commissioners Brown, Harper, Morris, Staton and Sampson, with Royce Jordan receiving six (6) votes from Commissioners Brown, Morris, Sisk, Staton, Allen and Sampson.

EMS Advisory Council

The Board received requests for appointments to the Craven County EMS Advisory Council, due to changes in staffing, from Craven Regional Medical Center and Twp. 6 Fire Department First Responders. It was recommended that Michael Pike be appointed to represent the hospital as Clinical Manager to replace Lisa Weems and that Scott Kozup be appointed to represent Twp. 6 Fire Department to replace James Marler. Commissioner Sisk moved to accept the recommendations of the EMS Advisory Council, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

At 8:30 p.m. Commissioner Allen moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3), to discuss pending litigation in the case of Linda Walker v. Craven County and instructions to Attorney, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

At 8:50 p.m. the Board returned to regular session. County Attorney, Jim Sugg, announced that the Board had gone into closed session for purposes of consulting with counsel in the referenced case. There was discussion and instruction given to the Attorney, but no action taken.

Appointments – con't

Township 5 Fire Tax Commission

The Board considered appointments to the expiring terms of Casezell Martin and Roy McCabe as Township 5 Fire Tax Commissioners and received correspondence from Mr. Martin and Mr. McCabe requesting reappointment and Mr. James Drum requesting appointment. Commissioner Morris nominated Casezell Martin and James Drum for appointment to the two (2) vacancies. Commissioner Brown moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Harper, with Mr. Martin and Mr. Drum being appointed by acclamation.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NAVY FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY

At the request of Commissioner Morris the following resolution supporting the conclusion of the recently released Navy Final Environmental Impact Study and recommendations was presented. Commissioner Staton moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF
THE NAVY'S FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

WHEREAS, the military has conducted an extensive study to determine where to base 10 squadrons of F/A-18 E/F Super Hornets and the best site for building an Outlying Landing Field (OLF) to support their training needs; and

WHEREAS, the study has resulted in a proposal to base two or four squadrons at MCAS Cherry Point and the remaining squadrons at Oceana, in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, a site in Washington County has been determined to be the best of several potential OLF locations to satisfy the military's needs, and would be most centrally located to both military installations; and

WHEREAS, the recommended Washington County OLF site would also have the least impact on people, wildlife, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Navy has indicated its intention to adequately compensate residents affected by the OLF siting, as well as mitigate noise problems associated with the location of the OLF; and

WHEREAS, the military's direct economic impact in eastern North Carolina is in excess of \$7.6 billion, making its presence a major economic engine in the region; and

WHEREAS, the placement of Super Hornet Squadrons and supporting OLF in eastern North Carolina, as recommended, will reduce the region's vulnerability during the Department of Defense 2005 BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners supports the results of the Navy's Final Environmental Impact Statement and its recommendation for placement of 10 squadrons of F/A-18 E/F Super Hornets and an Outlying Landing Field.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners recognizes that the recommended placement of 4 squadrons at Cherry Point MCAS would best serve the interests of the Navy and eastern North Carolina.

Adopted this 4th day of August, 2003.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney, Jim Sugg, advised the Board that his office had been contacted by Attorney Brian Gatchell regarding the closing of a portion of Melonie Street in Oak Ridge Acres Subdivision and seeking the Board's consent. Following reassurance that all affected property owners were in agreement with the petition, Commissioner Morris moved to approve execution of the Quitclaim Deed, and Release and Consent Agreement allowing the street to be closed. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Improvements to Riverside Drive

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, advised the Board of communication from Department of Transportation District Engineer, Aaron Everett, regarding discretionary funds in the amount of \$210,000 that are available to raise the grade on Riverside Drive. The Board was assured that the project would have no impact on the County's Secondary Road Program. Commissioner Allen moved to approve the proposed project, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried, with the following resolution to be sent to Mr. Everett allowing him to proceed.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there has been recent interest in funding a project to raise the grade of a portion of Riverside Drive in Craven County; and

WHEREAS, State discretionary funds have been identified to be used for the purpose of widening and raising the grade of Riverside Drive; and

WHEREAS, the Craven County Board of Commissioners has been assured that the utilization of State discretionary funds to implement this project will not affect Craven County's Secondary Road Construction/Maintenance budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners supports the proposal to widen and raise the grade on Riverside Road.

Adopted this 4th day of August, 2003.

Proposed Joint Meeting with the Havelock Board of Commissioners

Mr. Blizzard advised the Board that the date of August 27th at 12:00 noon was agreeable to members of the Havelock Board of Commissioners, as well as the Craven County Board of Commissioners for a joint meeting, which will be held at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Sisk recommended that the Board consider meeting in a retreat for the purpose of conducting a pre-budget goals workshop in September or October. She suggested that it would be useful in discussing goals for the upcoming fiscal year. Commissioner Sampson stated that he does not think a retreat is necessary because the staff is forward-looking and brings proposals and recommendations to the Board

Commissioner Morris reported on a workshop which he attended on the Ten Year Mental Health Plan, along with Roy Wilson, Director of Neuse Center, and County Manager, Harold Blizzard. He stated that it was apparent the Neuse Center's plan is well under way and ahead of most of the area plans. He noted that the new Bridgeton Elementary

School has now opened and there is a traffic hazard at the intersection of the school which needs to be addressed by the Department of Transportation. He suggested that the department consider reducing the speed limit to 45 mph and installing turn lanes.

Commissioner Allen stated that the resolution which was presented relative to funding the Global Transpark, was very misleading. He advised the Board that the Craven/Pamlico Partnership for Healthy Carolinians, which is a private/public partnership, will be seeking funding support in the next FY budget. He encouraged the Board to consider conducting a retreat, stating his belief that such a process is especially beneficial to small boards.

Commissioner Sampson pledged his support for the Healthy Carolinians Program and reported on a recent meeting of the Downeast Rural Planning Organization.

At 9:40 p.m. Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk