

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, OCTOBER 20, 2003. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner George Brown

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 Sampson and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Sisk moved to approve minutes of the October 6, 2003 regular session, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Budget Amendments

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

Health/GIS System – Duke 3139

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-3139-346-01-00 GIS-Duke	\$ 10,000.00	101-3139-420-73-01 Capital-over \$5,000	\$ 6,995.00
		101-3139-420-73-21 Capital-500-4,999	\$ 3,005.00
TOTAL	\$ 10,000.00	TOTAL	\$ 10,000.00

Justification: Money received from Duke to purchase HP 800 PS Plotter and (2) PC's.

Sheriff

101-0000-399-01-00 Fund Balance	\$ 8,735.00	101-2001-410-10-02 Salaries	\$ 7,319.00
		101-2001-410-11-01 FICA	\$ 560.00
		101-2001-410-11-02 Retirement	\$ 350.00
		101-2001-410-11-05	\$ 366.00

		LEO 401k	
		101-2001-410-11-04	\$ 140.00
		W/C	
TOTAL	\$ 8,735.00	TOTAL	\$ 8,735.00

Justification: Terminating employee Craft will be paid annual leave (211.00 hrs) comp time (237) hours and holiday pay (106.50 hours).

Planning-Hazard Mitigation Update

101-4002-349-36-00	\$ 7,500.00	101-4002-430-40-00	\$ 13,100.00
NC DEM		Contractual Services	
101-4002-369-49-00	\$ 5,600.00		
TOTAL	\$ 13,100.00	TOTAL	\$ 13,100.00

Justification: Budget Emergency Management Grant and local municipality funding to cover the cost of a Hazard Mitigation Planning update. City of New Bern, City of Havelock, Vanceboro, Cove City, Dover, Riverbend, Town of Trent Woods and Town of Bridgeton will each pay \$600.00.

Health/BT Competitive Projects

101-5020-348-00-00	\$ 29,901.00	101-5020-440-25-00	\$ 3,000.00
BT Competitive Projects		Travel Training	
		101-5020-440-32-40	\$ 3,000.00
		Other Supplies	
		101-5020-440-40-00	\$ 23,901.00
		Contractual Services	
TOTAL	\$ 29,901.00	TOTAL	\$ 29,901.00

Justification: The above monies have not been designated for any particular use from the State. At this time, the counties may use this money to enhance continuing bioterrorism needs.

CARTS

101-7001-354-01-00	\$ 3,061.00	101-7001-450-26-03	\$ 3,061.00
Insurance		M/R Vehicles	
TOTAL	\$ 3,061.00	TOTAL	\$ 3,061.00

Justification: Budget insurance reimbursement for Uninsured motorist to cover vehicle repair.

Recreation

101-8001-346-02-00	\$ 1,000.00	101-8001-460-40-00	\$ 1,000.00
Bates Foundation		Contractual Services	
TOTAL	\$ 1,000.00	TOTAL	\$ 1,000.00

Justification: Budget Bates Foundation Grant received 10/03/03 to cover the American Legion Post 24 Baseball Program.

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. Commissioner Sisk moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner Staton and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET #	AMOUNT
AGCO FINANCE LLC NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2003	2003-0000325	\$ 57.77
BATEMAN INVESTMENT GROUP LLC CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2003-0002934	\$ 1,053.67
BRINSON, CECIL BURNS PROPERTY VACANT	2003-0005787	\$ 32.00
BROCK, JETTIE HRS CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2003-0005940	\$ 267.09
BROOKS, JAMES R DID NOT OWN 1/1/1999	1999-0005693	\$ 51.85
BROOKS, JAMES R DID NOT OWN 1/1/2000	2000-0005857	\$ 47.36
BROOKS, JAMES R DID NOT OWN 1/1/2001	2001-0005916	\$ 53.37
BROWN, HATTIE HRS BILLED TO INCORRECT OWNER-WILL BE REBILLED	2003-0006191	\$ 32.08
CARTER, ROBERT EUGENE CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2003-0008319	\$ 124.99
CHURCH-CORNERSTONE ASSEMBLY EXEMPT PROPERTY PER NCGS 105-282.1	2003-0010714	\$ 29.06
CHURCH-DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA DID NOT OWN 1/1/2003	2003-0009276	\$ 58.01
CHURCH-EMANUEL ANGLICAN EXEMPT PER GS 105-278.3	2003-0009277	\$ 909.86
COLEY, TOINETTE MAE NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/03	2003-0090328	\$ 48.81
CROOMS, EMMA HRS CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2003-0011606	\$ 299.10
CRYSTAL COAST LAND DEVELOPME CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2003-0011755	\$ 84.12
CURMON, HRS WILLIE D PROPERTY VACANT	2003-0011860	\$ 32.00

DELGADO, JACQUELINE MAE KNIGHT CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2003-0013100	\$ 39.31
DUHON, JASON T MILITARY-1/2 VAL JASON 03 LES-TX ECC-09/02/03	2003-0091072	\$ 22.00
FONVILLE, NORVIS GORE PROPERTY VACANT	2003-0016996	\$ 32.00
GRANDPAS CRAFTS 2000 INC CORRECTING LISTING INFORMATION	2003-0090138	\$ 612.34
HANSEN, DALE AARON & MARILYN R INCORRECT SITUS SHOULD BE 7 G	2003-0021542	\$ 38.57
HORUM, ELSIE & DILLARD, LOUISE CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2003-0024366	\$ 181.30
HOWARD, DONALD M & MARITA S INCORRECT SITUS-SHOULD BE CARTERET COUNTY	2003-0024897	\$ 41.16
JOHNSON, DOTTIE MAE HRS PROPERTY NOT LIVABLE/NO VALUE	2003-0026792	\$ 3.40
KEYS, NANCY L BILLED TO INCORRECT OWNER-WILL BE REBILLED	2003-0028395	\$ 6.55
KNOLL INC PROPERTY NOT LOCATED IN CRAVEN CO.	2003-0028943	\$ 928.25
MARTIN, EDWIN B JR & BETTY C INOCRRRECT SITUS SHOULD BE 8-R WILL BE REBILLED	2003-0032450	\$ 2,162.69
MILLER, JAMES A & MILLER, CARO CORRECTING NAME ON ACCOUNT	2003-0091080	\$ 213.24
MOORE, JAMES JR BILLED TO INCORRECT OWNER-WILL BE REBILLED	2003-0035666	\$ 326.15
MOORE, THOMAS O INCORRECT SITUS-SHOULD BE 2-B	2003-0035830	\$ 8.62
MURRAY, ROBERT A INCORRECT SITUS SHOULD BE 7 G	2003-0036767	\$ 3,552.96
NEW BERN-CITY OF BILLED TO INCORRECT OWNER-WILL BE REBILLED	2003-0037370	\$ 32.00
TRENT NEUSE HOTEL LLC CORRECTED AUDIT FINDINGS	2003-0090102	\$ 8,255.08
WEBSTER, NANCY LOUISE NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2003	2003-0090880	\$ 72.40
WHITING INTERNATIONS BY DZINE NOT IN BUSINESS ON 1/1/03	2003-0090892	\$ 108.88
WHITING, DWAYNE M NOT IN BUSINESS ON 1/1/03	2003-0090893	\$ 31.84

Refunds

KNOLL INC 2003-0028943 \$ 149.85
PROPERTY NOT LOCATED IN CRAVEN CO

1 – REFUND (S) \$ 149.85

Request to Re-Schedule Public Hearing on 2003 CDBG

The Planning Department made a request that a public hearing be rescheduled for November 3, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. from the original date of October 20th. This is relative to the intention of the County to apply for supplemental funds under its FY 03 CDBG program. Grants up to \$200,000 have been made available for up to four counties to supplement their current grants. These funds may be used for materials, which volunteer groups will use to rehabilitate existing housing or construct replacement housing targeted toward very low-income households. Commissioner Sisk moved to reschedule the public hearing from October 20th to November 3, 2003 at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Staton and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Request to Set Auction Date

The Board was requested to set the date for the County’s Surplus Auction on November 15, 2003, to be held at the Old Cherry Point warehouse site. The Board was also requested to designate Assistant County Manager, George Sawyer, as the County official authorized to conduct the auction. Commissioner Sisk moved to set November 15, 2003 as the date for the County’s Surplus Auction, to be held at the Old Cherry Point warehouse site, and to appoint Assistant County Manager, George Sawyer, as the County official authorized to conduct the auction. Commissioner Staton seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Resolution in Support of Engineering Program at East Carolina University (ECU)

The Board was requested to adopt the following resolution petitioning for the establishment of an engineering program at ECU. Unlike traditional engineering programs, the BSEng will emphasize development of the interdisciplinary/multi-disciplinary problem solvers who are needed to work in emerging disciplines. Engineers from this program primarily will be generalists with a secondary discipline area focused on and aligned with key business areas, technology sectors, or enterprise missions rather than characterized by traditional physics based sub-disciplines or specialties. Commissioner Sisk moved to adopt the following resolution petitioning for the establishment of an engineering program at ECU, seconded by Commissioner Staton and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
CREATING AN ENGINEERING PROGRAM
AT EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY**

WHEREAS, the economic changes sweeping the nation and the state have decimated our traditional industries; and

WHEREAS, the inevitable economic recovery will not restore traditional industry jobs; and

WHEREAS, the economic recovery in eastern North Carolina will depend heavily on home-grown entrepreneurial initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the new economy businesses must be technology based versus cost based in order to compete successfully in the world market place; and

WHEREAS, the smaller more agile operations will require new types of engineers, engineers trained to address multi-disciplinary problems versus those trained in traditional line disciplines; and

WHEREAS, the graduates of the proposed East Carolina University engineering program will be uniquely qualified to meet the needs of smaller, entrepreneurial, new economy businesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Craven County strongly supports the proposal to create an engineering program at East Carolina University.

This is the 20th day of October, 2003.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF LATE LISTING PENALTIES

Craven County Wood Energy, Inc.

Mr. Wade Bennett, Plant Manager of Craven County Wood Energy, Inc., presented a request for release of a late listing penalty in the amount of \$16,492.36. Commissioner Morris expressed some willingness to compromise the penalty to some extent; however, Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, had recommended that the request be denied. Commissioner Allen moved to table a decision on the request until a later date. The motion carried with five (5) "Ayes", there being one (1) "Nay" from Commissioner Sisk, who stated that the Board should be able to make a decision at present.

Weyerhaeuser Company

A request was presented to the Board on behalf of Weyerhaeuser Company for release of a late listing penalty in the amount of \$84,824.97. Ronnie Antry recommended that the request be denied, stating that compromising the penalty would set a precedent which would most likely result in numerous such requests. Commissioner Allen, having voted with the prevailing side on the previous matter before the Board relative to Craven County Wood Energy, moved to reintroduce the Craven County Wood Energy petition and to deny both requests. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion, which carried with four (4) "Ayes", there being two (2) "Nays" from Commissioners Morris and Staton.

CRAVEN COUNTY INTERNET SITE

New GIS Internet Website

Craven County Information Technology Director, Dennis Holton, advised the Board that a new GIS website has been released, and provided a demonstration on the new capabilities.

Apprise Board of Request for Viewing Pictures of Homes/Structures

Mr. Holton and Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, advised the Board of recent requests by the public to make digital color pictures of residential homes and other structures available over the internet, in addition to sketches of structures, sales history, and orthophotography of the County. Mr. Antry indicated that he had consulted with other counties that are making these photos available or considering doing so. There was discussion concerning potential cost to the County for increasing bandwidth to accommodate access to the photos and Mr. Antry agreed to research potential costs. The Board was not requested to make a decision at this time.

PRESENTATION OF JAIL EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY

Jim Brennan, President of Brennan & Associates, presented the Jail Expansion Feasibility Study and reviewed it with the Board. It was recommended that the County consider acquiring 7 to 10 acres for development of a new jail site, with a total projected cost of approximately \$11,003,730.00, excluding land acquisition cost. Commissioner Morris suggested visits to other jails with the Sheriff to see details and to find ways to possibly avoid some unforeseen problems. Commissioner Allen moved to direct staff to solicit proposals from architects and to scout for suitable property. Commissioner Sisk seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Allen paused to recognize members of Leadership Craven who were in attendance at the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Planning Board

The Board received a recommendation from the Planning Department that Mr. William Hyman of Township 5 be appointed to replace Mr. James Lewis, also of Township 5, who has resigned. Commissioner Morris nominated Mr. Hyman for appointment. Commissioner Staton moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Commissioner Sisk hesitated, indicating that she would like to know something about the nominee. Commissioner Staton advised the Board that he had recommended Mr. Hyman for appointment to the Planning Board. The motion to close nominations carried unanimously with Mr. Hyman being appointed by acclamation.

Jury Commission

Commissioner Sampson introduced a request by the Clerk of Court that Mr. George Griffin be reappointed to the Jury Commission. Commissioner Allen moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried, with Mr. Griffin being appointed by acclamation.

Commissioner Allen moved to waive the one meeting waiting period on both appointments, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney, Jim Sugg, presented the following resolution calling for a public hearing on November 17, 2003 concerning road improvements in Neuse Harbor. Commissioner Harper moved to adopt the resolution, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, apprised the Board that as the project begins cost will be incurred, which will be reimbursed by the Neuse Harbor Property Owners Assessment.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Neuse Harbor Subdivision Preliminary Assessment Resolution

The public will take notice that the Craven County Board of Commissioners has adopted a Preliminary Assessment Resolution pursuant to Article 9 of Chapter 153A of the North Carolina General Statutes, said resolution stating that Craven County intends to undertake a project for the improvement of certain streets in Neuse Harbor Subdivision so that said streets may be brought up to the standards of the Secondary Road Council for inclusion in the system of state-maintained roads.

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 153A-191, the Craven County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on said resolution on November 17, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. (or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached) in the Craven County Commissioner's Room, New Bern, North Carolina.

At the public hearing, the Craven County Board of Commissioners will hear all interested persons who appear with respect to any matter covered by the Preliminary Assessment Resolution. At or after the hearing, the Craven County Board of Commissioners may adopt a final assessment resolution directing that the project at issue (or portions thereof) be undertaken. A copy of the Preliminary Assessment Resolution is on file at the County Manager's Office and is available for inspection prior to the public hearing during regular business hours.

This the 20th day of October, 2003.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Sisk reported on her attendance at the Marine Corps Capability Exercise.

Commissioner Staton announced a fundraiser to be held in Harlowe on October 25th to benefit churches damaged as a result of Hurricane Isabel.

Commissioner Morris thanked the County Manager and Emergency Services staff for getting the debris from Hurricane Isabel removed without assurance so that the cost would be reimbursed. He also requested that the Board consider adopting a resolution in support of the government moving ahead with the Tobacco Buyout Program. He reported that Claude Taylor may be available to report at the next meeting, if he has completed his process of developing a map indicating areas of priority for beaver management.

Commissioner Allen stated that the use of tobacco products is responsible for more curable diseases than everything else combined. He emphasized that the settlement money was intended for education and restoration of individuals who had suffered damage, not for buying out farmers. In response to a recent complaint from a citizen regarding smoking in County buildings, he stated that the County is precluded from making County buildings completely smoke-free due to preemption by a State statute. He commented on a recent article in the *Sun Journal* concerning the County's involvement with United Senior Services, Inc., stating that the County has essentially rescued seniors' programs in Craven County. He invited the City of New Bern officials to come and view the programs and help if they so desire.

Commissioner Sampson congratulated Swiss Bear on the success of the recent Mum Fest and again urged citizens to adopt a posture of helping each other on a regular basis rather than waiting for catastrophes to force their cooperation. He challenged the members of Leadership Craven who were present to take the lead in this regard.

At 10:40 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk