

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, FEBRUARY 6, 2006. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

Following an invocation by Commissioner Sisk and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Sisk moved to approve minutes of the January 17, 2006 regular session, seconded by Commissioner Staton and unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Tax Releases and Refunds

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

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET #	AMOUNT
AMMAN, SEAN B MILITARY-HIS NAME ONLY 05 LES-MI	2005-0000972	\$60.12
ARDIS, CHAD W & MELISSA MILITARY-HIS NAME ONLY 05 LES-SC	2005-0001402	\$333.61
CONLAN, JOSEPH F DID NOT OWN 01/01/05	2005-0010900	\$11.44
COX, HARVEY A & BETTY B CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2005-0011688	\$184.22
DECKER, CHRISTOPHER SHAWN DID NOT OWN 01/01/2005	2005-0013714	\$52.10
HACK, NANCY BASSETT PROPERTY VACANT	2005-0022168	\$32.00
IGNATIEFF, CAROL INCORRECT SITUS-LOCATE IN PAMLICO COUNTY	2005-0026804	\$100.35
KILROY, JAMES MILITARY-HIS NAME ONLY 05 LES-IL ECC-10/11/06	2005-0090675	\$99.43

KIRK, STEVE DID NOT OWN 01/01/2005	2005-0091244	\$103.11
KNOX, JOHNNIE REBILLING SCE PROPERTY- SOLD BEFORE 07/2005	2006-0090008	\$10.00
KOONCE, CHRISTINE JOY PROPERTY VACANT	2005-0030504	\$32.00
MCPHERSON, BRADLEY MARTIN MILITARY-HIS NAME ONLY 05 LES-IN ECC-06/23/06	2005-0090736	\$65.03
MILLS, BEULAH DOUBLE BILLED ON ACCT. #287690	2005-0036420	\$49.81
NEUSE RIVER COMMUNITY DEVELOP EXEMPT PER GS 105-278.1	2005-0038941	\$21.78
QUELLHORST, BARBARA KEARNS REBILLING SCE PROPERTY	2006-0090014	\$10.00
ROBBINS, TIMOTHY DID NOT OWN 01/01/2005	2005-0091190	\$195.92
SMITH, RUBY M DOUBLE BILLED ON SAME ACCT	2005-0091069	\$361.99
TUMAS, RICHARD J & CYNTHIA B NOT LOCATED IN CRAVEN CO 01/01/2002	2002-0050526	\$6.45
TUMAS, RICHARD J & CYNTHIA B NOT LOCATED IN CRAVEN CO 01/01/03	2003-0050943	\$5.81
TUMAS, RICHARD J & CYNTHIA B NOT LOCATED IN CRAVEN CO 01/01/05	2005-0090936	\$5.25
VELEZ, JOSE R MILITARY-HIS NAME ONLY 05 LES-NY	2005-0053729	\$130.83
WILLIAMS, CINDY CORRECTING BILLING INFORMATION	2004-0091593	\$86.61
WOMBLE, SUSAN DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACCT #60152	2005-0091031	\$156.37
	23 – CREDIT MEMO (S)	\$2,114.23
<i>Refunds</i>		
BROAD JUMP MARITIME LLC NOT LOCATED IN CRAVEN CO 01/01/05	2005-0006192	\$1,011.38
EVANS, JAMES E & JOAN E CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2005-0016682	\$298.64
ROBERTS, DANIEL MERRITT IV DID NOT OWN 01/01/05	2005-0044847	\$99.47
	3 – REFUND (S)	\$1,409.49

Subdivision for Approval

Craven County Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, submitted the following subdivision for the Board’s approval. Commissioner Sampson moved for its approval, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Crosswinds Phase Three – Final: The property, owned by Chance Investments Company and surveyed by Mayo and Associates, is located within Twp 2 off of SR 1600 (Broad Creek Road). The subdivision contains 3 lots on 10.155 acres and is proposed to be served by community water and individual septic systems. The Planning Board reviewed and recommended the subdivision for final approval.

Budget Amendment \$10,000 to HCP for Moratorium Study

The Planning Department made a request to the Board for assistance of ordinance preparation with Holland Consulting Planners for the moratorium of land development around the Craven Regional Airport. The cost was estimated not to exceed \$10,000 and would be billed on an hourly basis. Commissioner Sampson moved to authorize the Chairman to enter into a contract with Holland Consulting Planners for ordinance preparation and approve the appropriation of \$10,000, included with the following budget amendments, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Budget Amendments

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

Non-Departmental

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0000-399-01-00 Fund Balance	\$50,000.00	101-0560-430-96-79 Convention Ctr – Special	\$50,000.00
TOTAL	\$50,000.00	TOTAL	\$50,000.00

Justification: Additional funds for Convention Center floor problem.

Public Buildings

101-0000-399-01-00 Fund Balance	\$11,000.00	101-1201-400-26-01 M/R Bldgs	\$11,000.00
TOTAL	\$11,000.00	TOTAL	\$11,000.00

Justification: Repairs for jail as mandated by the state during the Jan 2006 inspection.

Elections

101-00-399-01-0 Fund Balance	\$(22,031.00)
101-601-348-00-0 One Stop Grant	\$12,000.00
101-601-348-00-0 Precinct grant	\$10,031.00
TOTAL	0.00

Justification: Elections will receive additional grants from the state resulting in a lesser use of fund balance (\$22,031.00).

Health/Project Assist

101-6701-349-70-00	\$2,954.00	101-6701-440-27-00	\$2,954.00
State Revenue		Advertising	
TOTAL	\$2,954.00	TOTAL	\$2,954.00

Justification: Additional State funding has been made available to the Project Assist program. This money will be used for billboard advertising.

DSS 7291 Mandated Services

101-7291-349-32-00	\$6,494.00	101-7291-450-23-04	\$6,494.00
Energy		CIP	
TOTAL	\$6,494.00	TOTAL	\$6,494.00

Justification: Additional funds received from the State for Crisis Intervention Program. Funds are 100% federal, no match.

DSS 7291 Mandated Services

101-7291-349-32-00	\$20,738.00	101-7291-450-23-04	\$20,738.00
Energy		CIP	
TOTAL	\$20,738.00	TOTAL	\$20,738.00

Justification: Additional funds received from the State for Crisis Intervention Program. Funds are 100% federal, no match.

DSS 7291 Mandated/7231 TANF

101-7291-349-10-00	\$280,153.00	101-7291-450-39-26	\$280,153.00
Day Care Combined		Child Day Care	
TOTAL	\$280,153.00	TOTAL	\$280,153.00

Justification: Additional funding from the State for regular subsidy day care. There is no County match.

Planning

101-0000-399-01-00	\$10,000.00	101-4001-430-40-57	\$10,000.00
Fund Balance		Holland	
TOTAL	\$10,000.00	TOTAL	\$10,000.00

Justification: Budget \$10,000 to cover the cost of a zoning ordinance for the area around Craven Regional Airport. Amount is not to exceed \$10,000 and will be billed on an hourly basis.

Transfers/Twp #VFD

101-0000-399-01-00	\$29,465.00	101-0567-410-97-83	\$29,465.00
Fund Balance		To Fd 244 Twp #3 VFD	
244-0000-366-01-00	\$29,465.00	244-2901-410-96-99	\$8,930.00
From Genl Fund		Cove City	
		244-2902-410-96-99	\$5,786.00
		Dover Grant Match	

		244-2903-410-96-99	\$14,749.00
		Ft Barn Grant Match	
TOTAL	\$58,930.00	TOTAL	\$58,930.00

Justification: Budget County Fund Balance in the amount of \$29,265 to be transferred to Twp #3 VFD for grant matches.

Cove City	\$8,930
Dover	\$5,786
Ft Barnwell	\$14,749

Recreation

101-0000-399-01-00	\$3,207.00	101-8001-460-26-01	\$3,207.00
Fund Balance		Recreation	
		Repair lights @ Harlowe Ballfield	
TOTAL	\$3,207.00	TOTAL	\$3,207.00

Justification: Repair light box @ Harlowe Ballfield.

Court Facilities

TRANSFER

101-1301-400-26-01	\$492.00	101-1301-400-73-02	\$492.00
M/R Bldgs		C/O Other Imp	
TOTAL	\$492.00	TOTAL	\$492.00

Justification: Cover change orders to P.O. 3287 for remodel of basement/public bathrooms of Old Superior Courthouse. Cost increase covers (\$492) replacement of worn stair treads for men’s & women’s stairs to restrooms.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

Ray Griffin of Vanceboro spoke to inquire if there were any updates from the County Attorney relative to his opinion concerning the posting of a Ten Commandments monument on the grounds of the Craven County Courthouse. Chairman Morris advised that the Board would make a decision after the document is received from the County Attorney, hopefully by next month.

Charles Simmons of 2218 Tuscarora Road, presented a completed petition totaling approximately 105 names of citizens residing within a one mile radius of the proposed jail site on Clarks Road. He stated that all the residents of Clarks Road had signed the petition in opposition of siting the jail at that location, and the majority on New Liberty Road and Gethsemane Church Road had also signed the petition. He asked that the Board consider the petition. The Commissioners explained that the parcel in question which would be large enough to accommodate the facility, and is relatively isolated, had been located with difficulty.

REPORT OF UNPAID 2005 TAXES

Craven County Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, reported that the amount of 2005 unpaid taxes is \$1,063,011.24, which is higher than the 2004 amount of \$944,500. He advised, however, that the 2005 unpaid taxes constitutes a lower percent of the net levy. He informed the Board that 96.13% of the levy has been collected to date for the 2005 taxes. Commissioner Brown moved to authorize the Tax Administrator to proceed with the collection of taxes and to advertise tax liens in the *Sun Journal* on April 3, 2006 for 2005 taxes. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MATTERS

Fire Department Grants

Fire Marshal, Stanley Kite, presented requests on behalf of three fire departments; Dover, Ft. Barnwell and Cove City for matching funds in the amount of \$5,785.75 for Dover, \$14,749 for Ft. Barnwell and \$8,930 for Cove City. The requested funds are to match grants awarded by the North Carolina Department of Insurance and would be applied as has been done in previous instances for rescue squads. He explained that although fire departments have a fire tax levy to fund their operations, all three of these fire departments are in the same fire tax district and do not receive comparable distributions. Commissioner Brown moved to award the funds to match the grants, as specified, from fund balance, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Ambulance Franchise Applications

Mr. Kite presented two requests for ambulance franchises that had been considered by the EMS Advisory Council, and presented the EMS Advisory Council's recommendations relative to the applications of Johnston Ambulance Service, known as JAS, and AmbuMed. The application of JAS was determined to be in compliance with the County's Ambulance Franchise Ordinance and resulted in a recommendation that Johnston Ambulance Service be awarded a franchise when one becomes available. Inasmuch as all four current positions for ambulance services in Craven County allowable by the ambulance ordinance are filled, it was the recommendation that Johnston Ambulance Service be approved for one year as the next eligible service when the next vacancy occurs. Commissioner Allen moved to approve the recommendation of the EMS Advisory Council for Johnston Ambulance Service to be awarded an ambulance franchise, pending an opening in the system, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried. Mr. Kite explained that the application of AmbuMed failed to comply with Craven County's Ambulance Ordinance as the company is not currently a licensed provider in North Carolina. Commissioner Brown moved to proceed in notifying AmbuMed of the denial of its request for an ambulance franchise and the reason, seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously carried.

Treatment – No Transport Charges

The EMS Advisory Council submitted a recommendation that ambulance services in Craven County be permitted to charge a fee for patients receiving treatment but who are not transported by the ambulance service. The Board was advised that the average range for such charges throughout the region is \$106 - \$250. The recommended fee for Craven County was \$150. Commissioner Allen moved to honor the request of the EMS Advisory Council to impose a \$150 treatment-no transport fee, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried.

Additional Fee Schedule Matters

The Board was advised that Medicare has changed its allowable rate for ambulance services. Craven County is currently charging less than Medicare and it was explained that the Board would need to set the rate at least as high as Medicare rates in order to capture the maximum Medicare reimbursement, in the following amounts: \$300 for basic life support, \$510 for advanced life support and \$9.25 per mile. Commissioner Allen moved to amend the rates, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

OVERVIEW OF CAMA LAND USE PLAN UPDATE

Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, appeared before the Board to start the process and thereby notify the public of the land use update that is about to be undertaken. He stated that the update is mandated by State law and is expected to begin in the fall of 2006, with an application to CAMA and the contract going into effect in early 2007, continuing through 2008. The federal grant amount would be \$24,750 per year for two years (FY

06/07 and FY 07/08). This would require a match from the County in the amount of \$13,327 per year, up to half of which may be in-kind contributions and staff time. Mr. Baumgardner advised the Board that the match would be included in the Planning Department's budget request for FY 07-08.

APPOINTMENTS

Farmers Market

Commissioner Brown nominated Larry Ipock to replace Hank Bland on the Farmers Market Board. There were no other nominations and Mr. Ipock was appointed by acclamation.

Community Coalition Against Family Violence

The Board received a recommendation from the Community Coalition Against Family Violence for the appointment of Luann Miller and Patricia Sherwood. Commissioner Allen nominated Ms. Miller and Ms. Sherwood. There were no additional nominations and Ms. Miller and Ms. Sherwood were appointed by acclamation.

Fire Tax Commissioners

The Board received requests from Township Five Fire Department for the reappointments of Mr. Casezell Martin, Mr. Roy McCabe and Mr. Adrian Becton. Commissioner Staton nominated Mr. Martin, Mr. McCabe and Mr. Becton for reappointment and there were no additional nominees, with Mr. Martin, Mr. McCabe and Mr. Becton being appointed by acclamation.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, asked that the Board consider scheduling a public hearing concerning the proposed property acquisition for the new elementary school in Township Seven. It was the consensus of the Board to set the public hearing at 8:30 a.m. on February 20. The Board asked that staff make available the address of the property that is being acquired so that any Commissioners who is interested in seeing the parcel can identify it.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Chairman Morris presented a plaque to retiring Commissioner Bill Harper, whose resignation is to become effective February 10, 2006. Commissioner Harper commented on the enjoyment that he has had in serving as a Commissioner for the last three years. All the other Commissioners thanked Commissioner Harper for his service and expressed best wishes.

Commissioner Sampson announced his receipt of a plaque from the Down East RPO recognizing his service as Chairman.

Commissioner Harper congratulated the Havelock Wrestling Team as Conference Champions.

Commissioner Morris announced that the Craven County Republican Party has made a recommendation to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Commissioner Bill Harper. He presented the phone number of the nominee, Mr. Steve Tyson, as well as the phone numbers of candidates who ran in the republican primary during the last election, Robert Crawford and Kevin Beck. He encouraged the Board to talk to each of them and to be prepared to make an appointment to the vacancy on March 20, 2006.

Commissioner Staton presented an estimate for a new electrical panel involved in the repair to the Harlowe Ballfield lights in the amount of \$3,207 and moved that it be appropriated from fund balance. Commissioner Sampson seconded the motion. During discussion Commissioner Allen inquired if the bid amount includes permit, inspection

and testing fees. Commissioner Staton indicated that it was an all inclusive amount. The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote. Commissioner Allen cautioned that no money should be paid until it has been determined that new lighting panel works.

Commissioner Harper requested that the Board honor the wishes of the Craven County Republican Party relative to the appointment of his replacement. The Chairman expressed his opinion that it would not be appropriate to make an appointment to the impending vacancy until after February 10 when the vacancy becomes final.

At 8:25 p.m. the Board was declared adjourned.

Chairman Perry L. Morris
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board