

**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, APRIL 21, 2008. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 8:30 A.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Chairman Jason R. Jones
- Vice Chairman Theron McCabe
- Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen
- Commissioner Perry L. Morris
- Commissioner M. Renée Sisk
- Commissioner Steve Tyson

**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
- Jim Hicks, County Attorney

Following an invocation by Commissioner Morris and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Sisk moved to approve minutes of April 7, 2008 regular session and March 17, 2008 reconvened session, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Morris requested that the resolution concerning secondary road funding be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

*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, as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

*Credits*

<b>TAXPAYER NAME</b>	<b>TICKET#</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
ANDREWS, MOLLIE EVA HEIRS FORECLOSURE-LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2007-0001293	\$25.82
ANDREWS, MOLLIE EVA HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1998-0001087	\$185.01
ANDREWS, MOLLIE EVA HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1999-0001146	\$32.53
ANDREWS, MOLLIE EVA HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2000-0001158	\$31.59
ANDREWS, MOLLIE EVA HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2001-0001178	\$31.83
ANDREWS, MOLLIE EVA HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2002-0001208	\$37.74
ANDREWS, MOLLIE EVA HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2003-0001234	\$34.89

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ANDREWS, MOLLIE EVA HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2004-0001204	\$32.61
ANDREWS, MOLLIE EVA HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2005-0001273	\$32.63
ANDREWS, MOLLIE HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2006-0001258	\$30.22
GOODING, EDDIE HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2007-0021792	\$25.82
GOODING, EDDIE HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1998-0017992	\$34.21
GOODING, EDDIE HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1999-018852	\$32.53
GOODING, EDDIE HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2000-0019409	\$31.59
GOODING, EDDIE HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2001-0019556	\$31.83
GOODING, EDDIE HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2002-0019812	\$37.74
GOODING, EDDIE HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2003-0019916	\$34.89
GOODING, EDDIE HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2004-0020277	\$32.61
GOODING, EDDIE HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2005-0021001	\$32.63
GOODING, EDDIE HRS FORECLOSURE – EXTINGUISHED	2006-0021222	\$30.22
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2007-0027441	\$14.43
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2007-0027440	\$23.33
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1998-0022680	\$16.85
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1999-0023671	\$16.01
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2000-0024341	\$15.91
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2001-0024537	\$16.45
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2002-0024849	\$22.11

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HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2003-0025050	\$20.62
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2004-0025473	\$19.30
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2005-0026353	\$19.33
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2006-0026715	\$17.87
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1998-0022679	\$30.27
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1999-0023670	\$28.83
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2000-0024340	\$28.98
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2001-0024536	\$29.22
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2002-0024848	\$34.18
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2003-0025049	\$31.66
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2004-0025472	\$29.62
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2005-0026352	\$29.66
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2006-0026714	\$27.49
ODUM, ISIAH PERRY & WEAVER, KA FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2007-0041901	\$25.82
ODUM, ISIAH PERRY & WEAVER, KA FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1998-0034325	\$34.21
ODUM, ISIAH PERRY & WEAVER, KA FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1999-0035969	\$32.53
ODUM, ISIAH PERRY & WEAVER, KA FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2000-0037041	\$31.59
ODUM, ISIAH PERRY & WEAVER FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2001-0037405	\$31.83
ODUM, ISIAH PERRY & WEAVER, KA FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2002-0037912	\$37.74
ODUM, ISIAH PERRY & WEAVER, KA FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2003-0038203	\$34.89
ODUM, ISIAH PERRY & WEAVER, KA FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2004-0038746	\$32.61

ODUM, ISIAH PERRY & WEAVER, KA FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2005-0039917	\$32.63
ODUM, ISIAH PERRY & WEAVER, KA FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2006-0040558	\$30.22
ROWE, RAY NOT IN BUSINESS 01/01/2001	2001-0090727	\$36.05
ROWE, RAY NOT IN BUSINESS 01/01/2000	2000-0042252	\$36.17
ROWE, RAY NOT IN BUSINESS 01/01/1999	1999-0091213	\$40.48
ROWE, RAY NOT IN BUSINESS 01/01/1998	1998-0091480	\$21.99
STRANGE, DANNY KEITH JR DID NOT OWN 01/01/2007	2007-0052412	\$36.07
TRIPP, LILLIE ROBERTS DID NOT OWN 01/01/07	2007-0055308	\$7.05
56 – CREDIT MEMO (S)		\$1,772.94

**Refunds**

DIXON, TERESA GRIFFIN CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2007-0015167	\$12.38
VROUWENVELDER, ADRIAN & ANGIE CORRECTING ERROR MADE IN PREVIOUS REFUND IN BD MEETING	2007-0091550	\$63.00
2 – REFUND (S)		\$75.38

**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 McCabe and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

**Jail**

101-0000-367-20-00	\$8,357.00	101-2008-410-32-08	\$8,357.00
CRMC		Medical	
TOTAL	\$8,357.00	TOTAL	\$8,357.00

**Justification:** Carryover for FY 2007 was \$28,356.88 and only \$20,000 was carried over.

**CJPP**

101-2201-348-54-00	\$24,000.00	101-2201-410-40-00	\$24,000.00
State		Cont Ser	
TOTAL	\$24,000.00	TOTAL	\$24,000.00

**Justification:** State approved additional funds to cover the cost of the program.

*EDC*

101-4401-348-92-00	\$112,500.00	101-4401-430-47-10	\$112,500.00
Dept Commerce		Carolina Plastics	
TOTAL	\$112,500.00	TOTAL	\$112,500.00

**Justification:** Budget Dept of Commerce revenue to pay Carolina Plastics/Wirthwein in accordance with the Company performance agreement.

*Reserve/Health Admin*

371-0000-399-01-00	\$165,000.00	371-0571-400-97-01	\$165,000.00
Fund Balance		To Genl Fd	
101-5001-366-07-00	\$165,000.00	101-5001-440-73-02	\$165,000.00
From Reserve		C/O Other	

**Justification:** Budget reserve funds to transfer to County Health to cover carpeting costs.

*Health/Dental*

101-5500-352-08-00	\$1,000.00	101-5500-440-40-48	\$695.00
First Party Payments		Moving Expenses	
101-5500-353-18-00	\$12,000.00	101-5500-440-32-40	\$5,172.00
Third Party Payments		Other Supplies	
		101-5500-440-32-08	\$7,000.00
		Medical Supplies	
		101-5500-440-11-01	\$133.00
		FICA	
TOTAL	\$13,000.00	TOTAL	\$13,000.00

**Justification:** The current insurance revenues are \$3,262.16 more than budgeted for fiscal year. Presently there are over \$10,000 outstanding for 2008 insurance claims, which should be paid before end of current fiscal year. Current private pay revenues are \$815.40 more than budgeted for fiscal year. FICA expenses budgeted are not high enough to cover actual costs through end of fiscal year. The trailer will be moved 2 more times this fiscal year. Medical Supplies and line and other supplies line are higher than originally budgeted due to the higher expenses associated with supporting the goals of increasing the total number of children under the age of 5 and the number of uninsured children seen in the dental program.

*Health/Vector Control*

101-5900-349-45-00	\$2,273.00	101-5900-440-32-40	\$2,273.00
State-Vector Control		Other Supplies	
TOTAL	\$2,273.00	TOTAL	\$2,273.00

**Justification:** Additional state funding for Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness (STARI) education. Funds will be used to purchase training materials.

*Health/Hospice*

101-6502-370-03-00	\$14,000.00	101-6502-440-32-05	\$15,000.00
Hospice-Medicaid		Hospice Prescriptions	
101-6502-371-02-00	\$38,500.00	101-6500-440-23-00	\$1,000.00

Hospice-Medicare		Utilities	
		101-6500-440-25-02	\$1,500.00
		Mileage Reimbursement	
		101-6500-440-40-20	\$15,000.00
		Therapists	
		101-6500-440-40-50	\$20,000.00
		Contract Employees	
TOTAL	\$52,500.00	TOTAL	\$52,500.00

**Justification:** When budget was originally submitted, it was unknown that the Hospice patient load would be significantly higher this year than last. This has resulted in higher than anticipated prescription drug costs as well as higher than anticipated Medicaid and Medicare revenues. We have exceeded the adjusted Medicaid budget of \$25,000 by an additional \$4,714 as of April 3, 2008.

***DSS/7291 Mandated***

101-7291-349-10-00	\$288,687.00	101-7291-450-39-26	\$288,687.00
Day Care Combined		Child Day Care	
101-7231-349-26-0	\$7,366.00		
CCDF Admin			
101-00-399-01-0	\$(7,366.00)		
Fund Balance			
TOTAL	\$288,687.00	TOTAL	\$288,687.00

**Justification:** Additional funds received from the state for regular subsidy day care and the administrative funds. There is no County match.

***DSS 7231 TANF***

101-7231-349-31-00	\$23,550.00	101-7231-450-39-21	\$132,776.00
IVB Foster Care		IVB Foster Care	
101-7231-349-30-00	\$14,900.00	101-7231-450-39-28	\$18,191.00
IVE Foster Care		IVE Foster Care	
101-00-399-01-0	\$112,517.00		
Fund Balance			
TOTAL	\$150,967.00	TOTAL	\$150,967.00

**Justification:** Additional funding required in order to meet the need for Foster Care room and board payments, \$18,191 needed to IVE board payments. Also, additional \$9,140 needed for last three months for other foster care needs (clothing, transportation, court-ordered services such as drug screening, therapy, etc. Current spending is averaging \$3,000 per month. Finally, \$19,000 is needed for current pending contracts for court-ordered psychological evaluations; to date the Agency has paid \$34,679 on this particular service. There is approximately 83% revenue (fed and state) on the \$18,191 requested for IVE board payments. There will be 50% revenue (state) on an estimated \$47,086 of the \$104,636 requested for IVB board payments (all IVB payments are not reimbursable). The other funds requested (clothing/trans/etc and the psychological evaluations) are a County expense.

***Recreation & Parks***

101-8001-346-02-00	\$5,000.00	101-8001-460-40-00	\$5,000.00
Bate Foundation		Contractual Service	
TOTAL	\$5,000.00	TOTAL	\$5,000.00

**Justification:** This additional \$5,000 is to cover expenses for the Cove City Summer Camp.

*Correction to Term of Hospital Board Appointments*

The Board was informed by the County Attorney that the appointment of Dell Ipock to the Craven County Hospital Board to fill the expiring term of Jimmie L. Morris should be for a term beginning June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2011 instead of June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2010, as previously stated. Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the correction of the term, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

*Amendment to Personnel Resolution*

Craven County Human Resources Director, Joan Harrell, submitted the following amendment to Article X., Section W. of the Craven County Personnel Resolution. The request was in response to President Bush's signing into law the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Public Law 110-181. Section 585 of the NDAA amended the Family and Medical Leave Act to provide eligible employees two new rights related to military service. Commissioner Sampson moved for approval of the amendment, as presented, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

- New Qualifying Reason for Leave. Twelve (12) week of unpaid leave during any 12 month period for "any qualifying emergency" for the spouse, child or parent of a family member who is on active duty or is notified of an impending call or order to active duty in the armed forces (including the Reserves and National Guard); and
- New Leave Entitlement. Twenty-six (26) weeks of unpaid leave during one 12-month period for the covered spouse, child, parent or next of kin of an armed forces member who is recovering from a serious illness or injury sustained in the line of duty on active duty.

The injured service member provision is effective immediately. The extension of leave rights for a "qualifying emergency" will not officially take effect until the Department of Labor issues regulations to define qualifying circumstances for such leave. It was noted that the DOL encourages all employers to provide this type of leave also.

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING SECONDARY ROAD FUNDING**

During discussion of the request by Wilson County that Craven County adopt a resolution regarding funding for the secondary road program, Commissioner Morris expressed concern about wording in the resolution. There was discussion as to whether or not the resolution would request action by the North Carolina Legislature that would prove ultimately harmful to the Secondary Roads Program. There was consensus reached among the Board to defer consideration of this item until the next agenda, pending further research.

**COASTAL LAND TRUST PROPOSAL**

Recreation Director, Jan Parker, introduced Coastal Land Trust Attorney, Janice Allen, who explained the proposal of the Coastal Land Trust to purchase a 133-acre tract of land on Broad Creek Road for the purpose of conserving the property from commercial and/or residential development and protecting the water quality values. The proposal would take the parcel off of the County tax records. Further, in the proposal the property would be deeded to Craven County for development into a passive recreation area for public use. The parcel would be deeded at no cost; however, the County would be required to provide \$30,000 for administrative and closing expenses of the land trust. Ms. Allen explained that the mission of the NC Coastal Land Trust (NCCLT) is the preservation of lands that are of scenic, historical, recreational or ecological significance. The lands included in the current proposal are owned by the family of Sam Whitehurst and contain

two historic homes that qualify for the national register. She stated that state grant funds may be available through the Clean Water Management Trust Fund; however, the closing must occur before August 31, 2008, which would not allow the grant to be processed within that time frame. The County would need to advance the \$30,000 for administrative and closing costs and hope to recoup those costs through a grant application. No action was requested by the Board; however, Ms. Parker advised the Board that the Recreation Advisory Committee is in support of the proposal. Should the County accept the offer, the land would be used to develop walking and birding trails and water access. No athletic facilities would be built on the property. Ms. Allen did indicate, however, that the owner wished to have the recreational area named after the family (Latham/Whitehurst Nature Park) and had also requested that the current owner would have first opportunity to derive the benefits of any timber harvesting that should occur on the property for the first ten years. Ms. Allen indicated that requests such as the latter request are seldom approved by the NCCLT.

**PLANNING MATTERS**

*Proposed Planning and Inspections Fee Schedule Amendments*

Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, requested that the Board amend the department fee schedule, as follows:

<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
New charge for zoning permits to cover staff review time associated with processing of zoning permit	\$0.00	\$25.00
Increase in the fee for fire inspections	\$20.00	\$45.00

Commissioner Sisk moved to approve the proposed changes in fee schedule, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

*Set Public Hearing on Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance*

Mr. Baumgardner requested that the Board schedule a public hearing for May 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. to receive public comment regarding the update to the Craven County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The update involves the effective date of the Flood Insurance Rate Map panels for a small portion of the map area within Craven County which appears on the rate map panels for Pitt County. The area involved is in the vicinity of Honolulu. Commissioner Morris moved to schedule the public hearing, as advertised, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

*Update on CAMA Land Use Plan*

Dale Holland of Holland Consulting Planners provided the Board an update of Craven County’s CAMA Land Use Plan Phase II, explaining the planning process that will occur. In addition, he requested adoption of the Citizen Participation Plan, which ensures adequate citizen participation in the planning process. He advised the Board that the Land Use Plan will not be ready for a public hearing until the fall of 2009. Commissioner Morris moved to adopt the Citizen Participation Plan, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

*FEMA Severe Repetitive Loss Pilot Program*

Mr. Baumgardner advised the Board that Craven County has been notified by FEMA of its eligibility to participate in the Severe Repetitive Loss Pilot Program. Properties in Craven County that qualify for federal funding have already been identified. The project would elevate homes that have received repetitive flood damage, and where insurance claims have been filed. Ninety percent (90%) of the program is federal grant funding and ten percent (10%) of the cost is homeowner expense. The Planning Department

requested authorization to continue with the process of contacting owners of the properties that have qualified and proceed with the application process. No County money is involved. Commissioner McCabe moved to authorize the County to proceed with participation in the program and to designate Don Baumgardner and Harold Blizzard as the agents, seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously carried.

### **FOSTER CARE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Social Services Director, Kent Flowers, provided an overview of the Foster Care Program in Craven County and introduced a request for an appropriation of an additional \$150,967 for the current fiscal year. He explained that the number of cases has escalated drastically in recent years and discussed with the Board some avenues that he is researching that would help keep the cost from escalating so drastically in the future. Commissioner McCabe moved to appropriate the additional \$250,967 from fund balance for the remainder of the fiscal year, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

At 9:55 a.m. the Board was declared in recess and reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

### **UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON STORMWATER RULES**

Representative Alice Underhill introduced Tom Reeder of the Division of Water Quality to discuss the proposed new Coastal Stormwater Rules. Mr. Reeder explained that the proposed rule has passed through the rules review process, which is the administrative part of the process, and the next step is the legislative process. He stated that the proposed rule still needs legislative review, which will occur during the 2008 short session of the General Assembly. He advised the Board that August 1, 2008 is the earliest that the rule could possibly become effective, and on April 23 the stakeholder review process will begin in Raleigh. He emphasized that the areas that would be most affected by the proposed rule are those within a half mile of shell fishing waters, which involves 4% of Craven County. He also stated that the standard currently in place for Craven County is less stringent than in most parts of the state. He reassured the Board that nothing in the amendment would make a lot unbuildable. Commissioner Morris questioned the introduction of such a controversial issue during the short session of the legislature and asked members of Craven County's delegation, Representatives Underhill and Wainwright and Senator Preston, all present, if they would consider a supplemental bill should they be forced to act on the proposed legislation, which would reflect some modification.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

County Attorney, Jim Hicks, indicated that he would ask the Board to go into closed session at the end of the meeting.

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, presented the results of staff's work, at the direction of the Commissioners, to develop guidelines and a proposal to erect a monument on the courthouse grounds to honor Craven County residents in the United States Armed Forces who died while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Commissioner Allen moved to proceed with the amended project guidelines, as follows, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried.

#### **Eligibility**

1. A Qualified Veteran

Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who was killed in action or died in a combat zone as a result of combat related wound(s) or any other action, and terminated under honorable conditions.

[Original: Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who was killed in action or died as a result combat relation would and terminated under honorable conditions.]

2. North Carolina Resident

Only those veterans who are legal residents of Craven County, North Carolina (1) at the time of death, (2) for a period of at least 10 years, or (3) at the time the veteran entered the Armed Forces of the United States are eligible.

**Proof of Military Service**

The primary document used to verify honorable military service is the DD Form 214. The DD Form 214 is more commonly called a discharge of “Report of Separation from Active Duty”. Other forms of proof may be acceptable pending verification. Veterans who are unable to locate their DD Form 214 should contact the local veteran’s office or the nearest state veterans service office for assistance in obtaining a replacement copy.

**North Carolina Residency**

Verification of residence at time of entry into military service is documented on the DD Form 214. Residence at time of death and 10-year residency can be verified by North Carolina tax records, voter registration, personal income tax or property tax, employment or education records, official records from U.S. government, state or municipal agencies.

Commissioner McCabe moved to approve design #1 and to allocate \$2,850 from fund balance to execute design #1, seconded by Commissioner Allen and carried with six (6) “Ayes”, there being one (1) “Nay” from Commissioner Sisk who favored a different design.

**Special Appropriation**

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0000-399-01-00 Fund Balance	\$2,850.00	101-0190-400-96-39 Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial	\$2,850.00
TOTAL	\$2,850.00	TOTAL	\$2,850.00

**Justification:** To appropriate funds to construct a memorial for those who died in Iraq/Afghanistan.

**COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS**

*Commissioner Sampson* urged citizens to petition legislators to take some action to halt escalating gas prices.

*Commissioner Allen* came forward with a nomination to the Havelock Library Board to fill a vacancy. He nominated Joanna Wishon. There were no additional nominees and Ms. Wishon was appointed by acclamation.

*Commissioner McCabe* reported on a meeting with Commissioner Jones and Reed Smith of the Department of Transportation concerning Secondary Roads. He also reported on his attendance at the Democratic Convention on April 17.

*Commissioner Morris* commented on the upcoming end of grade tests and asked that parents be encouraged to help prepare their students for this important testing period. He congratulated the new Superintendent of Schools appointee, Larry Moser, and expressed appreciation for retiring Superintendent, William Rivenbark.

*Commissioner Tyson* announced that work had started on the stop light enhancements on Highway 70 East.

*Commissioner Jones* reported that DOT has been contacted regarding the signalization at the Greenbrier entrance. He reported on his attendance at the Voter's League Banquet and Bio-Tech Services presentation at Farm Life School regarding new products and businesses related to agriculture. He reminded the Board members of the upcoming Employee Awards Banquet on April 26.

At 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Allen moved to go into closed session for consultation with the County Attorney pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3).

The Board reconvened in regular session at 12:00 p.m. County Attorney, Jim Hicks, reported that the Board had received advice on the County's position relative to a 30 foot easement adjacent to the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, and that research will continue in order to determine what transpired in earlier conveyances.

The Board was declared in recess to reconvene at Cooperative Extension.

At 12:30 p.m. the Board reconvened and received the annual report on the activities of the Cooperative Extension Service. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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Chairman Jason R. Jones  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board