

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, DECEMBER 1, 2008. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Vice Chairman Theron McCabe
Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner Perry L. Morris
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
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 Sampson and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2008, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Election of Chairman

The Chairman asked County Attorney, Jim Hicks, to preside over the election of a Chairman. Commissioner McCabe nominated Commissioner Jones for another term. Commissioner Sampson moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Commissioner Jones was re-elected by acclamation.

Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman Jones opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Commissioner Morris nominated Commissioner McCabe for another term. Commissioner Sampson moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Commissioner McCabe was re-elected by acclamation.

Appointments of Commissioners to Boards and Committees

For the benefit of continuity, the Chairman asked all Commissioners to remain in their current positions on boards and committees, and there was no objection from the other Commissioners.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Tyson requested that budget amendments be removed from the consent agenda.

Tax Releases

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

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET #	AMOUNT
AHLBERG, DAVID DID NOT OWN 01/01/2008	2008-0091663	\$1,472.85
CLEVE, BILL CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2008-0011056	\$35.00
CLEVE, BILL CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2008-0011051	\$2.18
CLEVE, BILL & DAPHNE CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2008-0011073	\$7.12
HUMPHREY, CHARLIE M DID NOT OWN 01/01/2008	2008-0092121	\$133.35
MAMAS PIZZA ITALIAN RESTAURANT CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2008-0090614	\$357.63
MEWBORN, JOHN F & ESTHER SCE REMOVED IN ERROR	2008-0038355	\$183.08
MUSE, TOMMY & TRACIE DID NOT OWN 01/01/2008	2008-0091739	\$51.81
NARDOZZI, ANTHONY S DID NOT OWN 01/01/2008	2008-0041038	\$704.32
SAGE, ANGELA DOUBLE LISTED ON ACCT #31367	2008-0048807	\$209.18
SMITH, MICHELLE G PROPERTY VACANT	2008-0051476	\$36.00
SPIRITO, JUDY LANE DID NOT OWN 01/01/2008	2008-0092141	\$498.34
SPOONER, ANGELA R LATE PENALTY CHARGED IN ERROR	2008-0091781	\$16.23
STEVENS, E M UNCOLLECTABLE – REMOVED OUT OF COUNTRY	2000-0046087	\$63.00
THORP, JENNIFER PERRY MILIT ½ VAL. CALEB 08 LES-FL ECC-NONE (CAPT)	2008-0055194	\$85.06
TRIMMER, THOMAS R & CAROLYN S CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2008-0091876	\$935.20
WELLS, TIMOTHY AARON DID NOT OWN 01/01/2008	2008-0058714	\$245.52
WHITFORD, CASSIE H NOT IN BUSINESS 01/01/2008	2008-0090980	\$7.53
WOODRUFF FAMILY TRUST – THE BY DOUBLE LISTED ON ACCT #76336	2008-0061869	\$231.15

WOOLARD, JOYCE BARROW	2008-0091255	\$270.35
DOUBLE LISTED ON SAME ACCT		

20 – CREDIT MEMO (\$)	\$5,544.90
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Area Service Person of the Quarter

The Board was requested to adopt the following resolution recognizing Sergeant Justin E. Studler as Area Service Person of the Quarter. Commissioner Allen moved to adopt the resolution, as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION
 RECOGNIZING SERGEANT JUSTIN E. STUDLER
 AS AREA SERVICE PERSON OF THE QUARTER**

WHEREAS, Sergeant Justin E. Studler serves at the Air Traffic Control Division, Airfield Operations Department, MCAS Cherry Point, and

WHEREAS, Sgt Studler displays a superior performance of duty while generously donating his time coordinating volunteer events with the residents of Britthaven Retirement home; and

WHEREAS, through his strong leadership skills and dedication he has recruited numerous fellow Marines to volunteer their time as well; and

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2008, as a result of his countless hours of helping others, Sgt Studler was named the North Carolina Activity Professional Association’s Volunteer of the Year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners recognizes Sergeant Justin E. Studler for being an exemplary role model among his peers and an inspiration to his community and fellow Marines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners congratulates him on being selected Area Service Person of the Quarter.

Adopted this the 1st day of December, 2008.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Commissioner Tyson inquired if the \$11,170 budget amendment for the HAVA grant accounts for all funds awarded to the Elections Department. Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, responded affirmatively. Commissioner Tyson asked about the \$106,721 budget amendment for Repetitive Flood Claims, as the Board approved a bid award in the amount \$98,000 for elevation, foundation and retrofitting for this project (Bickwit property) at its last meeting. Mr. Hemphill stated that the \$98,000 approved was for construction. In addition, funds were awarded to cover ancillary costs such as relocation. Commissioner Morris moved to approve the following budget amendments, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Elections

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0604-348-00-00 State Grant	\$11,170.00	101-0604-400-73-21 ?	\$11,170.00
TOTAL	\$11,170.00	TOTAL	\$11,170.00

Justification: Additional funds awarded by State for new one stop voting.

Pass Through

101-0564-348-56-00	\$6,775.00	101-0564-450-91-56	\$6,775.00
UCB – HBT		UCB – HBT	
TOTAL	\$6,775.00	TOTAL	\$6,775.00

Justification: JCPC additional award to United Cerebral Palsy – Home based alternatives program.

Planning/Repetitive Flood Claims

101-4031-377-02-00	\$106,721.00	101-4031-430-40-00	\$5,000.00
Federal		Cont Ser	
		101-4031-430-76-01	\$101,721.00
		Construction – Bickwit	
TOTAL	\$106,721.00	TOTAL	\$106,721.00

Justification: Federal grant for Bickwit Elevation

DSS 7291 Mandated

101-7291-349-42-00	\$130.00	101-7291-450-23-42	\$130.00
Share the Warmth		Share the Warmth	
TOTAL	\$130.00	TOTAL	\$130.00

Justification: Funding authorization more than state budget estimate, no County match.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

Michael Speciale

Mr. Speciale spoke about the allocation to the James City Historical Society. He objected to the use of taxpayer funds for what he views as a non-governmental purpose. He observed that oaths of office taken by the Chairman and Vice Chairman did not reference serving citizens, which is the purpose of elected officials. The Chairman and Vice Chairman responded that it was their goal to serve all the people.

Charlie Simmons

Mr. Simmons spoke against the location of the new Judicial Center, urging that the County use the building for other purposes.

TEEN COURT PRESENTATION

Representations of Teen Court presented their annual update, as they have done in the past. Coordinator, Laurie Ochs, expressed appreciation to the County for its ongoing support. She reported that 96 volunteers were sworn in who will serve 85 misdemeanor offenders during the current year. She stated that Alex Wright, Teen Court participant, had been elected President of the NC Teen Court Association and that Craven County has won in the mock trial competition the last three years. Volunteers, Tyreece Lindsay and Paulina Jones were presented and commented on benefits of the program. Ms. Jones won title for best defense attorney in the competition. The program has raised \$1,200 to date for upcoming competitions.

TWP. #9 FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jonathan Gaskins of Twp. #9 Fire Department advised the Board of the Department's intent to purchase a new fire truck, as stipulated in the County's agreement with the Department. He stated that the Department is aware of sales tax not being received this year; however, there is no intention of raising the fire tax rate. The Department's new station will be paid off two months prior to the truck delivery. Also, the truck payment is approximately \$800 a month less than the building payment. Commissioner Morris inquired why the price of the truck is at the high end at \$381,940. Mr. Gaskins responded that the truck comes with some extras, such as a foam tank, custom cab and chasse. Commissioner Sisk inquired why there was only one proposal from a bank. He responded that rate shopping will continue until delivery of the truck. There were no objections from the Board.

APPOINTMENTS*Health Board*

At the last regular session, the Board deferred appoints to the Health Board to replace Vincent Bowers (Public Citizen), Arabelle Bryant (Public Citizen), Robert Monteiro (Physician) and Mary Ann VanVoorhees (Nurse). Commissioner Allen nominated Jennie Mangun (Physician), Gretchen Droese (Nurse) and Althesina Krutulewski (Public Citizen). Commissioner Morris nominated Reed Underhill (Physician), Rosanne Leahy (Nurse), Paul Gaskins (Public Citizen) and James Jackson (Public Citizen). Commissioner Sampson moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Tyson, and unanimously carried. For the physician position, Dr. Mangun received two (2) votes from Commissioners Allen and Sisk, and Dr. Underhill received five (5) votes from Commissioners Jones, McCabe, Morris, Sampson and Tyson. For the nurse position, Gretchen Droese received one (1) vote from Commissioner Allen, and Ms. Leahy received six (6) votes from Commissioners Jones, McCabe, Morris, Sampson, Sisk and Tyson. Commissioner Allen asked that Ms. Droese also be considered for one of the public citizen positions. She received three (3) votes from Commissioners Allen, Sisk and Tyson. Mr. Gaskins received six (6) votes from Commissioners Jones, McCabe, Morris, Sampson, Sisk and Tyson. Mr. Jackson received four (4) votes from Commissioners Jones, McCabe, Morris and Sampson, while Ms. Krutulewski received one (1) vote from Commissioner Allen. Dr. Underhill will replace Dr. Monteiro, Ms. Leahy will replace Ms. VanVoorhees, Mr. Gaskins will replace Mr. Bowers and Mr. Jackson will replace Ms. Bryant.

Appointments Due to Expire in December

The Board was advised of expiring terms on the EMS Advisory Council, Firemen's Relief Fund Board of Trustees, Cove City Library and the Regional Library. These appointments were deferred until the Board's next meeting.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT*Regional Library Agreement*

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, reminded the Board that a few months ago a State Library official advised that rules pertaining to regional libraries were in the process of being rewritten. It was recommended that efforts to rewrite the agreement which forms the Craven, Pamlico, Carteret, Regional Library be delayed until the new rules are available. Mr. Blizzard reported that the State's new rules are still not available and may not be so for some time; however, Regional Librarian, Jackie Beach has agreed to move forward in drafting a new agreement realizing that it may need to be modified after the State develops new rules. He stated that County staff will be working with Ms. Beach to include elements to address issues and concerns expressed about the current arrangement. Although it is believed that all issues can be resolved to everyone's satisfaction during this process, he advised the Board that the deadline for giving notice to withdraw Craven County's membership from the Regional Library is December 31 to be effective June 30,

2009. Commissioner Tyson expressed his understanding that the Commissioners, with the exception of Commissioner Allen, had reached consensus that the County would not withdraw, pending concerns being addressed. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with the process and reconsider the County's status at a later time if no satisfaction is achieved in a new agreement.

Request for Joint Meeting with Havelock

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, stated that polling of the Commissioners resulted in January 8, 2009 being the best date to meet in joint session with Havelock. The County Manager was asked to confirm this date with Havelock. It was the consensus of the Board to meet at 5:00 p.m., January 8, 2009 in the County Administration Building.

New Bern 300th Anniversary Request for \$250,000

Mr. Blizzard reminded the Board that a response to the New Bern Celebration \$250,000 funding request was promised by the convening of the N.C. General Assembly in January. Commissioners Sampson and McCabe expressed support for the funding in the amount of \$50,000. Commissioner Sisk expressed support for \$25,000. Commissioner Morris reported that the Tourism Development Authority had earmarked \$40,000 to the celebration for tourism promotion throughout the County, and stated that he does not support an appropriation by the Board. Commissioner Allen agreed. Commissioner Morris indicated that the request to the TDA had been \$100,000, and there is potential for another \$60,000 in the next fiscal year, contingent upon room occupancy tax revenues. Commissioner Tyson stated that any allocation by the County would be an investment, even based upon the lowest projected economic benefit of the 300th Celebration. Commissioner McCabe moved to defer consideration until the Board's next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Allen. The motion failed with four (4) "Nays" from Commissioners Jones, Morris, Sisk and Tyson, there being only three (3) "Ayes" from Commissioners Allen, McCabe and Sampson. Commissioner Sisk moved to commit \$25,000 in the FY 2009-2010 budget to the Convention Center line for use in promoting tourism in the County during 2010. Commissioner Tyson seconded the motion. Commissioner Sampson offered an amendment to commit \$25,000 for two years, with \$25,000 for 2008-2009 being appropriated from fund balance. Commissioner McCabe seconded the motion, which failed with four (4) "Nays" from Commissioners Allen, Jones, Morris and Sisk, there being only three (3) "Ayes" from Commissioners McCabe, Sampson and Tyson. The original motion carried with six (6) "Ayes", there being one (1) "Nay" from Commissioner Morris.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Tyson congratulated West Craven Eagles in their quest for State Championship.

Commissioner Morris stated that the Eagles will travel to Rocky Mount this week. He thanked Health Board members who are stepping down for their contributions during their terms.

Commissioner Allen also congratulated the Eagles on their success.

Commissioner Sampson congratulated the West Craven Eagles. He stated that heating oil is not coming down and he thanked volunteers involved in feeding programs on Thanksgiving.

Commissioner McCabe stated that fuel prices are going down, but the cost of groceries is going up.

Commissioner Jones attended J.W. Smith class last week, spoke to third grade classes on local government and listened to mock campaign speeches. He reminded the Board of the following upcoming events: Craven Community College breakfast, Christmas parades, community meeting in Jasper and ABC Board reception.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:25 p.m. Commissioner Morris moved to go into closed session, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Sampson, to discuss property acquisition pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) and to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6). At 9:44 the Board was declared back in regular session. County Attorney, Jim Hicks, announced that matters of employment and possible property acquisition for education were discussed but that no action had been taken.

At 9:45 p.m. Commissioner Sampson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board