

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 MARCH 2, 2009. 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 Sisk, the Clerk to the Board was asked to read corrections to the January 27, 2009 special session minutes. Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the minutes of February 16, 2009, regular session and January 27, 2009 reconvened session, with corrections, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

The Chairman recognized new Health Director, Scott Harrelson, and introduced him to the Board.

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 Tyson moved for their approval, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET#	AMOUNT
AMMAN, SEAN B MILITARY ½ VALUE 09 LES "MI" ECC DATE 9/5/2012	2008-0001036	\$14.13
CHATHAM, JOHN ANTHONY MILITARY – HIS NAME ONLY – LES "TX" ECC3-12-2008	2008-0010150	\$164.44
DESHANE, ERIC RODNEY DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACC# 65963	2003-0013224	\$61.10
DESHANE, ERIC RODNEY DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACC#65963	2002-0013099	\$65.46
DESHANE, ERIC RODNEY DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACC#65963	2001-0012997	\$70.88
DESHANE, ERIC RODNEY DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACC#65963	2000-0012862	\$60.77

DESHANE, ERIC RODNEY DOUBLE LISTED ON ACC#65963	1999-0090852	\$65.64
EDWARDS, KURT D & DEANNA M DWMH DOUBLE LISTED ON ACC #70693	2008-0017091	\$399.20
EDWARDS, KURT D & DEANNA M DWMH DOUBLE LISTED ON ACC#70693	2008-0090104	\$452.94
HELLEN, SUSAN L & JERIGAN, BOB SWMH LISTED ON ACC#77410	2008-0092118	\$290.58
MORRIS, TRACY CANNON DID NOT OWN BOAT/TRUCK 1-1-2008	2008-0091282	\$21.21
MORRIS, TRACY CANNON DID NOT OWN BOAT/TRUCK 1-1-2006	2006-0038564	\$27.49
PROCTOR, WILLIAM E III & MCSOR DID NOT OWN MH 1-1-2008	2008-0092093	\$43.91
WORTSMAN, MICHAEL D BOAT HAS NO TAX SITUS HERE	2008-0092156	\$7,583.98
WRIGHT, GLORIA ANN CORRECTING SCE ERROR	2008-0092054	\$198.49
15 – CREDIT MEMO (S)		\$9,520.22

Refunds

EDWARDS, KURT D & DEANNA M HOUSE REMOVED FROM PROPERTY 2006	2007-0016691	\$123.09
PECHA, MICHAEL R & HILLARY T CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2008-0043696	\$152.73-
WILLIAMS, ANTHONY R & AMARYLLI SWMH LISTED ON ACC#27827	2007-0059932	\$130.95-
WILLIAMS, ANTHONY R & AMARYLLI SWMH LISTED ON ACC#27827	2008-0091641	\$134.20-
WILLIAMS, ANTHONY R \$ AMARYLLI SWMH LISTED ON ACC #27827	2006-0091426	\$139.55-
5 – REFUND (S)		\$434.34

Budget Amendments

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

Twnp #7 Rescue & Vanceboro Vol Fire

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-2831-348-81-00 Twp 7 Rescue DOT Grant	\$20,895.00	101-2831-410-96-29 Twp 7 Rescue Pass Thru	20,895.00

241-0000-348-81-00	\$24,350.00	241-2900-410-96-29	\$24,350.00
Vanceboro VFD DOT Grant		Vanceboro VFD Pass Thursday	
TOTAL	\$45,245.00	TOTAL	\$45,245.00

Justification: Budget reimbursement by DOT for construction costs associated with paving access to entrances of new Twp. 7 EMS (\$20,895) and new Vanceboro Volunteer Fire and Rescue Dept (\$24,350).

Subdivisions for Approval

Craven County Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, submitted the following subdivisions for the Board’s approval. Commissioner Tyson moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Linister – Carmon Division – Final: The property, owned by Elizabeth L. Payton and surveyed by Gaskins Land Surveying, is located within Twp. 9 off of SR 1423 (W. Craven Middle School Road). The subdivision contains 1 lot on 1.30 acres and is proposed to be served by community water and an individual septic system.

Ronnie L. Wiggins Division – Final: The property, owned by Ruby L. Wiggins and surveyed by Gaskins Land Surveying is located within Twp. 1 off of SR 1447 (Campbell Road). The subdivision contains 1 lot on 2.24 acres and is proposed to be served by community water and an individual septic system.

William Davis Smith, Jr. Division – Final: The property, owned by William D. Smith and surveyed by Atlantic Surveying, is located within Twp. 1 off of SR 1444 (Bear Hole Road). The subdivision contains 1 lot on 2 acres and is proposed to be served by community water and an individual septic system.

Road Addition Request

The Board was requested to add Mickelson Drive and Wadkins Blvd. in the Oak Creek Estates at Carolina Pines; Didrikson Drive and Duval Lane in the River Ridge Estates at Carolina Pines located within Twp.6 to the state maintenance system and to adopt a standard SR-2 Road Addition Resolution. Commissioner Tyson moved to add the requested roads to the state maintenance system and to adopt a standard SR-2 Road Addition Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CORPORAL ROBERLAN PADILLA AS AREA SERVICE PERSON OF THE QUARTER

The Chairman asked the Board to consider the following resolution, which did not appear on the agenda, recognizing Corporal Roberlan Padilla as Area Service Person of the Quarter. Commissioner Allen moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING CORPORAL ROBERLAN PADILLA
AS AREA SERVICE PERSON OF THE QUARTER**

WHEREAS, Corporal Roberlan Padilla, as a newly naturalized citizen enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in February 2005; and

WHEREAS, he currently serves as a Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge for Audits and Unit Diary Sections aboard MCAS Cherry Point; and

WHEREAS, In November 2008, Cpl Padilla was selected as his section’s NCO of the quarter and subsequently competed and won the Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron NCO Board, which he competed and beat out NCO’s of higher rank and service; and

WHEREAS, Cpl Padilla has progressed in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program and is certified as a 1st Degree Black Belt, as well as serving as a team member for the All Marine Volleyball Team for MCAS Cherry Point; and

WHEREAS, his personal decorations include the Meritorious Mast, Certificate for Outstanding Achievement and a Certificate of Commendation; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Cpl Padilla has demonstrated a determination to achieve, despite the odds, which exemplifies the American spirit; and

WHEREAS, Cpl Padilla, together with his wife Bianca, are happily raising a daughter, Allison (6 years), and a son, Adrian (4 months).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners recognizes Corporal Roberlan Padilla for his strong dedication to the United States Marine Corps.

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 2nd Day of March, 2009.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

Marion Larabee, who resides in the Riverdale community, asked the Board to consider instituting a 287-G Program in Craven County. He stated that immigration is an issue where local law enforcement is not cooperating with federal law enforcement. He feels that a 287-G program would help to eliminate this gap.

Ray Griffin inquired of the Board as to where the lottery funds are going and stated that a closer look needs to be taken at the tax situation.

Charles Simmons addressed the Board in opposition the location of the new judiciary facility.

Ethel Raynor requested to address the Board, but was not present.

Albert Cox requested to address the Board, but was not present.

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR 7:00 P.M.

CARTS – FY 2010 Community Transportation Program Grant Application

At 7:25 p.m. Commissioner Tyson moved to go into public hearing, as advertised, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to receive public comment regarding the FY 2010 Community Transportation (CTP) grant application. CARTS Director, Phyllis Toler, stated that the total appropriation amount is \$653,663, with a \$116,809 grant match required, which will be generated by CARTS. The grant funds will replace five vehicles and three radios. There were no speakers from the public who wished to speak and at 7:25 Commissioner Sampson moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried. Commissioner Allen moved to authorize the grant application, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

Proposed Redesignation of SR 1005 (Old US Highway 70)

At 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to go into public hearing, seconded by Commissioner McCabe to receive public comment regarding a proposed County resolution to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, which would request that NCDOT change the state route designation of SR 1005 to US Hwy 70A, at a point beginning at the Jones County line, to the intersection of First Street and US Hwy 70 in

the City of New Bern. The County has no interest in changing the County street name and the resolution is predicated upon NCDOT not requiring the County to change the County street name. The followings citizens spoke in favor of the resolution:

- 1) *Lucille Potter, Cove City*, who stated that a strong motivation for pursuing this project was to advance the funding status of the road for maintenance.
- 2) *Jackie Randall of 203 East Sunset Blvd., Cove City*
- 3) *Ralph Potter, Cove City*, stated that the first two required steps in this process have been completed.
 - 1) Proposal has been made for the change, and
 - 2) Analysis by DOT to determine the criteria have been met

The third step would be a resolution of support adopted by the County. There being no other speakers, Commissioner Sampson moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried. During discussion, Commissioner Morris noted that the resolution is contingent upon DOT agreeing that a road name change will not be required. Commissioner Tyson asked Mrs. Potter who had indicated that funding for road maintenance would increase with a redesignation of the road. She stated that it was someone in Department of Transportation (DOT). Commissioner Tyson asked Mr. Potter if he is confident that the change, if approved, will not result in a decrease in funding status. Mr. Potter responded that it is not likely unless due to a result of changes in the economy. Commissioner Sisk stated that she is not entirely comfortable with the possibility that maintenance funding could decrease. Commissioner Jones inquired if language can be added to ensure that the funding status of the road would not be affected negatively. County Attorney, Jim Hicks, stated that such a clause would likely be beyond the level of commitment that the County could expect from the DOT. Commissioner Allen moved to adopt the following resolution, as amended by the County Attorney, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION OF THE
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REQUESTING NCDOT
REDESIGNATE A PORTION OF SR 1005**

WHEREAS, the Town of Dover, Town of Cove City, and City of New Bern have been by-passed with a four-laned US Hwy 70 from the eastern portion of Jones County to James City in Craven County, and

WHEREAS, SR1005 extends from that portion of Jones County to Beamans Fork in Craven County where it intersects with NC Hwy 55, and

WHEREAS, it is common practice for NCDOT to re-designate such by-passed highways with the former highway number followed by appropriate suffixes such as A or B, and

WHEREAS, re-designation of the former US 70 Hwy would serve as an alternate route for the traveling public in the event of the blockage of US Hwy 70; and proper signage along US Hwy 70 will facilitate this by directing traffic to this alternate route, and

WHEREAS, several major corporations that function both nationally and internationally will benefit logistically by better defining their locations on the Official NC State Transportation map, and

WHEREAS, re-designation of the former US Hwy 70 will promote industrial, commercial, residential, and other types of growth in and around Dover, Cove City, Tuscarora, Clarks, and New Bern, and

WHEREAS, the former US Hwy 70 has, in the past, met NCDOT design criteria for a US primary highway.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Craven County formally requests that the North Carolina Department of Transportation re-designate its state route designation for SR 1005 to US Hwy 70A, or any other designation approved by NCDOT to receive primary route designation; but only if NCDOT or any other state agency does not require Craven County to change the County’s street name, and only if such re-designation does not result in a decrease in the level of funding for maintenance and repairs by NCDOT; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the route requested for re-designation by NCDOT will be as follows: beginning at the intersection of US Hwy 70 and SR1005 in Jones County; then following SR 1005 into Craven County through the Towns of Dover and Cove City, to its intersection with NC Hwy 55; then following NC Hwy 55 east into the City of New Bern until NC Hwy 55 East intersects with First Street; and then following First Street to its intersection with US Hwy 70.

Done this 2nd day of March, 2009.

ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST

Ms. Esther Hardin, Chairwoman of the Craven County Board of Elections, requested a budget amendment in the amount \$37,470 from fund balance to cover budget overruns in certain line items as a result of the 2008 General Election. Most of the transfer (\$31,310) is needed to cover part-time salaries. The amount originally budgeted for part-time salaries was \$70,190, but \$101,500 was spent. She stated that at budget time in March 2008 there was no way to predict the turnout for the 2008 election, which necessitated the number of part-time staff. In 2008, 108 assistants were requested in the budget, and 150 were hired. The two additional one-stop sites were not factors in the need for this additional funding, as they were funded by a HAVA grant. Most of the overage occurred at the regular polling places. Commissioner Sisk moved to grant the \$37,470 to the Elections Department from fund balance, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Elections

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0000-399-01-00 Fund Balance	\$37,470.00	101-0601-400-10-04 PT Salaries	\$31,310.00
		101-601-400-11-01 Fica	\$ 4,460.00
		101-601-400-11-04 Work Comp	\$ 300.00
		101-601-400-20-0 Postage	\$ 6,550.00
		101-601-400-25-0 Travel	\$(6,000.00)
		101-601-400-32-01 Office Supplies	\$ 1,750.00
		101-601-400-32-40 Other Supplies	\$(1,750.00)
		101-0601-400-33-00 Miscellaneous Exp.	\$ 850.00
TOTAL	\$37,470.00	TOTAL	\$37,470.00

Justification: Major election caused overruns in Election line items.

Closed Session

Ms. Hardin requested that the Board convene in closed session to discuss a personnel matter. At 7:58 p.m. Commissioner Tyson moved to go into closed session pursuant to

NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6), seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried. The Board returned to regular session at 8:15 p.m. County Attorney, Jim Hicks, announced that the Board had consulted on a personnel matter but no action was taken.

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Number Seven Township EMS Request

Emergency Services Director, Stanly Kite, advised the Board that Number Seven Township EMS wishes to advance to the paramedic level of care. The EMS Advisory Council voted to approve recommendation of this change in the EMS System Plan and support Township Seven in this advancement. During discussion, Commissioner Morris inquired when the County will begin paying the squad as paramedics. Mr. Kite and County Manager, Harold Blizzard, responded that it would take effect in the next year's budget, translating to approximately \$41,000 in the 2009-2010 FY budget. Commissioner Tyson moved to authorize Emergency Services to proceed with the application to modify the EMS System Plan allowing Number Seven Township EMS to advance to the paramedic level of care, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

Crystal Coast Medical Transport

Mr. Kite advised the Board of an application for an ambulance franchise from Crystal Coast Medical Transport as soon as there is a vacancy in the current private providers. The Craven County Ambulance Ordinance is restricted to 4 private providers, and all slots are currently filled. Commissioner Allen moved to approve the application from Crystal Coast Medical Transport for an ambulance franchise, when one becomes available, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried. A second vote will be required for the granting of this franchise.

Ambu Med Ambulance Service

The Board was advised that Ambu Med Ambulance Service has left North Carolina and is no longer a credentialed ambulance service in NC. The EMS Advisory Council recommended that the Board remove Ambu Med from the approved list of providers waiting for an ambulance franchise. Commissioner Allen moved to remove Ambu Med from the approved list of providers waiting for an ambulance franchise, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

At the Board's February 16 meeting, Commissioner Morris introduced a resolution calling for a constitutional amendment defining marriage in North Carolina. County Attorney, Jim Hicks, studied the proposed resolution, along with relevant federal and state laws on marriage. Commissioner Morris moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

NORTH CAROLINA MARRIAGE AMENDMENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, marriage throughout human history has been the basic building block of society; and

WHEREAS, marriage is in fact the union of one man and one woman at one time, and it is the nature of this male/female relationship that defines marriage; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina law recognizes that, "A valid and sufficient marriage is created by the consent of a male and a female person who may lawfully marry, presently to take each other as husband and wife, freely, seriously and plainly expressed by each in the presence of the other..." (N.C. Gen. Stat. 51-1); and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of North Carolina passed a “Defense of Marriage Act” in 1996, which clarifies in statute that: “Marriage, whether created by common law, contracted, or performed outside of North Carolina, between individuals of the same gender are not valid in North Carolina.” (N.C. Gen. Stat. 51-1.2); and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress enacted a federal statute known as the “Defense of Marriage Act” which mandates that, the word ‘marriage’ means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word ‘spouse’ refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife”. (1 U.S.C. §7); and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Judicial Court of the State of Massachusetts declared in a 4-3 decision that Massachusetts legislature must provide for same-sex marriages, and whereas the State of Massachusetts began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples on May 17, 2004, and whereas the Massachusetts legislature repealed a law that prohibited marriage in Massachusetts of couples whose home states would not recognize the marriage, so that same-sex couples from North Carolina can now legally “marry” in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, the California Supreme Court ruled in a 4-3 decision that limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples was a violation of the California Constitution, and whereas the State of California began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples on May 17, 2008, and continued that practice until November 4, 2008, when voters in California overrode their court’s redefinition of marriage by passing Proposition 8 protecting the traditional definition of marriage; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2008, the Supreme Court of Connecticut ruled by a 4-3 majority that, even though same-sex couples in Connecticut can form civil unions equal in rights and benefits to marriage, denying them the right to marry violates the State’s Constitution, and whereas, on November 12, 2008 the State began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, an unknown number of same-sex couples that reside in North Carolina have already obtained marriage licenses in Massachusetts, California (before Proposition 8 passed), or Connecticut, and at any time, one or more of these couples could file suit in a North Carolina court in an attempt to convince a judge to overturn our State’s marriage laws, arguing that they unconstitutionally prohibit “marriages” between same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, without a provision in our State Constitution defining marriage as the union between only a man and a woman, any court in our State could redefine marriage by legalizing the union of same-sex couples, without a vote of the people of the State or our elected legislators; and

WHEREAS, to date, 30 states have passed Marriage Protection Amendments that place the traditional definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman in their state constitutions and beyond the reach of a court; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is the only state in the southern United States that has not protected marriage in its State Constitution by defining it as the union of one man and one woman, thus making it a target for same-sex “marriage”; and

WHEREAS, a Constitutional Amendment stating that “*Marriage between a man and a woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State*” is the strongest means of protecting North Carolina’s statutory definition of marriage and of insuring that the definition of marriage will be determined by the people of the State; and

WHEREAS, bills have been proposed in the last five sessions of the General Assembly to protect marriage by defining it in the North Carolina Constitution as the union of one man and one woman, but the leadership in the North Carolina House and Senate have denied lawmakers and the citizens of the State an opportunity to vote on these bills.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Craven County Board of Commissioners believes that it is in the best interest of the people of the County of Craven and the State of North Carolina to define marriage in the North Carolina Constitution as the union of one man and one woman at one time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Craven County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that that North Carolina General Assembly, in accordance with Article XIII, Section 4 of the North Carolina Constitution, approve legislation submitting a proposal to the qualified voters of this State, for their ratification or rejection, for the adoption of an amendment to the North Carolina Constitution stating:

“Marriage between a man and a woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State”

Adopted this the 2nd day of March, 2009.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

NC 20, Inc.

At its February 16 meeting, the Board requested additional information on the recently formed NC 20, which will “allow all 20 CAMA counties to work together jointly on problems such as stormwater regulations and, most recently, the insurance increase”. Membership dues for counties and municipalities are \$0.10 per capita, with a minimum of \$500 and maximum of \$5,000. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, stated that dues for individuals and businesses have not yet been established. Commissioner Tyson indicated that he may be interested in joining as an individual, and will gladly share information. Commissioner Sampson feels that the \$5,000 would be well-spent to protect interests of citizens, and he is in favor of joining. Commissioner Jones indicated that he may also be interested in joining as an individual. Commissioner Sampson moved to accept membership for \$5,000. The motion died with no second.

Update on ADM and State Lottery Action Taken by the State, and Impact on Craven County’s Fiscal Status

Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, provided an update and clarification of Governor Perdue’s recent announcement of the transfer of \$300 million from four different sources to the general fund to provide needed cash flow. Of this amount, \$100 million is coming from the Public School Capital Building Fund (FBCBG), the source of Craven County’s ADM and lottery proceeds that are designated for school construction. The holdings represent fourth calendar quarter distribution of lottery and ADM money in the amount of \$43 million, of which \$375,000 was due for distribution to Craven County, in addition to \$57 million in unallocated funds. He explained that the unallocated funds were awaiting project approval for a pending draw-down request from the County to pay the debt service in June. He projected the likelihood that the next two quarters’ distributions will also be withheld.

Mr. Hemphill cautioned that the ADM funds do not appear in the Governor’s proposed FY 2009-2010 budget, perhaps signaling that they will not be restored. He noted that, had the State not withheld these funds, Craven County could have covered the upcoming debt payments even with the reduced sales tax; however, should the state withhold next year’s ADM and lottery funds, the County will likely be unable to make scheduled debt payments in June 2011

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

Commissioner Allen reported on health reform group hearings, in which he has participated, and invited the other Commissioners to review his notes, if desired.

Commissioner Tyson stated that he has received numerous e-mails concerning new security rules at Crystal Coast Regional Airport. He stated that the new rules will pertain to fixed space operating facility, but will not affect general aviation and transients. He reminded the Board that Saturday, March 14 is Bowl for Kids' Sake and invited the Commissioners to join his team.

Commissioner Sampson commented on the rising gas prices and stated that he is happy that the stimulus package was approved, and feels that it will help a lot of people. He stated that now, more than ever, it is important for people to work together.

Commissioner Sisk stated that she had been impressed with the new Judicial Center on a recent tour, and inquired if anyone from Mr. Simmons' area has had an opportunity to tour the facility. Mr. Simmons rejected the idea.

Commissioner Morris stated that he and Commissioner McCabe met with fire departments concerning development of FY 2009-2010 budgets, noting they have been asked to budget at just over \$200,000 less than last year. He reported that he had asked the County Manager to research travel costs for Commissioners for the last two years. He moved to restrict all out-of-County Commissioners' travel until the Board gets a handle on the budget, seconded by Commissioner Tyson. Commissioner Sisk inquired if the proposal would restrict travel to meetings such as the NCACC Legislative Briefing. Commissioner Morris stated that the intent of the motion was that all travel for the remainder of the current fiscal year be ceased. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, stated that there needs to be clarification in the language of the motion, whether travel is to be prohibited or restricted. Commissioner Sampson commented that as an elected official he expects to be able to exercise his own judgment about the necessity of travel. Commissioner Jones stated that the Board of Commissioners must set the example; however, there needs to be more clarification. Commissioner Morris restated his motion to cease all out-of-county Commissioners' travel until the Board gets a handle on the budget. The motion failed with three (3) "Ayes" from Commissioners Jones, Morris and Tyson, there being four (4) "Nays" from Commissioners Allen, McCabe, Sampson and Sisk.

Commissioner McCabe reported on a visit to Creekside Elementary School.

At 9:20 p.m. Commissioner Allen 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