

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 6, 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
- Arey Grady, County Attorney's Office

Following an invocation by Commissioner Allen and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Morris moved to approve the minutes of March 16, 2009 regular session, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Budget Amendments

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

Register of Deeds

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-1001-357-15-00 Rod Flood Plain map	\$12,000.00	101-1001-400-45-15 Rod Flood Plain map	\$12,000.00
TOTAL	\$12,000.00	TOTAL	\$12,000.00

Justification: New ROD flood plain map fee has exceeded the original budget. Need to budget the revenue in order to pay the state.

Rescue Squads

101-0000-399-01-00 Fund Balance	\$20,000.00	101-2830-410-33-10 Cove City 90% collect	\$20,000.00
Original budget for squad s/h/b \$81,000 (90,000 x 90%) instead of \$61,000.			
101-2825-357-53-00 Nw br/crvn rescue fee	\$14,000.00	101-2825-410-33-10 nw brn/crvn 90% collect	\$12,600.00
		101-2801-410-40-03 Collection cost	\$1,400.00
101-2827-357-51-00 Ft. Barnwell rescue fee	\$6,000.00	101-2827-410-33-10 Ft. Barnwell 90% collect	\$5,400.00
		101-2801-410-40-03	\$600.00

			Collection cost
101-2828-357-49-00	\$13,000.00	101-2828-410-33-10	\$11,700.00
Bridgeton rescue fee		Bridgeton 90% collect	
		101-2801-410-40-03	\$1,300.00
		Collection cost	
101-2830-357-52-00	\$6,500.00	101-2830-410-33-10	\$5,850.00
Cove City rescue fee		Cove City 90% collect	
		101-2801-410-40-03	\$650.00
		Collection cost	
TOTAL	\$59,500.00	TOTAL	\$59,500.00

Justification: Ambulance billing fees are exceeding amount budgeted. Need to budget increase to pay squads 90%.

DSS 7201 Admin/7231 TANF

101-7231-349-28-00	\$61,500.00	101-7201-450-40-50	\$13,900.00
CPS Staff & Ovhd		Contractual Employee	
		101-7231-450-39-30	\$47,600.00
		Special Adoption	
TOTAL	\$61,500.00	TOTAL	\$61,500.00

Justification: Funds received from Special Adoption fund. Total received was \$61,500 in three increments, \$30,000, \$9,000 and \$22,500. For the first increment of \$30,000, DSS received permission to budget \$13,900 in contractual funds to allow the part time Adoptions Social Worker to remain thru the end of the fiscal year. The remaining funds are set up in an expenditure line item. Funds are awarded by the state based on the number of adoptions that are finalized, and given to DSS to use in the adoption program. There is no County match and unspent funds are to be rolled forward to the next fiscal year.

DSS 7291 Mandated

101-7231-349-50-00	\$134,275.00	101-7231-450-39-20	\$95,000.00
Med Trans Serv Adm		Medicaid Transp	
		101-7231-450-39-25	\$52,500.00
		CARTS Medicaid	
		101-7291-450-39-03	\$(13,225.00)
		Medicaid	
TOTAL	\$134,275.00	TOTAL	\$134,275.00

Justification: Funds required for mandated Medicaid Transportation Program. Reimbursement is approx 95% for regular transportation services, and 50% for direct client reimbursement (which only accounts for \$13,000 of the requested funds, the rest is reimbursed at the higher rate). The amount for the County share is being shifted from the regular Medicaid draft line item (7291-450.39-03), from where the County share of Medicaid is normally funded.

DSS – 7291 Mandated

101-7291-349-42-00	\$1,527.00	101-7291-450-23-43	\$1,527.00
Share the Warmth		Share the Warmth	
TOTAL	\$1,527.00	TOTAL	\$1,527.00

Justification: Additional funds received from the state for Share the Warmth. Funds are 100% state with no County match.

Tax Releases and Refunds

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

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET#	AMOUNT
CHRISTENSEN, HAROLD DID NOT OWN 01/01/2008	2008-0010350	\$270.43
HURT, RAYMOND HENRY & LAURA LI BOAT WAS NOT HERE 01/01/2008	2008-0028385	\$17.97
JARVIS, WILLIAM B & THODES, TI NO TAX SITUS AS OF 01/01/2007 FOR CRAVEN COUNTY	2007-0028834	\$14.96
JOLL, HAROLD R & CAROL KAY NOT TAX SITUS FOR 01/01/2008	2008-0092084	\$355.17
LYNCH, DONALD EDWARD JR BUSINESS CLOSED IN 2006	2008-0090593	\$187.32
MYATT, THOMAS & TIA MOBILE HOME BILLED ON ACCT #74354	2008-0090724	\$173.72
NOVAK, DAVID B DID NOT OWN 01/01/2000	2000-0036869	\$116.36
POWELL, TERRANCE T & PATRICIA DID NOT OWN 01/01/2008	2008-0091750	\$111.48
SUTTON, LARRY DONNELL DWELLING USED FOR STORAGE SINCE 2003	2008-0091818	\$37.26
WEST, TREMAYNE TYRONE MOVED FROM COUNTY BEFORE 7/1/2009	2009-0090009	\$40.38
WILLIAMS, ELLEN DENISE DID NOT OWN 01/01/2000	2000-0053769	\$177.36
WILLIAMS, ELLEN DENISE DID NOT OWN 01/01/2001	2001-0054114	\$180.45
WILLIAMS, ELLEN DENISE DID NOT OWN 01/01/1999	1999-0052123	\$194.33
YATES, JAMES A JR BILLED AS REAL PROPERTY ON ACCT #62823	2008-0062312	\$412.32
YOUNG, SHARON BETH BOAT DOES NOT HAVE TAX SITUS IN CRAVEN COUNTY 01/01/2007	2007-0061861	\$147.01
YOUNG, SHARON BETH BOAT HAS NO SITUS IN CRAVEN COUNTY 01/01/2008	2008-0092065	\$150.67
	16 – CREDIT MEMO (S)	\$2,587.19

Refunds

POUNDS, WILLIE JERRY DID NOT OWN 01/01/2008	2008-0091372	\$57.36
RAMSEY, MICHAEL SCOTT DID NOT OWN BOAT IN 2008	2008-0091419	\$20.66
WILLIAMS, SUSAN E CORRECTING CLERICAL ERROR IN VALUATION	2002-0055237	\$76.13
3 – REFUND (S)		\$154.15

Audit Contract

Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, provided the audit contract from McGladrey and Pullen for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. The fee of \$87,000 is reduced from \$90,000 for the prior year. The prior year was higher due to new standards from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board which were effective with the June 30, 2008 fiscal year and required additional work on the auditor’s part. Fiscal 2009 is the third year of the current agreement with McGladrey. Commissioner Allen moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the audit contract, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS – 7:00 P.M.

Code of Craven County Ordinances

County Clerk, Gwen Bryan and County Attorney representative, Arey Grady, provided a summary of updates to the new Craven County Code. Commissioner Sampson moved to go into public hearing, as advertised, to receive public comment on the newly revised Craven County Code of Ordinances, seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously carried. There were no speakers from the public who wished to speak and at 7:10 p.m. Commissioner Allen moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried. Commissioner Allen moved to adopt the newly revised Craven County Code of Ordinances, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

Gerald Finch

Mr. Finch appeared before the Board to present petitions from District 5 residents and property owners concerning local legislation to prohibit roadside hunting on Joyner Drive. There was discussion concerning the language for the bill, and Mr. Finch requested that the word “hunt” be removed from line 8 of the draft bill, to avoid prohibiting hunters from picking up their dogs along the affected roadside. The Board was requested to set a public hearing. Commissioner Allen moved to set a public hearing for May 4 at 7:00 p.m., as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Ray Griffin

Rev. Griffin appeared before the Board seeking support for the Defense of Marriage Bill, that was introduced in the General Assembly. He was advised that a resolution of support has already been adopted by the Board. He also commented on a rise in crime and implied that it is related to the new Presidential administration.

The following citizens spoke in opposition to the siting of the Judicial Center:

Sandra Simmons – Spoke against the Judicial Center and requested a guarantee of safety in the surrounding community.

Charlie Simmons, 2218 Tuscarora Rhems Road, New Bern.

Estella Bryant – Requested to be placed on the agenda but was unable to attend.

Helen Adams – Requested to be placed on the agenda but was unable to attend.

APPOINTMENTS

Planning Board

At the last meeting, the Board was advised that the term of Shelton Phillips would be expiring and the appointment was deferred. Commissioner Morris nominated Mr. Phillips for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. Phillips was appointed by acclamation.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

At the last meeting, the Board was advised that the terms of Jay Blandford, John Brazelton, Oscar Foreman, Troy Simmons, William Smith, Gerald Teel and Alvin West are expiring. The Board was advised that Mr. William Smith is now deceased and needs to be replaced. Commissioner Allen nominated Mr. Blandford, Mr. Brazelton, Mr. Foreman, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Teel and Mr. West for reappointment. There being no other nominations, all were appointed by acclamation. The appointment to the vacancy created by Mr. William Smith's death was deferred.

Fire Tax Commissioner

Commissioner McCabe nominated Leander Carter for appointment as a Fire Tax Commissioner to replace Mr. Adrian Becton, who is deceased. There being no other nominations, Mr. Carter was appointed by acclamation.

Firemen's Relief Fund Board of Trustees

Commissioner McCabe nominated Milton Everett to replace Mr. Becton on the Firemen's Relief Fund Board of Trustees. There being no other nominations, Mr. Everett was appointed by acclamation.

Board of Equalization & Review

Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, indicated a need to replace a member of the Board of Equalization & Review, Mr. William Thomas Rice, who has taken a job out of town. Commissioner Morris nominated Jimmy Smith of Ft. Barnwell. There being no other nominations, Mr. Smith was appointed by acclamation.

New Bern-Craven County Library Board and Craven Pamlico Carteret Regional Library Board

The Chairman explained that Commissioner Morris, who was recently appointed to the Craven Pamlico Carteret Regional Library Board, is ineligible to fulfill his appointment because the position must be filled by a citizen appointee serving a regular six year term on a local library board. Commissioner Morris indicated that he does not wish to serve in this capacity. Commissioner Tyson nominated Mr. Rex Bennett to the New Bern-Craven County Library Board to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2009. There were no other nominations and Mr. Bennett was appointed by acclamation. Commissioner Morris nominated Mr. Rex Bennett to serve on the Craven Pamlico Carteret Regional Library Board. There being no other nominations, Mr. Bennett was appointed by acclamation.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: N.C. – 20

At the last meeting, the Board agreed to join NC-20, a non-profit coalition of coastal counties and communities to oppose deductible, surcharge, and rate increases recently imposed by the N.C. Insurance Commissioner. At that meeting, there were questions about membership terms, representatives on the board, and the number of members.

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, reported that county membership dues are \$0.10 per capita, or a maximum of \$5,000. Membership dues are paid annually and entitle each county one seat on the NC-20 Board. Most of the 20 coastal counties have joined or indicated they plan to join the organization. If all 20 counties do not join, the coalition will go forward with the ones they have.

In addition to membership, NC-20 requested that counties adopt the following resolution supporting legislation that will delay implementation of increases in insurance that can be provided to their respective legislative delegations. The resolution would also be used by the thirteen (13) counties who are parties to legal action filed by Dare County to signify unanimity among the impacted counties. Commissioner Allen moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT
OF LEGISLATION
OPPOSING RATE INCREASES IMPOSED
BY THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER
OF INSURANCE**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance has recently approved property insurance increases for coastal communities of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, property insurance rates, deductibles and surcharges will increase significantly in coastal counties thereby imposing an unfair financial burden on property owners; and

WHEREAS, the increases approved by the Insurance Commissioner and the reasons for those increases are based on computer modeling rather than actual loss data; and

WHEREAS, further examination of these insurance rates, surcharges and deductibles by the General Assembly will ensure fair and affordable insurance rates for everyone in North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners supports the efforts of N.C.-20, Inc. to work with the North Carolina General Assembly in passing legislation that will temporarily stay insurance increases approved by the Commissioner of Insurance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly create a fair and open process to be used by the Department of Insurance for considering any insurance increases in the future.

Adopted this 6th day of April, 2006.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Sampson commented on rising crime, and stated that the problem has not just started in the last 100 days of the new administration. He questioned if we, as a Christian society, are doing our part.

Commissioner Allen wished the University of North Carolina Tarheels basketball team good luck in the NCAA championship game this evening, as did *Commissioners Tyson, Sisk and Morris*.

Commissioner Morris stated that crime has not just started but the only way to control it is for the community to bond together.

Commissioner McCabe thanked Commissioners Sampson, Allen, Jones and Sheriff Monette for attending the "Take Back" rally in Harlowe.

Commissioner Jones distributed a request from Don Horton for consideration; relative to the status of Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II. The Commissioners were asked to review the material and determine if they wish to discuss it at the next meeting. He also shared a request from Mr. Biggers in Mint Hill for a contribution for a Korean War Veterans memorial. Consensus was that private donations would be more appropriate than a County contribution.

At 7:45 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