

**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 19, 2010. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 8:30 A.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

- Harold Blizzard, County Manager
- Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer
- Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
- Jim Hicks, County Attorney
- Aaron Arnette, County Attorney's Office

Following an invocation by Commissioner Morris and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Sisk moved to approve minutes of April 5, 2010 regular session, seconded by Commissioner McCabe 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 Sisk and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

*Credits*

<b>TAXPAYER NAME</b>	<b>TICKET#</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GELLE, PIERRICK BOAT ONLY IN TRANSIT-NOT US RESIDENT	2009-0091239	\$1,434.02
MCCURRY, CRAIG S WRONG YEAR ON CAMPER S/B 1973 NOT A 2007	2009-0091279	\$137.28
TRENT NEUSE HOTEL LLC LISTED UNDER REAL-DOUBLE BILLED	2009-0056761	\$13,895.15
	3 – CREDIT MEMO (S)	\$15,466.45

*Refunds*

BELL, ADRIAN CARL DOUBLE LISTED-SEE ACCT 13434	2005-0003732	\$42.02
BELL, ADRIAN CARL DOUBLE LISTED-SEE ACCT 13434	2006-0090193	\$42.05
BELL, ADRIAN CARL DOUBLE LISTED-SEE ACCT 13434	2007-0003871	\$47.20
BELL, ADRIAN CARL DOUBLE LISTED-SEE ACCT 13434	2008-0090289	\$46.45

BELL, ADRIAN CARL DOUBLE LISTED-SEE ACCT 13434	2009-0090275	\$45.95
DSC INVESTMENTS PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE DEMOLISHED IN FEB 2004	2005-0015011	\$212.76
DSC INVESTMENTS PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE DEMOLISHED IN AUG 2006	2007-0015687	\$110.59
DSC INVESTMENTS PARTERSHIP STRUCTURE DEMOLISHED IN AUG 2006	2008-0016103	\$110.24
DSC INVESTMENTS PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE DEMOLISHED IN FEB 2004	2008-0016102	\$211.76
DSC INVESTMENTS PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE DEMOLIHSED IN FEB 2004	2009-0016022	\$211.76
DSC INVESTMENTS PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE DEMOLISHED IN AUG 2006	2009-0016023	\$74.24
DSC INVESTMENTS PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE DEMOLISHED FEB 2004	2007-0015686	\$212.76
	12 – REFUND (S)	\$1,367.78

*Budget Amendments*

Craven County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, submitted the following budget amendment for the Board’s approval. Commissioner Sampson moved for its approval, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

**CARTS – Transportation**

101-7002-348-18-00	\$(204,173.00)	101-7001-450-73-01	\$(225,550.00)
State Capital Grant		C/O over \$5,000	
101-0000-399-01-00	\$( 22,685.00)	101-7001-450-73-21	\$( 1,308.00)
Fund Balance Current		C/O \$500-\$4,999	
TOTAL	\$(225,858.00)	TOTAL	\$(226,858.00)

**Justification:** CARTS did not receive State Capital funding as originally budgeted. Funding was supplanted by ARRA grant for current fiscal year.

*Request to Set Public Hearing for Naming and Addressing Ordinance*

The Planning Board requested that a public hearing be set for May 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. to hear comments regarding a proposed addition to the official road list, including the naming of a private road, Nellie McCoy Road, located within Twp. 3 off of SR 1253 (Quinn Road). Commissioner Sampson moved to set a public hearing for May 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., as requested, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

*FY 09 CDBG-SS Contract Award*

A bid opening for the construction of a new dwelling in the CDBG-SS program was held March 17, 2010, with bids being received by Holland Construction, Clint Blanton, East Coast Lead Abatement, Capital Builders and Weeks Construction. The Planning Board requested that the contract be awarded to the low bidder, Clint Blanton, in the amount of \$68,950. Commissioner Sampson moved to award the contract to the low bidder, Clint

Blanton, in the amount of \$68,950, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

**JCPC FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Court Counselor, Robert Keeter, presented the following funding recommendations for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council for 2010-2011. Mr. Keeter indicated that he was advised to expect a 7% reduction in state funding, and the budget presented reflects this reduction. Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the recommended allocations, as presented, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>CURRENT FUNDING</b>	<b>REQUEST 10-11</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
Juvenile Restitution/Psych Services Program	\$59,475.00	\$59,936.00	\$58,336.00
Area Day Reporting Center	\$95,100.00	\$110,000.00	\$95,100.00
Resolve It Together	\$56,140.00	\$56,140.00	\$56,140.00
Teen Court	\$29,412.00	\$38,510.00	\$38,434.00
JCPC Administrative Funds	\$14,443.00		\$1,200.00
	\$254,570.00	\$264,586.00	\$249,210.00

**NEW BERN CRAVEN COUNTY RESCUE REQUEST**

On March 1, 2010 the Board was apprised of the critical financial situation at New Bern Craven (NBCC) Rescue Squad due to an insufficient number of volunteers being available to answer calls, thereby increasing costs for paid staff. The Board agreed to advance NBCC its four (4) remaining monthly payments from the County, and directed staff to review NBCC expenditure reports and staffing schedules. Mr. Bobby Willis, President of the New Bern Craven County Rescue Squad, presented the Board his perspective of the situation at the squad, and requested additional funding for the remainder of the year (May 1 to June 30). He stated that the squad currently has seven volunteers and 13 paid EMT staff. A recent training event aimed at training new volunteers did not generate enough interest to produce any results. The payroll is currently costing \$12,000-\$13,000 per month. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, stated that the County is currently paying about \$13,000 per month and would need an additional \$26,000 to get through the next two months. This is in addition to costs for repairs and tires for one vehicle, reported by Mr. Willis. Commissioner Allen moved to allocate \$30,000 from fund balance to maintain operations until June 30, 2010, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

**Rescue Squads**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
101-0000-399-01-00 Fund Balance	\$30,000.00	101-2825-410-96-35 New Bern/Craven Rescue Squad Appropriation	\$30,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>

**Justification:** To provide funding to get squad through 6/30/10; \$15,000-May, \$15,000-June.

**APPOINTMENTS***Regional Aging Advisory Committee*

The Board received a request from the Area Agency on Aging to fill two vacant positions of the three that are allotted to Craven County. The Board deferred these appointments until the next meeting.

*Adult Care Home Advisory Committee*

The Board was advised that the Adult Care Home Advisory Committee currently has up to four vacancies and was requested to appoint additional members to this Board. Commissioner Sampson nominated Ms. Carol G. Carroll to fill one of the vacant positions. There being no additional nominees, Ms. Carroll was appointed by acclamation. The remaining appointments were deferred until the Board's next meeting.

*Nursing Home Advisory Committee*

At the Board's meeting on March 15, the annual report of the Nursing Home Advisory Committee was received, at which time an appeal was made for additional members. There are currently up to an additional five positions that may be filled. These appointments were deferred until the Board's next meeting.

The Clerk was directed to place an ad to solicit volunteers interested in being considered for appointment to the Regional Aging Advisory Committee, Adult Care Home Advisory Committee, and the Nursing Home Advisory Committee.

*Zoning Board of Adjustment*

During the meeting of April 5, Mr. Alvin West was appointed as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, leaving a vacancy in the alternate position. This appointment was deferred until the Board's next meeting.

*Upcoming Appointments – May*

The Board was advised of terms on the following boards expiring at the end of May: Craven Community College Board of Trustees, Carolina East Medical Authority, Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board and Craven County Planning Board. Commissioner Sampson reported that the Medical Authority had already submitted nominations, and expressed urgency in making those appointments. Commissioner Jones moved to defer consideration until the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Sisk. Commissioner Sampson requested that the Carolina East Medical Authority appointments not be deferred, referencing the letter from the hospital nominating Norman Kellum and Charles Wethington for reappointment, and Mark Workman for appointment in the Chief of Staff position. He entered an amendment to accept the nominations without delay; however, the motion died without a second. There was discussion concerning the manner of making appointments to the Authority. The original motion carried with four "Ayes" from Commissioners Allen, Jones, Sisk and Tyson, there being three "Nays" from Commissioners McCabe, Sampson and Morris.

**REVIEW OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN UPDATE**

The notebook containing a copy of the Emergency Operations Plan was presented for the Board's review. A copy was made available in the Commissioners' Office following the meeting. Funds from last year's Emergency Management Performance Grant were used to revise this plan and make it conform to the new standards outlined by FEMA and the National Response Plan. Significant changes were highlighted for the Board by Emergency Services Director, Stanley Kite. The Plan will be considered for adoption by the Commissioners at their next meeting.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: OFFER TO PURCHASE REAL  
PROPERTY (402 QUEEN STREET, NEW BERN; PARCEL ID# 8-003-124)**

The County received and accepted an offer from Mr. Fink in the amount of \$13,000 for the property located at 402 Queen Street in New Bern (parcel ID #8-008-124), which is owned jointly with the City of New Bern. The total taxes that were foreclosed on for this property, both County and City, were \$12,673.01. The tax value is \$36,200. However, the property is in extremely poor condition and does not appear to be habitable. County Attorney, Jim Hicks, advised the Board that prior to acceptance of the offer by the City of New Bern, Mr. Fink withdrew his offer.

Receipt of a new offer in the amount of \$13,000 from Carolina Foundation Repairs, Inc for the property was reported. Commissioner Sisk moved to accept the offer of \$13,000 from Carolina Home Repairs, Inc., seconded by Commissioner Tyson and unanimously carried.

**COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: DRAFT US 70 PRIORITY PROJECTS**

Mr. Blizzard presented a copy of the US 70 Commission's Draft Priority List for the Board's review and comments or suggestions. Following are the sections that are applicable to Craven County.

**Freeway Priorities**

1. Completion of Goldsboro Bypass (TIP #R-2554BA) currently under construction
2. Construction of Pine Level interchanges (TIP #W-5107)
3. Construction of Gallants Channel Bridge/Beaufort Bypass (TIP #R-3307)
- 4.\* Construction of Williams Rd. and Airport Rd. interchanges (James City)
5. Construction of NC 11/55 interchanges (Kinston)
6. Construction of Havelock Bypass (TIP #R-1015)
- 7.\* Retrofit Eastern Craven interchanges from James City to Havelock Bypass
8. Construction of remaining Goldsboro Bypass (TIP #R-2554 A, BB, C, D)
9. Retrofit Wilsons Mill area interchanges from Pine Level to Goldsboro Bypass
10. Retrofit Princeton area interchanges from Pine Level to Goldsboro Bypass
11. Construction of Kinston Bypass/Improvements (TIP #R-2553)
12. Retrofit Little Baltimore and Falling Creek interchanges from Goldsboro Bypass to Kinston Bypass/Improvements
13. Construction of North Carteret Bypass (TIP #R-4431)

**Craven County**

1. Railroad crossing exemption south of US 17 Bridge – Lobby NC legislature to grant exemption to school buses at rail crossing
2. Median from NC 101 to Forest Hill Drive – Install plantable median with properly spaced openings.
3. MacDonald Road Crossover Closure – Close access to US 70 with access roads.
4. NC 101/Miller Road intersection improvements – Manage access near Belltown Road and EB service road, reconfigure turn lanes, and address sight distance problems
5. Trader Avenue intersection improvements – Improve turn lanes, storage and sight distance; provide wayfinding signage to westbound US 70 from Miller Boulevard
6. Williams Road intersection area improvements – Relocate Citgo/McDonalds to extend Williams Road to Old Cherry Point Road
7. Slocum Road improvements – Construct partial interchange and widen entrance to base entrance
8. Church Road Bridge Replacement – Replace Church Road bridge and connect Church to US 70 service road

Commissioner Tyson stated that the railroad crossing exemption petition submitted by Commissioners and the Board of Education is to go before the General Assembly this session. Contact needs to be made with the property owner of the Citco/McDonalds at the Williams Road and Old Cherry Point Road intersection to determine if they are willing to sell or relocate in order for proposed improvements to be feasible. His stated concerns were how to implement priorities without disrupting the local businesses. He asserted the opinion that bridge-overs should begin with Thurman Road and Taberna interchanges because the business density is less in those areas. The projected timeframe would be five years to get funding and two years to build the project. Commissioner Tyson advocated for starting further down toward Havelock in order to get ahead of the growth, as well as refining construction techniques for application in denser areas.

### COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

*Commissioner Jones* commented on the calls he has been receiving regarding the revaluation and stated that staff has done a fair job in assessing; however, he saw an increase in his own values which seems to be extreme. He encouraged complaints to be directed through the appeals process. He stated that he will not vote for a tax increase and would be willing to cut services.

*Commissioner Sisk* commented on callers that are calling her regarding the revaluation and not leaving their names. She mentioned that she would be happy to speak with them if they would stay on the line long enough. She stated that gas is \$.20 cheaper going west toward Salisbury.

*Commissioner Tyson* commented that he noticed a lot of people in downtown New Bern Saturday evening and believes tourism dollars are helping the local economy. He stated that the Tourism Development Authority reported occupancy tax is 15% above the same time frame last year.

*Commissioner Allen* stated that everyone has been paying tax on fair market value of their property eight years ago. He outlined the appeals process and commented on his current property valuation and income tax dilemmas, and stated that he intends to review his values.

*Commissioner McCabe* commented that he cannot envision taxes and water bills going up.

*Commissioner Sampson* announced DUFFEST on May 1 at Stanley White Recreation Center. He commented on the high gas prices. He recognized the City of New Bern and Swiss Bear for an outstanding job on the Broad Street project and stated that a lot of good is being done that goes unrecognized. In regards to taxes, he stated that he does not want to pay more either, but citizens must understand what taxes are paying for in services.

*Commissioner Morris* recognized Leadership Craven members in attendance. He commented that the "sticker shock" is here and that the revenue neutral tax rate would be \$.48, but cannot be finalized until all appeals are resolved. He stated that appraisal value on recent private appraisals is higher in some instances than tax appraisals. Insurance company values are a good index.

He stated that water rates must be dealt with and one option is to turn off water for a period during the day. He announced the Vanceboro Strawberry Festival April 30-May 1 and the upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Swiss Bear.

Several Commissioners congratulated the Clerk on her recent Outstanding Clerk Award.

At 10:07 a.m. Commissioner Sampson moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4), concerning industrial development, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

At 10:58 a.m. the Board reconvened in regular session with no action being reported.

At 10:59 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.