

**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, MAY 2, 2011. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Steve Tyson  
Commissioner Scott C. Dacey  
Commissioner Thomas F. Mark  
Commissioner Theron L. McCabe  
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.  
Commissioner Jefferey S. Taylor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Harold Blizzard, County Manager  
Jack B. Veit, III., Assistant County Manager  
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Director  
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board  
Jim Hicks, County Attorney

The Chairman announced that Commissioner Allen was absent due to a meeting he was attending at the White House.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Sampson gave the invocation and Commissioner McCabe moved to approve minutes of the April 18, 2011 regular session, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried.

**PETITIONS OF CITIZENS**

*Nancy Alexander*

In response to Commissioner Mark's suggestion, Merci Clinic Director, Nancy Alexander, presented an overview of the clinic's operation. She discussed community need, services offered and funding needs, and emphasized the return on investment in the clinic. She reported that the scope of the operation and patient profiles have changed over the years from a homeless population at Religious Community Services to the newly unemployed and underemployed who have lost insurance. Services are not replicated across the state. The clinic operates with a volunteer work force. A \$95,000 state grant which covers part-time pharmacist and pharmacy technicians is in jeopardy.

*Hal James, 305 Calico Drive*, addressed the Board about the budget, and advocated for listing mandatory and non-mandatory budget expenditures separately, indicating what level of participation in mandatory items is required.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REQUEST**

Superintendent of Schools, Larry Moser, presented the proposed Board of Education budget for FY 2011-2012 and the schools' funding request to the County, beginning with a review of the current year. Commissioner Taylor inquired about the impact of gasoline prices on the budget. Mr. Moser responded that the gas budget is approximately \$300,000 short for the remainder of the current year. Options for the upcoming year are being considered, such as shortening routes. Biofuels may also provide relief, but not as an immediate solution. The impact of Burmese refugees on the system was mentioned. Mr. Moser stated that the relocated Burmese are great students, well behaved and high achievers; however, the two schools in the system that did not achieve growth in the last year have a large number of these students who start out at a disadvantage but are held to the same standard in end of grade testing. Some funds were received from the state for these students. Commissioner Dacey inquired if there is a need for a take over of

transportation replacements by the County. Mr. Moser responded that Craven County's buses are servicable for the present.

Assistant Superintendent, David Clifton, presented the proposed budget figures for FY 2011-2012. The total local current expense for FY 2012 is \$23,661,902, with \$17,937,357 being requested from the County. The remaining fund balance is \$2.6 million; however, the schools are not mandated to maintain a minimum fund balance.

The proposed Capital Outlay Budget request is at the same level as for the current year.

### **CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUDGET REQUEST**

Craven Community College President, Dr. Catherine Chew, presented the proposed FY 2011-2012 budget and the funding request for the college. Some challenges that the college is facing are enrollment growth; security and aging facilities. She presented the following highlights of accomplishments:

- Federal Trio grant received for the first time this year, which provides \$1.5 million over the next 3 years
- Hospitality Program being added to academic offerings
- \$34,000 in contributions received in internal campaign this year, up from \$8,000.
- Capital projects accomplished include facility renovations to the automotive, cosmetology and welding labs, student center and parking lots.

The proposed budget consists of an Operating Fund in the amount of \$3,520,850 and Capital Outlay in the amount of \$490,823.

Capital Priorities were outlined in phases over a three-year period.

### **CONVENTION CENTER REPAIR REPORT**

Tom Admay of Engineered Foundation Solutions, who was selected to assist the County in choosing a repair method, obtaining bids for work, and overseeing repairs to correct settlement problems at the Convention Center, reviewed with the Board settlement and repair alternatives. The following possible solutions were presented:

#### **Interior:**

- Install deep foundations under the floor slab so that it will be supported on the same material as the perimeter and columns. Drilled piles would be installed in short sections to reach the marl. Helical piers proved difficult to install on the nearby Sheraton Hotel due to buried debris and obstructions, and are likely not suitable. The piles would be attached to the existing floor slab, or a new floor slab would be constructed. Estimated costs for drilled micropiles \$450,000 removal and replacement of floor slab \$500,000 duration 3 to 4 months complete closure.

Pros: Permanent fix.

Cons: Expensive and disruptive to the use of the convention center would require a shutdown of several months.

- Compaction grout the soft soils to densify them to a given depth and raise the floor slab to a more level condition. The grout, either fluid cement or urethane (like "Great Stuff" spray insulation), is injected into the ground through holes in the floor. The soils that need to be densified are the soils from a depth of about 5 to 23 feet below the floor slab. Estimated costs cement grout \$900,000, urethane grout \$1,100,000. Duration 3 months with closure of the ballroom for up to one month.

Pros: Less expensive and less disruptive, work could be performed in stages, in areas that are not rented out while events go on in other areas of the building, or between events.

Cons: Less certainty that future settlement will not occur.

- Pressure grout, also referred to as slab jacking or mud jacking, the existing floor slab to restore it to a more level condition. Pressure grouting involves injecting either fluid cement or urethane directly below the slab to lift the slab. Estimated costs cement grout \$75,000 urethane grout \$140,000. Duration one month with partial closure of areas being worked on of up to one week.

Pros: Least expensive option. Least disruptive to operation of the convention center.

Cons: Does nothing to correct the underlying problems that caused the settlement. Simply relevels the slab at the time it is done. As the soil continues to compress the slab will settle more. Possibly requiring more repairs in the future.

Note: The cost estimates above do not include replacing the carpet which would be required for all repair options.

**Exterior:**

Steps and ramps that have settled can be supported at the edges using drilled piles and slabs can be pressure grouted. Estimated costs \$80,000; duration one month with one entrance being blocked for up to one week.

Guidance from the Board was sought in determining the preferred repair method before staff begins the process of preparing and soliciting RFP's.

**RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

*River Bend Resolution*

Commissioner Dacey requested that the Board adopt a resolution recognizing the Town of River Bend. He invited Councilman Bud Van Slyke to make comments. Commissioner Dacey moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION  
RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF RIVER BEND  
FOR ACHIEVING ACCOUNTING EXCELLENCE**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of River Bend was recently awarded the State Treasurer's Government Award for Excellence in Accounting and Financial Management; and

**WHEREAS**, in a spirit of transparency and encouragement of citizen involvement in the budgeting process, the Town's leaders have developed an on-line financial dashboard allowing for the month-by-month display of revenues and expenditures, comparisons to budget and the town's total cash investments; and

**WHEREAS**, this award, in the category of municipalities with a population of 7,500 or less, was earned because of the town's solid and efficient financial operations in addition to the institution of a web-based financial dashboard created by River Bend; and

**WHEREAS**, River Bend was one of only five municipalities statewide that received this recognition.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Craven County Board of Commissioners extends its heartiest congratulations on this achievement, and commends the Town of River Bend for its efforts to promote transparent and participatory government.

Adopted this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2011.

*National Community Action Month Proclamation*

Coastal Community Action requested that the Board adopt the following proclamation in recognition of May as National Community Action Month.

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Community Action Agencies were created when the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was signed into law; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action Agencies have a 47 year history of promoting self-sufficiency for citizens of limited income; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action Agencies have made an essential contribution to individuals and families in Craven County by providing them with cost-effective programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action Agencies are needed as major participants in the reform of the welfare system as we know it; and

**WHEREAS**, welfare reform in North Carolina has benefited from the state's partnership with Community Action Agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the low-income members of our communities continue to need opportunities to improve their lives and their living conditions, thus ensuring that all citizens are able to live in dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina and the entire United States must continue to wage war on poverty by providing support and opportunities for all citizens in need of assistance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, the Craven County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim May 2011 as**

**COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH**

in **CRAVEN COUNTY** in recognition of the hard work and dedication of Coastal Community Action, Inc.

Commissioner Dacey offered an amendment to delete the last "Whereas" clause, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and carried with four (4) "ayes" from Commissioners Dacey, Mark, Taylor and Tyson, there being two (2) "nays" from Commissioner McCabe and Sampson. Commissioner Dacey offered a second amendment to add to the end of the "Now therefore" clause the following: "made possible by the generosity of the U.S. taxpayer, from whom an overwhelming majority of this organization's funds are derived", seconded by Commissioner Mark and carried with four (4) "ayes" from Commissioners Dacey, Mark, Taylor and Tyson, there being two (2) "nays" from Commissioners McCabe and Sampson. Commissioner Sampson moved to adopt the following proclamation, as amended, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Community Action Agencies were created when the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was signed into law; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action Agencies have a 47 year history of promoting self-sufficiency for citizens of limited income; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action Agencies have made an essential contribution to individuals and families in Craven County by providing them with cost-effective programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Action Agencies are needed as major participants in the reform of the welfare system as we know it; and

**WHEREAS**, welfare reform in North Carolina has benefited from the state’s partnership with Community Action Agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the low-income members of our communities continue to need opportunities to improve their lives and their living conditions, thus ensuring that all citizens are able to live in dignity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, the Craven County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim May 2011 as**

**COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH**

in **CRAVEN COUNTY** in recognition of the hard work and dedication of Coastal Community Action, Inc., made possible by the generosity of the United States taxpayer, from whom an overwhelming majority of this organization’s funds are derived.

Adopted on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2011.

**HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

This item was deferred at the request of the Craven Aging Planning Board.

**PARK SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

Recreation Director, Eddie Games, provided an overview of the Park Development Fund and the parks sponsorship program that was established in 1996, for the specific purpose of assisting in the building of Creekside Park. The Bate Foundation, which has been a contributor in the past, recently awarded \$25,000 to further develop the football field at West Craven Park, which would allow the Bate Foundation to have the field named after them under the current parks sponsorship program; however, the Foundation has requested to have the field named in honor of past Recreation Director, Jan Parker. The Board was requested to review the current sponsorship levels, consider continuing endorsement of the sponsorship program, to be applicable to all Recreation and Parks sites, and to consider the naming request of the Bate Foundation. Commissioner Mark moved to continue the program, including the special request from the Bate Foundation, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

County Finance Director, Rick Hemphill, presented the following budget amendments for the Board’s approval.

*Elections/Accessibility Improvement*

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
101-0602-348-00-00 State Grant	\$(32,767.00)	101-0602-400-73-21 C/O \$500-\$4,999	\$(32,767.00)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$(32,767.00)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$(32,767.00)</b>

**Justification:** The award from NC State Board of Elections HAVA DHHS grant funds for the purchase of 31 Four Station Voting Booths for Craven County voters has been withdrawn. Craven County had previously been notified of approval of this award and it was accepted by the Commissioners at the March 21, 2011 Board meeting.

The Chairman stated that he would like to receive more clarification in writing regarding this budget amendment.

**Tax Collections**

101-0000-301-01-00	\$315,000.00	101-0901-400-33-02	\$300,000.00
Property Tax Current Year		Refunds	
		101-901-400-40-84	\$ 15,000.00
		Contractual Services	
		Billing Postage/Print	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$315,000.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$315,000.00</b>

**Justification:** To provide funds for Board approved refunds of taxes paid and funds to pay for tax billing through the end of this fiscal year. This additional amount is needed to cover anticipated refunds for exempt property on-board MCAS Cherry Point.

Commissioner Dacey moved to approve the budget amendments, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

**TAX RELEASES AND REFUNDS**

County Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, presented the following routine requests for tax releases and refunds. Commissioner Sampson moved for their approval, as presented, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

**Credits**

<b>TAXPAYER NAME</b>	<b>TICKET#</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
DIXON, JOANN CAROL DID NOT OWN 1/1/10-SEE ACCT 1910600	2010-0090131	\$628.58
HARVEY, PARISH J & JENNIFER KE DID NOT OWN 1/1/2010	2011-0090129	\$69.99
TAYLOR, LEONARD P III BUSINESS CLOSED 1/1/2010	2010-0050457	\$7.44
THE SHOE BOUTIQUE DOUBLE LISTED – SEE ACCT 47247	2010-0050831	\$65.07
WRIGHT, DINEEN D DID NOT OWN 1/1/2010	2010-0057707	\$15.71
	5 – CREDIT MEMO(S)	\$786.79

**Refunds**

CRAYTON, DEBORAH F ORDERED BY BOARD OF E&R 4-19-2011	2010-0090546	\$260.04
DIXON, JOANN CAROL DID NOT OWN 1/1/2010	2010-0014137	\$80.38
ENGEL, STEVEN M ORDERED BY BOARD OF E&R 4-19-2011	2010-0097498	\$131.99
FIRST FLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY LLC BUSINESS ON BOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT	2010-0017154	\$39.67

FIRST FLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY LLC BUSINESS ON BOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT	2009-0018745	\$47.95
MOON UNIT INC BUSINESS ON BOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT	2006-0090577	\$330.00
MOON UNIT INC BUSINESS ON BOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT	2007-0038830	\$330.00
MULLEN, STEPHEN T SR & ARLEEN ORDERED BY BOARD OF E&R 4/12/2011	2010-0097216	\$50.57
T-MOBILE SOUTH LLC BUSINESS ON BOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT	2010-0050055	\$1,180.08
T-MOBILE SOUTH LLC BUSINESS ON BOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT	2009-0054709	\$271.57
T-MOBILE SOUTH LLC BUSINESS ON BOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT	2009-0054711	\$1,424.82
WARJAS, MICHAEL B ORDERED BY BOARD OF E&R 4-19-2011	2010-0098107	\$159.16
YAMAHA MOTOR CORPORATION USA BUSINESS ON BOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT	2009-0063381	\$563.50
YAMAHA MOTOR CORPORATION USA BUSINESS ON BOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT	2008-0062284	\$946.68
YAMAHA MOTOR CORPORATION USA BUSINESS ON BOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT	2007-0061683	\$1,326.69
YAMAHA MOTOR CORPORATION USA BUSINESS ON BOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT	2006-0059874	\$1,739.91
YAMAHA MOTOR CORPORATION USA BUSINESS ON BOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT	2010-0057950	\$463.56
17 – REFUND(S)		\$9,346.57

**APPOINTMENTS**

*Criminal Justice Advisory Board*

Commissioner Taylor moved to defer these appointments and to invite the Criminal Justice Advisory Board Chairman to the next meeting to discuss this Board. Commissioner Mark seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

*Craven Aging Planning Board*

The Board was advised at its last meeting that the term of Sylvia Gaskins would expire in May. Ms. Gaskins was initially appointed in 1997 as a caregiver/client representative. Commissioner Dacey nominated Angela Shelters for appointment to this position. Commissioner Sampson nominated Sylvia Gaskins for reappointment. In a roll call vote Ms. Shelters received four (4) votes from Commissioners Dacey, Mark, Taylor and Tyson, and Ms. Gaskins received two (2) votes from Commissioners McCabe and Sampson.

*Carolina East Medical Center*

These appointments are to be made by the Chairman, who stated that the appointments would be deferred.

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

County Attorney, Jim Hicks, explained the constitutional re-districting requirements relative to the decennial census process, stating that Craven County will need to adopt a redistricting plan prior to the 2014 election.

He presented a proposal from the Raleigh law firm of Tharrington Smith, which represented Craven County in its redistricting after the 1990 and 2000 census. The Chairman asked Commissioners to record questions for the County Attorney relative to the redistricting process to be addressed at the next meeting.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

*Commissioner Sampson* commented on the rising gas prices and urged citizens to continue to apply pressure to elected officials. He promoted volunteerism and announced a community meeting that is held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month in the New Bern Recreation office on National Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

*Commissioner McCabe* congratulated Bruce Carter, from his district, who was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys. He stated that he had an opportunity to assist with tornado damage in the Riverdale community. He announced a meeting at the Harlowe Community Center at 7:00 p.m.

*Commissioner Mark* emphasized that Commissioners represent all citizens, not just those in their respective districts. He announced Town Hall meetings on May 17 in Bridgeton from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and May 19 in Fairfield Harbor from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

*Commissioner Taylor* expressed appreciation to U.S. Troops and Navy Seals who captured Osama bin Laden. He announced that on May 18 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Emerald Country Club there will be a Red Cross Blood Drive. Interested parties may call 638-5250 for an appointment.

*Commissioner Dacey* announced that he will be holding a listening session from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on May 16 in the Commissioners' Room. He encouraged participation in receiving honor flight participants upon their return.

*Chairman Tyson* announced a meeting at Fleet Readiness Center following the regular meeting on May 16.

At 9:40 p.m. Commissioner Dacey moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried.

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Chairman Steve Tyson  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board