

**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 TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 8:30 A.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- Chairman Lee Kyle Allen

**STAFF PRESENT:**

- Jack B. Veit III., County Manager
- Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager
- Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Director
- 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 January 3, 2012 with the following correction: Line 295 “MFTF” changed to “MGTF”. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried.

**TAX RELEASES AND REFUNDS**

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

*Credits*

| <b>TAXPAYER NAME</b>  | <b>TICKET#</b> | <b>AMOUNT</b> |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| ADAMS, ALAN LYNN<br>NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2011                      | 2011-0091492   | \$212.19      |
| ADDINGTON, CHRISTOPHER JAMES<br>VALUE CORRECTION                  | 2011-0091913   | \$75.42       |
| BENEDETTO, MARGARET D<br>PARCEL QUALIFIES FOR USE VALUE           | 2011-0004288   | \$3,046.84    |
| BORCHARDT, WILLIAM H<br>DOUBLE BILLED – SEE ACCT 87266            | 2011-0091926   | \$13.12       |
| CRANDALL, STEVEN R &<br>DWELLING UNOCCUPIED 2010                  | 2011-0012797   | \$36.72       |
| CUSTOM YACHT INTERIORS & DESIGN<br>DOUBLE BILLED – SEE ACCT 82316 | 2011-0091940   | \$14.71       |
| DELANEY, EILEEN<br>DID NOT OWN 1/1/2011                           | 2011-0091943   | \$78.93       |

|  |              |            |
|--|--------------|------------|
| DUNEVANT, MARY H<br>SCE ADJUSTMENT RELEASED IN ERROR               | 2011-0016410 | \$275.42   |
| DUNN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC<br>DWELLING UNOCCUPIED               | 2011-0092127 | \$73.44    |
| GASKINS, CLARENCE JR HEIRS ET<br>DWELLING UNOCCUPIED SINCE 2009    | 2011-0021103 | \$36.72    |
| GRADY, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN JR &<br>VALUE CORRECTION PER BILL OF SALE | 2011-0091977 | \$143.75   |
| GREY, ROBERT<br>BOAT VALUE CORRECTION                              | 2011-0091978 | \$896.38   |
| HATCH, ALAN & TONIA<br>BOAT HAS NOT TAX SITUS IN CRAVEN CO         | 2011-0091984 | \$752.49   |
| ISBELL, JOSHUA W & MELISSA<br>DOUBLE BILLED – SAME ACCOUNT         | 2011-0091760 | \$1,129.10 |
| MAHAFFEY, JEFFREY D & TERESA M<br>MILITARY EXEMPTION               | 2011-0091839 | \$282.59   |
| MASSETTI, WAYNE F<br>VALUE CORRECTION FROM 2010                    | 2011-0037017 | \$67.39    |
| NORELLI, ANNE MARIE<br>DID NOT OWN 1/1/2011                        | 2011-0042962 | \$117.79   |
| O'BRIEN, STEPHEN W<br>DOUBLE BILLED – SEE ACCT 50068               | 2011-0043290 | \$17.77    |
| O'BRIEN, STEPHEN W & CATHERINE<br>DOUBLE BILLED – SEE ACCT 50068   | 2011-0043347 | \$16.72    |
| RICHARDSON, ARMENIA HRS<br>FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED         | 2010-0090182 | \$292.72   |
| SIMMONS, ETHEL HEIRS<br>DWELLING UNOCCUPIED SINCE 2001             | 2011-0052024 | \$36.00    |
| SMITH, WILLIAM DAVIS JR<br>DWELLING IS STORAGE ONLY                | 2011-0053256 | \$36.72    |
| SUTTON, JOHN M JR & ANNIE<br>BOAT HAS NO TAX SITUS IN THIS CO.     | 2011-0092085 | \$895.69   |
| TRENT RIVER BUILDERS INC<br>RIGHT OF WAY TRANSFERRED TO DOT        | 2011-0057761 | \$19.81    |
| TRENT RIVER BUILDERS INC<br>RIGHT OF WAY TRANSFERRED TO DOT        | 2011-0057756 | \$6.51     |
| TRENT RIVER BUILDERS INC<br>RIGHT OF WAY TRANSFERRED TO DOT        | 2011-0057755 | \$34.82    |
| TRENT RIVER BUILDERS INC<br>RIGHT OF WAY TRANSFERRED TO DOT        | 2011-0057754 | \$16.46    |
| TRENT RIVER BUILDERS INC<br>RIGHT OF WAY TRANSFERRED TO DOT        | 2011-0057752 | \$15.11    |

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|---|---------------------|------------|
| WHITFIELD, ROSANA<br>VACANT SINCE 2001                              | 2011-0061956        | \$36.72    |
| WILSON, TROY E & AMY M<br>APPRAISAL ERROR CORRECTION                | 2011-0091560        | \$346.14   |
| Z BEST COMPANY INC<br>BUSINESS NOT IN CRAVEN COUNTY                 | 2011-0092117        | \$7.96     |
| ZAYTOUN & RAINES CONSTRUCTION<br>DWELLING VACANT SINCE CONSTRUCTION | 2011-0064688        | \$36.72    |
|   | 32 – CREDIT MEMO(S) | \$9,068.87 |

***Refunds***

|   |               |            |
|---|---------------|------------|
| DUNEVANT, MARY H<br>SENIOR EXCLUSION RELEASED IN ERROR            | 2010-0014879  | \$270.02   |
| KEENE LEE WAIDNER & PENELOPE M<br>APPRAISAL ERROR CORRECTION      | 2011-0031613  | \$202.33   |
| LITTEKEN, ARNOLD H JR & LITTEK<br>DOUBLE BILLED – SEE ACCT #86684 | 2011-0034924  | \$39.61    |
| SCHWANDA, RUDY T & YOKO U<br>APPRAISAL ERROR CORRECTION           | 2011-0050973  | \$147.66   |
| TOLER, JOYCE D & LOUIS EARL<br>DWMH DOUBLE BILLED                 | 2011-0091631  | \$108.56   |
| WARD, JAMES CARLTON & ERMA D<br>UNOCCUPIED SINCE 2005             | 2006-0055494  | \$32.00    |
| ZIMMERLY, MARIE ANITA<br>VETERAN EXCLUSION CORRECTION             | 2011-0064780  | \$259.98   |
| ZIMMERLY, MARIE ANITA<br>VETERAN EXCLUSION CORRECTION             | 2010-0058286  | \$259.98   |
|   | 8 – REFUND(S) | \$1,320.14 |

**PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

Teresa Ellen, Public Health Nursing Supervisor with the Craven County Health Department, presented copies of the department’s Community Health Assessment to the Board. She explained the process, which is required to be done every four years, based upon geographic, demographic, historical, sociological, and health data.

The purpose of the assessment is to direct the county in determining what health care priorities to focus on for the next three to four years. Obesity, heart disease and cancer were shown to be the top priorities. The Health Department will now collaborate with its health partners in the community to address these priorities. The Board invited Ms. Ellen back for the February 20 meeting to discuss the report after the Board has had a chance to study it.

**CROATAN NATIONAL FOREST UPDATE**

Pancho Smith, new District Ranger at the Croatan National Forest introduced himself to the Board and provided an update on the 160,000 acres of the Croatan which he

supervises. He extended an invitation to the Commissioners to visit the Ranger Station at their convenience.

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPDATE**

Mark Beard, new Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Craven County, introduced himself to the Board and expressed enthusiasm for working for the people of Craven County. He announced the closing of the 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> houses two weeks ago and stated that they are looking for partnership opportunities should any arise with the County. Commissioner Dacey stated that the CDBG Scattered Site Program is winding down and the Board is seeking a new model for community involvement in addressing individual housing needs. Habitat for Humanity also has a satellite pilot program for repairs to existing homes. Habitat assistance is not a grant, but is a low interest loan, with 250 hours of sweat equity required of homeowners.

### **REQUEST TO SET SALARY OF REGISTER OF DEEDS**

As authorized by North Carolina General Statute 153A-92, the Craven County Board of Commissioners may adjust salaries, allowances and other compensation for the Sheriff and Register of Deeds positions. Human Resources Director, Joan Harrell, advised the Board of the requirement to give notice of intention for adjustment no later than fourteen (14) days before the last day for filing notice of candidacy for the office. The last day for filing for the 2012 election for Craven County Register of Deeds is February 29, 2012, with the deadline for the fourteen day requirement being February 10, 2012. Following the election and after the successful candidate takes office, the Commissioners retain the right to adjust the minimum starting salary upward in accordance with the years of related experience held by the successful candidate. Ms. Harrell recommended that the starting salary for the Register of Deeds' position be set at \$38,000.00.

Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the following resolution with the proposed notice of adjustment in salary for the elected office of Craven County Register of Deeds, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

### **RESOLUTION GIVING NOTICE TO ALL CANDIDATES FOR THE REGISTER OF DEEDS POSITION IN CRAVEN COUNTY**

The Craven County Board of Commissioners, as authorized by North Carolina General Statute 153A-92, has set the starting salary for the Register of Deeds position as provided below. This will affect the individuals elected to this office, when they take office. All other compensation elements including expense allowances are as set forth in the Craven County Personnel Resolution.

The starting salary for the Register of Deeds position will be \$38,000.00 annually. This Resolution will not be altered or amended until after the person elected as Register of Deeds in the 2012 election takes office. Thereafter, the Board of Commissioners may adjust the starting salary of the candidate elected considering the years of service and performance in related experience of the person elected.

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MCAS CHERRY POINT, FRC EAST AND F-35-B JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER**

County Manager, Jack Veit, presented the following Resolution in Support of MCAS Cherry Point, FRC East and F-35-B Joint Strike Fighter, for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Mark moved to adopt the resolution, as presented, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF  
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT,  
FLEET READINESS CENTER EAST, AND  
THE F-35B JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER**

**WHEREAS**, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (MCAS Cherry Point) and the Navy's Fleet Readiness Center East (FRC East) impact Craven County by directly contributing nearly \$2,000,000,000 annually to the regional economy; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 42,000 citizens of Craven County are connected to MCAS Cherry Point and FRC East as active duty personnel, civilian employees, retirees, or their family members; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Marine Corps desires to station eight squadrons of F-35B Joint Strike Fighters at MCAS Cherry Point to replace the AV-8B Harrier and EA-6B Prowler squadrons; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critically important for the North Carolina Congressional Delegation and the Department of Defense to be informed about the extent of community support for MCAS Cherry Point as the principal home base location for the eight squadrons of F-35B Joint Strike Fighter fighters; and

**WHEREAS**, FRC East is a key military depot that serves as the Department of Defense's Vertical Lift Center of Excellence and the proficiency of the talented work force extends throughout the facility's full range of aviation maintenance, repair, and overhaul workload; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Defense is evaluating its military strategy and budgets in preparation for budget cuts or a Congressional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Craven County has been a leader in the effort to defend and promote MCAS Cherry Point and FRC East during three previous BRAC rounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the Craven County community are intensely concerned about developments that impact the future of MCAS Cherry Point and FRC East.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Craven County Board of Commissioners endorses MCAS Cherry Point as the principal home base location for at least eight F-35B Joint Strike Fighter squadrons as soon as possible; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina Congressional Delegation to fully support the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter acquisition program and provide the Congressional appropriations and authorizations necessary to make stationing at MCAS Cherry Point possible; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Department of Defense give full consideration to the unwavering, long-term support of the Board of Commissioners and other community organizations for MCAS Cherry Point and the Marine Corps; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners pledges to support the Marine Corps and Navy in planning for and providing the necessary community infrastructure, encroachment mitigation, facilities, and services in support of the deployment of F-35B Joint Strike Fighter squadrons and FRC East's missions.

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012.

Mr. Veit encouraged municipalities within the County to adopt similar resolutions of support. Commissioner Dacey stated that the Department of Defense is facing a significant drawdown of \$489 billion over the next ten years, and potentially another

\$600 billion. Consequently, the County engaged the services of Cassidy & Associates to promote the County’s interest in protecting MCAS Cherry Point and FRC East.

**DOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST**

Dover Fire Chief, Brad White, advised the Board of the Dover Fire Department’s plans to refinance a current debt of \$35,000 remaining on an existing loan. The loan was taken by the department when it operated as an entity of the Town of Dover, and needed to be refinanced as a result of the department’s recently formed corporation. The contract with the County required that the Board of Commissioners be informed of the financing.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

County Finance Director, Rick Hemphill, presented the following budget amendments for the Board’s approval. Commissioner Sampson moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

*DSS 7295 Senior*

| <b>REVENUES</b>                    | <b>AMOUNT</b>   | <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                          | <b>AMOUNT</b>   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| 101-0000-399-01-00<br>Fund Balance | \$222.00        | 101-7295-450-39-37<br>Title IIID Health Prom | \$222.00        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>\$222.00</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>\$222.00</b> |

**Justification:** Full amount of County match not budgeted at the beginning of fiscal year.

*DSS 7295 Senior*

|                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 101-7295-349-63-0<br>General Purpose | \$(294.00)    |
| 101-00-399-01-0<br>Fund Balance      | \$ 294.00     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>\$0.00</b> |

**Justification:** Funding allocation was less than original anticipated. Funding received from Area Agency on Aging.

**WATER SUPPLY EXPANSION UPDATE**

Tim Baldwin of McKim & Creed made a PowerPoint presentation to update the Board on the status of water supply initiatives. He explained the project scope and the initial expansion of two to three million gallons per day. The final project is set for completion in 2016.

At the request of Commissioner Taylor, the presentation will be available for viewing on the County website.

Mr. Baldwin stated that decisions will need to be made by the County relative to well sites acquisition, design authorization and planning loan applications for funding.

**APPOINTMENTS**

*Craven County Clean Sweep Committee*

Commissioner Taylor nominated Raymond Ryan Birch to the Clean Sweep Committee. There being no additional nominees, Mr. Birch was appointed by acclamation.

*Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority*

These appointments were deferred.

*Board of Equalization and Review*

Commissioner Taylor reported that Jimmy Smith, who has only served on the Board for two years, is interested in continuing to serve. In order to balance the geographic distribution on this board, Commissioner Dacey asked that the Commissioners from Districts One, Five and Six seek nominees from their districts.

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

*Offer to Purchase Real Property (817 West Street, New Bern; Parcel ID #8-0007-227)*

The Board considered an offer from the United Missionary Baptist Church in the amount of \$2,000 for the property located at 817 West Street in New Bern, which was acquired as a result of a joint tax foreclosure and is owned jointly with the City of New Bern. The tax value is \$3,130.00. Commissioner Tyson moved to accept the bid for \$2,000, as recommended by the County Attorney, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried.

Once no further upset offers are timely received, the County and City may accept or reject the final bid, should the City of New Bern also approve this offer.

*Offer to Purchase Real Property (432 Bay Bush Road, Vanceboro; Parcel ID #1-067-036)*

The Board considered an offer from Keith Henry, in the amount of \$800.00 for the property located at 432 Bay Bush Road in Vanceboro, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The taxes due and costs that were foreclosed on for this property totaled \$3,537.30. Although the tax value was \$13,500 at the time of the foreclosure, the Tax Department has subsequently reassessed the tax value at \$3,870.00 due to the property's size and configuration. Mr. Henry is an adjacent property owner. County Attorney, Jim Hicks, requested that the Board go into closed session under attorney/client privilege, pursuant to 143-318.11(a)(3), in regards to this matter.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

*Commissioner Sampson* expressed concerns about senior citizens in the community. He stated that he visits the retirement homes to update elderly residents on what is going on and he encouraged more citizens to get involved. He commented on the high gas prices and reported on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day activities over the holiday weekend. He acknowledged Denise Dale, Ronnie Lovett, Evelyn Fisher, Parshee Fleming, Linda Godette, Irlie Brazzle, Deves Toon and Victor Taylor, among others, for their efforts in coordinating the events.

*Commissioner Taylor* reported that he had just been informed of another accident involving a Sheriff's Department vehicle. He announced an upcoming community meeting at Dover Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on February 7, and encouraged attendance at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Marine Corps taking place on January 27 at the Havelock Tourist Center.

*Commissioner Dacey* announced that he would hold a Town Hall meeting in River Bend on Friday, January 27.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 9:39 a.m. Commissioner Sampson moved to go into closed session to discuss negotiations for property acquisition, under the authority of NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) and for consultation with the County Attorney pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3). Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion.

At 11:06 a.m. Commissioner Tyson declared the Board back in regular session, seconded by Commissioner Taylor. County Attorney, Jim Hicks, reported that he had received counsel on negotiations for the disposition of property at Bay Bush Road and acquisition of property relative to a school site and water supply distribution.

**PRESENTATION BY CASSIDY AND ASSOCIATES**

Jamie Norment of Ward and Smith, P.A., introduced Terry Paul, Director of Defense Section at Cassidy & Associates, who updated the Board on the firm's activities on behalf of the County. Also present from the firm were Shawn Edwards and Steve McKnight. They discussed efforts to protect the future of MCAS Cherry Point and Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) East in the upcoming rounds of Base Realignment and Closure. The delegation planned to visit Cherry Point following the presentation to develop talking points for General Robling's upcoming visit, stressing the importance and efficiency of MCAS Cherry Point and FRC East operations.

The Cassidy consultants recommended that the three unions on board Cherry Point use their leverage to promote the message on a national level, and encouraged the community to seek additional missions that the base may fulfill to add value to its viability.

At 12:40 p.m. Commissioner Taylor moved to recess until 9:30 a.m. on January 20, 2012. Commissioner Tyson seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

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Chairman Lee Kyle Allen  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board