

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS REGULAR SESSION OF OCTOBER 21, 2013 AT 10:15A.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Scott C. Dacey
Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner Theron L. McCabe
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Commissioner Jefferey S. Taylor
Commissioner Steve Tyson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vice Chairman Thomas F. Mark

STAFF PRESENT:

Jack B. Veit III, County Manager
Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager – Operations/Facilities
Richard F. Hemphill, Assistant County Manager – Finance/Administration
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
Amber Parker, Human Resources Director
Jim Hicks, County Attorney
Aaron Arnette, County Attorney Associate

UPDATE ON NORTH CAROLINA'S EASTERN REGION

John Chaffee, President and CEO of North Carolina's Eastern Region (NCER), made a presentation to the Board and answered questions regarding the current status and the future of the Eastern Region.

Effective June 30, 2014, NC Eastern Region will be dissolved and its economic development activities will transfer to its private, not-for-profit entity, NC Eastern Alliance (NCEA). As of that date, the trust fund created by license plate fees will revert to the counties. The state's contribution will revert to the state unless borrowed by June 30, 2014. He explained that the economic development effort follows a cluster approach, with the major clusters being advance manufacturing, value added agriculture, life sciences, logistics, and marine trades. He also noted that the aerospace industry has great potential for further growth. Improvement in the quality of the workforce, and career readiness demonstrated through certification as a Certified Work Ready Community are key components in considerations to locate a business. He stated that Edgecombe, Lenoir, Pitt and Wayne Counties are certified work ready communities. Fifty percent of the County's top 20 employers must declare that a Certificate of Readiness is a requirement in order for it to become a Certified Work Ready Community, and Craven County needs just one more declaration.

Mr. Chaffee stated that a County can petition to borrow more than the amount in its trust fund through negotiation with another county. The Chairman requested clarification in writing concerning the June 30, 2014 deadline for borrowing.

The leadership of NCER/NCEA is seeking to have Craven County join NCEA, and would, in that case, need an appointee from the County. Mark Griffin is continuing to serve on the NCER Board at this time.

County funds are approximately \$1.2 million, which is \$1.8 million less \$576,000 of the state's contribution.

Commissioner Taylor suggested that NCEA local private fundraising activity could be in conflict with local efforts of the Committee of 100. Mr. Chaffee stated that NCEA would be sensitive to such potential for conflict and would decline in cases where a local organization's funding is threatened.

Commissioner Taylor inquired if NCER is working with the County effort concerning MCAS Cherry Point protection. Mr. Chafee responded that efforts would be to reinforce what is being done locally.

Economic Development Director, Timothy Downs, was directed to meet with Mr. Chaffee and make a recommendation to the Board about going forward.

JUDICIAL CENTER STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT

At the Board's regular session on September 16, the Chairman distributed the report of the Judicial Center Study Committee. Committee Chair, David McFadyen, discussed the study results with the Board.

Video Conferencing for First Appearances

Mr. McFadyen emphasized that the County must collaborate with judges and Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to select a system for video conferencing. The AOC must approve any system that is chosen. The projected cost is approximately \$30,000 per courtroom. The three inmate groups whose transport could be impacted by video conferences are:

1. Those who are scheduled in District Criminal Court for first appearances;
2. Those who appear in District Criminal Court, operating two days per week for probation violations; and
3. Those who have matters before Criminal Superior Court.

He stated that Criminal District Court, which operates five days a week for first appearances, should have priority as producing the highest benefit of video conferencing if all three recommended courtrooms cannot be funded.

The Committee did not recommend setting court dates at the Judicial Center among inmate populations currently being transported; however, it did recommend that the County seek the necessary approval for use of the Judicial Center courtroom as a satellite court facility, to be used at the discretion of the Senior Resident and Chief District Court Judges. This usage would be an option for court sessions that hold over beyond the scheduled dates and for use by other administrative and governmental entities.

Placement of Magistrates

The Committee's recommendation is that the County move forward with the installation of a video conferencing system for the purpose of holding first appearances for use of the Criminal District Courtroom, Criminal District, Probation Courtroom and Criminal Superior Courtroom, with Magistrates located at the Judicial Center after hours only. Staff was directed to return to the Board at the next meeting with a resolution or an appropriate document to petition for authorization to use the Judicial Center courtroom as a satellite courtroom.

County Manager, Jack Veit, advised the Board of a request by the City of Havelock for assistance with their new courtroom that is being built, specifically finances related to security features.

HIGHWAY 70 CORRIDOR GROWTH ANALYSIS

Assistant County Manager of Operations/Facilities, Gene Hodges, presented data and analysis related to the barriers to development along the Highway 70 East corridor between James City and Riverdale. Approximately 319 potentially developable acres have been identified in this area. He reported that the corridor is restricted regarding future development due to soil types and the ability to acquire water and sewer permits. Consequently, there has been discussion with the City of New Bern to establish an ETJ along the corridor from the railroad spur to Fisher Road. The City is willing to provide utility infrastructure access, at a cost of \$750,000 contribution toward construction costs. The area of the airport, because it is already zoned, would not be affected by any land use restrictions that would result from such action.

The following concerns were discussed:

- What the City of New Bern would be able to regulate (planning, zoning and inspections regulations)
- The precedent
- Adequacy of capacity moving forward
- Justification for the investment of \$750,000 in increased tax base
- Increased traffic congestion resulting from development

The County will continue discussions with the City of New Bern concerning solutions to the challenges facing development of this corridor.

At 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Taylor moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

Scott C. Dacey
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board