

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, JUNE 3, 2013. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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

Following an invocation by Commissioner Mark and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the agenda, with deletion of Item #13, closed session, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried. Commissioner Mark moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2013 regular session, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY 2013-2014 BUDGET

A public hearing was held, as advertised, to receive public comment on the proposed FY 2013-2014 Craven County budget, which has been available for public inspection in the County Commissioners' Office at the Craven County Administration Building since May 20, 2013.

Chairman Dacey introduced the public hearing with the following statement, and advised the public of a four minute time limit per speaker. He declared the Board in public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

**Statement of Scott Dacey, Chairman, Craven Board of County Commissioners
June 3, 2013**

On May 20th, the County Manager and his staff presented to the Craven County Board of Commissioners their proposed budget for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year. As proposed, the budget would spend \$97,961,248. Additionally, the property tax level would remain unchanged at 47 cents per one-hundred dollars of valuation, \$940 on a home with a tax value of \$200,000.

Since the presentation of the budget Commissioners held four open meetings to review the County Manager's recommendation, line by line. During this process Commissioners also met with several agency managers where significant levels of change were being proposed.

Tonight, the Craven County Board of Commissioners brings forward to the public a budget meets a series of principles:

- In working to promote common-sense job creating policies, the budget is moving forward with our economic development efforts
- With the goal to incentivize savings instead of rewarding waste, the budget continues the merit base compensation program
- In an effort to reduce regulatory burdens, the budget provides for a system to record deeds online, making our Register of Deeds office more business friendly

- And finally, in an effort to utilize technology to deliver services more effectively at a lower cost, this budget provides funds to allow online reservations to be taken for the rental of county recreational facilities and provides funds to acquire permitting software – allowing contractors to follow their pending permits online.

Collectively, we sought to produce a budget that is fair to both the users of our services and the taxpayers who support those programs.

The budget presented to you this evening largely reflects the initial budget as presented to the Board by the County Manager. However, we have funded a series of programs that fulfill the mission of the county but do so outside of the government itself, including:

Promise Place – a shelter for abused children \$20,000

Merci Clinic - \$25,000

Coastal Women’s Shelter - \$25,000

Religious Community Services - \$10,000

Each of these programs provide a service to the community that would otherwise fall upon government to provide, at a great savings to the taxpayer.

Finally, we have accepted additional funds from the Alcohol Beverage Control Board, beyond those that are annually transferred to the County. Approximately, \$410,000 of additional funds will be transferred over to the county.

With these modifications, I am pleased to announce that the budget being presented tonight is in balance and will allow the taxpayers some modest relief as we propose to drop the property tax rate to 46.75 cents per one hundred dollars. As such, over the past two years this board will have decreased the tax rate by over one-half cent on an ad valorem basis. (47.28 to 46.75) Also, the ABC funds will allow us adopt a budget that balances without tapping into our fund balance, a common practice for many local governments.

To be sure, there have been issues raised that present the Board with concerns. For example, during our deliberations we were presented with data from the County’s Aging Planning Board demonstrating that, based on list of priority eligibility, a number of individuals who are currently using the congregate meal program in Havelock and Harlowe fail to meet the federal and state criteria, required to maintain this program in those two communities.

We need to understand the County has historically based this program upon the amount of funds made available under the Home Community Care Block Grant, a combination of both state and federal. These funds have been reduced due to sequestration and state cutbacks. 77As such, in an effort to appropriately allocate the diminished funds, the Aging Planning Board developed criteria for prioritization, restricting the number of people who qualify for the meal service and other home and community care services provided in Craven County.

Specifically, the Aging Planning Board, a board that is comprised of representatives from a diverse group of organizations, each with the mission of making certain the elderly within our community are provided with the care and respect they deserve, found that in Havelock of 184 people taking advantage of the program, only 12 met the established priority eligibility criteria required for participation. In Harlowe, only 4 of 29 registered participants met the established criteria. While the others all likely have a level of financial need, their inability to prepare meals for themselves or achieve basic life-skill were not identified through the data screening.

In the end, it was the recommendation of the Aging Planning Board that in order to protect the legitimacy of the meals program for the county as a whole, it would be necessary to curtail this program in those communities where the criteria-based need failed to present itself and those resources would be re-directed to those areas within our community where the data demonstrated additional need. The Craven County Board of Commissioner has concurred with this recommendation.

We appreciate the hardship this decision may present to some within our community. However, I am mindful that Craven County is a strong and giving community with many charitable and religious organization that have given of their time and resources to those in need. To this end, I

have asked that our staff begin reaching out to the various faith-based organizations in Havelock and Harlowe to let them know of the need that exists within our community to see if they can be helpful.

I would hope that the community understands the distinction that is being made by both the Aging Planning Board and this board. We are fully supportive of efforts to promote services to those who are unable address their own needs due to a physical or mental disability and who have little or no family support structure to assist them, but the taxpayer should not be expected to provide meals to every person within our community who finds themselves financially unable to meet their needs. Programs for those individuals should be provided by neighbors, family members or through private or charitable contributions.

I want to thank the entire staff for all of their efforts in developing the budget this year. Their dedication and professionalism is without compare and we respect their work tremendously.

With that, I would like to invite those who have signed up to speak, we will start the hearing.

The following citizens spoke:

1. *Bob Brown, 3000 Magnolia Drive*, representing the Veterans Council, spoke to support the Council's request for funding.
2. *Rick Hopkins, 3827 Canterbury Road, Trent Woods*, spoke about services included in the budget that he does not understand, and which he considers unjustified, specifically Maternity, Breastfeeding, and Family Planning lines in the Health Department budget.
3. *Michael McMillan, Religious Community Services, 714 Pollock Street*, expressed sincere appreciation for the proposed allocation to RCS. He cited over 20,000 hours of volunteerism last year that benefitted the agency.
4. *George Liner, Havelock Commissioner, 203 Cambridge Court, Havelock*, spoke in support of continuing the congregate meals program at Havelock Senior Center, stating that an across-the-board reduction in funds would be understandable, and preferred over the elimination of two sites. He expressed concern that the eastern end of the County will not be served.
5. *David Smith, Havelock Parks and Recreation*, yielded his time to George Liner to complete his presentation. He requested consideration of congregate meal options for Havelock.
6. *Nancy Murdoch, 309 Deacon Court*, discussed the constitutional responsibility of government.
7. *John Wetherington, Mayor of Dover, 119 N. West Street*, stated that Dover needs money to fix a building for the civic center and library. They are also in need of a walking track.

At 7:35 p.m. the public hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PRIVATE ROAD NAMING

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving input from citizens regarding the proposal to name Edith Lane, a private road in Craven County (Twp. 5). A petition was signed by 100% of the road's residents.

At 7:35 p.m. the public hearing was declared open. There were no speakers and at 7:36 p.m. the public hearing was declared closed. Commissioner Mark moved to approve the private road naming, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

PETITION OF CITIZEN: RAY GRIFFIN

Mr. Griffin spoke to the Board about governmental issues relative to prayer.

MILITARY FAMILY OF THE QUARTER RESOLUTION

The Board received a request to adopt the following resolution, honoring the family of Brian D. Lewis, as Military Family of the Quarter.

Commissioner Tyson moved for adoption, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried. Commissioner Mark agreed to attend a recognition luncheon on Thursday June 13 at noon at the New Bern Golf and Country Club to present the resolution.

**RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE FAMILY
OF STAFF SERGEANT BRIAN D. LEWIS
AS
MILITARY FAMILY OF THE QUARTER**

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Brian D. Lewis joined the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS) Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, on February 21, 2010, and currently serves as an ATC Crew Chief, setting an example with exceptional service and dedication to his MS by obtaining qualifications, leading Marines, physical fitness and continuous community involvement; and

WHEREAS, since his arrival at the Cherry Point Air Traffic Control Facility, SSgt Lewis quickly obtained qualifications on Approach West, Final Control, Radar Data, Local Control, Ground Control, Tower Flight Data/Clearance Delivery, and was also designated as a Tower Supervisor, a position reserved for seasoned and experienced controllers; and

WHEREAS, SSgt Lewis earned a commercial pilots certificate for single-engine and multi-engine land and has volunteered countless hours as an FAA Certified A&P mechanic at Mission Aero in New Bern, Calvary Baptist Church and the Craven County Detention Center, where he was awarded a volunteer appreciation certificate for consistent service; and

WHEREAS, SSgt Lewis, as a mentor, has made himself personally available to the Marines, always ensuring the well-being of each and every person, while setting a high moral and physical example to subordinate Marines by maintaining a perfect 300 PFT/CFT score; and

WHEREAS, SSgt Lewis currently resides in New Bern, North Carolina with his wife, Amanda and daughter, Ruth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners recognizes Staff Sergeant Brian D. Lewis for his ability to manage his free time to volunteer in the community, raise a family with strong values, and balance the extensive demands of the Marine Corps, all the qualities which make him a great Marine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners congratulates him on being selected Military Family of the Quarter.

Adopted this 3rd day of June, 2013.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: TAX RELEASES AND REFUNDS

Commissioner Mark moved to approve the following routine requests for tax releases and refund, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET #	AMOUNT
BEST, WILLIE & BARBARA S DWELLING VACANT	2012-0004671	\$36.00
HEFNER, JASON SCOTT & RUBY MILITARY EXEMPTION	2012-0026204	\$33.52
	2 – CREDIT MEMO (S)	\$69.52

Refund

KOSLOWSKI, ETHAN R BOAT SITUS IN JONES COUNTY	2012-0032760	\$18.00
	1 – REFUND	\$18.00

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SUBDIVISIONS FOR APPROVAL

The Planning Board recommended the following subdivisions for the Board’s approval. Commissioner Tyson moved for their approval, as presented, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Stephen D. Ange – Final: The property, owned by Pearl W. Ange and surveyed by Gaskins Land Surveying, P.A., is located within Twp. 3, off of NC Highway 55 West; Parcel ID 3-022-011. The subdivision contains 1 lot on 1.23 acres and is proposed to be served by existing County water and an existing individual septic system.

Owen G. Fulcher III – Final: The property, owned by Owen G. Fulcher III and surveyed by Matthews Surveying, PLLC, is located within Twp. 2, off of Antioch Road (SR 1433); Parcel ID 2-039-14000. The subdivision contains 1 lot on 2.00 acres and is proposed to be served by existing County water and an existing individual septic system.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: DSS REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CATERER FOR CONGREGATE MEALS

Assistant Social Services Director, Alfreda Stout, presented the recommendation of the Craven Aging Planning Board for awarding the meals program catering contract. Bids were received from J & S, the current caterer, and Golden Corral as follows:

Golden Corral	Cost per meal: \$3.97 + .26 tax = \$4.23
J & S Catering of Bayboro	Cost per meal: \$4.17 + .28 tax = \$4.45

The Department of Social Services evaluated both bids and recommended continuing the contract with J & S Catering for the following reasons:

- J & S is very knowledgeable and meets State mandates for home delivered, hot and frozen, and congregate meals.
- J & S has provided 44,863 meals to Craven County from July 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013, with only 21 meals rejected due to equipment malfunction.
- A visit made to the catering site found it to meet criteria.
- The East Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging does not have any negative findings for J & S regarding food, temperatures or compliance for Nutrition Programs in any counties being served. (Jones, Pamlico, Carteret, Duplin, Greene)
- When Craven County selected the lowest bid from another caterer in 2011, and the contract was terminated due to failure to meet contract requirements, J & S re-established a contract with the County on extremely short notice.
- Craven County Aging Planning Board voted in support of continuing J&S as caterer.
- Participant input indicates an overall satisfaction with the food
- There has been no increase for meals from J & S since 2008.

The Department of Social Services indicated that problems were encountered with Golden Corral during a previous contract period. Golden Corral failed to provide a timely response when asked concerning resolution of those issues for future service. Chairman Dacey inquired of the County Attorney if it would be possible to go back to J & S and negotiate their rate downward. Mr. Hicks advised against doing so considering the sealed bid process that was followed. Commissioner Sampson stated that clients seemed happier with Golden Corral previously. He objected to frozen meals being served to some meals-on-wheels clients. Ms. Stout responded that for some clients frozen meals are the only option, irrespective of the caterer due to a shortage of drivers for daily delivery. Commissioner Allen moved to approve the recommendation to award the contract to

J & S Catering, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and carried with six (6) “ayes”, there being one (1) “nay” from Commissioner Sampson.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FINANCE

Budget Amendments

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

Convention Center

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-8201-369-36-00 TDA	\$10,000.00	101-8201-430-27-00 Advertising	\$10,000.00
TOTAL	\$10,000.00	TOTAL	\$10,000.00

Justification: Funds to start the new outdoor ad campaign for TDA.

DSS 7295 Senior

101-7295-369-06-00 Fans	\$86.00	101-7295-450-39-31 Crisis Funds	\$86.00
TOTAL	\$86.00	TOTAL	\$86.00

Justification: Fan money received from Eastern Carolina Council higher than originally anticipated.

Mental Health

101-6800-347-12-00 ABC 5 cent bottles	\$1,200.00	101-6800-440-94-42 Alcoholism ABC Bottle	\$1,200.00
TOTAL	\$1,200.00	TOTAL	\$1,200.00

Justification: ABC Board receipts/East Carolina Behavior Health payments greater than budgeted. Need to budget for June.

Health/DSS

101-0000-354-01-00 Refund Insurance	\$65,000.00	101-5001-440-26-02 M&R/Equipment	\$32,500.00
		101-7201-450-26-02 M&R/Equipment	\$32,500.00
TOTAL	\$65,000.00	TOTAL	\$65,000.00

Justification: Need to budget funds from insurance claim to cover 1) rental of portable a/c unit \$33,000; 2) repair to a/c system \$27,000; and 3) fencing \$5,000. This expenditure is a result of damage done to a/c system at the Human Services Complex. The cost is split evenly between Health and DSS.

Inspections

101-2401-355-09-00 Homeowner recover fee	\$400.00	101-2401-410-45-04 Homeowner fee to state	\$360.00
101-0000-399-01-00 Fund Balance Approp.	\$(40.00)		

TOTAL	\$360.00	TOTAL	\$360.00
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Justification: The amount collected for Homeowner Recovery Inspections Fees is anticipated to be greater than originally thought. Of the fees collected, 90% is remitted to NC Licensing Board for General Contractors. Additional funds must be budgeted to cover this expenditure.

Amendment to Personnel Resolution

Mr. Hemphill requested the approval of an amendment to the personnel resolution for a 5% increase in retiree insurance premiums. Commissioner Mark moved to approve the amendment, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Adult Care Home Advisory Committee

Commissioner Mark moved to appoint Jessica James to the Adult Care Home Advisory Committee and to waive the one meeting waiting requirement. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Down East RPO

It was the consensus of the Board to defer this appointment.

Fire Tax Commission

Commissioner Allen moved to reappoint Harvey Hurst to the Fire Tax Commission and to waive the one meeting waiting requirement, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried. Commissioner Mark moved to appoint Chris Wetherington and to waive the one meeting waiting requirement, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried.

Firemen's Relief Fund Board of Trustees

It was the consensus of the Board that these appointments be deferred.

Nursing Home Advisory Committee

Commissioner Tyson moved to appoint Howard J. Humphreys to replace Bob Dorsey on the Nursing Home Advisory Committee and to waive the one meeting waiting requirement. Commissioner Mark seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried. It was the consensus of the Board to defer appointment to a remaining vacancy.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Commissioner Tyson moved to reappoint Cynthia Riley to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and to waive the one meeting waiting requirement, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried.

Craven Community College Board of Trustees

It was the consensus of the Board to defer this appointment.

Eastern Carolina Council of Governments

Commissioner Mark moved to reappoint James Walker to the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments and to waive the one meeting waiting requirement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried.

Social Services Board

It was the consensus of the Board to defer appointment to this board.

Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board

Commissioner Taylor moved to appoint Julian Marsh to replace Jeff French on the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board and to waive the one meeting waiting requirement, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried. Commissioner Taylor moved to reappoint Ronald Knight and to waive the one meeting waiting requirement. Commissioner Mark seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Regional Aging Advisory Committee

It was the consensus of the Board to defer these appointments.

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

Commissioner Tyson moved to reappoint Bill Taylor to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board and to waive the one meeting waiting requirement, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried.

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council

Commissioner Mark moved to appoint Michael Smith to replace Ian Jose on the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and to waive the one meeting waiting requirement, seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously carried.

Upcoming Appointments

The Board was apprised of the following upcoming appointments to boards and committees:

July

- ABC Board
- River Bend Board of Adjustment

August

- Clean Sweep Committee

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney, Jim Hicks, stated that he hopes to bring the hospice agreement for action at the next meeting. The interlocal agreement is being circulated among other partners and will come to Craven County last. The County will miss the Certificate of Need (CON) deadline for the first half of 2013 and will aim for the CON deadline for the second half of the year.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Tyson noted the passing of Marvin Raines and requested that the Board consider adopting a resolution of recognition in his honor. Commissioner Tyson moved for adoption of a resolution to be drafted, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Sampson commented on rising gas and food prices and expressed condolences to Oklahoma communities that were devastated by two recent tornados. He stated that the same situation could have happened to us and that we need to be mindful of community volunteers. He announced that the New Bernian Ball was a success, with 750 people in attendance bringing significant contributions to the County's economy.

Commissioner Allen noted that the Craven County Veterans Council did a superb job with the Memorial Day observance and that Craven County was represented at the National Cemetery ceremony.

Commissioner Taylor announced that his team of volunteers will be serving at Religious Community Services on Sunday June 9 at 12:30 p.m. He noted that on June 11 he and Commissioner Mark will be going to Core Creek Church for a Livestock Association meeting. He recently attended a workshop on Present Use Value.

Commissioner Mark announced a Town Hall meeting to be held on June 26 at 4:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Harbour Community Center.

Chairman Dacey thanked staff for their excellent work on the budget and thanked those who expressed their views during the public hearing.

He announced that Harry Blott as resigned from ACT and County Manager, Jack Veit, suggested that a Commissioner would be appropriate to fill that position. Commissioner Tyson moved to appoint Chairman Dacey to replace Harry Blott, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried.

At 8:37 p.m. The Chairman declared Board in recess to reconvene on June 7 at 12 noon.

Chairman Scott C. Dacey
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board