

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, JANUARY 6, 2014. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

An invocation was offered by Vice Chairman Taylor, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried. The minutes of December 16, 2013 were approved by motion of Commissioner Sampson, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

PETITION OF CITIZEN: RAY GRIFFIN

Mr. Griffin addressed the Board concerning governmental issues in the upcoming new year.

WORKREADY COMMUNITY CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Craven County Economic Development Director, Timothy Downs, joined community partners in presenting the Board with the County's recently awarded WorkReady Community Certification plaque. He stated that being certified as a WorkReady Community is an important milestone for Craven County because the availability of a trained and trainable workforce continues to be the leading factor for companies when they are looking to expand or relocate.

Tammy Childers, Executive Director of Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board (ECWFB), provided background for this initiative. North Carolina Eastern Region (NCER) supported the effort through grants upwards of \$1 Million.

Craven County holds the third highest high school graduation rate in the region. Ms. Childers recognized the following partners:

Dr. Catherine Chew, President, Craven Community College, stated that it makes sense to continue this initiative to certify the workforce.

Chris Bailey, Director of Career and Technical Education, Craven County Schools, stated that it is important that students have an employability route. He added that as of today, 900 students have gained Career Readiness Certificates over the last 3 years.

Dwayne Oglesby, Fleet Readiness Center East (FRC), explained the process of certification for the FRC East workforce.

John Chaffee of North Carolina Eastern Region stated that factors to the success of this achievement were elevation of the graduation rate, participants' ability to pass the career readiness standard at least at the bronze level, employers believing in the initiative's importance and committing to it.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Quarterly Economic Development Update

Craven County Economic Development Director, Timothy Downs, presented a status update on economic development activities in the County over the last quarter. His activities have centered around the following:

1. Developing partners: chambers of commerce, MCAS Cherry Point, schools, Craven Community College and establishing relationships within the business community
2. Working with developers and property owners to identify inventory
3. Business visits
4. Lot of activity in recruitment
5. Marketing; there are currently six active projects
6. On-line inventory

CRAVENCOUNTYSITES.com Demonstration

Mr. Downs demonstrated the County’s new online inventory of available buildings and land. One of the top priorities for economic development in Craven County was the implementation of a comprehensive inventory that lists property for sale and for lease. The cities of New Bern and Havelock and the Neuse River Region Association of Realtors are partnering with the County on this project. One of the added benefits with this project is that properties listed in its database will also be listed on the national Zoom Prospector site, so individuals are able to view Craven County properties without visiting the County’s site.

He stressed the importance of property owners who have property available notifying him. He stated that there will be promotion and training provided on the site for brokers.

Budget Amendment

Mr. Downs presented the following budget amendment for the Board’s approval. Commissioner McCabe moved for its approval, seconded by Commissioner Dacey and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Economic Development

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0000-335-00-00	\$70,000.00	101-4401-430-27-00	\$ 5,000.00
		101-4401-430-40-00	\$65,000.00
TOTAL	\$70,000.00	TOTAL	\$70,000.00

Justification: The budget amendment is requested to cover additional costs associated with pursuits in accordance with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan, such as marketing and an economic development website.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: CARTS – BUDGET AMENDMENT

Kelly Walker, Transportation Coordinator, presented the following budget amendment in the amount of \$134,524, to purchase three replacement vehicles. She explained that these vehicles have all met their usual life with over 200,000 miles each. Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the following budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

7001 – CARTS Administration

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-7002-348-18-00 Section 18 Capital St	\$121,072.00	101-7001-450-73-01 Over \$5,000	\$134,524.00
101-7002-335-05-00 Section 18 Vehicles	\$ 13,452.00		
TOTAL	\$134,524.00	TOTAL	\$134,524.00

Justification: Line Item 101-7001-450-73-01, Capital Outlay over \$5,000 had an unencumbered balance of \$139,029 at the end of FY2013. Three vehicles were approved for replacement in FY2013 but were not replaced because the contract was not released by the state. The State has now released the contract.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: ELECTIONS – COMMISSIONERS REDISTRICTING UPDATE

Director of Elections, Meloni Wray, reported that all changes resulting from newly drawn Commissioners’ districts were entered as of January 6, 2014. Beginning January 7, staff will begin printing and mailing new voter cards to all Craven County voters and expect to have them received by all voters by the end of the month. She clarified that the amount budgeted for this process included mailing to all of the approximately 61,000 voters in Craven County, not just those whose districts changed.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: 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, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET #	AMOUNT
AFFILIATED SOFTWARE INC BUSINESS CLOSED 2012	2013-0094498	\$48.27
ARDIS, CHADWICH W & MELISSA MILITARY EXEMPTION	2013-0090130	\$31.42
BLANGO, CLIFTON III DOUBLE BILLED FOR SAN FEES	2013-0005109	\$36.00
BROCK, CLARE LYNN DOUBLE BILLED – SEE ACCT 93784	2013-0090175	\$14.17
CAROLINA COLOURS GOLF CLUB LLC APPRAISAL ERROR CORRECTION	2013-0008922	\$3,753.07
CWCC OF CRAVEN COUNTY LLC 25 DWELLINGS UNOCCUPIED IN PAST YEAR	2013-0013096	\$900.00
DIXON, JAMES C SENIOR EXCLUSION REMOVED IN ERROR	2013-0090488	\$210.98
DRAKE, AARON GENE ERROR IN CHARGINE SANITATION FEES	2013-0015502	\$72.00
EASON, TOBY EARL & GAIL C DWELLING BURNED NOV 2012	2013-0016260	\$82.79

EDWARDS, LARRY W JR & KELLY A DID NOT OWN 1/1/2013	2013-0090539	\$7.67
EDWARDS, LARRY W JR & KELLY A VALUE ERROR – TO BE REBILLED	2013-0094247	\$137.28
FOSTER, DOROTHY MAE DOUBLE BILLED – SAME ACCT	2013-0095411	\$36.55
GILLIAM, AMY HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2007-0021294	\$904.62
GILLIAM, AMY HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2008-0021759	\$268.00
GILLIAM, AMY HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2009-0021821	\$993.86
GILLIAM, AMY HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2010-0019889	\$377.65
GILLIAM, AMY HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2011-0022006	\$409.37
GILLIAM, AMY HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2012-0021835	\$869.39
GILLIAM, AMY HRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2013-0021163	\$176.72
HUBLEY, JEFFREY A MILITARY EXEMPTION	2013-0027198	\$10.62
ISLAND LURE LLC NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2013	2013-0028111	\$14.10
JONES, WALTER B & JENNIFER V DOUBLE BILLED SAME ACCOUNT	2013-0029931	\$200.94
JUNIPER BRANCH FARMS LLC LISTED ON ACCT #97411	2013-0094298	\$108.35
MACK, SARAH S APPRAISAL ERROR CORRECTION	2013-0034602	\$20.91
MARSHBURN, THOMAS RAY DWELLING UNINHABITED SINCE 2011	2013-0035258	\$36.00
MAXWELL FOODS LISTED ON TIME W/BEAUFORT COUNTY	2013-0090063	\$325.46
NEUSE HARBOUR MARINE LLC OUT OF BUSINESS 12-2012	2013-0095054	\$270.85
P & J OF NEW BERN LLC APPRAISAL ERROR CORRECTION	2013-0042179	\$25.27
P & J OF NEW BERN LLC APPRAISAL ERROR CORRECTION	2013-0042178	\$167.60
PURSER, GARLAND F & EVELYN A DOUBLE BILLED SEE ACCT 81931	2013-0044955	\$11.61

SMITH, WILLIAM DAVIS JR DWELLING UNOCCUPIED	2013-0051028	\$36.00
THOMPSON, ARTHUR ROBERT III BOAT BALUE TO HIGH S/B \$15,000	2013-0095486	\$151.32
USCOC OF GREATER NORTH CAROLIN LISTED ON TIME	2013-0056221	\$68.23
USCOC OF GREATER NORTH CAROLIN INCORRECT LATE FEE CHARGED IN ERROR	2013-0056222	\$88.49
USCOCO OF GREATER NORTH CAROLIN AMENDED RETURN NOT ALL LATE	2013-0056223	\$254.15
USCOC OF GREATER NORTH CAROLIN AMENDED RETURN ONLY GETS LATE	2013-0056227	\$129.06
USCOC OF GREATER NORTH CAROLIN LISTED ON TIME	2013-0056228	\$53.97
USCOC OF GREATER NORTH CAROLIN LISTED ON TIME	2013-0056233	\$239.67
USCOCO OF GREATER NORTH CAROLIN LISTED ON TIME	2013-0056234	\$13.55
WOOTEN, SHIRLEY H DWELLING VACANT SINCE 2007	2012-0064010	\$39.15
WOOTEN, SHIRLEY H DWELLING VACANT SINCE 2007	2013-0061330	\$36.00
YERGES, HARRY WILLIAM JR ½ MILITARY EXCLUSION	2013-0061692	\$34.85
	42 – CREDIT MEMO(S)	\$11,665.96
<i>Refunds</i>		
AIKEN, SCOTT & LOREEN APPRAISAL ERROR CORRECTION	2012-0000402	\$3,450.87
BLANGO, CLIFTON III DOUBLE BILLED AS PERSONAL & REAL	2009-0005027	\$36.00
BLANGO, CLIFTON III DOUBLE BILLED AS PERSONAL & REAL	2010-0092263	\$36.00
BLANGO, CLIFTON III DOUBLE BILLED AS PERSONAL & REAL	2011-0005150	\$36.00
BLANGO, CLIFTON III DOUBLE BILLED AS PERSONAL & REAL	2012-0005138	\$36.00
HUBLEY, JEFFREY A MILITARY EXEMPTION	2012-0028192	\$7.03
TOLER, JOYCE D & LOUIS EARL DOUBLE BILLED – SAME ACCOUNT	2013-0054896	\$102.85

WEBB, DENNIS W & WEBB, ROBERT 2013-0057873 \$303.53
 DWELLING RAZED BEFORE 1/1/2013

8 – REFUND (\$) \$4,008.28

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FINANCE – BUDGET AMENDMENT

Assistant County Manager of Finance/Administration, Rick Hemphill, presented the following budget amendment to reallocate DJJDP funding among the Juvenile Crime Prevention programs. Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the following budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

DJJDP/JCPC

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0564-348-10-00 Comm Children	\$ 214.00	101-0564-450-91-01 DJJDP – Comm Children	\$ 214.00
101-0564-348-65-00 Teen Court	\$ 4,314.00	101-0564-450-91-65 DJJDP – Teen Court	\$ 4,314.00
101-0564-348-15-00 Area Day Reporting	\$14,650.00	101-0564-450-91-05 DJJDP – Area Day Reporting	\$14,650.00
TOTAL	\$19,178.00	TOTAL	\$19,178.00

Justification: Reallocation of state funding for Juvenile Crime Prevention Council programs.

APPROVAL OF FARMLAND LEASE AGREEMENT FOR CROP PRODUCTION ON COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY

Assistant County Manager of Facilities/Operations, Gene Hodges, presented a draft of a one-year renewable lease agreement with Mitchell Family Farms for one parcel at the industrial park, at \$85 per acre. This parcel was excluded from a recently approved three-year lease for crop production due to its potential marketability. However, it was subsequently determined that maintenance of the parcel would not be cost-efficient, and a one-year lease provided the needed flexibility for any marketing potential. Commissioner McCabe moved to approve execution of the farmland lease agreement in the amount of \$85/acre per year for a one-year term with Mitchell Family Farms, Inc., seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Nursing Home Advisory Committee

It was the consensus of the Board that this appointment be deferred.

Havelock-Craven County Library Board

Commissioner McCabe moved to appoint Joanna Wishon and William Sherman to replace Lossie Carter on the Havelock-Craven County Library Board. Commissioner Tyson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

New Bern-Craven County Public Library

It was the consensus of the Board that this appointment be deferred.

Upcoming Appointments

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

January – None

February – Farmers Market Board

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Offer to Purchase Real Property – 1212 LaGrange Street (#8-014-121)

County Attorney, Jim Hicks, presented an offer received by Craven County and the City of New Bern, in the amount of \$1,200.00 for property located at 1212 LaGrange Street, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The total taxes and costs that were foreclosed on were \$2,131.21, and the current tax value is \$5,250.00. The City has agreed to accept the offer, contingent on the County also accepting the offer.

Offer to Purchase Real Property – 823 West Street (#8-007-224)

Mr. Hicks presented an offer received by Craven County and the City of New Bern, in the amount of \$2,000.00 for property located at 823 West Street, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The total taxes and costs that were foreclosed on were \$4,037.22, and the current tax value is \$5,250.00. The City has agreed to accept the offer, contingent on the County also accepting the offer.

Offer to Purchase Real Property – 839 Green Street (#8-007-046)

Mr. Hicks presented an offer received by Craven County and the City of New Bern, in the amount of \$3,000 for property located at 839 Green Street, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The total taxes and costs that were foreclosed on were \$6,620.23, and the current tax value is \$5,460.00. The City has agreed to accept the offer, contingent on the County also accepting the offer. Commissioner Sampson moved to accept all three offers, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried. The properties will be advertised for upset bids in accordance with General Statutes. Once no further upset bids are timely received, the County and City may accept or reject the final offers.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Swift Creek Project

County Manager, Jack Veit, reported on the Swift Creek snagging project, which is now completed, and has been inspected by the State.

EOC Update

Mr. Veit announced that Emergency Services personnel relocated to their new offices and EMS Director, Stanley Kite, is in the process of moving. He stated that he would like to reschedule a work session for Tuesday, January 21, following the Commissioners' meeting to discuss Economic Development and Commissioners' bylaws.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner McCabe expressed gratitude for another year. He reported that he and Commissioner Tyson toured Swift Creek by boat to observe the snagging project and stated that a good job had been done.

Commissioner Sampson stated that gas prices went up during the holidays, along with heating oil and grocery prices. He stated that some people who have lost their jobs and some whose unemployment has expired have gone without heat. He responded to the Sun Journal letter to the editor regarding not giving \$100 to the Havelock Rams, stating that his history will show that he and his family have been giving in the community for years.

Commissioner Allen wished everyone a happy and prosperous New Year. He stated that he is proud of Economic Development and the change that has taken place.

Commissioner Tyson wished everyone a happy New Year and stated that he looks forward to working with the Board and citizens in the coming year and is excited about the movement in Economic Development.

Commissioner Dacey announced that on January 2 he attended a hearing in Carteret County regarding a wind turbine company's proposed project in Newport. Carteret County Commissioners considered a 60 day moratorium. Two-thirds to three-fourths in attendance were opposed. He feels that the County needs to stay on top of this as a community, and defend jobs that are already here at Cherry Point, as well as developing new jobs. Carteret County proceeded to impose the 60 day moratorium while conducting further study of the proposed project's potential impact.

Commissioner Taylor announced that he will be speaking with the Dover Town Council again on January 7 and wished everyone a happy New Year.

Chairman Mark wished everyone a happy and bright New Year. He recognized Pat Sager, Chair of Clean Sweep Committee. He announced the NRRCC November revenue totaled \$245,465, which was the highest ever in one month.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:30 p.m. Commissioner Taylor moved to go into closed session, to convene following a five minutes recess, seconded by Commissioner McCabe, to discuss industrial expansion and a personnel matter, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) and (6).

At 9:20 p.m. the Board was declared back in regular session.

County Attorney, Jim Hicks, announced that the Board had discussed economic development and personnel, with no action taken.

At 9:25 p.m. Commissioner Sampson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Chairman Thomas F. Mark
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board