

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, FEBRUARY 3, 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 Commissioner Allen, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the agenda, with the following addition: Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, requested consideration of extending the listing deadline. Commissioner McCabe seconded the motion to approve the amended agenda, which carried unanimously. The minutes of January 21, 2014 were approved by motion of Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

CHAIRMAN'S PRIVILEGE

Chairman Mark commented on the recent snow storm and the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (DOT) response in clearing the primary roads and bridges. He explained that this was not the County's area of authority. He commended County Manager, Jack Veit, and EMS Director, Stanley Kite, for keeping all informed, in conjunction with the media, and citizens for cooperating by staying off the roads.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

Ray Griffin commented that the state of the union is in a bad state because we refuse to pray in the name of Jesus.

Hal James addressed the Board regarding the presentation by Coastal Community Action of the Community Services Block Grant at the last meeting. He expressed thanks to the Board on behalf of the Craven County Taxpayers' Association for delving into what the agency does. He stated that taxpayer funded grants pay for 13 welfare programs through this agency.

**REQUEST FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH
PROCLAMATION**

Chris Baily, Technical Education Director and Dr. Lane Mills, Superintendent, Craven County Schools, requested adoption of the following Proclamation of Career and Technical Education Month. Commissioner McCabe moved to adopt the resolution, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

**Career and Technical Education Month
Proclamation**

WHEREAS, February 1-28, 2014, has been designated Career and Technical Education Month by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and

WHEREAS, profound economic and technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature of work, thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education provides Americans with a school-to-careers connection and is the backbone of a strong, well-educated workforce, which fosters productivity in business and industry and contributes to America's leadership in the international marketplace; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education gives middle school and high school students experience in practical, meaningful applications of skills such as reading, writing and mathematics, thus improving the quality of their education, motivating potential dropouts and giving all students leadership opportunities in their fields and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education offers individuals lifelong opportunities to learn new skills, which provide them with career choices and potential satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing cooperative efforts of career and technical educators, business and industry stimulate the growth and vitality of our local economy and that of the entire nation by preparing graduates for career fields forecast to experience the largest and fastest growth in the next decade;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, do hereby proclaim February 1-28, 2014, as **Career and Technical Education Month** in Craven County and urge all citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by the career and technical education programs in this community and to support and participate in these programs to enhance their individual work skills and productivity.

Adopted this 3rd day of February, 2014

They thanked the County for its support of Career and Technical Education in Craven County, which produces \$15/\$1 return on investment. This initiative is an important component of Economic Development. Students are able to achieve industry certification credentials.

Commissioner Sampson inquired what is being done about education in trades, such as carpentry, masonry and plumbing. Mr. Baily reported that all three high schools in Craven County offer carpentry. The schools have been trying to introduce other building trades into the curriculum; however, there has not been sufficient interest to justify establishing those classes. The schools collaborate with Craven Community College for those studies. Commissioner Sampson suggested that it could be made mandatory, but Mr. Baily stated that the State Department of Public Instruction determines mandatory courses.

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 Dacey moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET#	AMOUNT
AUVIL, GERALD CLARK MILITARY EXEMPTION	2012-0001476	\$33.85
AUVIL, GERALD CLARK MILITARY EXEMPTION	2013-0090137	\$26.41
CHENG, PAUL CANADIAN FLAG VESSEL NOT TAXABLE	2013-0095419	\$1,595.43
CHENG, PAUL CANADIAN FLAG VESSEL NOT TAXABLE	2013-0095420	\$1,593.43
DUNN, DONALD J NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2013	2013-0094724	\$23.82
IPOCK, JULIUS T DID NOT OWN 1/1/2013	2013-0027967	\$53.28
IPOCK, JULIUS T DID NOT OWN 1/1/2011-01-01-12	2013-0094261	\$113.24
KILBURY, RANDY DID NOT OWN 1/1/2013	2013-0030728	\$338.65
YATES, EDMOND E SR & CHRISTINE MOBILE HOME CONTINUOUSLY UNOCCUPIED SINCE 2006	2013-0061657	\$36.72
9 – CREDIT MEMO (S)		\$3,816.83

Refunds

BRINSON, SETH C JR & KAREN LEH SENIOR EXCLUSION ERROR CORRECTION	2013-0006555	\$681.07
EDWARDS, JUDY R SENIOR EXCLUSION VALUE CORRECTION	2013-0016611	\$33.07
THOT, SIAK DID NOT OWN 1/1/2013	2013-0091223	\$66.26
3 – REFUND (S)		\$780.40

Unpaid Taxes

Mr. Antry presented the amount of 2013 taxes that remain unpaid and are a lien upon real estate. The current amount is \$2,090,685.10, which is \$100,000 higher than last year; however, it reflects a 94.66% collection rate, which is in line with previous years. Mr. Antry requested to advertise liens on April 14 in the *New Bern Sun Journal*. Commissioner Taylor moved to approve advertising of liens in the *New Bern Sun Journal* on April 14, seconded by Commissioner Dacey and unanimously carried. Commissioner Sampson asked Mr. Antry to explain to the public the consequences of not paying taxes owed. Mr. Antry explained that delinquent notices go out mid-January, advising of collection methods employed if not paid by January 31. There remain 9,280 delinquent bills out of 65,000 real and personal property bills mailed. The collection methods, garnishment and attachment, will begin in February.

Extension of Listing Deadling

Mr. Antry recommended extension of the listing deadline due to County offices being closed for inclement weather January 29-31, leading up to and including the original deadline date. Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the Tax Administrator's recommendation as follows, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried: RESOLVED: The listing deadline for Craven County is hereby extended by one week until Friday, February 7, 2014.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: PLANNING*Request to Set Public Hearing for FY13 CDBG Funding Cycle*

Craven County Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, requested that a public hearing be set on February 17 at 8:30 a.m. to hear public comments regarding the County's intent to apply for FY2013 CDBG infrastructure funding. The County is required to hold two public hearings. The second public hearing will be held prior to submitting the full application. It is anticipated that up to \$750,000 for infrastructure projects will be available. Commissioner Taylor moved to set a public hearing for February 17, 2014 at 8:30 a.m., as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and carried with five (5) "ayes", there being two "nays" from Commissioners McCabe and Sampson. Commissioner Sampson pointed out to the public that there are no CDBG funds available to fix homes. This grant application is for infrastructure. Mr. Baumgardner advised the Board that a notice to be published in the newspaper will describe the project (s). In discussing the project's benefits to individual property owners, he explained that the funds may be used to tie homes into the water system **if** there is proven to be a health hazard.

Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System

The Board was requested to adopt two (2) road addition resolutions approving Woodcroft Court, Hillsboro Drive and Brigadoon Court in the Hunters Ridge Subdivision to be turned over to the State of North Carolina for maintenance. The resolutions, once passed, will be forwarded to NCDOT for their final consideration and acceptance of the roads to the State Maintenance System. Commissioner Tyson moved to adopt the two road addition resolutions, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Sampson inquired what can be done about impassable rural roads that are damaged by loggers. Mr. Baumgardner advised that it would be a private issue if occurring on non-state maintained roads.

Tall Structure Approval

The Planning Board recommended the following cell tower for approval. Approval by the Commissioners is required before issuance of construction permits.

- A. Applicant: American Tower, LLC.
 Location: 5350 Adams Creek Road
 Project Description: Wireless Communications Facility
 Tower Type: 308' Guyed tower with equipment shelter and generator

Tower Review Assessments:

- Seymour Johnson AFB: No significant impact to their airspace or Military Training Routes
- MCAS Cherry Point: No impact or concerns with the proposal
- Coastal Carolina Airport: No significant impact to the airport operations
- Planning Staff: Tower meets all ordinance requirements for approval

Commissioner McCabe moved for approval of the cell tower, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

Proposed Solar Panel Fee Changes

At the last Board of Commissioners meeting, a public hearing was set for February 17th to hear public comments regarding proposed changes to the official Planning and Inspections Department fee schedule, specifically fees for inspecting commercial solar farms. The Board was presented with the following fee proposals.

New Fee Proposal

Minimum Permit Fee = \$500

First 200 panels = \$5 each per panel

Over 200 panels = \$1000 + \$1 each per panel

Old Fee

Minimum Permit Fee = \$500

\$500.00 (min) or \$5.00 per panel whichever is greater

The fees are adequate to cover operating costs; however, the County may need to revisit the fee structure if the future brings mega projects.

Commissioner Sampson recognized a group of citizens in attendance, including his pastor, and commended them for coming to see how county government works.

APPOINTMENTS*Nursing Home Advisory Committee*

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

New Bern Area Farmers' Market Board

Commissioner Tyson moved to appoint Eileen Bress to serve on the New Bern Area Farmers' Market Board to replace Larry Ipock, seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously carried.

Craven Aging Planning Board

Commissioner Dacey moved to reappoint Dora Irving Jones to serve on the Craven Aging Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried.

Regional Aging Advisory Committee

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

Upcoming Appointments

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

March

- Craven Aging Planning Board
- Fire Tax Commissioner District 5
- Nursing Home Advisory Committee
- Planning Board

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager, Jack Veit, requested that the Board look over the most recent draft of the Board's Rules of Procedure for the next agenda. The following two changes will be discussed:

1. Taxes required to be paid by nominees
2. Appointments immediately effective

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Allen announced that he attended the NC Health Director's conference. He stated that there is an emphasis in the area of mental health.

Commissioner Tyson thanked citizens for coming out. He announced his attendance at a Havelock Tourist Center fundraiser.

Commissioner Dacey stated that the Regional Library Director is looking for input from citizens regarding budget concerns. He reported that at his last town hall meeting he was requested to have the Manager's weekly memo shared with the public and he asked for the Board's direction on that. He suggested that this issue be discussed at the Board's next work session.

Commissioner McCabe thanked Jack Veit, Stanley Kite and DOT for their hard work during the recent snow event. He announced that on March 16 at 2:00 p.m. at the Harlowe Community Center there will be a celebration of 14 African American men who served in the Revolutionary War.

Commissioner Sampson commented on rising gas, propane, and diesel prices. He urged citizens to write to their legislators, the President, Vice President, House Speaker and other leaders to address this issue. He stated that the City and the County need to work harder together to bring relief to constituents. .

Commissioner Taylor thanked DOT for their work during the recent snow storm.

Chairman Mark announced that the U.S. Senate has delayed Federal Flood Insurance premium increases. Commissioner Dacey added that the resolution has passed the Senate and has crossed over to the House. Citizens were urged to contact their Representatives in the Legislature to support it.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:20 p.m. Commissioner McCabe moved to go into closed session to discuss industrial expansion pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4), seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried.

At 9:10 p.m. the Board returned to regular session with no action to report.

At 9:10 p.m. Commissioner Dacey moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried.

Chairman Thomas F. Mark
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board