

**AGENDA
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

1. REORGANIZATION OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
2. APPOINTMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS
3. PUBLIC HEARING – JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT: Jesse Pittman, Administrative Captain
4. PETITIONS OF CITIZENS
5. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Approve Minutes of November 12, 2015 Reconvened Session
 - B. Approve Minutes of November 16, 2015 Regular Session
 - C. Tax Releases and Refunds
 - D. Military Service Person of the Quarter Resolution
 - E. Budget Amendment Twp. #9 Fire and Rescue
6. TOWNSHIP 7 EMS PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT: Ron Cox, Board of Directors; Bob King, Finance Committee

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

7. HEALTH – APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT AND AWARD CONTRACT FOR ADULT PRIMARY HEALTH CLINIC RENOVATION: Scott Harrelson, Health Director; Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager – Facilities/Operations
8. RECREATION – BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR TRILLIUM GRANT: Eddie Games, Recreation Director
9. HUMAN RESOURCES – REQUEST TO SET STARTING SALARY OF REGISTER OF DEEDS: Amber Parker, Human Resources Director

10. FINANCE: Rick Hemphill, Assistant County Manager – Finance/Administration
 - A. Interlocal Agreement for Animal Shelter
 - B. Budget Amendment, Tri-Community Fire Department
11. APPOINTMENTS
12. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Jim Hicks
13. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: Jack Veit
14. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
15. CLOSED SESSION

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 DECEMBER 7, 2015. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Steve Tyson
 Vice Chairman Scott C. Dacey
 Commissioner Jason R. Jones
 Commissioner George S. Liner
 Commissioner Thomas F. Mark
 Commissioner Theron L. McCabe
 Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

Following an invocation by Commissioner Dacey and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

CHAIRMAN'S PRIVILEGE

Commissioner Tyson took Chairman's privilege to make departing comments, stating it has been a privilege serving as Chairman during the past year, and that the Board will now select a new Chairman and Vice Chairman whom he hopes the citizens will respect. He noted the impending retirement of Rick Hemphill, Assistant County Manager – Finance/Administration and expressed appreciation for his service.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Election of Chairman

County Attorney, Jim Hicks, presided over the election of the Chairman. The floor was opened for nominations. Commissioner Mark nominated Commissioner Dacey. Commissioner McCabe nominated Commissioner Liner. Commissioner Sampson moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

In a roll call vote Commissioner Dacey received three (3) votes from Commissioners Dacey, Mark and Tyson. Commissioner Liner received four (4) votes from Commissioners Jones, Liner, McCabe and Sampson.

Election of Vice Chairman

Mr. Hicks continued, presiding over the election of the Vice Chairman according to the same procedure as the election of the Chairman. Commissioner Jones nominated Commissioner Mark, who declined citing philosophical and practical differences with the new Chairman. Commissioner McCabe nominated Commissioners Dacey, Tyson and Jones, who all declined in succession. Commissioner Sampson nominated Commissioner McCabe, who declined. Commissioner Jones nominated Commissioner Sampson. Commissioner Dacey moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried. In a roll call vote, Commissioner Sampson received four "ayes" from Commissioners Jones, Liner, McCabe and Sampson and three (3) "nays" from Commissioners Dacey, Mark and Tyson.

Following a five minute recess, the oaths of office were administered to the Chairman and Vice Chairman by the Clerk to the Board.

APPOINTMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

It was the consensus of the Board to defer appointments of Commissioners to boards and committees until the Board's next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING – JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

Captain Pittman advised the Board that the grant funds will be used to purchase fire arms (pistols and long guns).

At 7:20 p.m. Commissioner McCabe moved to go into public hearing, as advertised, to receive public comment on the 2015-2016 Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$10,624, seconded by Commissioner Sampson

The following citizen spoke:

Hal James, 305 Calico Drive, New Bern, stated he was on the list to speak, but his question was answered by Captain Pittman's introduction.

At 7:21 p.m. Commissioner McCabe moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried. Commissioner Sampson moved to accept the grant, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

Josh Humphries, 2603 Old Cherry Point Road, read a statement that the election for reorganization of the Board seemed like a conspiracy and expressed the opinion that it was in violation of the Open Meetings Law.

Glenn Fink, 646 Goose Creek Road, addressed the Board in regards to the Trillium Grant, stating that although the funds are from the federal government, the County is responsible for funds from all levels of government. He urged the representation to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners to champion an agenda to take back control from the federal government.

Ray Griffin, 1981 Streets Ferry Road, Vanceboro, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and spoke about internment camps refugee resettlement.

Raynor James, 305 Calico Drive, commented that most mass shootings have taken place in no gun zones. She stated that Pitt County is voting to consider allowing concealed carry in county buildings and asked that the Board take this into consideration for Craven County.

Hal James, 305 Calico Drive, recognized Pearl Harbor Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Minutes of November 12, 2015 Reconvened Session

Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the reconvened minutes of November 12, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll vote.

Approve Minutes of November 16, 2015 Regular Session

Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the regular session minutes of November 16, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Tax Releases and Refunds

Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the following tax releases and refunds, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET#	AMOUNT
A-1 LOCKSMITH DISCOVERY BILLED TO INCORRECT ACCT.	2015-0091594	\$721.85
AIR-SERV LATE LISTING FEE CHARGED IN ERROR	2015-0000472	\$3.57
AIR-SERV LATE LISTING FEE CHARGED IN ERROR	2015-0000473	\$.96
ALLEN, THOMAS MICHAEL DID NOT OWN 1/1/2014	2014-0000840	\$9.42
ALLEN, THOMAS MICHAEL DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015	2015-0000819	\$10.03
BOYACK, ROBERT A & CAROL A DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015	2015-0091605	\$5.02
BROCKERT, NICHOLAS D MILITARY EXEMPTION	2015-0091608	\$7.75
CASKEY, KELLY ANN BILLING ERROR CORRECTION – TO REBILL	2015-0091612	\$170.47
CHADWICK, DOUGLAS NOT TAXALBE TO CRAVEN COUNTY	2013-0090351	\$53.67
CLARK HOMES OF GREENVILLE LLC ROAD ACCEPTED FOR STATE MAINTENANCE	2015-0010630	\$36.25
DIMARTINO, JOHN M JR RELEASED TO CARTERET COUNTY	2015-0091626	\$2,063.10
FENNER, CHARLIE H FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2015-0018218	\$74.59
FENNER, CHARLIE H FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2014-0018290	\$86.15
FENNER, CHARLIE H FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2013-0017821	\$93.23
FENNER, CHARLIE H FORECLOSURE- LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2012-0018345	\$106.69
FENNER, CHARLIE H FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2011-0018536	\$53.69
FENNER, CHARLIE H FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2010-0016792	\$56.83
FENNER, CHARLIE H FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2009-0018353	\$29.00

FENNER, CHARLIE H FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2008-0018307	\$30.33
FENNER, CHARLIE H FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2007-0017894	\$31.66
FENNER, CHARLIE H FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2006-0017415	\$31.06
FENTON, DALE RICHARD & HEIDI D MILITARY EXEMPTION	2015-0091629	\$233.01
GOMEZ, MARK ANTHONY NOT TAXABLE TO CRAVEN COUNTY	2015-0022251	\$72.99
HAMMOND, PEGGY A CORRECTED DISCOVERED PROPERTY VALUE	2015-0091140	\$1,897.98
LANGLEY, CHIRSTOPHER LORNE DID NOT OWN 1/1/2008	2008-0033058	\$1.20
LOVE, SAMUEL DAVID CORRECTED DISCOVERED PROPERTY VALUE	2015-0091667	\$36.04
MYERS, ALEXANDER MCNAUGHTON NOT TAXALBE TO CRAVEN COUNTY	2015-0041855	\$148.38
RANDGAARD, DEAN AARON CORRECTED DISCOVERED PROPERTY VALUE	2015-0091692	\$72.59
RICKER, LARRY DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015 SEE ACCT #56492	2015-0091695	\$17.89
ROGERS, KEITH VESSEL HAS NOT TAX SITUS IN CRAVEN COUNTY	2015-0091388	\$5,463.32
ROWE, RUDOLPH THOMAS & FAYE JE VALUE ERROR CORRECTION	2015-0049933	\$18.03
RYSTROM, JOSHUA JOHN & ANGELA MILITARY EXEMPTION	2015-0091696	\$324.81
SANDERSON, ERIC AND KARRIE NOT TAXABLE TO CRAVEN COUNTY	2015-0091406	\$257.51
SEABRIGHT, LOUISE CORRECTED DISCOVERED PROPERTY VALUE	2015-0091420	\$991.31
THIELE, TUCKER NOT TAXABLE TO CRAVEN COUNTY	2015-0091501	\$2,362.64
WAANANEN, SIMO NOT TAXABLE TO CRAVEN COUNTY	2015-0091538	\$572.22
WALCH, RICHARD LLOYD & WALCH CORRECTED DISCOVERED PROPERTY VALUE	2015-0091712	\$22.85
WESLEY, LENORA NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2011	2011-0091298	\$66.22

WESLEY, LENORA NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2012	2012-0091308	\$61.49
WESLEY, LENORA NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2013	2013-0095357	\$57.15
WHITE, PAUL G JR CORRECTED DISCOVERED PROPERTY VALUE	2015-0091715	\$290.98
WHITE, PAUL G JR CORRECTED DISCOVERED PROPERTY VALUE	2015-0091557	\$276.44
WILLIS, ROLAND JR HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2009-0062273	\$145.60
WILLIS, ROLAND JR HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2010-0056902	\$235.96
WILLIS, ROLAND JR HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2011-0063260	\$1,248.28
WILLIS, ROLAND JR HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2012-0063201	\$451.28
WILLIS, ROLAND JR HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2013-0060562	\$412.56
WILLIS, ROLAND JR HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2014-0062114	\$381.24
WILLIS, ROLAND JR HEIRS FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2015-0063459	\$2,288.99
49 – CREDIT MEMO (\$)		\$22,084.28

Refunds

LANGLEY, CHRISTOPHER LORNE DID NOT OWN 1/1/2008	2008-0033058	\$94.46
WALCH, RICHARD LLOYD & WALCH, CORRECTED DISCOVERED PROPERTY VALUE	2015-0091539	\$19.96
2 – REFUND (\$)		\$114.42

Military Service Person of the Quarter

The Board was requested to adopt the following resolution recognizing Shawn H. Rose as Military Service Person of the Quarter. Chairman Liner will attend a luncheon being held in his honor on December 10, 2015. Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING SERGEANT SHAWN H. ROSE
AS
MILITARY SERVICE PERSON OF THE QUARTER**

WHEREAS, Sergeant Shawn H. Rose is an Avionics Technician with MALS-14 VMA-542 at U.S. Marine Corps Cherry Point; and

WHEREAS, he has, in his off duty time, been very active in the community; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Rose assisted the Veterans Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden (VEBCOG) by constructing gardens and growing food for local, disabled veterans, which also provides transitional employment for homeless and disadvantaged veterans, and a location for the rehabilitation of disabled veterans using Horticulture Therapy; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Rose assisted the Riverpoint Crest Nursing and Rehabilitation Center by visiting with our local veterans, sharing stories, and contributing to their social and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, he also volunteered with the Forestry Service in a variety of projects within the Croatan National Forest. A few of the projects included trail construction, repairing signs and footbridges, forest clean up and preparation for controlled burns; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Rose assisted the Multiple Sclerosis Bike Event with event setup, water station staffing and event tear down; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Rose’s dedication to assisting veterans has extended to participating in and supporting the Veterans Stand Down. This project focuses on providing community wide resources for the homeless disabled veteran population. Some of the services provided included: VA Health, VA Benefits, haircuts, job search services, housing information and other community services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS commends Sergeant Shawn H. Rose on his commitment to veterans in the midst of our local community and his other contributions to the community, and congratulates him on being recognized as Military Service Person of the Quarter.

Adopted this 7th day of December, 2015.

Budget Amendment Twp. #9 Fire and Rescue

Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the following budget amendment, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Fire Department

249-0000-399-01-00	\$81.00	249-2900-410-11-04	\$81.00
No. 9 Twp. Fire		Workers Comp	
TOTAL	\$81.00	TOTAL	\$81.00

Justification: To cover shortage in line items for workers compensation additional premium per VFIS of North Carolina invoice dated 11/11/15.

TOWNSHIP #7 EMS PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT

Ron Cox, Board of Directors, informed the Board on behalf of Twp. #7 EMS, about the purchase of a 2016 E-450 remounted ALS ambulance and a new LifePak 15 monitor/defibrillator. The cost of the LifePak is \$38,552. After discounts and trade in, Twp. #7 cost is \$29,781.80.

The cost of the ambulance is \$98,663.88, for a total loan amount of \$128,445.68. He explained that the interest rate procured from an institution in Kansas is higher than what is usually paid locally; however, Twp. #7 EMS is not a member of State Employees Credit Union, and therefore ineligible for the loan through that institution. Other local institutions required more cash and lacked flexibility.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: HEALTH – APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT AND AWARD CONTRACT FOR ADULT PRIMARY HEALTH CLINIC RENOVATION

Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager – Facilities/Operations and Scott Harrelson, Health Director, presented the bids received for renovations and expansion of examination space for the Adult Primary Care Clinic in the Craven County Health Department, made necessary by its designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

Contractor	Bid Amount
A R Chesson Construction	\$414,000
Brydge & Lee	\$346,770
Primus Contracting, Inc.	\$329,951
Pro Construction	\$364,300
T E Davis Construction	\$388,000

Primus Contracting, Inc. was the low bidder at \$329,951. Staff has met with Primus Contracting and have found savings in the project which can now be completed for \$304,646. In order to move forward with this project, a budget amendment of \$100,000 was requested to increase the project budget in the Health Department capital outlay line item.

Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the budget amendment and to authorize execution of the contract with Primus Contracting, Inc., seconded by Commissioner McCabe. In a roll call vote, the motion carried with four (4) “ayes”, there being three (3) “nays” from Commissioners Dacey, Mark and Tyson.

Health/Adult Primary Care

101-6612-375-01-00	\$45,833	101-6612-440-73-01	\$100,000
Medicaid Max		C/Outlay Over \$5K	
101-6612-377-43-00	\$54,167		
FQHC			
TOTAL	\$100,000	TOTAL	\$100,000

Justification: Estimates/Proposals for the Adult Primary Care clinic expansion are higher than anticipated. Requesting additional \$100K to ensure project will be completed successfully. The first year FQHC funding is for \$704,167. Craven County Health Department only budgeted \$650,000. No Medicaid Max was budgeted for FY16; however, the department received \$22,917.24 on 10/22/15 for FYE 2014 and anticipates another Med Max payment for FYE by June 30, 2016.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: RECREATION BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR TRILLIUM GRANT

Recreation and Parks Director, Eddie Games, presented the following budget amendment to budget the \$750,000 grant received from Trillium. Commissioner Dacey stated that he checked with Trillium and inquired about the source of the money. He stated that savings from reinvestments produced a surplus (less spent on managed care than received) but it is not intended for use by the general public. These funds must be spent for those persons with disabilities. The Howell Center equipment is aged and he hopes that Creekside Park will be a magnet for users in all areas of the County. Chairman Liner reiterated that funding was not requested by the County.

Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the following budget amendment, as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Recreation

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-8001-346-11-00	\$750,000.00	101-8001-460-73-02	\$750,000.00
Trillium Health Resources		Other Improvements	
JOURNAL ENTRY			
371-0571-400-97-01	\$100,000.00	371-0000-101-00-00	\$100,000.00
To General Fund		Cash	
101-0000-101-00-00	\$100,000.00	101-8001-366-07-00	\$100,000.00
Cash		From Reserve	

TOTAL	\$950,000.00	TOTAL	\$950,000.00
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Justification: Need to budget the \$750,000 grant from Trillium Health Resources to construct an inclusive playground at Creekside Park.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: HUMAN RESOURCES – REQUEST TO SET STARTING SALARY OF REGISTER OF DEEDS

Human Resources Director, Amber Parker, advised the Board that as authorized by North Carolina General Statutes 153A-92, the Craven County Board of Commissioners may adjust salaries, allowances and other compensation for the Sheriff and Register of Deeds positions. The Board of Commissioners must give notice of intention for adjustment no later than fourteen days before the last day for filing notice of candidacy for the office. Election for the Register of Deeds is during the 2016 election. The last day for filing for the 2016 election for Craven County Register is December 21, 2015. The fourteen day requirement is December 7, 2015. 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.

The proposed starting salary for the Register of Deeds position is \$45,000. Commissioner McCabe moved to adopt the following resolution with the proposed notice of adjustment in salary for the elected office of Craven County Register of Deeds, seconded by Commissioner Sampson 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 individual 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 \$45,000 annually.

This resolution will not be altered or amended until after the person elected as Register of Deeds in the 2016 election takes office. Thereafter, the Board of Commissioners may adjust the starting salary of the candidate elected upward considering the years of service and performance in related experience, of the person elected.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FINANCE

Interlocal Agreement for Animal Shelter

Rick Hemphill, Assistant County Manager – Finance/Administration, presented a new five year agreement with Pamlico County for the provision of animal shelter services. Pamlico County will pay to Craven County 8% of the prior year total expenditures (excluding capital items which will be looked at individually) each year in quarterly installments. The amount will be approximately \$25,000 per year based on historical costs. Craven County only provides animal shelter services for Pamlico County, not animal control services.

Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman’s signature, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

Budget Amendment – Tri Community Fire District

Mr. Hemphill presented the following budget amendment for Tri Community Fire District. Tri Community will utilize these funds toward the planning and construction of their new fire station. Fire tax increases will cover the estimated mortgage. Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the following budget amendment, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Fire Department

249-0000-399-01-00	\$81.00	249-2900-410-11-04	\$81.00
No. 9 Twp. Fire		Workers Comp	
TOTAL	\$81.00	TOTAL	\$81.00

Justification: To cover shortage in line items for workers compensation additional premium per VFIS of North Carolina invoice dated 11/11/15.

APPOINTMENTS

Craven Community Child Protection Team: Dawn Gibson

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

Agricultural Advisory Committee: Jackie Anderson, Dale Dawson

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

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council: James Zechman

Commissioner Jones moved to reappoint James Zechman to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Zechman was reappointed by acclamation.

Craven County Health Board: Verdelle Newby

Commissioner Sampson nominated Keola Perry for appointment to the Craven County Health Board to replace Verdelle Newby. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Perry was appointed by acclamation.

Cove City/Craven County Library Board of Trustees: Theresa Hodges

Commissioner Jones moved to reappoint Theresa Hodges to the Cove City/Craven County Library Board of Trustees. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Hodges was reappointed by acclamation.

Upcoming Appointments

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

January - None

February

- Craven Aging Planning Board
- Community Child Protection Team
- Nursing Home Advisory Committee
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – 619 Second Avenue, New Bern (#8-012-148)

County Attorney, Jim Hicks, presented an offer received by Craven County and the City of New Bern in the amount \$3,000 for property located at 619 Second Avenue, New Bern, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The total taxes and costs that were foreclosed on were \$5,442.17. The current tax value is \$18,110.

Commissioner McCabe moved to advertise the property for upset bids in accordance with the General Statutes, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried. Once no further upset bids are timely received, the County and City may accept or reject the final offer.

Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – 702 Second Avenue, New Bern (#8-012-191)

Mr. Hicks presented an offer received by Craven County and the City of New Bern in the amount of \$5,000 for property located at 702 Second Avenue, New Bern, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The total taxes and costs that were foreclosed on were \$3,652.60. The current tax value is \$12,610.

Commissioner McCabe moved to advertise the property for upset bids in accordance with the General Statutes, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried. Once no further upset bids are timely received, the County and City may accept or reject the final offer.

Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – 408 Suttons Alley, New Bern (#8-008-166)

Mr. Hicks presented an offer received by Craven County and the City of New Bern in the amount of \$1,000 for property located at 408 Suttons Alley, New Bern, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The total taxes and costs that were foreclosed on were \$4,082.81. The current tax value is \$3,000.

Commissioner Mark moved to advertise the property for upset bids in accordance with the General Statutes, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried. Once no further upset bids are timely received, the County and City may accept or reject the final offer.

Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – 1419 Garfield Street, New Bern (#8-013-136)

Mr. Hicks presented an offer received by Craven County and the City of New Bern in the amount of \$1,300 for property located at 1419 Garfield Street, New Bern, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The total taxes and costs that were foreclosed on were \$6,754.41. The current tax value is \$6,730.

Commissioner McCabe moved to advertise the property for upset bids in accordance with the General Statutes, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried. Once no further upset bids are timely received, the County and City may accept or reject the final offer.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager, Jack Veit, announced the Annual Employee Service Awards program, to be held at 2:00 p.m. on December 17 at the Convention Center. He reported on his attendance at a Highway 70 Committee meeting. The Environmental Impact Statement will be placed in the Commissioners' office for review.

He announced a new project, a limited access highway, from Williams Road to Havelock,

Mr. Veit recognized incoming Finance Director, Craig Warren, as of January 1, 2016.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Dacey thanked volunteers at the West New Bern Fire Department for their Christmas party. He announced that he will hold a Town Hall meeting in River Bend on December 17 at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner McCabe asked for continued prayers for loved one of the San Bernardino victims.

Commissioner Mark reported that the Highway 70 Commission has elected him Vice President of the five County Board. He reported on his attendance at the Fairfield Harbour Christmas Parade on Saturday and the tree lighting in Bridgeton.

Commissioner Jones stated that he is in the midst of a Farm Bureau Convention in Greensboro.

He reported that farm income is projected to come down by 40% from 2015. There is expected to be a sell-off among farmers across the nation.

Commissioner Tyson reported on his attendance at a Craven 100Alliance meeting recently where they have raised over \$1.3M, mostly from the private sector. He reported that a building in the Industrial Park received an offer and they agreed to sell for \$300,000 plus. The building is approximately 5,000 square feet and has been used as an incubator. The group would like to reinvest the proceeds of the sale in a larger building (10,000 square feet). Economic Development Director, Timothy Downs, is working with FRC – East to procure a 100,000 square foot building.

Commissioner Sampson commented on gas prices coming down but groceries continuing to rise. He commented on another instance where the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners have been of different parties. He stated that the Board will be fine as long as it puts the citizens first.

Chairman Liner expressed thanks for the votes and confidence in him. He appreciates the prayer offered by Commissioner Dacey and comments by Commissioner Tyson. He stated he is most concerned about what is best for the County in moving it forward. He stated that he will be fair and honest as Chairman and that there were no back door deals or discussion. He expressed his respect for the members of the Board.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:25 p.m. Commissioner Sampson moved to go into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Mark for consultation with the attorney pursuant to N.C.G.S. 1433-318.11(a)(3). At 8:42 p.m. the Board returned to regular session. County Attorney, Jim Hicks, reported that the County used to own a 3.5 acre parcel which was sold to a third party in 2001. The deed carries a Right of First Refusal. The current owner wishes to sell the property. Staff recommended that the County waive its Right of First Refusal; however, this right will go forward with this and subsequent deeds.

Commissioner Jones moved to waive the Right of First Refusal, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

At 8:45 p.m. Commissioner McCabe moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

Chairman George S. Liner
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board