

AGENDA
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016
8:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

1. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Minutes of March 7, 2016
 - B. Health Budget Amendment
 - C. Proclamation for Mumfest
 - D. Tax Releases and Refunds
 - E. Finance Budget Amendment
 - F. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CRAVEN COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAM: Sandra Kutkuhn and Amy Bryant, Co-Chairs

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

3. CARTS – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 5307 STATE URBAN GRANT MATCH: Kelly Walker, Transportation Director

4. HEALTH – BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Scott Harrelson, Health Director

5. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – CRAVEN COUNTY COST OF COMMUNITY SERVICES STUDY: Dr. Kathy Best, Certified Accountant; Dr. Sandy Maddox, Professor and Mike Carroll, Extension Agent

6. SOLID WASTE – CONVENIENCE CENTERS HAULING AGREEMENT: Rusty Cotton, Solid Waste Director and Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager

7. FINANCE – BUDGET AMENDMENT: Craig Warren, Finance Director

8. APPOINTMENTS

9. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Jim Hicks
10. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: Jack Veit
11. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

RECESS TO RECONVENE IN WORK 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 MARCH 21, 2016. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

- Jack B. Veit III, County Manager
- Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager
- Craig Warren, Finance Director
- Amber Parker, Human Resources Director
- Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
- Jim Hicks, County Attorney
- Aaron Arnette, County Attorney Associate

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of March 7, 2016

Commissioner Mark moved to approve the minutes of March 7, 2016, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Health Budget Amendment

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

Health/Risk Reduction/Healthy Communities

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-6700-349-04-00	\$4,160.00	101-6700-440-25-00	\$1,800.00
State Revenues		Travel/Training	
		101-6700-440-31-11	\$.60
		Gasoline	
		101-6700-440-32-40	\$2,300.00
		Other Supplies	
TOTAL	\$4,160.00	TOTAL	\$4,160.00

Justification: Additional State funds awarded to CCHD to provide training opportunities for staff and to develop and promote lasting strategies to help people make healthier lifestyle choices in order to prevent chronic diseases. Funds will be used to send a health educator and a dietician to the A-Z Diabetes Educator Boot Camp (\$400 each) held April 25-29, 2016 in Greenville, NC. In addition, they will both attend the Freedom From Smoking Facilitator Training (\$350 each) held on May 18, 2016 in Wake Forest, NC, includes one night hotel stay. The remaining funds will be used to purchase brochures, brochure racks, exercise items, pocket folders and copy paper.

Proclamation for Mumfest

Commissioner Mark moved to adopt the following proclamation recognizing the 36th annual Mumfest celebration in Craven County, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Craven County is honored to be a part of the 36th MUMFEST celebration; and

WHEREAS, this proud North Carolina tradition continues to attract visitors to the colonial capitol city to enjoy entertainment, a street fair and riverfront attractions;

WHEREAS, MUMFEST supports cultural diversity, the arts, commercial and nonprofit communities of eastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, MUMFEST has contributed greatly in promoting our growing tourism industry, while encouraging visitors to explore all the wonderful possibilities that eastern North Carolina has to offer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS does hereby proclaim October 8 – 9, 2016 in observance of the 36th Annual MUMFEST celebration and encourages all citizens from the mountains to the coast to participate in this fun filled weekend.

Adopted this the 21st day of March, 2016.

Tax Releases and Refunds

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

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET#	AMOUNT
ANDERSON, CHAD MILITARY EXEMPT	2015-0001153	\$139.48
BOONE, EDITH WARD FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2015-0005564	\$82.76
BOONE, EDITH WARD FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2014-0005657	\$93.54
BOONE, EDITH WARD FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2013-0005538	\$101.10
BOONE, EDITH WARD FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2012-0005579	\$114.86
BOONE, EDITH WARD FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2011-0005578	\$122.64
GREEN, MALINDA DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015	2015-0091788	\$71.55
JACKSON, GARY NEIL CORRECTED DISCOVERED PROPERTY VALUE	2015-0091162	\$216.50

JOHNSON, JEFF AND ALISON CORRECTED DISCOVERED PROPERTY VALUE	2015-0091175	\$623.26
KRAFT, MICHAEL A DID NOT OWN 1/1/2006	2006-0031032	\$51.66
MCKNIGHT, KEVIN M NOT TAXABLE TO CRAVEN COUNTY	2015-0038403	\$159.63
PATRICK, JORDAN A & ANDREA M MILITARY EXEMPT	2015-0044809	\$49.75
PERRY, STEVEN CURTIS MILITARY EXEMPT	2015-0045353	\$81.59
SATWEAR LLC DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015	2015-0050759	\$10.72
SOULE, DOUGLAS CRAIG & SUSAN DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015	2015-0053677	\$120.72
TYSON, DUSTIN DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015	2015-0091811	\$1,370.95
WELLS, MATTHEW DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015	2015-0060915	\$43.79
ZEISSET, DAVID VAUGHN MILITARY EXEMPT	2015-0064969	\$8.69
	18 – CREDIT MEMO (S)	\$3,463.19

Refunds

BAKER, INEZ ET AL DWELLING VACANT SINCE 2010	2015-0002422	\$36.00
HOLCOMBE, ALLEN PAUL & KARLA K DWELLING VACANT SINCE 2013	2015-0027374	\$36.00
OGLE, ROBERT W & JENNIFER W VALUE CORRECTION PER BILL OF SALE	2015-0091300	\$177.34
PARNELL, EMMETT C DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015	2015-0091315	\$66.90
	4 – REFUND (S)	\$316.24

Finance Budget Amendment

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

Mental Health

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-6800-347-12-00 ABC 5 cent bottles	\$3,400.00	101-6800-440-94-42 ABC 5 cent bottles	\$3,400.00

TOTAL	\$3,400.00	TOTAL	\$3,400.00
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Justification: As a pass through, County collects ABC Board funds and pays them to Trillium. Need to increase their budget as receipts and payments will be greater than originally budgeted.

Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

The Board was requested to adopt the following proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Craven County. Commissioner Mark moved for its approval, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, children are vital to our state’s future success, prosperity and quality of life as well as being our most vulnerable assets; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community; and

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow up to their potential; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS does hereby proclaim April as **Child Abuse Prevention Month** and calls upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

Adopted this the 21st day of March, 2016.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CRAVEN COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

Ms. Sandra Kutkuhn and Ms. Amy Bryant, Co-Chairs of the Craven Community Child Protection Team, made a PowerPoint presentation to update the Board, as required annually by statute.

In 2015 the Child Protection Team reviewed four neglect cases; substance abuse was determined to be the most significant gap in service. Domestic violence was the second contributing factor, with 182 out of 754 incidents attributable to domestic violence.

Commissioner Dacey stated that he would like to have a copy of the presentation to share with Trillium. Ms. Kutkuhn responded that there are some mental health gaps, but Trillium is working on them. Commissioner Dacey asked for information on the gaps so that he could help through his presence on the Trillium Board.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: CARTS – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 5307 STATE URBAN GRANT MATCH

CARTS Director, Kelly Walker, reported that CARTS has been awarded State Urban Match funding by the North Carolina Board of Transportation (NCBOT) for the purpose of assisting small urban transit systems with the local cost of purchasing urban vehicles. The project total for these vehicles is \$195,000.

They will be used in the urbanized area only and will replace vehicles previously purchased with rural money. The local match for these vehicles is 15% or \$29,250. By accepting the State Urban Match funding, North Carolina Department of Transportation/Public Transportation Division will pay for 7% or \$13,650, which reduces the match for CARTS to 8% or \$15,600.

The vehicles will be ordered in fall 2016 and received in spring 2017.

Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the resolution to enter into an agreement with NCDOT for the assistance in funding the local match when purchasing FY2016 5307 funded urban vehicles, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Ms. Walker stated that match funds will first use money raised from the sale of replaced vehicles and if not enough, the match will be augmented by advertising money.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: HEALTH – BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Health Director, Scott Harrelson, presented the following budget amendments for the Board’s approval.

Health/Adult Primary Care

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-6612-370-05-00 Medicaid Revenues	\$21,250.00	101-6612-440-15-15 Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 554.00
		101-6612-440-25-00 Travel/Training	\$ 3,750.00
		101-6612-440-32-40 Other Supplies	\$ 1,834.00
		101-6612-440-40-00 Contract Services	\$11,000.00
		101-6612-440-73-21 C/Outlay \$500-\$4,999	\$ 4,112.00
TOTAL	\$21,250.00	TOTAL	\$21,250.00

Justification: CCHD received a Medicaid HER Incentive Payment (Meaningful Use) in the amount of \$21,250. Funds will be used to pay for Medicare application (\$554), HIPAA Security Risk Training package (\$3,750), Secure Messaging through CureMD (\$4,200), (PQRS) Physician Quality Reporting System-required-reports information on the quality of care to patients(\$800), Custom UDS reports for FQHC (\$3,000), an additional billing provider (\$3,000), a handicapped scale (\$1,863) and an ambulatory blood pressure monitoring device (\$2,249). The remaining funds (\$1,834) will go towards purchase of chairs in newly renovated waiting room clinic.

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

Health/Hospice

101-6502-370-03-00 Medicaid	\$ 50,000.00	101-6502-440-15-24 Clinician	\$18,000.00
101-6502-371-02-00 Medicare	\$119,400.00	101-6502-440-32-05 Prescription Drugs	\$60,000.00
		101-6502-440-32-05 Med Supplies – Routine	\$ 400.00
		101-6502-440-32-17 Med Supplies – Ancillary	\$ 6,000.00
		101-6502-440-40-50 Contract Employees	\$85,000.00
TOTAL	\$169,400.00	TOTAL	\$169,400.00

Justification: We have an additional \$1,784 patient days for the first seven months of this fiscal year compared to the same period last fiscal year. As a result, the clinician's hours have increased as well. In November 2015, Hospice Census indicated the need for an additional RN Case Manager; therefore, a contract RN was hired. The contract employees include: two RN's, one LPN and three Aides, averaging \$17,000 per month. The average drugs cost approximately \$15,000 per month. (There is currently one patient whose medications alone cost \$4,000 per month). Medical supplies are also required to be issued to patients as needed. Savings for Hospice supervisor vacancy this FY is \$29,000.

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

Chairman Liner commended the Health Department and contractor on the renovation project.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – CRAVEN COUNTY COST OF COMMUNITY SERVICES STUDY

Through grant funds, the Craven County Agricultural Advisory Board (CCAAB) coordinated with Mount Olive University and NC East Alliance to conduct a cost of service study for Craven County for the fiscal year 2012-2013, to examine the County's revenue and expenditures by land use category (Residential, Commercial and Agricultural Use).

Results of this study were presented to the Board by the research team and Mike Carroll, Extension Agent, showing that counties typically spend more than revenue received for residential property. Within Craven County this created a \$11.4 million deficient. In contrast, industry and agriculture contribute to off setting this deficit by requiring less service (\$9.8 million surplus). Ratios of revenue to expenditures for Craven County for residential, industrial and agricultural land use is \$1: \$1:10; \$1: \$0.33; and \$1:\$0.20 respectively. These ratios are slightly less than average for residential and commercial land uses and significantly less for agricultural use.

A final report will be made public by posting to the Craven County and NC Cooperative Extension web pages.

Commissioner Mark expressed that he is unhappy that the extension center continues to have reductions in staff and funding, when according to the report, it should be increasing.

Commissioner Jones stated that compensation from the military for keeping land in agriculture expired in 2015. There has been discussion of funding for similar programs at the federal level, but nothing has developed yet.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve endorsement and posting the report to the websites, as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Liner asked about the impact of growing solar farms. Mr. Carroll stated that Craven County has lost significant farmland to solar farms. Once the land goes to commercial use, it loses many environmental protections.

County Manager, Jack Veit, stated that it may be an opportune time to look at the long range effects and what measures the County needs to put in place.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SOLID WASTE – CONVENIENCE CENTERS HAULING AGREEMENT

On February 2, 2016, County staff solicited written proposals from qualified contractors to perform the hauling of items from convenience sites, and the results were presented by Solid Waste Director, Rusty Cotton. Three proposals were received on March 4, 2016, with Republic Services of NC, LLC submitting the low bid of \$144.75 per pull which equals a \$75,000 increase in budget for the next two fiscal years. The current price is \$116.83 per pull.

Commissioner Mark moved to approve acceptance of the Republic bid in the amount of \$144.75 per pull, and execution of the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Tyson and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Mark inquired if the coverage of loaded trucks is a condition of the agreement. He stated that CRSWMA has purchased new covers for their trucks and asked if the cost of the agreement with Republic will account for covers.

Mr. Cotton stated that covers are included in the agreement, and convenience centers will avoid over packing the loads.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FINANCE – BUDGET AMENDMENT

Finance Director, Craig Warren, presented the following budget amendment for the Board’s approval. Commissioner McCabe moved for its approval, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Rescue Squads

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-2825-357-53-00 New Bern/Craven Rescue Fee	\$40,864.00	101-2825-410-33-10 New Bern/Craven 90% Collection	\$36,778.00
		101-2801-410-40-03 Collection Cost	\$ 4,086.00
101-2827-357-51-00 Ft. Barnwell Rescue Fee	\$ 2,097.00	101-2827-410-33-10 Ft. Barnwell 90% Collection	\$ 1,887.00
		101-2801-410-40-03 Collection Cost	\$ 210.00
101-2828-357-49-00 Bridgeton Rescue Fee	\$18,454.00	101-2828-410-33-10 Bridgeton 90% Collection	\$16,609.00
		101-2801-410-40-03 Collection Cost	\$ 1,845.00
101-2829-357-50-00 Vanceboro Rescue Fee	\$ 3,577.00	3101-2829-410-33-10 Vanceboro 90% Collection	\$ 3,219.00
		101-2801-410-40-03 Collection Cost	\$ 358.00
101-2830-357-56-00 Cove City Rescue Fee	\$23,603.00	101-2830-410-33-10 Cove City 90% Collection	\$21,243.00
		101-2801-410-40-03 Collection Cost	\$ 2,360.00
101-2831-357-56-00 Twp. #7 Rescue Fee	\$15,621.00	101-2831-410-33-10 Twp. #7 90% Collection	\$14,059.00
		101-2801-410-40-03 Collection Cost	\$ 1,562.00
101-2825-357-53-01 Jail Ambulance Transport	\$ 6,300.00	101-2825-410-41-25 Jail Ambulance Transport	\$ 6,300.00
TOTAL	\$110,516.00	TOTAL	\$110,516.00

Justification: Time of year to assess/adjust ambulance billing fees. The amount already received this fiscal year dictates an increase to budget for fees received and the corresponding 90% to the squads and 10% for collections.

NB/Craven rescue transports inmates to and from hospital and jail. Jail is responsible for these costs. Due to increased transports, amount billed has already far exceeded the budget.

Commissioner Dacey reported that he had a complaint from a constituent concerning the level of care for rescue not being appropriately matched to the level of need. He inquired if auditing is being done on the level of care provided against the actual need of the patient. The County Manager agreed to address this concern with Emergency Services Director, Stanley Kite.

APPOINTMENTS

Craven Community Child Protection Team: Dawn Gibson, Bradley Lanto, Walter Mills

The Board was apprised of the expiring terms of Dawn Gibson, Bradley Lanto and Walter Mills on the Craven Community Child Protection Team. Commissioner Jones moved to reappoint Mr. Lanto and Mr. Mills, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried. An appointment to replace Dawn Gibson, who is not seeking reappointment, was deferred.

Nursing Home Advisory Committee: Donna Siegmund

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

River Bend Board of Adjustment (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction)

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:

April

- Craven Aging Planning Board
- Health Board
- Nursing Home Advisory Committee
- Down East RPO
- Agricultural Advisory Board

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Final Acceptance – Offer to Purchase Real Property – 1021 Lees Avenue, New Bern (Parcel Number 8-006-172)

County Attorney, Jim Hicks, presented an offer previously received and tentatively approved by Craven County and the City of New Bern in the amount of \$4,000 for the property located at 1021 Lees Avenue, New Bern, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The total taxes and costs that were foreclosed on were \$4,402.44. The current tax value is \$26,240.00. The offer was advertised and there were no upset bids. Commissioner Mark moved to approve the sale and adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION

1021 Lees Avenue, New Bern, North Carolina

THAT WHEREAS, Craven County and the City of New Bern have received an offer to purchase a parcel of property owned by the County and City identified as 1021 Lees Avenue, and being more particularly described herein; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is authorized to sell the County's interest in the property pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §160A-269; and

WHEREAS, the offer to purchase was advertised as required by said statute; and

WHEREAS, the offer to purchase was in the sum of \$4,000.00 by Nathaniel Mora; and that there were no upset bids; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners deems it advisable and in the best interest of the County to sell its interest in the subject property to the successful bidder and to convey its interest in said property by quitclaim deed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CRAVEN COUNTY:

Section 1. That the last and highest bid of Nathaniel Mora, in the sum of \$4,000.00 for said parcel identified as 1021 Lees Avenue, and being more particularly described herein, be and the same is hereby accepted as to the County's interest in said property, and the Chairman, County Manager and/or Clerk be and they are hereby authorized and directed to execute a quitclaim deed to the purchasers for the County's interest in said property.

Section 2. That a copy of said quitclaim deed is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and the original deed shall be delivered to said purchasers once the same has been executed on behalf of the County and City, upon payment of the purchase price.

Section 3. That the subject property is more particularly described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land lying and being situate in Number Eight (8) Township, Craven County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:

All of that certain property more fully described in Deed Book 3323 at Page 695 in the Craven County Registry. This property is also commonly referred to by its tax parcel identification number which is 8-006-172.

ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2016.

*Final Acceptance – Offer to Purchase Real Property – 435 Prichard Avenue
(Parcel Number 5-021-063)*

Mr. Hicks presented an offer previously received by Craven County and tentatively approved in the amount of \$3,000 for the property located at 435 Prichard Avenue, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The total taxes and costs that were foreclosed on were \$2,952.34. The current tax value is \$15,400. The offer was advertised and there were no upset bids. Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the sale and adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION

Tax Parcel Number 5-021-063, Craven County, North Carolina

THAT WHEREAS, Craven County has received an offer to purchase a parcel of property owned by the County, identified as Tax Parcel Number 5-021-063, and being more particularly described herein; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is authorized to sell the County's interest in the property pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §160A-269; and

WHEREAS, the offer to purchase was advertised as required by said statute; and

WHEREAS, the final offer to purchase, after the upset bid period, was in the sum of \$3,000.00 by Dogwood Farm and Timber, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners deems it advisable and in the best interest of the County to sell its interest in the subject property to the successful bidder and to convey its interest in said property by quitclaim deed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CRAVEN COUNTY:

Section 1. That the last and highest bid of Dogwood Farm and Timber, LLC in the sum of \$3,000.00 for said parcel identified as Tax Parcel Number 5-021-063, and being more particularly described herein, be and the same is hereby accepted as to the County's interest in said property, and the Chairman, County Manager and/or Clerk be and they are hereby authorized and directed to execute a quitclaim deed to the purchasers for the County's interest in said property, and to further execute any and all other documents related to the sale of the same..

Section 2. That a copy of said quitclaim deed is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and the original deed shall be delivered to said purchaser once the same has been executed on behalf of the County, upon payment of the purchase price.

Section 3. That the subject property is more particularly described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land lying and being situate in Number One (1) Township, Craven County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:

All of that certain property more fully described in Deed Book 3366 at Page 565 in the Craven County Registry. This property is also commonly referred to by its tax parcel identification number which is 5-021-063.

ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2016.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Mark reported on his recent attendance at a Highway 70 meeting, stating that John Sullivan with the state was the speaker. He stated that Highway 70 was approved for interstate I-70 to Morehead, which will take about 25 years to accomplish. He will report on new developments that will impact the ports.

Commissioner Jones stated that he had cleaned up two bags of roadside trash, which barely touched the problem. He stated that he has had a number of calls from the agricultural sector with concerns over revaluation. The County Manager is looking into these concerns.

Commissioner Tyson thanked the City of New Bern for cleaning up the ramp at the Bridgepointe Hotel. He stated that he and Mr. Veit are trying to set up a meeting with law enforcement and the Chief District Court judge to discuss fines for littering. He stated that the tax revaluation in the central part of the county seems to be on target.

Commissioner Dacey reported that ACT recently had a meeting and elected Will Lewis, Mayor of Havelock, as the new President. He stated that General Pappas will be coming to speak. He reported that East Carolina Council of Governments(ECCOG) has adjusted the salary of Executive Director, Judy Hills.

He reported that he met with the Governor's liaison, Steve Keen, to discuss NCACC concerns. One of the issues is gaps in internet connectivity causing hardship for some families whose students must rely on technology for school work. He announced he will be holding a Town Hall meeting from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at River Bend on Thursday, March 24.

Commissioner Sampson stated that gas prices are on the rise again. He reported that he had obtained some trash bags for a constituent who wanted to do some street-side clean up; however, dogs got into the bags afterwards and scattered the trash. He feels that the County needs to do something about the dog situation. He stated that he continues working on the re-entry program.

Chairman Liner reported that he will be attending a school budget work shop on Wednesday, March 23 from 9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. He commented that he will be attending a JLUS meeting in Beaufort. He announced the website donorschoose.org where citizens can find out what teachers are in need of to teach and help to raise those funds. He commented on a letter received from Senator Burr in response to the County's refugee resolution adopted February 1.

At 9:50 a.m. the Board went into recess until 10:00 a.m.

At 10:00 a.m. the Board reconvened in work session and were joined by members and staff of the Craven County Board of Education:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carroll Ipock, Chairman
Linda Thomas, Vice Chair
Frances Boomer
David Hale
Beatrice Smith
Kimberly Smith
Joseph Walton

STAFF PRESENT:

Lane Mills, Superintendent
Denise Altman, Finance Director

Wendy Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Ms. Altman presented factors affecting the schools' budget, as follows:

- Declining Average Daily Membership since 2012 (from 15,079 in 2011-2012 to 14,325 in the current school year); She explained that the declining enrollment has resulted in sending back \$320,000 for lost teacher and teacher assistant positions, as teacher allotments are based on student numbers. Local positions have been used to compensate for these losses, which typically occur mid-year.
- Any increases seen in state appropriations have gone toward increased costs of insurance and other benefits.
- Exceptional children student population has increased by 155 from 1681 to 1836 since 2012. Medicaid coverage, which has been delayed, is insufficient. Staffing and support services are subject to guidelines and regulations, sometimes forcing the use of contract interpreters, which are more costly than direct hire interpreters.

Although the request for the County's portion of the budget has gone up each year, the Board of Education has additionally had to make appropriations from its Fund Balance to offset increasing reductions in state support and its application to salaries. The remaining Fund Balance is not adequate to fund shortfalls in the projected budget for the coming year.

Critical concerns that the Board of Education faces include:

- The need to decrease local budget items
- The largest portion of local funds allocated to personnel
- Lack of flexibility in the local budget due to fixed costs, such as utilities and insurance

She continued, citing what the Board of Education has already done to meet the budgetary challenges in the areas of personnel and operational activities.

During discussion, Commissioner Mark inquired about the status of the Bridgeton School property that has been available for sale. Dr. Mills indicated that an appraisal revealed that the cost of removing the building would equal the value of the land. An option would be to ask the County's help with removal of the building, and marketing the property to re-pay the County. Any residual could be applied to unmet needs.

Commissioner Dacey expressed concern about the absence of books in the schools and reliance on technology for homework, which does not account for limited access to technology among some households. Dr. Mills stated that the rationale is based on the expense of text books that become absolute quickly as they must align to constantly evolving standards and programs. The principals are looking into access issues.

Commissioner Dacey also expressed concern about the schools' report card, stating that advancement in reading and math levels is not evident.

Commissioner Liner stated that he is disappointed that sacrificing athletics is being considered in balancing the budget. Commissioner Sampson cautioned that severe cutbacks could cause many students to be left behind.

At 11:20 a.m. the Board went into recess until 11:30 a.m., and the joint session with the Board of Education ended.

At 11:30 a.m. the Board reconvened.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT MATTERS

JLUS Update

Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, discussed with the Board a need to clarify the County's Tall Structures Ordinance to detail provisions specifically applicable to turbines and solar energy. He stated that the Carteret County ordinance is currently being studied by the County Attorney and there is interest within the region for adopting the same regulations region-wide. A template for Solar Energy is available from the N.C. Sustainable Energy Association.

Subdivision Ordinance Updates

Deputy Planning Director, Chad Strawn, presented proposed amendments to the Subdivision Ordinance which reflect statutory changes since 2004, when last amended. Sections affected are Penalties, Review Committee and Definitions. He recommended that a request to schedule a public hearing date be placed on the Board's next agenda.

SOCIAL SERVICES MATTERS

Social Services Director, Kent Flowers, and Deputy Director, Alfreda Stout, presented a request to establish nine (9) County temporary positions. They explained that the use of temporary agency staffing is no longer allowable for performing eligibility determination functions. Without these additional positions, the Social Services Department would be unable to meet mandated timeframes for processing the work. Funds are available for the requested positions in budgeted contract funds for the remainder of the current fiscal year; however, the new temporary County positions must be accounted for in the upcoming budget.

Commissioner Dacey moved to approve the nine (9) County temporary positions, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

At 12:15 p.m. the Chairman declared the Board in recess.

At 12:40 p.m. the Board reconvened, joined by N.C. Senator Norman Sanderson, and Representatives John Bell, George Graham and Michael Speciale.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Senator Sanderson stated that North Carolina's economic index is heading upwards. He anticipates a very short upcoming session. He itemized some of the significant legislative issues that he anticipates ahead, as follows:

- Re-configuration of all economic tiers for the counties
- Adjustment to sales tax expansion, with review of unintended consequences
- Revisit coastal insurance
- Reduction of licensing laws
- Review of Certificate of Need laws
- Address the testing aspect of education and Common Core
- Advancement of tax reform; increasing 0% tax base from \$15,000 to \$17,000

Representative Bell stated that he is proud to be able to have such joint meetings, as all members of this delegation serve more than one county. It is important for them to come together with constituents and as a delegation, across party lines, because urban rule is the great divide in Raleigh, with the large urban counties having the most voices. This delegation is committed to ensuring that eastern North Carolina is heard.

Representative Speciale reported that he has pushed for the return of authority for school calendar setting to the counties, and asked what the County needs from the legislative delegation.

Representative Graham stated that the bond that was just passed will enhance programs in some of the smaller institutions, and hopefully some of the funds will be spent locally. He serves on the Public Safety, Transportation and Agriculture Committees and stressed that agriculture will continue to be an important piece of the state's economy.

A delegation will be surveying the ports to review the possibility of enhancing their deep water port capabilities. Along with Representative Bell, he is working on getting the Pedro rescue mission back.

County Manager, Jack Veit, presented a list of the Commissioners' priorities, as follows:

1. Continued funding of the N.C. Military Affairs Commission
2. Funding sources to protect agricultural lands
3. Greater flexibility with 911 funds
4. Problems with the Cooperative Extension planning models
5. Restoration of lottery funds
6. Withdrawal of local school boards' statutory authority to bring suit against Boards of Commissioners
7. Legislation to seek local option revenue sources
8. Local option for community broadband

During discussion, Representative Bell acknowledged that the pooling of 911 funds is a universal issue that needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Dacey stated that he is waiting on the Administrative Office of the Courts to respond with data regarding the public defender program, as the pool of court appointed attorneys continues to diminish. Further, he expressed the difficulty being faced with the on-line environment required for school students and the lack of text books.

Commissioner Tyson stated that at the least there should be a transition plan in place that is agreed upon by the Department of Public Instruction, the General Assembly and the counties.

Commissioner Sampson advocated spending more on education to save on jail expenditures in the long run, and promoted the re-entry program concept and training in the trades.

Commissioner Jones expressed concerns about the condition of secondary roads in his district, particularly old U.S. Highway 70 between Cove City and Dover.

Representative Bell noted that Dover and Cove City are seeking quality of life support to provide for recreation. He stated that the legislative delegation is working to address the absence of the Pedro helicopter rescue unit, and is getting closer to having a proposal.

Commissioner Liner stated that a disproportionate amount of increased appropriation to the schools is going to benefits, as opposed to the children, which is a concern.

At 2:10 p.m. the Board was declared in recess and the Legislative Delegation withdrew.

The Board reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS

Assistant Planning Director, Chad Strawn, advised the Board that the new flood maps are due to be released to the public by June 30, 2016, followed by a 90 day review and comment period. He stated that in the updated maps 331 structures have been added and 438 structures removed:

- River Bend – 61 structures added; 0 removed
- Trent Woods – 73 structures added; 29 removed
- Havelock – 13 structures added; 4 removed
- New Bern – 1082 structures added; 1 removed
- Bridgeton – 53 structures added; 0 removed
- Cove City, Dover and Vanceboro – no changes

The remainder of the changes occurred in the unincorporated areas. Commissioner Liner asked staff to break out the statistics by district.

Commissioner Tyson asked if FEMA would be responsible for sending notifications to the mortgage companies, and was advised that the mortgage companies run audits on flood plain properties routinely.

Mr. Strawn explained that although some of the areas that experienced high water during Hurricane Irene have been removed from the maps. Hurricane Irene was not included in the data due to an unusually high lunar tide immediately preceding the event, viewed as a contributing factor. He stated that properties removed from the maps and no longer required to have flood insurance still have the option to continue it.

If there are no changes the maps would become effective in early 2017. The Planning Department staff will return to the Board in July with an update after preliminary maps are publicized.

ANIMAL SHELTER PROJECT

Assistant County Manager, Gene Hodges, provided background and rationale for the current animal shelter improvement project. After original bids came in over the budget, the expansion project was rebid with a 50% reduction in the designed space; however, the reduced bid amount was not commensurate with the reduction in the design. Consequently, the Board authorized spending \$100,000 to bring certain areas of the facility into compliance with state inspection, as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| • Install AC in dog kennel area | \$42,000 |
| • Fill in windows in kennel area | \$18,000 |
| • Install commercial fire panel | \$35,000 |
| • Condition and repaint kennel floors | \$ 5,000 |

Actual costs of improvements to date:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| • Install AC in dog kennel area | \$41,258 |
| • Fill in windows in kennel area | \$ 7,509 |
| • Install commercial fire panel | \$33,000 |
| • Condition and repaint kennel floors | \$ 3,500 |
| • Install HVAC controls on new units | \$10,993 |

Next steps:

- Revised plans due at the end of March
- Plans and RFP out by April 15, 2016
- Pre-bid meeting April 26, 2016
- Bids due May 5, 2016
- Presented to Board of Commissioners May 16, 2016
- Construction commences early July 2016

County Manager, Jack Veit, informed the Board that there is a difference in the amount budgeted for the project and the amount of the lowest bid, which will be taken from the Capital Reserve Fund, not the General Fund.

At 3:05 p.m. Commissioner Sampson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Chairman George S. Liner
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board