

**AGENDA
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

1. PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2016-2017 BUDGET
2. PETITIONS OF CITIZENS
3. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Minutes of May 16, 2016, May 19, 2016 and May 20, 2016
 - B. Tax Releases and Refunds
 - C. Service Person of the Quarter
 - D. Budget Amendments

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

4. SHERIFF – BUDGET AMENDMENT: Jesse Pittman, Administrative Captain
5. FINANCE – BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Craig Warren, Finance Director
6. APPOINTMENTS
7. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Jim Hicks
8. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: Jack Veit
9. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, ON MONDAY JUNE 6, 2016. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:00 P.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
Amber Parker, Human Resources Director
Craig Warren, Finance Director
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
Jim Hicks, County Attorney

Following an invocation by Commissioner Liner and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried. Chairman Liner noted the anniversary of D-Day.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2016-2017 BUDGET

County Manager, Jack Veit, prefaced the public hearing, stating that in light of the 2016 revaluation, the revenue neutral tax rate would be \$.5294. His recommendation adds one cent to the revenue neutral rate for a total recommended rate of \$.5394, which mainly addresses increases for schools and DSS mandates.

Chairman Liner made the following statement:

Ladies and Gentlemen, I normally would not speak out but I feel obligated to do so. I am not speaking on behalf of the Board. I have not asked for, nor received, their consent. A report was released over the weekend that's making the rounds by E-Mail. This report is very misleading and in some cases a complete distortion.

I believe and have sworn an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of North Carolina. We ALL have the right of free speech. HONESTY must play a big part, honesty is a personality trait that we all start out with I believe. When a cause misrepresents itself by putting out inaccuracy or half-truths, especially when they know the truth, that organization loses and becomes no better than what they are fighting against.

I feel our Board has been open and transparent to everyone they represent. We have not all agreed, otherwise this budget would have been ready after the first meeting instead of the four days it took to move it along to this point. After tonight there may be another work shop, that will be determined by this meeting tonight.

Allow me to say this to the audience and those watching at home, the proposed application for a satellite operation in Havelock for the Health Department is true. Tax dollars, YES, federal funds, YES. Meaning it's open to ALL that meet the criteria, NO LOCAL FUNDING. The Health Department Director DID NOT ASK THIS BOARD for any new positions to man this facility if it comes to reality. The Health department in most cases has been self-sufficient with limited county funding. The WIC Program is not new, it's a county administered federal program being housed aboard Cherry Point. This would allow it to move to the community.

The new personnel that have been thrown out as being for this program, in fact, are for the Social Service Department, that is 12 employees - (6) full time and 6 part time. This is again being mandated by the feds and passed down by the state legislatures in support of their programs.

One important piece of information left out of this report, was how our Board is going to handle the 350-500 thousand dollars of additional funding being again mandated by the state for teachers pay increases, and we will not even be made aware of this teacher pay raise until September, long after we have approved our budget.

Comments are being made about the hiring of an additional person for Veteran Services. This county has a large number of Veterans in the community, they are being forced to seek help outside this county for assistance that they have earned and rate, is this right? The Veteran Service office is approximately 400sqft that houses Director, case worker and a part time employee, interviewing veterans without privacy. We must and we can do better for those that have sacrificed so much for this great country.

Freedom of speech is a great and powerful thing. When you are communicating either by voice or print be Honest on what you are speaking. Let the PEOPLE make up their minds on the issues with truthful information.

At 7:07 p.m. Commissioner Mark moved to go into public hearing, as advertised, to receive public input on the proposed FY 2016-2017 budget, which as been available to the public in the County Manager's office and on the County's website since May 16. Commissioner Sampson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The following citizens spoke:

1. *Brad Cummings, 307 Madam Moores Lane*, inquired if there are any savings in the budget. He stated his objection to the property tax rate increase and referenced the next election for Commissioners.
2. *Glenn Fink, 646 Goose Creek Road (CCTA)*, advocated for alternative budget strategies and considering the cost of compliance with mandates. He recommended leveraging NCACC to resist some of the mandates.
3. *Hal James, 305 Calico Drive*, criticized the process in developing the budget.
4. *Raynor James, 305 Calico Drive*, stated that she is in favor of small government and less taxes.
5. *Carr Ipock, 401 Surry Lane*, stated that the Board of Education has gotten information out over the last several months concerning their budget. There was a budget plan developed for \$1M in County funding and \$1.5M alternatively, but not for an amount between. The decrease in student numbers has had an impact on the budget. A school board meeting is scheduled for June 8 to adjust the budget to the County's proposed appropriation.
6. *Dave Hale, 511 Neuse Harbor Blvd.*, thanked the Board for its engagement with the Board of Education through the budgeting process.
7. *Chip Hughes*, had signed up to speak but declined.
8. *Matt Knight*, had signed up to speak but declined.

At 7:30 p.m. Commissioner McCabe moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

1. *Kim Fink, 646 Goose Creek Rd.*, stated that D-Day sacrifices make her sad; funding of charities; corporate welfare; and entitlements also make her sad.

2. *Ray Griffin, Vanceboro*, requested that the Board draw up a resolution in favor of HB2.
3. *Randy Siler, 3103 Side Saddle Lane, Trent Woods (CCTA & Educator)*, addressed the Board regarding the role of government.
4. *Bill Harper* stated that he has decided to become active speaking out again.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the minutes of May 16, 2016 regular session and May 19 and May 20, 2016 reconvened sessions, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Tax Releases

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

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET#	AMOUNT
BAKER, WILLIAM F FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2013-0002448	\$517.19
BENTON, JAMES WALTON JR & LIND DID NOT WON 1/1/2014	2014-0004529	\$102.84
BENTON, JAMES WALTON JR & LIND DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015	2015-0004455	\$93.56
BENTON, JAMES WALTON JR & LIND DID NOT OWN 1/1/2013	2013-0004421	\$172.08
CHATHAM, JOHN ANTHONY & SAMAN BOAT NOT TAXABLE TO CRAVEN COUNTY	2014-0010208	\$34.57
CHATHAM, JOHN ANTHONY & SAMAN BOAT TAXABLE TO CRAVEN COUNTY	2015-0010120	\$34.81
CLARK, ALLAN RAY DWELLING RAZED IN 2012	2013-0010523	\$82.10
CLARK, ALLAN RAY DWELLING RAZED IN 2012	2014-0010750	\$113.40
CLARK, ALLAN RAY DWELLING RAZED IN 2012	2015-0010659	\$107.40
COAKLEY, SCOTT BOAT NOT TAXABLE TO CRAVEN COUNTY	2015-0090946	\$279.35
COOK, ROBERT T BOAT NOT TAXABLE TO CRAVEN COUNTY	2015-0090951	\$2,472.96
DAY, JAMES DID NOT OWN 1/1/2014	2014-0090290	\$96.07

DAY, JAMES DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015	2015-0014308	\$87.24
JACKSON, JANIE V FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2007-0028525	\$120.98
JACKSON, JANIE V FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2015-0029337	\$36.46
JOHNSON, WILBERT A JR FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2014-0029924	\$26.44
JOHNSON, WILBERT A JR FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2015-0030392	\$441.59
MOYERS, CHERYL MAE NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2015	2015-0091267	\$44.95
PELIKAN, PHILIP MILITARY EXEMPTION	2015-0091688	\$803.05
PRIDGEN, CHRIS K DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015	2015-0091342	\$77.77
PRIDGEN, CHRIS K DID NOW OWN 1/1/2014	2014-0092822	\$84.49
SEABOARD ELECTRICAL SERVICE IN DID NOT OWN 1/1/2014	2014-0092885	\$119.21
SEABOARD ELECTRICAL SERVICE IN DID NOT OWN 1/1/2015	2015-0091419	\$83.90
STATON ENTERPRISES OF NEW BERN NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2015	2015-0091464	\$8.41
	24 – CREDIT MEMO (S)	\$6,040.82

Military Service Person of the Quarter

The Board was requested to adopt the following resolution recognizing Corporal Gregory F. Carlo as Military Service Person of the Quarter. A luncheon will be held on June 9 at 12:00 p.m. at the New Bern Golf and Country Club in his honor. Commissioner Tyson moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING CORPORAL GREGORY F. CARLO
AS
MILITARY PERSON OF THE QUARTER**

WHEREAS, Corporal Gregory F. Carlo is currently stationed with Headquarters and Headquarters (HQHQRON), aboard Marine Crop Air Station Cherry Point; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Carlo serves as a Separations Noncommissioned Officer in the Separations Branch of the Installation Personnel Administrative Center (IPAC), and is also the HQHQRON Single Marine Program (SMP) representative, in which he helps provide volunteer opportunities to other Marines and Sailors of the unit; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Carlo is an active volunteer with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (T.A.P.S.), a program built to provide support to military survivors of any type of loss. His role consists of mentoring young children and young adults and assisting with grief sessions, as well as attending local events and culminating daily activities.

Due to the amount of his involvement in this organization, he has advanced from a mentor to a group leader, which not only helps support the children, but also supports other mentors; and

WHEREAS, in his free time, Cpl. Carlo has also volunteered at a children’s fair at Bridgeton Elementary School and Teacher Appreciation Week at Arthur W. Edwards Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, through the Single Marine Program (SMP), he has helped clean up multiple parks and recreational areas in the local community, including trash pick-up, as well as landscaping and revitalization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS recognizes Corporal Gregory F. Carlo for being an exemplary role model in the local community and providing strong leadership, mentorship and dedicated service in both his on duty and off-duty time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS congratulates him on being selected Military Person of the Quarter.

Adopted this 6th day of June, 2016.

Budget Amendments

The Board was requested to approve the following budget amendments. Commissioner Tyson moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Mental Health

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-6800-347-12-00 ABC 5 cent bottles	\$2,000.00	101-6800-440-94-42 alcoholism ABC bottle	\$2,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,000.00	TOTAL	\$2,000.00

Justification: As a pass through, Craven 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.

1001 – Register of Deeds

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-1001-357-06-00 ROD Fees	\$2,100.00	101-1001-400-11-13 Supplemental Pension	\$2,100.00
TOTAL	\$2,100.00	TOTAL	\$2,100.00

Justification: Contributions to the Register of Deeds Supplemental Pension Fund are based on amount of revenue collected by the Register of Deeds. Higher than expected revenue has led to increased contributions to the Fund and a budget amendment is needed to reflect the additional revenue and cover shortage in expenditure line for the fund.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SHERIFF – BUDGET AMENDMENT

Administrative Captain, Jesse Pittman, presented the following budget amendment to cover shortages in inmate medical expenses, utilities, inmate welfare and facility maintenance through the end of the current fiscal year.

Many of the shortages are due to the increased number of inmates being housed under the State Misdemeanor Confinement program. Revenue generated for the program this fiscal year was double the projected amount. To date, the department has collected \$409,000 in revenue from the state.

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

Jail

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-2008-369-40-00 Misdemeanant hous	\$230,000.00	101-2008-410-23-00 Utilities	\$65,000.00
		101-2008-410-26-02 Maint/repair-equip	\$ 9,000.00
		101-2008-410-32-08 Medical Supplies	\$92,000.00
		101-2008-410-32-26 Inmate Welfare	\$56,000.00
		101-2008-410-32-40 Other Supplies	\$ 8,000.00
TOTAL	\$230,000.00	TOTAL	\$230,000.00

Justification: Higher prison population has increased expenditures in all areas of the jail. The higher inmate population has also resulted in a corresponding increase in revenue. Need to budget the additional revenue to cover expenditures for remainder of fiscal year.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FINANCE – BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Finance Director, Craig Warren, presented the following budget amendments for the Board’s approval.

Medical Examiner

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0000-399-01-00 Fund Balance current year	\$60,950.00	101-2701-410-40-28 Medical exam autopsy	\$53,250.00
		101-2701-410-40-29	\$ 7,700.00
TOTAL	\$60,950.00	TOTAL	\$60,950.00

Justification: Each year the medical examiners autopsy or investigation line exceeds budget. In November, an email was received from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner stating that effective October 1, 2015, autopsy fees increased from \$1,250 to \$1,750 and investigations from \$100 to \$200 each.

Commissioner Tyson asked who mandates the fees. Mr. Warren responded that the Chief Medical Examiner, with the State, mandates fees.

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

DJJDP/JCPC

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0564-348-15-00 DJJDP – Area Day Reporting	\$12,200.00	101-0564-450-91-05 DJJDP – Area Day Reporting	\$12,200.00
TOTAL	\$12,200.00	TOTAL	\$12,200.00

Justification: Area Day Reporting was awarded an additional \$12,200 of discretionary funding from the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

Commissioner Tyson clarified the State has sent further funding to JCPC, to be distributed at their discretion.

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

APPOINTMENTS

River Bend Board of Adjustment (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction)

The Board was awaiting the forthcoming application of Rick Fisher. It was the consensus of the Board to defer this appointment.

Craven Aging Planning Board: Joy Hudson

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

Agricultural Advisory Committee: Jimmy Arthur

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

Craven County ABC Board: Chip Chagnon, Tony Lee and Barbara Whiteman

The Board was apprised of the expiring terms of Chip Chagnon, Tony Lee and Barbara Whiteman on the Craven County ABC Board. Commissioner Mark moved to reappoint Mr. Chagnon, Mr. Lee and Ms. Whiteman for reappointment, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Social Services Board: Clayton Gaskins

The Board was apprised of the expiring term of Clayton Gaskins on the Social Services Board. Commissioner Jones nominated Mr. Gaskins for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Gaskins was reappointed by acclamation.

Fire Tax Commissioners: Sandra Hammer

The Board was apprised of the expiring term of Sandra Hammer on the Fire Tax Commission. Commissioner McCabe nominated Ms. Hammer for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Hammer was reappointed by acclamation.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council: Jennifer Dacey, Dawn Gibson, Debbie Hodges, Jan Hood, Jean Huryn, Faye Legacy, Todd Shuart, Toussaint Summers, Michelle Jerome

The Board was apprised of the expiring terms of Jennifer Dacey, Dawn Gibson, Debbie Hodges, Jan Hood, Jean Huryn, Faye Legacy, Todd Shuart, Toussaint Summers and Michelle Jerome on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Commissioner Jones nominated Mrs. Dacey, Ms. Hodges, Ms. Huryn, Ms. Legacy and Mr. Summers for reappointment.

He moved to appoint Carli Woolard to replace Michelle Jerome, who has resigned, in the juvenile defense attorney position; appoint Catherine Hardison, currently serving at-large, to the non-profit representative term of Jan Hood, who has retired; and appoint Jan Hood (no longer representing a non-profit organization) to the unexpired, at-large term of Catherine Hardison. There being no additional nominations, all were appointed and reappointed by acclamation. It was the consensus of the Board to defer the appointments of Dawn Gibson and Todd Shuart.

Nursing Home Advisory Board: Howard Humphreys, Martha Bryant-Watkins

Commissioner Mark moved to reappoint Howard Humphreys to the Nursing Home Advisory Board. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Humphreys was reappointed by acclamation. It was the consensus of the Board to defer the appointment for the position of Ms. Bryant-Watkins.

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board: Dickie Fairburn, Cathy Frazier, Abel Sandoval, Bill Taylor, Forrestine Riggs

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

Coastal Carolina Airport Authority: Harold Blot

Commissioner Dacey nominated Harold Blot for reappointment to the Coastal Carolina Airport Authority. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Blot was reappointed by acclamation.

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council: Freda Yeck

Commissioner Tyson nominated Andrew Reed to replace Freda Yeck on the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council as representative of Johnston Ambulance Service. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Reed was appointed by acclamation.

Upcoming Appointments – July

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

- Craven Aging Planning Board
- Planning Board
- River Bend Board of Adjustment

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Final Acceptance – NC Hwy 43, Vanceboro (Parcel Number 1-044-050)

County Attorney, Jim Hicks, presented an offer previously received and tentatively approved in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the property located at NC Hwy 43, Vanceboro, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The total taxes and costs that were foreclosed were \$2,286.60 and the current tax value is \$4,350.00. The offer was advertised and there were no upset bids.

Commissioner Mark moved to accept the final offer and adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Jones and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION

Tax Parcel Number 1-044-050, 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 1-044-050, 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 \$1,500.00 by Brenda Espinosa-Blanco; 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 Brenda Espinosa-Blanco in the sum of \$1,500.00 for said parcel identified as Tax Parcel Number 1-044-050, 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 3322 at Page 817 in the Craven County Registry. This property is also commonly referred to by its tax parcel identification number which is 1-044-050.

ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF JUNE, 2016.

*Short-term Lease of Real Property – 1032 Cedar Street, New Bern
(Parcel Number 8-007-062)*

Mr. Hicks presented a lease previously approved by the County with Preservation Management, Inc., the managing entity of the Craven Terrace Public Housing Complex, for the purpose of a community garden for the residents of Craven Terrace through October 31, 2016. The property is jointly owned with the City of New Bern.

Subsequent to these actions, Preservation Management advised that the correct lessee should be Poultry in Motion, LLC. Further, the City attorney has modified the lease agreement to clarify responsibilities for environmental conditions.

Commissioner Mark moved to agree to the request and adopt the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dacey and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION

1032 Cedar Street, New Bern (Tax Parcel Number 8-007-062)
Lease to Poultry in Motion, LLC

THAT WHEREAS, Craven County (the "County"), along with the City of New Bern, acquired an interest in that certain property more commonly referred to as 1032 Cedar Street, New Bern, North Carolina, and further identified as Tax Parcel Number 8-007-062 (the "Real Property"); and

WHEREAS, Poultry in Motion, LLC ("LLC") is the managing entity of the Craven Terrace Public Housing Complex, and desires to lease the Real Property through October 31, 2016, for the purpose of establishing a community garden for the residents of Craven Terrace; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined that it will not need the Real Property during the term of the proposed lease agreement, and that it is authorized to enter into the lease for such terms and upon such conditions as the Board may determine, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §160A-272.

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

Section 1. That the County lease the Real Property to LLC pursuant to the terms of that certain Lease Agreement attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. That the Chairman, County Manager and/or Clerk be and they are hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Resolution.

ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF MAY, 2016.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager, Jack Veit, inquired about scheduling another budget work session. Commissioner Mark moved to schedule a work session for Thursday, June 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room, seconded by Commissioner Jones and unanimously carried.

Mr. Veit advised the Board that staff is monitoring Tropical Storm Collin, stating that it appears to be nothing major but he urged caution regarding potential flooding.

Mr. Veit announced that Linda McCabe Smith, Commissioner McCabe's sister, has been appointed Vice Provost at North Carolina State University.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Mark reported that in the past 5 ½ years the Board has governed in the worst economy; saved \$800,000 in solid waste costs and saved \$1M in the Health Department. He defended the Board for cuts that had to be made and mentioned having lowered the tax rate by one cent in previous years.

Commissioner Jones announced that western Craven County lost a great talent, James Wiggins, former member of the Craven Community College Board of Trustees, who passed away a few days ago.

Commissioner Tyson reported that among all 100 counties, Craven County is not the lowest tax rate and never will be, but it is the 12th lowest. Craven County has, however, funded schools at below statewide per/pupil average until this year. The proposed budget raises the level to be close to the state average. He will continue to advocate for Craven County maintaining a per pupil expenditure close to the state average.

Commissioner Dacey stated that he thought about not voting for the budget due to his concerns regarding a tax increase. He stated that the County Manager oversees 36-37 departments in the County, and has reduced the budget of 13 of them, which amounts to savings of \$638,000. The one cent increase represents a 1.89% increase on the tax rate, which is less than the growth rate of the County and less than or equal to the inflation rate. The Board will continue to work with schools on third grade reading issues. He announced an ACT meeting on Thursday afternoon, June 9.

Commissioner McCabe thanked the County Manager for acknowledging his sister's achievement. He announced that his youngest daughter graduated from NC A&T University with a BS in Animal Science. He also attended an event in Greenville with Congressman G.K. Butterfield. He commented on having met Mohamed Ali in the 1980's and extends prayers for the family.

Commissioner Sampson stated that he loves Craven County and has lived here all his life and raised his family here. He stated that the County Manager has been here for five years and has done a tremendous job. He believes if employees are doing a good job they should be rewarded. He is very proud of Craven County.

Chairman Liner stated that this Board has a lot to be proud of. They have stepped out of a district mind set and out of their comfort zones to consider what is best for the County.

He asked for a volunteer to present the Military Person of the Quarter resolution on June 9. Commissioner Dacey volunteered.

At 8:30 p.m. the Board went into recess until 1:00 p.m. on June 16.

Chairman George S. Liner
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board