

AGENDA
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022
8:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

1. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Minutes of February 7, 2022 Regular Session
 - B. Tax Releases and Refunds
 - C. CARTS – Budget Amendment (CARES Act Funded Purchases)
2. CONGRESSMAN GREG MURPHY’S OFFICE UPDATE: Ben Ball, District Staff
3. EXCISE TAX REFUND HEARING FOR STEVE BELL & JAMES/SHARON GRAHAM: Arey Grady, County Attorney
4. TRILLIUM PRESENTATION: Dave Peterson, Senior Regional Director

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

5. SOCIAL SERVICES – BUDGET AMENDMENT (Share the Warmth Program): Geoffrey Marett, Social Services Director
6. FINANCE – BUDGET AMENDMENT (Reimbursement of legal fees to Cove City Fire Department, Inc.): Craig Warren, Finance Director
7. APPOINTMENTS
8. COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT: Arey Grady
9. COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT: Jack Veit
10. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS
11. RECONVENE FOR 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, FEBRUARY 21, 2022. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 8:30 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Chairman Jason R. Jones
- Vice Chairman Denny Bucher
- Chairman George S. Liner
- Commissioner Theron L. McCabe
- Commissioner Thomas F. Mark
- Commissioner E. T. Mitchell
- Commissioner Beatrice R. Smith

STAFF PRESENT:

- Jack B. Veit, III, County Manager
- Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager
- Craig Warren, Finance Director
- Amber Parker, Human Resources Director
- Arey Grady, County Attorney
- Nan Holton, Clerk to the Board
- Lauren Wargo, Assistant to the County Manager

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, County Attorney, Arey Grady, recited the following invocation:

Good and gracious Father, You are the source of every good thing and the fount of every blessing. We praise You for Your great care that You have for us, Your children. As a source of all that is good and true, we ask You to inspire within our hearts a greater longing to pursue these ends and draw us ever closer to Yourself.

We ask You to send forth Your blessing upon all those gathered here. May we receive Your guidance and wisdom in accomplishing the tasks set before us. Protect us, keep our County and Country safe from all harm, and may we pursue in freedom of heart the things that are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Based upon the invocation given by Reverend Brendon Glasgow at the January 17, 2020 session of the US House of Representatives

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, inclusive of the Minutes of February 7, 2022 Regular Session; Tax Releases and Refunds (**Credits = \$3,967.75; Refunds = \$344.21**); and CARTS – Budget Amendment (CARES Act Funded Purchases). Commissioner Smith seconded the motion which was approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

CARTS

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1014511-33307	\$2,918.00	1014510-43240	\$2,918.00
Section 18 Admin		Supplies – Other	
1014513-33114	\$1,946.00	1014512-43240	\$1,946.00
Urbanized		Supplies-Other	

TOTAL	\$4,864.00	TOTAL	\$4,864.00
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Justification: CARTS is requesting a budget amendment of \$4,864.00 (\$2,918.00 rural expense and \$1,946.00 urban expense). CARTS will use CARES Act funding to cover the expenses at a 100% reimbursement respectively. This additional expense is to cover the cost of brackets for installation of hand sanitizer stations on the vehicles and hand sanitizer refills for those stations.

CONGRESSMAN GREG MURPHY’S OFFICE UPDATE

District Staff representative Ben Ball reported on the work being done through Congressman Murphy’s office in Craven, Lenoir, and Pamlico counties, regarding social security issues, tax returns, FEMA reimbursements, grants, letters of support, and other federal concerns. Mr. Ball addressed questions and concerns regarding the National Cemetery in New Bern and SB2405 veteran service officers.

EXCISE TAX REFUND HEARING FOR STEVE BELL & JAMES/SHARON GRAHAM

County Attorney, Arey Grady, reported that a taxpayer who pays more than is due under Article NCGS 105-228.37, may request a refund of the overpayment by filing a written request for a refund with the Board of County Commissioners where the tax was paid.

Mr. Grady stated that on January 13, 2022, Steve Bell submitted a letter regarding a closing he handled for James and Sharon Graham requesting a refund of \$1,800.00 for the overage paid in revenue stamps for Parcel #8-027-067. He indicated this hearing is to address Mr. Bell’s request for an excise tax refund.

At 8:46 am, Commissioner Mitchell motioned to open the excise tax hearing, asking for citizens desire to speak. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved unanimously.

There were no citizens present who wished to speak on the matter.

At 8:46 am Commissioner Michell motioned to close the excise tax hearing, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to refund the overpayment of \$1800.00, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Mark, and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

TRILLIUM PRESENTATION

Dave Peterson, MA, Senior Regional Director with Trillium Health Resources provided an annual update to the Board. His PowerPoint presentation provided information and data on the following topics:

- Service Area covering 28 counties
- Medicaid Transformation – Standard Plans
- Medicaid Transformation – Tailored Plan
- Behavioral Health
- Organizational Changes
- Project Updates
- Craven County Consumers Served

Mr. Peterson addressed inquiries about treatment for the incarcerated population, and group homes for children with mental health issues.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SOCIAL SERVICES – BUDGET AMENDMENT (Share the Warmth Program)

Social Services Director, Geoffrey Marett, reported that the funding authorization received for the Piedmont Natural Gas Share the Warmth energy program is higher than original State estimates. He indicated there is no Craven County match and funds are 100% State allocated.

Commissioner Liner departed the meeting at 9:22 am.

Mr. Marett requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$11,138.00.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of \$11,138.00, as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved with six (6) “Ayes, there being one (1) “Nay” from Commissioner Mark.

Mandated 5215

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015215-33430 Share the Warmth	\$11,138.00	1015215-42342 Share the Warmth	\$11,138.00
TOTAL	\$11,138.00	TOTAL	\$11,138.00

At 9:24 am Commissioner Liner returned to the meeting.

There was extended discussion about the challenges associated with lack of staffing, placing individuals in need of full-time care, guardianship numbers elevating and why Craven County operates differently than other counties.

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FINANCE – BUDGET AMENDMENT
(Reimbursement of legal fees to Cove City Fire Department, Inc.)**

Finance Director, Craig Warren, reported at the request of the County Commissioners, Cove City Fire and Rescue, Inc. was asked to split its fire and rescue squad operations from a single non-profit corporation into two separate non-profit corporations. The request was made to allow for Cove City Fire to qualify for Department of Insurance grants. He stated that professional legal services were retained by the fire department and as a result incurred legal fees totaling \$11,375.00. The legal entity formerly known as Cove City Fire and Rescue is now known as Cove City Fire Department and Cove City EMS. He indicated that Cove City Fire Department was requesting reimbursement of these legal fees from the fund balance of the Township #3 Fire District Fund.

Mr. Warren requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$11,375.00.

Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of 411,375.00, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Mark and approved 7-0 roll call vote.

Cove City Fire

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
2040000-39901 Current Year FB	\$11,375.00	2044341-49680 Special Appropriations	\$11,375.00
TOTAL	\$11,375.00	TOTAL	\$11,375.00

APPOINTMENTS

Pending

Chairman Jones reviewed the following pending appointments to boards and committees:

- Community Child Protection Team
- Craven/Pamlico Regional Library
- Craven Aging Planning Board

*Current**CIA Board*

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Jeffrey Medlin for appointment. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Medlin was appointed by acclamation.

Farmers Market Board

Commissioner Mark nominated Pam Hawkins to fill the expiring term of Don Heath. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Hawkins was appointed by acclamation.

Craven County Board of Adjustments

Due to no feedback being received, Chairman Jones deferred these appointments to the work session.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Sharon Denise Logan to fill the Faith Community Representative seat. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Logan was appointed by acclamation.

Fire Tax Commissioner

Commissioner Bucher requested to table this appointment due to ongoing discussions with the fire department.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – 506 Darst Ave., New Bern (Parcel Number 8-008-072)

County Attorney, Arey Grady, reported that Craven County has received an offer in the amount of \$2,000.00 for this real property, which was acquired jointly with the City of New Bern through a tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$3,727.43. The tax value of this property is \$4,000.00.

He noted that this property is jointly owned with the City of New Bern, which has already approved this initial offer.

Mr. Grady stated that should the Board of Commissioners approve this transaction, a proposed resolution should be adopted, which will in turn authorize advertisement for upset bids. Once the upset bid process is concluded, this transaction will be brought back before the Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Commissioner Mark motioned to adopt the following resolution approving the transaction and authorizing the upset bid process, seconded by Commissioner Liner, and approved unanimously.

CRAVEN COUNTY RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OFFER TO PURCHASE SUBJECT TO UPSET BIDS

WHEREAS, Craven County and the City of New Bern own certain real property identified as Tax Parcel Number 8-008-072 (hereinafter “the Real Property”), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County in deed recorded in Book 3528, Page 1868 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County and the City of New Bern have received an Offer to Purchase the Real Property, a copy of said offer being attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and,

WHEREAS, the City of New Bern has previously approved said offer: and,

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

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

1. The Craven County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the initiation of the upset bid process for the Real Property by advertising notice of the offer to purchase in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.
2. The County Manager, the Assistant County Manager, the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and/or County Attorney are authorized to take all actions necessary to accomplish the transactions contemplated by this Resolution.

ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

*Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – 2602 New Bern Ave., New Bern
(Parcel Number 8-037-066-B)*

Mr. Grady reported that Craven County has received an offer in the amount of \$2,500.00 for this real property, which was acquired jointly with the City of New Bern through a tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$4,085.58. The tax value of this property is \$5,000.00.

He noted that this property is jointly owned with the City of New Bern, which has already approved this initial offer.

Mr. Grady stated that should the Board of Commissioners approve this transaction, a proposed resolution should be adopted, which will in turn authorize advertisement for upset bids. Once the upset bid process is concluded, this transaction will be brought back before the Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Commissioner Mark motioned to adopt the following resolution approving the transaction and authorizing the upset bid process, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, and approved unanimously.

**CRAVEN COUNTY
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OFFER TO PURCHASE
SUBJECT TO UPSET BIDS**

WHEREAS, Craven County and the City of New Bern own certain real property identified as Tax Parcel Number 8-037-066-B (hereinafter "the Real Property"), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County in deed recorded in Book 3520, Page 1904 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County and the City of New Bern have received an Offer to Purchase the Real Property, a copy of said offer being attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and,

WHEREAS, the City of New Bern has previously approved said offer: and,

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

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

1. The Craven County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the initiation of the upset bid process for the Real Property by advertising notice of the offer to purchase in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.
2. The County Manager, the Assistant County Manager, the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and/or County Attorney are authorized to take all actions necessary to accomplish the transactions contemplated by this Resolution.

ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF FEBRUARY 2022.

*Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – 1275 Temples Point Rd., New Bern
(Parcel Number 5-008-016)*

Mr. Grady reported that Craven County has received an offer in the amount of \$8,200.00 for this real property, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$12,228.46. The tax value of this property is \$15,000.00

He stated that should the Board of Commissioners approve this transaction, the proposed resolution should be adopted, which will in turn authorize advertisement for upset bids. Once the upset bid process is concluded, this transaction will be brought back before the Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to adopt the following resolution approving the transaction and authorizing the upset bid process, seconded by Commissioner Liner, and approved unanimously.

**CRAVEN COUNTY
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OFFER TO PURCHASE
SUBJECT TO UPSET BIDS**

WHEREAS, Craven County owns certain real property identified as Tax Parcel Number 5-008-016 (hereinafter “the Real Property”), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County in deed recorded in Book 3709, Page 1051 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County has received an Offer to Purchase the Real Property, a copy of said offer being attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and,

WHEREAS, the Craven County Board of Commissioners is authorized to sell Craven County’s interest in real property pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.

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

1. The Craven County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the initiation of the upset bid process for the Real Property by advertising notice of the offer to purchase in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.
2. The County Manager, the Assistant County Manager, the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and/or County Attorney are authorized to take all actions necessary to accomplish the transactions contemplated by this Resolution.

ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

County Manager, Jack Veit, had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

Commissioner McCabe reported on the disbursement of N95 masks at the Godette Community Center and commended the Health Department staff that facilitated the event.

Commissioner Mark reported on recent Hospital Board and TDA Board meetings.

Commissioner Smith reflected on the Black History Parade on Saturday and commended Victor Taylor for organizing it. She indicated things going well with Smart Start and JCPC.

Commissioner Liner had nothing to report.

Commissioner Mitchell reported on the recent NavalX Tech Bridge and the opportunity to present to the Defense Alliance of NC on March 4th about it. She also reported on the Craven Community College Board of Trustees meeting; and NC Military Affairs Committee where a resolution was drafted supporting changes to occupational licensures and another to expand the scope of inter-governmental agencies. She announced the Annual Salute to Veterans Luncheon on May 10th.

Commissioner Bucher had nothing to report.

Commissioner Jones reported on the CRSWMA decision to not increase tipping fees this year. He also remarked on the lack of internet services in rural areas and how it appears to be worsening.

At 10:01 am Chairman Jones requested a 15-minute recess to reset the room and then to reconvene for a Work Session.

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Nan Holton
Clerk to the Board