

CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
WORK SESSION AGENDA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022

1. Budget Update – Information Only: Craig Warren, Jack Veit

2. Hope Mission Recovery Introduction and Discussion: David McFayden,
Gene McLendon

3. Subdivision Ordinance (family exemption): Don Baumgardner,
Jason Frederick

4. Harlowe Community Center: Gene Hodges

5. IPADS: Steve Bennett, Jack Veit

6. Vaccine Mandate Resolution: Board of Commissioners

7. By-Laws Review: Arey Grady, Nan Holton, Jack Veit

8. Appointment Discussions: Nan Holton, Jack Veit
 - ABC Board Discussion
 - Libraries

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CRAVEN COUNTY RECONVENED ITS REGULAR SESSION OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022 ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022 AT 10:17 AM IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NC. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO CONDUCT A WORK SESSION.

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

Chairman Jones opened the meeting by stating the agenda outline provided would have two additional items involving the Airport and the deferred appointments from the Regular Session.

HOPE MISSION RECOVERY INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION

Major David McFadyen with the Sheriff's Office spoke on the drug addiction in Craven County and the need to have treatment options available for the incarcerated. Mr. McFadyen highlighted the Carteret County Hope Recovery Homes which has a comprehensive program and a strong track record for rehabilitating those with addictions. He revealed they have already been using them at a charge of \$35/day per inmate and are looking to contract for six beds for Craven County inmates with substance abuse issues.

Pastor Gene McLendon, Executive Director of Hope Mission Ministries in Morehead City, gave a personnel testimony of his sobriety and reviewed the fifteen-year history of the program. Mr. McLendon highlighted the many classes, treatments, and recovery resources utilized for the jail diversion program to help inmates become a whole person able to serve in their community when released.

The Board expressed great interest and sought more information through their inquiries which Mr. McLendon addressed.

Upon Chairman Jones' request, Sgt. Koonce who was in attendance, gave a testimonial about her involvement with the Hope Mission Recovery program. She extended recognition to Deputy Horrell who was also in attendance as the person who discovered this resource.

County Manager, Jack Veit, referenced the two documents in the Commissioners' packets, one being a contract for four months which would complete this fiscal year, and the other for a year which could be addressed during budget sessions.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to enter into a four-month contract with Hope Mission Recovery and approve the budget amendment for \$30,000. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved in a 7-0 roll call vote.

Jail

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1010000-39901 Current Year FB	\$30,000.00	1014316-42101 Rents – Board Prisoners	\$30,000.00
TOTAL	\$30,000.00	TOTAL	\$30,000.00

SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE – FAMILY EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Mr. Veit introduced the topic by explaining over the past few years there have been several incidences where individuals want to subdivide their land for the purpose of passing along to family members. He indicated the current subdivision ordinance has challenges, and there are pros and cons to making changes to address them. Mr. Veit stated that today's session was for educational and informational purposes only.

Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, and Senior Planner, Jason Frederick, highlighted some of the issues they have faced regarding roads, right of ways, and providing services. Mr. Baumgardner stated they operate under the definition of what a subdivision is and what it is not, with few exemptions. Mr. Frederick provided information about family exemptions in surrounding counties, focusing on Carteret County, as they were more comprehensive and have a checklist for family exemptions.

There was extensive discussion about the quality of access, private roads, easements, right of ways, and issues of third parties.

County Attorney, Arey Grady, advised that the exceptions in Craven County's ordinance are required by state statutes and anything beyond those the County would have to add in.

Commissioner Liner motioned to direct staff to create a Subdivision Ordinance family exemption, using Carteret County's as a template, and bring back to the Board for review in sixty days. Commissioner McCabe seconded the motion, and it was approved in a roll call vote 7-0.

AIRPORT – SMALL COMMUNITY AIR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Airport Director, Andy Shorter, announced that American Airlines has had a direct flight to DC once a week for the summer months. He stated this was a direct result of the conference attended in Baton Rouge in November and the data collected the past year.

Mr. Shorter provided the Board with a presentation on the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) which helps small airports attract and retain commercial service. He highlighted:

- Grant awards available this year: \$17 million
- The application process is very competitive
- Successful air service initiatives depend on the support of the community
- Estimated costs/revenues for air service to NE
- Airline seat capacity trend at New Bern

Mr. Shorter explained the application is due March 15th. They already have all the data gathered, and the C1A has pledged \$100,000 towards it. He spoke on the importance of letters and local support.

Commissioner Liner addressed the competition between the other three airports in the area, and the need to attract another airline to the local market. He recognized Andy and other key players in the expansion of the runway to get us where we are today. Mr. Liner requested the Board to pledge \$200,000 towards this grant, indicating it is not money being spent now, and if it is needed it would be spent in increments. He stated the Board's pledge increases the chance of the airport receiving the grant.

Commissioner Liner made the motion to pledge \$200,000 towards the SCASDP and his motion was seconded by Commissioner McCabe. It was approved in a roll call vote 7-0.

At 12:14 pm, the Board took a lunch break.

The Board reconvened at 12:38 pm.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Veit presented the Board with the FY 22-23 Budget Kick-Off highlighting the following points:

- State of the County
- Review of Revenues
- Review of Expenditures
- Fund Balance Capital Reserves

Finance Director, Craig Warren, presented information on the following topics:

- FY 22 General Fund YTD (7 months)
- Comparison to FY21 General YTD
- FY 22 Water Fund YTD (7 months)

Mr. Veit then reviewed data regarding:

- Craven County Employee Counts
- Average Fuel Price per gallon/New Bern
- Home Sales throughout the county
- New Home Starts
- FY 22 Tax Rate in Similar Sized Counties
- FY 22 Tax Rate in Neighboring Counties

In conclusion, Mr. Veit engaged the Board in reaching consensus for FY22-23 Budget Work Sessions in May and June.

In a motion by Commissioner Liner and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, the Board approved the following budget work sessions: May 16th, May 18th, May 19th, May 20th (8:30 am – 4:30 pm), noon on June 6th and if needed, 8:30 am on July 9th. They also approved to hold the FY22-23 Budget Public Hearing at the June 6th Regular Session Board of Commissioners' Meeting.

HARLOWE COMMUNITY CENTER

Assistant County Manager, Gene Hodges, referred the Board to the TRI Solutions attachment which detailed their quote for replacing the flooring in the large meeting room and the stage of the Harlowe Community Center. The proposal was for LVT Flooring in the meeting room and carpet on the stage for a total of \$17,720.50.

Commissioner Mark departed the meeting at 1:49 pm.

There was some discussion regarding water problems with the sub flooring.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$17,721.00 for the installation of new flooring at the Harlowe Community Center. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved in a 7-0 roll call vote.

Harlowe Community Center

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1010000-39901 Current Year FB	\$17,721.00	1014111-49689 Special App. – Harlowe Community Center	\$17,721.00

Commissioner Mark returned at 1:51 pm.

IPAD DISCUSSION

IT Director, Steve Bennett, presented the Board with costs for 15 iPads along with all the necessary accessories as requested, for the purpose of online agendas. He stated the total cost would be \$24,600.00.

There was discussion comparing this expense with the cost of paper agendas and the issue regarding internet service in two of the Commissioner’s districts. Commissioner Jones indicated if the Board chose to go this route, he would still need a paper agenda.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to authorize the purchase of 15 iPads and accessories at a cost of \$24,600.00. Commissioner Mark seconded her motion and it was approved in a 6-1 roll call vote, there being one (1) “Nay” from Commissioner McCabe.

Information Technology

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1010000-39901 Current Year FB	\$24,600.00	1014140-47321 Capital Outlay \$500-\$4,999	\$24,600.00
TOTAL	\$24,600.00	TOTAL	\$24,600.00

VACCINE MANDATE RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Veit stated that there were two resolutions for review that were created based on templates from New Hanover, Stanley, and Brunswick Counties, and emphasized they are only examples, and the Board is free to edit as necessary.

Commissioner Liner stated he preferred Option A and the Board worked through that line by line to modify the wording. There was involved discussion on the sphere of influence the Board of County Commissioners has and various reasons for supporting such a resolution.

Commissioner Mark motioned to adopt Option A, as amended. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bucher and was adopted in a 5-2 roll call vote, there being two (2) “Nays” from Commissioners McCabe and Smith.

CRAVEN COUNTY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM OVER PERSONAL COVID-19 VACCINATION STATUS

WHEREAS the freedom to make personal health choices is one of the most fundamental human rights protected under the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS informed consent is the bedrock of ethical practice in medicine, consisting of three essential elements: access to complete information, patient comprehension and voluntariness; and

WHEREAS a number of private, educational, and government entities across the United States and around the world are mandating a COVID-19 vaccination, coupled with punitive restrictions on freedom, commerce, employment and medical care for non-compliance; and

WHEREAS there are various reasons why Americans choose not to be vaccinated for Covid-19, including, but not limited to, established medical conditions, lack of long-term medical data regarding the vaccine’s impact, previous infection and recovery, preference for therapeutics, potential adverse effects, religious beliefs, intolerance to vaccine ingredients, previous anaphylactic and other reactions and more; and

WHEREAS, during the 2021 legislative session House Bill 572, “No Vaccine Mandate by EO, Rule or Agency” passed the House: and

WHEREAS, during the 2021 legislative session House Bill 686, “An Act Prohibiting State and Local Government Retribution Regarding Refusal of Vaccines”, is currently in committee: and

WHEREAS we firmly oppose any Covid-19 vaccine mandate, and encourage all local, state, and federal governmental branches to not enact further vaccine mandates.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners recognize the historical efficacy of proven vaccines in public health, but reject policies of mandatory Covid-19 vaccination, regardless of Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approval and reject proposals for statewide, and national “vaccine passports”, “health passes” or similar policies/measures.

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED, the Craven County Board of Commissioners support continuing efforts by the North Carolina General Assembly and other governmental units to protect individual freedom to be vaccinated or unvaccinated without penalty or discrimination.

Adopted this, the 21ST day of February, 2022.

A break was taken at 2:20 pm.

BY-LAWS

Mr. Veit went through the By-Laws/Rules of Procedure item by item, commenting along the way on things to consider. Board members discussed topics throughout the process including public comment periods, quorums in electronic meetings, and written comments.

The BOC were in consensus to modify the by-laws/rules of procedures in the following ways:

- Requiring Board members to power off all electronic devices during Closed Sessions
- Changing the start time of the first meeting of every month to 6:00 pm
- Add statement that addresses voting by proxy
- Update agenda delivery information with addition of iPad
- Change Consent Agenda Budget Amendment items to under \$15,000
- Appointments – extend to 12-years of consecutive service as maximum

The Board then discussed Senate Bill 473 and how it impacts them serving on non-profit boards and committees, such as Hwy. 70 Corridor, and Smart Start. Commissioner Liner motioned for staff to craft a letter to Senator Norm Sanderson about SB 473 and its impact on local government. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark and approved unanimously.

ABC BOARD

Mr. Veit reviewed that the ABC Board was expanded from a three to a five-member Board in 2012, which set the initial terms. He also reported that the Board of Commissioners has the obligation to set the ABC Chair annually in July and that has not been occurring. Commissioner Bucher motioned to appoint Chip Chagnon to serve as Chairman of the ABC Board through June 30, 2022. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Liner and approved.

LIBRARY BOARDS

Chairman Jones stated that progress has been made in establishing the library boards and he thanked Commissioner Liner for his help. He focused the discussion on the vacant seat on the Craven Pamlico Regional Library Board, which requires its members to serve upon another library board in order to be seated. Commissioner McCabe motioned to appoint Commissioner E.T. Mitchell to fill the vacant seat on the Craven Pamlico Regional Library Board. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark and approved unanimously. A letter of appointment is requested to be sent to Katherine Clowers.

In regard to other Boards, it was requested that the Clerk pull the Voluntary Agricultural District By-Laws for review, as urbanization has impacted the ability to fill those seats. Earlier discussion about the Board of Adjustments found the BOC in consensus for staff to review combining the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustments and report back to the Board.

GRANT FUNDING

Mr. Veit reported that the county has been awarded \$783,000 from the State budget, which is more than was expected. Because it came from a different source, how it is spent has changed such that it needs to be appropriated to a capital project. Mr. Veit referenced the current fuel station project and inquired of the Board's interest.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to assign the \$783,000.00 received from the State budget to the fuel station project. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Liner and was approved unanimously.

At 3:51 pm Commissioner Mitchell motioned to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved unanimously.

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Nan Holton
Clerk to the Board