

1 **THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN MET IN**  
 2 **REGULAR SESSION AT THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BUILDING, 300**  
 3 **INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, ON MONDAY, MARCH 20,**  
 4 **2023. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 8:30 AM.**

5  
 6 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

7 Chairman Jason R. Jones  
 8 Vice-Chairman Denny Bucher  
 9 Commissioner Chadwick Howard  
 10 Commissioner Sherry Hunt  
 11 Commissioner Thomas Mark  
 12 Commissioner Beatrice R. Smith

13  
 14 **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

15 Commissioner E. T. Mitchell

16  
 17 **STAFF PRESENT:**

18 Jack B. Veit, III, County Manager  
 19 Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager  
 20 Craig Warren, Finance Director  
 21 Amber Parker, Human Resources Director  
 22 Arey Grady, County Attorney  
 23 Lauren Wargo, Assistant to the County Manager  
 24 Nan Holton, Clerk to the Board

25  
 26 County Attorney, Arey Grady, recited the following invocation, followed by the Pledge of  
 27 Allegiance.

28  
 29 *Our God and God of all of our ancestors, we ask that the light of your Presence guide the*  
 30 *hearts and minds of the leaders of this great county gathered here today.*

31  
 32 *May the wisdom of Your teachings guide them to act for justice, and to lift up the cause*  
 33 *of the stranger, the orphan and the widow.*

34  
 35 *Master of the Universe, open the hearts of our leaders with Your compassion.*

36  
 37 *Help them to lead with integrity, always remembering that Your Wisdom resides in*  
 38 *every heart as the deepest Truth of our humanity.*

39  
 40 *May our leaders always remember that Your guidance is not in the Heavens alone, nor*  
 41 *far beyond the sea, but within each of us - in our mouths and in our hearts to carry into*  
 42 *action in the world.*

43  
 44 *May our leaders therefore serve as beacons of justice and compassion, making this county*  
 45 *a light to the masses. Amen.*

46  
 47 *Based upon the invocation given by Rabbi Gil Steinlauf at the January 2, 2010 session*  
 48 *of the US House of Representatives*

49  
 50 County Manager, Jack Veit, highlighted the outline of the day:

- 51 ➤ Regular Agenda
- 52 ➤ Ribbon cutting at Fuel Station
- 53 ➤ Begin Work Session to include facilities update, economic development update
- 54 ➤ Legislative Lunch with Senator Perry and Representative Tyson
- 55 ➤ Cooperative Extension,/FSA/Soil and Water Updates

56  
 57 **CHAIRMAN'S PRIVILEGE**

58  
 59 Chairman Jones commented on Social Worker Appreciation Month, publicly recognizing those  
 60 citizens that work in social service positions.

61



62 He expressed how social service positions assist in helping schools, hospitals, both public and  
63 private throughout the County. He emphasized how they help to empower families and  
64 individuals who are challenged financially, physically, and mentally and are often faced with  
65 dangerous situations, working long hours at the expense of themselves and their families. Mr.  
66 Jones recognized and thanked those who serve as social workers and make an impact on the lives  
67 of Craven County citizens.

68  
69 Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by Commissioner  
70 Hunt, and approved unanimously.

71  
72 **CONSENT AGENDA**

73  
74 Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, inclusive of the Minutes of  
75 March 6, 2023, Regular Session; Tax Releases and Refunds (*Credits = \$8,915.03; Refunds =*  
76 *\$248.76*); Social Services – Additional Funding for the Chafee (LINKS) Transition Funds –  
77 Budget Amendment; Proclamation – Month of the Military Child, and Proclamation- Abuse.  
78 Commissioner Hunt seconded his motion, which carried 6-0 in a roll call vote.

79  
80 ***DSS TANF***

81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
	REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT			
	1015213-33432	\$10,000.00	1015213-43944	\$10,000.00			
	LINKS State Scholarship		LINKS State Scholarship				
	TOTAL	\$10,000.00	TOTAL	\$10,000.00			

89 **Justification:** The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, LINKS in North  
90 Carolina, assists current and former eligible foster care youth and young adults ages 14-21 in  
91 achieving self-sufficiency through support services, resources, and LINKS Special Funds. This  
92 additional funding is needed to continue to access the LINKS State Scholarship funding. All  
93 expenses are 100% reimbursed. There is no County match.

94  
95 ***Emergency Services***

96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103
	REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT			
	1014321-33401	\$11,800.00	1014321-42400	\$11,800.00			
	LEPC – State Grant		Meeting Exp				
	TOTAL	\$11,800.00	TOTAL	\$11,800.00			

104 **Justification:** Haz-Mat Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP) awarded to the Craven  
105 Pamlico Counties to host an LP Gas Operations and Training class for first responders. The  
106 grant is to help first responders be more resilient in response to incidents involving LP Gas. This  
107 includes live fire training of personnel giving realistic experiences dealing with LP Gas.  
108 Personnel from Craven and Pamlico Counties will participate.

109  
110 ***Proclamation***

111 **CRAVEN COUNTY**  
112 **DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023**  
113 **AS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD**

114  
115 **WHEREAS**, thousands of brave Americans have demonstrated their courage and  
116 commitment to freedom by serving in the Armed Forces of the United States on active  
117 duty and in mobilized National Guard and Reserve units at post throughout our nation  
118 and the world; and

120 **WHEREAS** more than 96,000 children of military families in North Carolina have been  
121 directly affected by the military deployment of one or both of their parents, guardians, or  
122 caregivers; and

123  
124 **WHEREAS**, Craven County is home to the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, there  
125 are over 3,300 military-connected students that attend Craven County Schools; and  
126

127 **WHEREAS** these children and youth are a source of pride and honor to us all, it is only  
128 fitting that we take time to recognize their contributions, celebrate their spirit and let our  
129 men and women in uniform know that while they are taking care of us, we are taking  
130 care of their children and youth; and

131  
132 **WHEREAS**, by ensuring military children are safe and supported in our schools and  
133 communities, our men and women in uniform can focus on the challenges and missions  
134 they face in the line of duty; and

135  
136 **WHEREAS** our efforts and support can improve the lives of military children and youth  
137 and help pave the way for future generations; and  
138

139 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Craven County Board of Commissioners do  
140 hereby proclaim the month of April 2023 as **Month of the Military Child**; and hereby  
141 urge all citizens, business and government leaders to observe the month with  
142 appropriate ceremonies, wearing purple on April 21<sup>st</sup>, and activities that honor, support  
143 and thank military children and youth.

144  
145  
146 March 20, 2023  
147

148  
*Proclamation*  
149 ***CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH***  
150

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

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

155 **Whereas** preventing child abuse and neglect prevention is a community responsibility  
156 affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community;

157 **Whereas** communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of  
158 parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and  
159 nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential;

160 **Whereas** effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships  
161 created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care  
162 providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

163 **Therefore, I do hereby proclaim** April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in  
164 Craven County, and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical  
165 facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support  
166 families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

167  
168 March 20,2023

169  
170 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SOCIAL SERVICES**  
171 **CATERER BID FOR NUTRITIONAL SERVICES**

172  
173 Social Services Director, Geoffrey Marett, and Director of the Senior Center, Alissa  
174 Andrewsborn, presented a request for approval of the caterer for Congregate and Home  
175 Delivered Meals for Fiscal Years 23-24 and 24-25.

176  
177 Mr. Marett relayed that after advertising twice, only one bid of \$6.67 per meal was received from  
178 J & S caterer’s out of Bayboro, NC. He stated there is an increase due to rising costs in general  
179 and the contract will cover FY23-24 and FY24-25. Mr. Marett indicated they need the CCBG  
180 from the State, so depending on what is received, there may need to be an adjustment made later.

181  
182 Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the caterer contract for FY23-24 and FY24-25; his  
183 motion was seconded by Commissioner Howard and approved unanimously.

184  
185 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: HUMAN RESOURCES**  
186 **TRILLIUM OPIOID REMEDIATION GRANT FUNDING**

187  
188 Human Resources Director, Amber Parker, reported that Trillium has awarded the Opioid Task  
189 Force a \$50,000 grant in-connection with the Trillium Opioid Remediation Request for Funding.  
190 The funds will be used to purchase low-cost naloxone to distribute at no cost to municipal, non-  
191 profit, and private organizations within Craven County that serve people who are at risk of  
192 experiencing or witnessing an opioid overdose to assist with harm reduction. She stated Craven  
193 County’s Opioid Task Force Coordinator will complete low-cost naloxone purchases and  
194 coordinate distribution and supply replenishment based upon need to all municipalities within  
195 Craven County including New Bern, Havelock, River Bend, Trent Woods, Dover, Cove City,  
196 and Vanceboro.

197  
198 Ms. Parker indicated that Naloxone distribution will include all volunteer fire and rescue squads,  
199 municipal fire departments, municipal police departments and the Craven County Sheriff’s  
200 Office. Naloxone will also be distributed to non-profit organizations including, but not limited to,  
201 Religious Community Services, The Gathering Place, the Coastal Women’s Shelter, Vanceboro  
202 Christian Help Center, Merci Clinic, and Promise Place to increase naloxone availability across  
203 the community to reduce opioid-related overdoses and deaths where they are likely to occur.  
204 Naloxone distribution will also be considered based upon need for private agencies where  
205 overdoses do or may occur such as shopping centers, and large employers.

206  
207 She relayed 100% of the Opioid Remediation Program funding from Trillium will be used to  
208 purchase low-cost naloxone. Craven County's Opioid Task Force Coordinator will provide  
209 training and/or training materials and overdose education to all agencies receiving the naloxone  
210 as required by the Craven County Opioid Task Force Distribution Standing Order.

211  
212 She indicated that no County match is required.

213  
214 Ms. Parker requested approval of budget amendment in the amount of \$50,000 for the purchase  
215 of low-cost Naloxone kits.

216  
217 Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the following budget amendment, in the amount of  
218 \$50,000, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Hunt and approved 6-0 in a roll call vote.

219  
220 ***Human Resources***

221	222	223	224	225	226
	REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT	
224	1014130-33502	\$50,000.00	1014130-42702	\$50,000.00	
225	Trillium Grant		Community Outreach		
227	TOTAL	\$50,000.00	TOTAL	\$50,000.00	

229 County Manager Jack Veit recognized Commissioner Hunt who brought this grant back from  
 230 Trillium and the teamwork of Ms. Parker for getting it done so quickly.

231  
 232

233 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FINANCE**  
 234 **REIMBURSEMENT DECLARATION – SUDAN TEMPLE PROPERTY**

235

236 Finance Director, Craig Warren, reported that on January 11, 2023, the County closed on the  
 237 purchase of the Sudan Temple property for \$6 million plus closing costs. The source of the funds  
 238 used to purchase this property came from the County's fund balance. He explained in order to  
 239 preserve the County's ability to reimburse itself from any future proceeds on a tax-exempt  
 240 borrowing, the County must declare its intent no later than 60 days after the original expenditure.  
 241 He presented a copy of the reimbursement declaration that was executed on March 7th, 2023, and  
 242 requested that the Board make a motion to ratify the Finance Director's prior execution of the  
 243 reimbursement declaration.

244

245 Commissioner Mark motioned to ratify the Finance Director's prior execution of the  
 246 reimbursement declaration, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Hunt and approved  
 247 unanimously.

248

249 Commissioner Bucher stated that the Board continues to receive questions regarding the status of  
 250 the Sudan Temple. Mr. Veit indicated that it will be a topic discussed during the work session.

251

252 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
 253 **GREAT GRANT CONTRACT**

254

255 Information Technology Director, Steve Bennett, reported that on Monday, March 28, 2022, the  
 256 Craven County Board of Commissioners voted to submit a letter of support for Brightspeed's  
 257 (formerly CenturyLink) Great Grant application and committed up to \$500,000 in ARPA funds  
 258 as a match should Brightspeed be awarded the Grant by the State. He stated the Growing Rural  
 259 Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Program funds the deployment of broadband  
 260 within unserved areas of economically distressed counties. The grant helps bring high-speed  
 261 internet to thousands of North Carolinians, businesses, and farms in the most rural and remote  
 262 areas of the state. These areas include both Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties as well as rural census  
 263 tracts located in development Tier 3 areas that are currently served by less than 25 megabytes per  
 264 second download and 3 megabytes per second upload speeds. He relayed underserved areas are  
 265 defined as US Census tracts, that have no households served with high-speed internet access.  
 266 Mr. Bennett highlighted that in September 2022, Brightspeed was awarded more than \$90  
 267 million in grants to install broadband internet to rural communities across 29 counties, including  
 268 Craven. After review of the award, it was determined that Craven County's final match was  
 269 \$250,000.

270

271 Commissioner Mark inquired about which districts will be included. Mr. Bennett responded:  
 272 District 5 down Adam's Creek; District 6; District 7 a large area in District 2 and the Piney Neck  
 273 area in District 1. He indicated that the project would affect 2,400+ homes.

274

275 He indicated those in existing programs are not covered and funding comes from ARPA.

276

277 Commissioner Mark motioned to authorize the County Manager and staff to finalize the  
 278 necessary Great Grant contract between the State of North Carolina, Brightspeed and Craven  
 279 County; to execute the final contract and to pay the County's match of up to \$250,000 pursuant  
 280 to the final contract. Commissioner Smith seconded his motion, and it carried in a 6-0 roll call  
 281 vote.

282

283 Chairman Jones inquired how soon will this begin. Mr. Bennett indicated that Brightspeed is  
 284 hoping to have the contract finalized this week; proceed with engineering, design work and  
 285 material procurement. He stated within the next four years.

286

287 **APPOINTMENTS**

288

288 *Pending*

289

290 Chairman Jones reviewed the following pending appointments:

- 291  
 292       ➤ Craven Clean Sweep  
 293       ➤ Craven County Planning Board  
 294       ➤ Emergency Medical Services  
 295       ➤ Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)  
 296       ➤ Local Emergency Planning Committee  
 297       ➤ Volunteer Agricultural District (District 6)  
 298       ➤ Fireman's Relief Fund (District 5)

299

300 *Current*

301

302 *Highway 70 Corridor Committee*

303

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

305

306 *Fireman's Relief Fund Board of Trustees*

307

308 Commissioner Mark nominated Keith Morris, Marlow Jones and Matthew Spirko for  
 309 reappointment. Commissioner Hunt nominated Milton Everett for reappointment.310 Commissioner Bucher nominated Oswald Chance and Robert Blalock for reappointment. There  
 311 being no additional nominations all were reappointed by acclamation.

312

313 *Fire Tax Commissioners*

314

315 Commissioner Mark nominated Sammy Lilly, Tommy Cowan, Terry Gaskins, and Thomas  
 316 Gaskins for reappointment. Commissioner Bucher nominated Jackie McKinney for  
 317 reappointment. There being no additional nominations, all were reappointed by acclamation.

318

319 *Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee*

320

321 Commissioner Hunt nominated Chuck Strickland for reappointment. There being no additional  
 322 nominations, Mr. Strickland was reappointed by acclamation.

323

324 *Upcoming*

325

326 Chairman Jones reviewed upcoming appointments on boards and committees due to expire.

327

### COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

328

329 *Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – Lees Avenue, New Bern (Parcel Number 8-006-173)*

330

331  
 332 County Attorney, Arey Grady, reported that Craven County has received an offer in the amount of  
 333 \$2,000.00 for this real property, which was acquired jointly with the City of New Bern through a  
 334 tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$2,796.90. The tax value of  
 335 this property is \$4,000.00.

336

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

339

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

344

345 Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the following resolution, as proposed, seconded by  
 346 Commissioner Howard, and approved unanimously.

347

348

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351

352

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

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WHEREAS, Craven County and the City of New Bern own certain real property identified as Tax Parcel Number 8-006-173 (hereinafter “the Real Property”), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County in deed recorded in Book 3391, Page 136 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 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

*Opioid Settlement Phase 2*

Mr. Grady relayed the North Carolina Department of Justice recently announced new settlements with several defendants in the opioid class action lawsuit in which Craven County is a named plaintiff. He highlighted that correspondence from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners describes the settlement in relevant part as follows:

*“As you may have heard NCDOJ recently announced five new opioid settlements with CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Allergan, and Teva. These settlements will result in an additional \$600 million to North Carolina state and local governments. This is in addition to the first round of settlements which resulted in \$750 million being distributed to North Carolina state and local governments, with 85% going to local governments.”*

Mr. Grady emphasized the distribution formula will mirror the original MOA allocation model outlined in the first settlement agreement, which Craven County signed in 2021.

He stated county staff and legal counsel (both the county attorney and the county’s class-action counsel) recommend approval of the settlement as proposed.

Attorney Grady presented a resolution authorizing execution of opioid settlements and an application of the MOA to additional settlements and funds.

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the proposed settlement by adopting the following resolution and to authorize the Chairman and County staff to take any action necessary to execute and deliver necessary documents for same, including the enclosed settlement. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

414                                   **RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN**  
415                   **AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENTS AND APPROVING THE SUPPLEMENTAL**  
416                   **AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS BETWEEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND LOCAL**  
417                   **GOVERNMENTS ON PROCEEDS RELATING TO THE SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID LITIGATION**  
418  
419

420                   **WHEREAS**, the opioid overdose epidemic had taken the lives of more than 32,000 North  
421 Carolinians (2000-2021);  
422

423                   **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the opioid overdose crisis,  
424 increasing levels of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death; and  
425

426                   **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the total economic  
427 burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including  
428 the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement;  
429 and  
430

431                   **WHEREAS**, certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of  
432 local governments across the country to file lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical  
433 distribution companies, and chain drug stores to hold those companies accountable for their  
434 misconduct; and  
435

436                   **WHEREAS**, settlements have been reached in litigation against Walmart, Inc., Teva  
437 Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Allergan Finance, LLC, Allergan Limited, CVS Health Corporation,  
438 CVS Pharmacy, Inc., and Walgreen Co., as well as their subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, and  
439 directors named in the these Settlements; and  
440

441                   **WHEREAS**, representatives of local North Carolina governments, the North Carolina  
442 Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Department of Justice have  
443 negotiated and prepared a Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds (SAAF) to provide for  
444 the equitable distribution of the proceeds of these settlements; and  
445

446                   **WHEREAS**, by joining the settlements and approving the SAAF, the state and local  
447 governments maximize North Carolina's share of opioid settlement funds to ensure the needed  
448 resources reach communities, as quickly, effectively, and directly as possible; and  
449

450                   **WHEREAS**, it is advantageous to all North Carolinians for local governments, including  
451 Craven County and its residents, to sign onto the settlements and SAAF and demonstrate  
452 solidarity in response to the opioid overdose crisis, and to maximize the share of opioid  
453 settlement funds received both in the state and this county to help abate the harm; and  
454

455                   **WHEREAS**, the SAAF directs substantial resources over multiple years to local  
456 governments on the front lines of the opioid overdose epidemic while ensuring that these  
457 resources are used in an effective way to address the crisis.  
458

459                   **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of Craven County  
460 hereby authorizes the County Manager or County Attorney to execute all documents necessary  
461 to enter into opioid settlement agreements with Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Allergan, and Teva,  
462 to execute the SAAF, and to provide such documents to Rubris, the Implementation  
463 Administrator.  
464

465 Adopted this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.  
466

467                                   **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**  
468

469 County Manager, Jack Veit, commented on attending airport terminal expansion groundbreaking  
470 last week and stated it was a great event.  
471



472 He reported last week he, along with Commissioner Bucher and staff, visited with NCSU  
473 students over at Baptist on a Mission. He indicated it was a great experience and that they are  
474 doing a lot of good in the community. Commissioner Bucher added that Mr. Veit and staff  
475 cooked the meal and served the students and Baptist Mission staff members. Mr. Veit added  
476 Commissioner Smith prepared the best strawberry shortcake for the event.

#### 477 COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

478  
479 *Commissioner Hunt* had nothing to report.

481  
482 *Commissioner Smith* had nothing to report.

483  
484 *Commissioner Mark* had nothing to report.

485  
486 *Commissioner Howard* commented on a call he received from a citizen over the weekend  
487 regarding someone speeding on a road that almost hit a child. The Sheriff was called and  
488 responded quickly with a deputy presence in the area.  
489 He thanked the Sheriff for a quick response. He announced he will be holding a Town Hall  
490 meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> where Representative Tyson will be present to address some of the State  
491 questions.

492  
493 *Commissioner Bucher* elaborated on the Baptist on Mission students demolishing three of the  
494 four buildings targeted in the James City area and stated the neighboring homeowners were  
495 feeding the students as they worked, as they were so appreciative for their efforts. He thanked  
496 the Baptist on Mission organization for their presence and the improvements they are making.

497  
498 *Commissioner Smith* commented that the men from Baptist on a Mission put a roof on a house in  
499 Pembroke and a neighbor joined in to help them. She also reported on her recent Town Hall  
500 meeting for the Pembroke and Pleasant Hill community; stating it was a great meeting.

501  
502 *Commissioner Jones* addressed citizens' concerns regarding the Craven County Animal Shelter.  
503 He wanted citizens to know that the Board is listening, and their comments via emails, phone  
504 calls, etc. are not falling on deaf ears. Mr. Jones conveyed that prior to the recent incident, the  
505 County had already taken action to hire a full-time veterinarian to also serve in the role of  
506 Director. That position has been and according to the County Manager two applications have  
507 been received to date and interviews will be forthcoming. The goal is to have someone in that  
508 position by the new fiscal year. Mr. Jones emphasized these measures are currently in process to  
509 continue to make positive changes at the animal shelter.

510  
511 At 9:13 am, the Board recessed to attend the ribbon cutting at the fuel center and then to  
512 reconvene back at Cooperative Extension for the Work Session.

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516 \_\_\_\_\_  
517 Chairman Jason R. Jones  
518 Craven County Board of Commissioners

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522 Nan Holton  
523 Clerk to the Board

524