

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, APRIL 4, 2022. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:00 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Chairman Jason R. Jones

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

Vice-Chairman Bucher led the meeting.

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

Gracious God, what treasures You have set before us: a country rich with resources, a history founded on faith in You and invested in the noble principles of the American experiment.

And yet, we confess that we have allowed these endowments to be destroyed by moths of malice and misdirection. We acknowledge before You that we have tolerated and even taken delight in the corrosive rust of rivalries and debate.

Forgive us for taking for granted the precious gifts of life, liberty, and happiness, and letting them slip from our care, only to be stolen by pride and conceit.

Call us back to rededicate ourselves to the mercy You have shown us time and again. May we treasure in our hearts the privilege You have given us as Americans to serve as stewards of Your bounteous love.

We pray in the strength of Your holy name. Amen.

Based upon the invocation given by Chaplain Margaret Grun Kibben at the March 1, 2021 session of the US House of Representatives

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved 6-0 in a roll call vote.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS (AGENDA TOPICS)

There were no citizens from the public that signed up to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, inclusive of the Minutes of March 21, 2022 Regular Session; Tax Releases and Refunds

(Credits = \$2,366.42; Refunds = \$62.10); Proclamation Designating April, 2022 as Month of the Military Child; Request for Public Hearing (Project Coast) at 8:30 am, or soon thereafter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved 6-0 in a roll call vote.

Proclamation

Proclamation
CRAVEN COUNTY
DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022
AS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

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

WHEREAS, nearly 110,000 children of military families in North Carolina have been directly affected by the military deployment of one or both of their parents, guardians, or caregivers; and

WHEREAS, Craven County is home to the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, there are over 2,800 military-connected students that attend Craven County Schools; and

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

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

WHEREAS, our efforts and support can improve the lives of military children and youth and help pave the way for future generations; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Craven County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2022 as ***Month of the Military Child***; and hereby urge all citizens, business and government leaders to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor, support and thank military children and youth.

Request for Public Hearing

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 158-7.1, Craven County (hereinafter “County”) intends to convey for economic development purposes a fee simple interest in a +/- two and 1/2 (2.5) acre tract (hereinafter “Tract”) of land, the Tract being known as a portion of Lot 19 in the Craven County Industrial Park. The value of two and 1/2 acres of the Tract is Twenty Thousand and no/100 Dollars (\$20,000.00), for a total value of Fifty Thousand and no/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00), and the County intends to convey and sell same for such value. The County believes the proposed conveyance will stimulate and stabilize the local economy, result in the creation and retention of a substantial number of permanent jobs in the County, and result in increased tax revenues to the County. The purchaser, is a locally owned company with 6 employees and this development will allow them to grow over 25 employees in five years.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SHERIFF-CALENDAR CHECK

Major David McFadyen reported that the Sheriff’s Office received a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 in regards to the 2023 Sheriff’s Calendar. He indicated the check would be used to purchase a variety of items that the office needs, at the discretion of the Sheriff.

Major McFadyen requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the following budget amendment, as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved 6-0 in a roll call vote.

Sheriff's Office

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1014310-38301 Misc. Donations	\$10,000.00	1014310-43240 Supplies – Other	\$10,000.00
TOTAL	\$10,000.00	TOTAL	\$10,000.00

APPOINTMENTS

Pending

Vice Chairman Bucher reviewed the following pending appointments:

- Community Child Protection Team
- Craven Aging Planning Board

Current

Fireman's Relief Fund Board of Trustees – Township One

Commissioner Mark motioned to appoint Marlow Jones to fill the seat left vacant. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Jones was appointed by acclamation.

Craven County Board of Adjustments

Vice Chairman Bucher motioned to reappoint Bud Stilley and Mark Gatlin. Commissioner Limer motioned to reappoint Lee K Allen, III. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Stilley, Mr. Gatlin and Mr. Allen were reappointed by acclamation. There was consensus of the Board to defer appointment for the vacant seat.

Board of Equalization and Review

It was the consensus to table the reappointment of Jimmy Dillahunt until the Board's next meeting.

Craven Community Child Protection Team

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to reappoint Trisha Webb. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Webb was reappointed by acclamation.

Upcoming

Vice Chairman Bucher reviewed upcoming appointments whose terms are due to expire in April/May, 2022.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney, Arey Grady, had nothing to report.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS (GENERAL TOPICS)

The following citizens signed up to speak:

1. *Brian and Rachel Peterson, 220 Battleground Avenue, New Bern*
2. *Edwin Vargas, 119 Randomwood Lane, River Bend*

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager, Jack Veit, requested the Board review the dates to upcoming events in their recent memo and enter them into their calendars.

Mr. Veit updated the Board that the management team had completed their first pass through of the FY22-23 Budget and after conducting some research, would make a second pass in preparation for May's budget work sessions. He reported that both Craven County Schools and Craven County Community College would make their budget requests at the first meeting in May.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Smith had nothing to report.

Commissioner Liner reported on a recent Dix Crisis Center meeting and indicated the numbers are looking good, but they are still only at 11% for total beds for the year. He stated the need to look at the money the County is investing for its return. Mr. Liner indicated there is a Zoom meeting slated for Wednesday for further discussion on a new program they introduced.

Commissioner Liner relayed the Dix Crisis Center is proposing to establish a 12 chair 23-hour program, which would allow them to monitor referrals for up to a day under their care, when beds are not available. During that time, they would seek out other options or await a bed becoming available. If a bed was not available, the person in crisis would be returned to the system where originated, such as the emergency room or the Sheriff. Mr. Liner explained they were requesting \$800,000 more from the County and he found that to be extravagant.

Mr. Liner stated he wanted the Board to provide feedback at the next meeting, as the Dix Crisis Center is working and needed, but the amount of money needs to be re-evaluated.

Commissioner Liner then reported on the Farm to School event held at W.J. Gurganus with Secretary Troxler, Representative Tyson, and Senator Sanderson in attendance. He also remarked on the excellent turnout at the Job Fair recently held at the Convention Center.

Commissioner Mitchell remarked on April being the month of the Military Child and encouraged everyone to wear purple on April 8th in their honor.

Commissioner Mark reported there had been no Covid patients the past four days at the hospital and that testing is down. He shared about the recent Sheriff safety patrol meeting held in Fairfield Harbour.

Commissioner McCabe – had nothing to report.

Commissioner Bucher reminded the public that the Primary elections are slated for May 17th, which are about six weeks away, and he encouraged everyone to get out and vote. He highlighted that for those who live in the City of New Bern, it is not a primary election, but an actual election.

At 7:27 pm Commissioner Mark motioned to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

Jason R. Jones
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Nan Holton
Clerk to the Board