

**AGENDA
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSON
MONDAY MAY 1, 2023
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

- 1. PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – AGENDA TOPICS**
- 2. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. April 17, 2023 Regular Session Minutes**
 - B. Tax Releases and Refund**
 - C. Health – Increase in Dental Funding Budget Amendment**
- 3. CRIME STOPPERS PRESENTATION: Jeffrey Haddock, President and Corp. Kelly Cox, Program Coordinator**
- 4. BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET PRESENTATION: Dr. Wendy Miller, Superintendent**
- 5. CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUDGET PRESENTATION: Dr. Raymond Staats, President**

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

- 6. FINANCE – PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING CAPITAL FUND APPLICATION: Craig Warren, Finance Director**
- 7. APPOINTMENTS**
- 8. COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT: Arey Grady**
- 9. PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – GENERAL TOPICS**
- 10. COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT: Jack Veit**
- 11. 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, MAY 1, 2023. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 6:00 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Jason R. Jones
 Vice-Chairman Denny Bucher
 Commissioner Chadwick Howard
 Commissioner Sherry Hunt
 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
 Lauren Wargo, Assistant to the County Manager
 Nan Holton, Clerk to the Board

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

Bless us, O Lord: our lawmakers, our Country, our County and each one of us, as we lift our prayers to You. Bless us and keep us that our walk this day would be blameless in Your sight.

Guard us and guide us wherever we are called to serve today: in our offices, in our communities, or in our homes, that we would be eager to respond to You with our whole being. Would that we seek to live upright lives and keep Your laws. And when our steps go wayward and our thoughts are overcome by selfish intent, do not forsake us, but call us back that we would once again desire to live according to the righteousness You set before us.

May Your judgment upon us today find us without fault or flaw and may our praise to You this day and always be steadfast and shameless.

In the strength of Your name we pray. Amen.

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

Chairman Jones requested that Agenda Item #3, Crime Stoppers Presentation, be removed and a recess be added between Items #6 and #7. Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the agenda, as amended. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizens that signed up to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, inclusive of the Minutes of April 17, 2023 Regular Session; Tax Releases and Refunds (**Credits = \$2,452.64; Refunds = \$12,273.26**); and Health Increase in Dental Funding Budget Amendment. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Health/Dental

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015030-34707 Dental – Medicaid	\$8,000.00	1015030-43208 Medical Supplies	\$6,750.00
		1015030-44048 Moving Expenses	\$1,000.00
		1015030-44069 Electronic billing	\$ 250.00
TOTAL	\$8,000.00	TOTAL	\$8,000.00

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET PRESENTATION

Superintendent of Craven County Schools, Dr. Wendy Miller, introduced four Board of Education members present: Scott Murphy, Brent Manning, Kelli Muse and Carroll Ipock. She also indicated staff members Stacy Lee and Jennifer Wagner were present to address any questions.

Dr. Miller proceeded to highlight many 2022-2023 performance results, student and staff notable recognitions, facility updates and District/Schools accomplishments.

Finance Officer, Denise Altman, presented the Board with the Craven County Schools Local Current Expense and Capital Outlay Budget Request for FY 2023/2024, highlighting the following:

- Current budget considerations
- Revenue adjustments made for FY 23/24
 - ❖ Fines & Forfeitures revenues are being increased by \$60,000
 - ❖ Requesting an additional \$93,021 from Craven County for the Capital Outlay budget
 - ❖ Allocating \$5,549,992 of their Fund Balance to cover the additional positions
- Expenditure adjustments for FY 23/24
- Local Capital Outlay Category I Projects by school districts
- Local Capital Outlay Category II and III Projects by school districts

In summary, Ms. Altman stated Craven County Schools are requesting the same County appropriation of \$22,004,991 for the FY 23/24 Local Current Expense budget; and asking for an increase of \$93,021 in Capital Outlay. She reported they will allocate \$5,549,992 of their Fund Balance for the Local Current Expense budget.

Dr. Miller, Ms. Altman, and BOE Board members responded to inquiries about closing and consolidating schools, to address the dismay expressed by the BOC over the lack of even a proposal during the past five years. Other issues addressed were about the fund balance, school nurses, the duplication of social workers and decisions regarding J.T. Barber and redistricting.

The Board of Commissioners emphasized their expectations of receiving a proposal to close and consolidate schools as a result of the diminishing student population.

Chairman Jones thanked Dr. Miller, her staff, and the BOE and commented on the improved communications between the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners. He expressed concern over future facility needs and how they would be funded.

CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUDGET PRESENTATION

Craven Community College President, Dr. Raymond Staats, introduced Jim Millard, Vice President for Administration, to begin their presentation.

Mr. Millard proceeded to outline the significant infrastructure projects completed:

- Transportation canopy on the New Bern campus
- Kelso Hall Cosmetology Lab, Esthetics Lab, new chiller and Barbering Lab construction

- Ward Hall Welding Lab
- BIT flooring
- Restrooms at Redd Hall, IAT, and Library on Havelock Campus
- Culinary Kitchen at VOLT Center

Dr. Staats then reviewed the Strategic Plans for 2023-2028, highlighting their five-year Master Plan and Priorities. He then presented the enrollment trends for the past ten years. Dr. Staats reported on their major programmatic accomplishments for FY 2023 which included:

- Nursing – NLN Accreditation making graduates eligible for immediate DoD & VA employment
- Emergency Medical Technician accreditation required for Paramedic program
- SACSCOC Fifth Year Report
- VOLT Center Kitchen opening

Dr. Staats presented the Board of Commissioners with their Craven County Budget Request for FY24.

Operating Allocation

• FY23 Baseline Allocation	\$ 4,304,125
• FY24 Personnel Request (salaries, retirement, health insurance, 2 positions)	+
	\$ 206,416
• FY24 Operating Request (utilities, insurance & telecom, cybersecurity)	+
	\$ 33,088
• FY25 Volt Center Expansion (Heavy Equip Facility, SBC Incubator)	+
	\$ -----

TOTAL **\$ 4,543,629**

Capital Allocation

• FY15 Baseline Allocation	\$ 500,000
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TOTAL **\$ 500,000**

TOTAL FY24 REQUEST **\$ 5,043,629**
(+ \$239K; 4.99%)

Commissioner Mitchell congratulated the CCC Staff for weathering Florence, Covid, and the other changing workforce dynamics and continuing to do an outstanding job for Craven citizens.

Commissioners Bucher and Mark commended them on their nursing program and how it has benefited the community. Dr. Staats gave praise to CarolinaEast Medical Center for funding their nursing instructors for the first two years and providing them the ability to double their clinical space. He stated it was a great partnership.

Commissioner Smith gave credit to past Commissioner Sampson’s expression that “a man needs to be able to feed his family” and stated these programs are making people job ready.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FINANCE
PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING CAPITAL FUND APPLICATION

Finance Director, Craig Warren, reported that each year both the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners jointly approve a project application to be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. This application is required in order to draw down lottery proceeds that have been allocated to Craven County by the State in the Public School Building Capital Fund. He indicated these funds are restricted and can only be used for school construction projects or to retire debt incurred as a result of school construction projects.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the Public School Building Capital Fund NC Education Lottery application in the amount of \$2,868,270. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Chairman Jones recognized Leadership Craven, Alderman Brinson and NBHS Junior, Emily Ellison, for their attendance.

At 7:10 pm, a ten-minute recess was taken.

APPOINTMENTS

Pending

Chairman Jones reviewed the following pending appointments. He stated that since the Agenda was prepared, an application was received from Somer Bjork, an environmental health specialist with CSWARMA, to serve on the Clean Sweep Committee. Commissioner Mitchell motioned to appoint Somer Bjork and her motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark and approved unanimously.

- Community Child Protection Team
- Craven Clean Sweep
- Craven County Planning Board
- Emergency Medical Services
- Fireman's Relief Fund Board (District 5)
- Highway 70 Corridor Committee
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Volunteer Agricultural District (District 6)

Current

Craven Community Child Protection Team

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

Craven County Recreation Advisory Council

Commissioner Hunt nominated Kortasha George for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Ms. George was reappointed by acclamation.

Craven Community College Board of Trustees

Chairman Jones nominated Ervin Patrick for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Patrick was reappointed by acclamation.

Fire Tax Commissioner Board

Chairman Jones nominated John Hawkins (Cove City) for reappointment. Commissioner Mitchell nominated Chad Anderson (Twp. 8) for reappointment. Carl Barwick (WNB Rhems) does not seek reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Anderson were reappointed by acclamation.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Judge Walter Mills for appointment. Commissioner Mark nominated Stacy Huss for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Judge Mills was appointed by acclamation and Ms. Huss was reappointed by acclamation.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney, Arey Grady, had nothing to report.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – GENERAL TOPICS

1. Austin Anderson 112 Patriot Court, Havelock
2. Barbara Tuttle, 17B Masters Court Drive, River Bend
3. Sandra Barta, 404 Gatewood Drive, New Bern
4. Chris Barta, 404 Gatewood Drive, New Bern
5. Tyker Gonzales, 125 Turkey Quarter Creek Road, Cove City
6. Lauren Carver, 200 N William Street, Suite 893, Goldsboro
7. Bob Griswold, 4807 Delph Drive, New Bern

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

County Manager, Jack Veit, reported he will present his FY23-24 budget recommendation to the Board at their next meeting on May 15th. Following their Regular Session, the BOC will reconvene to budget work sessions that week.

Mr. Veit expressed gratitude to all those who worked fervently through the Great Lakes Fire situation, highlighting Craven County Public Information Officer, Amber Parker, Emergency Services team members, Stanley Kite and Ira Whitford, and the Southern Regional Incident Management Team. He referenced a recent meeting and video which provides education on the natural features of our national forest. Mr. Veit stated that because it is a pocosin, the fire burns underground, making it more difficult to extinguish. He indicated it would be managed for several months to come.

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

Commissioner Mitchell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Howard had nothing to report.

Commissioner Hunt commented on attending Prom Promise at Havelock High School and thanked Jasmine Canady for coordinating the event.

Commissioner Smith reported she is holding a Town Hall meeting on Monday, May 8th at the George Street Center located at 811 George Street. She invited her District 3 constituents and any others who are interested in attending.

Commissioner Mark had nothing to report.

Commissioner Bucher had nothing to report.

Commissioner Jones had nothing to report.

At 7:54 pm, Commissioner Mark motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Smith and unanimously approved.

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Nan Holton
Clerk to the Board