

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 TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Commissioner E. T. Mitchell

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

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

Heavenly Father, we pray your protection for this assembled body. May the brightness of your countenance shine upon them. Keep them in your hand and give them the assurance of your walk with them as they go about the business of deliberating the affairs of our beloved County.

May they find in you the strength to withstand those who criticize, give them the humility to accept aid when offered, and the courage to do the right thing.

Holy Father, make them aware of your presence as they take part in that divinely appointed experiment we call human government. Then at the end of the day let them know, all that is required of you is to "Love mercy, do justly, and to walk humbly with their God." In His holy name we pray.

Amen.

Based upon the invocation given by Reverend Aubry L. Wallace at the February 2, 2005 session of the US House of Representatives

Chairman Jones requested the Board add a Sheriff's Telephone Line Budget Amendment in the amount of \$3,600 as Item #1D under Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the Agenda as amended; seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the Consent Agenda inclusive of Tax Releases and Refunds (**Credits = \$11,074.68; Refunds = \$253.61**) Energy Neighbor Budget Amendment, Sheriff K9 Donation Budget Amendment, and Sheriff Telephone Line Budget Amendment. His motion was seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved 6-0 in a roll call vote.

Mandated 5215

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015215-33424 Energy Assistance	\$1,221.00	1015215-42303 Utilities DSS Energy CPL	\$1,221.00
TOTAL	\$1,221.00	TOTAL	\$1,221.00

Justification: Additional funding received for Duke Energy Progress Energy Neighbor (CPL) fund. There is no County match. Funds are 100% State. Original State estimate budgeted in Munis is \$3,813.00. Most recent funding authorization received is \$5,034.00.

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REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1014310-38301 Misc. Donations	\$50.00	1014310-43246 K-9 Supplies	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$50.00	TOTAL	\$50.00

Justification: The Craven County Sheriff’s Office has received a donation check to support the Craven County Sheriff’s Office K-9 program. The amount of \$50.00 will help pay for various expenses including medical care, dog food, and other K-9 related needs.

Seized Property

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1010000-39901 Current Year Fund Balance	\$3,600.00	1154313-42200 Telephone	\$3,600.00
TOTAL	\$3,600.00	TOTAL	\$3,600.00

Justification: Correction of Budget Amendment #073; \$3,600 was rolled into 1014310 telephone line instead of the Seized Property phone line for the current fiscal year.

CRAVEN AGING PLANNING BOARD HCCBG BUDGET REVISIONS 2020-2021

Craven Aging Planning Board Chairman, Clayton Gaskins, presented the Board with a revised funding allocation and Budget Amendment in the amount of (\$56,538.00) for FY 2020-2021 for the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG). He reported that these adjustments are necessary as certain services cannot be provided during the COVID pandemic, requiring reallocations. The reallocations affect the Havelock Senior Services, CARTS, Social Services and Coastal Community Action. He noted that the original budget for HCCBG was \$514,888 and the proposed revision is \$519,108. Mr. Gaskins stated there will be another called meeting of the CAPB in February due to services still being on hold and not wanting to leave money on the table.

Commissioner Liner added that that the need to move money is necessary to target the money where services are being provided, indicating there is leeway with some of the funds, while other funds are very restrictive.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve the Budget Amendment in the amount of (\$56,538.00); seconded by Commissioner Liner and approved in a roll call vote of 6-0.

DSS/Senior Companion/Havelock/CARTS

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015212-33419 HCCBG In Home	\$(27,031.00)	1015212-44000 Contractual Services	\$(30,034.00)
1010000-39901 Fund Balance	\$(3,003.00)		
1015212-33450 HCCBG Care Management	\$ 57,755.00		
1010000-39901 Fund Balance	\$(57,755.00)		
1014291-33310 Senior Companion	\$(9,720.00)	1014291-49123 Senior Companion	\$(9,720.00)
1014291-33317 Havelock Congregate	\$ 5,000.00	1014291-49124 Havelock Senior Services	\$ 5,000.00
1014511-33303 HCCBG Tran St Grn	\$(8,714.00)	1014510-43101 Fuel & Other	\$(8,714.00)
1014513-33303 HCCB Tran St Grn	\$(13,070.00)	1014512-43101 Fuel & Other	\$(13,070.00)
TOTAL	\$(56,538.00)	TOTAL	\$(56,538.00)

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: HEALTH

North Carolina Community Health Center Association (NCCHCA) Funding Budget Amendment

Health Director, Scott Harrelson, reported that the Craven County Health Department (CCHD) recently received funding from the North Carolina Community Health Center Association (NCCHCA) in the amount of \$71,074 for participating in the Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health (CCCPH) Diabetes Initiative. The funds are to be used towards costs associated with the i2i Platform Analytics. The i2i product is a companion software for the County’s electronic health record that enables the health department to produce required reports for our Federally Qualified Health Center. The i2i product is also used to provide reports for the impending NC Medicaid transformation. The Craven County Health Department is requesting to spend this funding to cover the three (3) year term agreement with i2i. The agreement will cover the cost for licenses, the interface with current electronic health records, and professional services as agreed.

Mr. Harrelson added that while this money covers the first three years, he is hopeful to get Medicaid incentive payments by hitting the numbers which will provide further funding as needed.

Commissioner Liner made the motion to approve the following Budget Amendment in the amount of \$71,074.00; seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved 6-0 in a roll call vote.

Health/Adult Primary Care

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
1015100-33301 State Grant	\$71,074.00	1015100-44000 Contract Services	\$71,074.00
TOTAL	\$71,074.00	TOTAL	\$71,074.00

Increase in Hospice Funding Budget Amendment

Hospice Director, Clayton Gaskins, reported that the part-time chaplain position is considered essential staff via Medicare’s Condition of Participation.

The allotted number of hours for her this fiscal year will not be sufficient to meet the requirements of the program such as providing bereavement counseling, support and collaboration/outreach. Additionally, hours for the part-time Physician Extender need to be increased from 100 to 200 hours in order to perform required face-to-face re-certification visits. Hospice has spent \$72,385 of their \$90,000 budget in our Contract Employees line through the week ending December 5, 2020.

These employees are essential in providing care to Hospice patients. He noted there has been 905 more days of care from July 2020 through October 2020 compared to the last fiscal year which is approximately an additional \$136,000 in Revenues. The extra funding in Hospice will allow quality care to be provided to the community.

Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the following Budget Amendment in the amount of \$105,681 as presented; his motion was seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved in a 6-0 roll call vote.

Health/Hospice

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015090-34800 Medicare	\$105,681.00	1015090-41004 Parttime Salaries	\$12,481.00
		1015090-44050 Contract Employees	\$86,000.00
		1015090-43217 Supplies-Ancillary	\$ 7,200.00
TOTAL	\$105,681.00	TOTAL	\$105,681.00

Commissioner Jones commended the outstanding job that the hospice chaplain does by referencing a personal experience.

At the Chairman’s request, Scott Harrelson provided the Board with a COVID-19 vaccination update. Mr. Harrelson stated his staff has done a tremendous job while dealing with some definite challenges along the way. He also referenced the collaborative effort with CarolinaEast and the CCHC physicians’ group in giving out the vaccinations. He stated those two entities are calling their clients to schedule them. Mr. Harrelson indicated the Health Department is able to provide 240 vaccinations a day and once they start giving the second dose, they will ramp up closer to 300 a day. He indicated that vaccinations are taking place at the Convention Center, which provides a great venue to spread out for this type of operation.

In response to some of the frustration over the process, he reported that they make sure they have the vaccine in hand before they will schedule an appointment, which is why it is being handled week to week. The Health Department finds out on Thursdays what their allotment for the next week will be; and when they receive the doses they start the appointment scheduling process. Unfortunately, because the vaccine supply is coming in slowly, those appointments fill up quickly.

Mr. Harrelson informed the Board there are over 20,000 people over the age of 65 in Craven County. They are all eligible for the vaccine, but the Health Department is limited by the number of vaccines provided to them by the State.

The Board requested that Mr. Harrelson put out some type of official statement that would address the confusion and frustration being expressed.

Commissioners Bucher, Smith and McCabe remarked on visiting the Health Department recently and witnessing how efficient they are handling the process and how positive the staff is with dealing with the clients.

County Manager, Jack Veit, reported he was on a call with other county managers on Friday and they all also expressed there not being enough vaccine supply to meet the demand. He stated that patience is key at this point.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SOLID WASTE*Extension of Solid Waste Franchise Agreement*

Solid Waste Director, Steven Aster, reported that Craven County signed a five (5) year Solid Waste Franchise Agreement on March 13, 2017. This agreement is set to expire on June 30, 2022. The Craven County Solid Waste Department has worked in conjunction with the Craven County Administrative team to negotiate a two (2) year extension with Waste Industries dba GFL, Inc. If approved, the proposed negotiated extension will expire on June 30, 2024.

Mr. Aster indicated the proposed extension continues the curbside trash sticker program as well as the collection of trash stickers at Convenience Centers. Under this extension, County residents will continue to utilize trash stickers curbside as well as at any of the seven (7) Convenience Centers.

The proposed extension does not contemplate the price of trash stickers.

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the extension of the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement. His motion was seconded by Commissioner McCabe and carried unanimously.

Commissioner McCabe inquired about the trash sticker prices and was addressed by Mr. Aster and Mr. Veit clarifying that this agreement has no effect on the price of trash stickers, as that will be discussed during budgeting.

Extension of Convenience Site Hauling Agreement

Mr. Aster continued to report that Craven County signed a five (5) year Convenience Center Hauling Agreement on April 27, 2016. This agreement is set to expire on June 30, 2021. The Craven County Solid Waste Department has worked in conjunction with the Craven County Administrative team to negotiate a three (3) year extension with Waste Industries dba GFL, Inc. If approved, the proposed negotiated extension will expire on June 30, 2024.

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the extension of the Convenience Site Hauling Agreement, which was seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Bucher requested an explanation about reimbursing one party costs. Mr. Aster and Mr. Veit indicated that the Sunoco receiving location fines GFL when loads or recycling are contaminated or the recycling materials are inferior.

Commissioner Liner expressed thanks to the Solid Waste staff and County leadership for extending these agreements, as there is currently only one vendor out there.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FACILITIES – REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

Assistant County Manager, Gene Hodges, reported that the Craven County Facilities Department discovered settling in the concrete foundation at the New Bern Library in late 2018. Under the advice from the County Attorney, the Facilities Department requested the Board of County Commissioners' approval of a Resolution of Exemption for the project. This exemption will allow the Facilities Department to contract with Engineered Foundation Solutions, PLLC and Accident Reconstruction Analysis, PLLC to conduct a laser scan and engineering analysis of the slab and foundation and forgo the formal Request for Qualifications process.

Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the Resolution of Exemption. His motion was seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved unanimously.

CRAVEN COUNTY
RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO
N.C.Gen.Stat. §143-64.32

WHEREAS, N.C.Gen.Stat. §143-64.31 requires the selection of firms to perform architectural, engineering, and surveying services by a County to be without regard to fee, after public announcement of such services; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County ("County") proposes to enter into an engineering service contract to evaluate the New Bern Library foundation due to settling discovered in late 2018.

WHEREAS, the amount of professional fees under the proposed Service Contract is estimated to be less than Fifty Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00); and,

WHEREAS, N.C.Gen.Stat. §143-64.32 allows a County to exempt itself from the requirements of N.C.Gen.Stat. §143-64.31, when the amount of professional fees is estimated to be less than Fifty Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00); and,

WHEREAS, the County finds that it is in its best interest to exempt the proposed Service Contract from the provisions of G.S. §143-64.31.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CRAVEN COUNTY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The above-described Service Contract is hereby made exempt from the provisions of G.S. §143-64.31 for the reasons stated in this resolution.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted this 19th day of January, 2021.

APPOINTMENTS

Pending

Chairman Jones presented the following pending appointments for review:

- Adult Care Home Advisory Committee
- Community Child Protection Team
- Coastal Regional Solid Waste Management Authority (CRSWMA)
- Craven Aging Planning Board
- Craven/Pamlico Regional Library
- Nursing Home Advisory Committee
- Regional Aging Advisory Board
- Voluntary Agriculture District Advisory Board

Current

Fire Tax Commissioners

Chairman Jones motioned to reappoint Shane Turney. Commissioner Mark motioned to reappoint Timothy Mason. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Turney and Mr. Mason were reappointed by acclamation to the Fire Tax Commission.

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council

Commissioner Mark motioned to reappoint Keith Morris. Chairman Jones motioned to reappoint Michael Paul. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Morris and Mr. Paul were reappointed by acclamation to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

Upcoming

Chairman Jones presented the following upcoming appointments for review:

Fire Tax Commissioners

- Allen Gaskins – Twp. 1 Vanceboro (since 2/2019, 1st term)
- Chris Wetherington – Twp. 2 Little Swift Creek (since 02/2015, 3rd term)
- Martin Hernandez – Twp. 6 (since 2/2013, 4th term)
- Dallas Brown – Twp. * West New Bern (since 2/2013, 4th term)
- Howard Carrier – Twp. 9 (since 2/2013, 4th term)
- Marjorie Gonzales – Twp. 9 (since 2/2013, 4th term)
- Chris Register – Twp. 9 (since 2/2013, 4th term)

Fireman's Relief Fund Board of Trustees

- Theron McCabe – Twp. 5 Harlowe (4th term)
- Carl Jarman – Twp. 9 (since 2/2013, 4th term)
- Roger Wetherington – Twp. 9 (since 2/2013, 4th term)

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney, Arey Grady, had nothing to report.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager, Jack Veit, reported on three different meetings he attended the previous week: ACT, MPO, and the Water Dept. SCADA Project kick-off. He also highlighted a call with several entities to discuss the broadband internet issues in the Harlowe area and indicated progress is taking place as applications for various grants are being sought.

He reported on a letter to the Attorney General regarding the issues with Suddenlink being signed by the Chairman and stated that he has heard from Suddenlink's General Manager and has an upcoming virtual meeting with him to address the concerns. Commissioner Liner requested that the letter also be sent to Representative Tyson and Senator Sanderson.

Mr. Veit commended Team Craven as he stated that COVID 19 is not just a Health Department issue. He indicated that Maintenance, the Sheriff's Office, Environmental Health, IT, Facilities, and the Convention Center all play a role. Mr. Veit stated that each department must support all the other departments, because if one component fails, we all fail.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Mark recognized the Health Department for the great job they are doing. He also reported on CarolinaEast's staff and the personal care they provide to their clients not only in the hospital but at home as well.

Commissioner Liner reported on the NC ACC Legislative Goals Conference he participated in the previous week. He indicated he would be sending the 32 goals identified to each of the Commissioners for them to prioritize into the Top Ten.

Mr. Liner reported the ACTS has generated funds and support to extend the back gate flyover to Roosevelt, which will be a great improvement to Cherry Point. He also reported that Marine Corps Installation (MCI) East has sought and received \$20 million to replace the old WW2 blimp hangar that serves as a gym.

Commissioner Smith had nothing to report.

Commissioner McCabe had nothing to report.

Commissioner Bucher had nothing to report.

Chairman Jones invited Sheriff Chip Hughes into the room to make a few comments. Sheriff Hughes assured the Board that he has been in communication with each of the municipalities, and State and Federal counterparts regarding potential issues on Inauguration Day. He stated that currently there are no credible threats to this area, but he has the Special Response Team on standby. Sheriff Hughes stated they support any peaceful assembly, but will not tolerate any destructive activity in Craven County.

Chairman Jones then acknowledged a flyer that he had given each Commissioner regarding complaints about the shooting range in the Spring Garden area and stated that he and Sheriff Hughes are going to reach out to the leadership at the shooting range and the citizens to talk with them and try to reach an understanding.

The Sheriff reported that his staff does utilize this facility, but it is not owned by the county. They follow the rules of the facility, but then also have stricter rules they implement and enforce for their employees. He remarked that the shooting range is utilized by a broad group of civilian organizations. In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Smith, he indicated it was basically a noise issue though some safety concerns have been raised as well.

Commissioner Bucher remarked he is a member and highlighted all the safety requirements and training already in place.

Chairman Jones reported that the Craven Pamlico Regional Library has recently hired Katherine Clowers as the new Regional Director. He stated a thorough interview process had taken place and she received the highest ratings and would begin her duties on February 8, 2021.

At 9:38 a.m. Commissioner Liner motioned to adjourn. His motion was seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved unanimously.

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Nan Holton
Clerk to the Board