

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, JULY 19, 2021. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 8:30 AM.

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 (Remote)
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

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

Good and gracious Father, You are the source of every good thing and the fount of every blessing. We praise You for Your great care that You have for us, Your children. As a source of all that is good and true, we ask You to inspire within our hearts a greater longing to pursue these ends and draw us ever closer to Yourself.

We ask You to send forth Your blessing upon all those gathered here before you.

May we receive Your guidance and wisdom in accomplishing the tasks set before us. Protect us, keep our Country and County safe from all harm, and may we pursue in freedom of heart the things that are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Based upon the invocation given by Reverend Brendan Glasgow, the January 17, 2020 session of the US House of Representatives

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mark and approved unanimously.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY SERVICES (RCS) PRESENTATION

Zeb Hough, RCS Executive Director, thanked the Board for their continued support, gave a brief history of the founding of RCS, and provided life changing examples of the services they provide. He emphasized the importance of partnerships, collaboration, patience and conversations. Mr. Hough highlighted their new strategy is thinking long term and sowing seeds for financial sustainability. He addressed several inquiries from the Board.

CHAIRMAN'S PRIVILEGE

Chairman Jones took Chairman's privilege to invite County Manager, Jack Veit, to introduce two City of New Bern guests in attendance.

Mr. Veit introduced Foster Hughes the Interim New Bern City Manager and the new Police Chief Patrick Gallagher. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Gallagher both spoke briefly on their careers and their objectives for the City and interest in working with the County. Commissioner Bucher commented on his desire for more collaboration between the City of New Bern and Craven County and thanked them both.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the consent agenda, as presented, inclusive of the Minutes of July 6, 2021 Regular Session, Tax Releases and Refunds (*Credits = \$6,306.92, Refunds = \$710.73*), National Recovery Month Proclamation, Recreation Budget Amendment, Fire Department Worker’s Compensation-Budget Amendment, Sheriff Honor Guard Rollover-Budget Amendment, Sheriff National Night Out/JCPC Donation-Budget Amendment, Sheriff National Night Out/Blood Connection Donation-Budget Amendment and Sheriff Vehicle Upfitting-Budget Amendment. His motion was seconded By Commissioner Liner and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH**

WHEREAS, substance use disorders affect all communities nationwide, but with commitment and support, people with this disorder can achieve healthy lifestyles and lead rewarding lives in recovery; and

WHEREAS, by seeking help, people who experience substance use disorders can embark on a new path toward improved health and overall wellness; and

WHEREAS, the focus of National Recovery Month this September is to celebrate their journey with the theme Join the Voices for Recovery: Together we are Stronger; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month spreads the message that behavioral health is essential to health and one's overall wellness, and that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people recover; and

WHEREAS, the impact of substance use disorders is apparent in our local community, and it is estimated that thousands of people in Craven County are affected by this condition; and

WHEREAS, through Recovery Month, people become more aware and able to recognize the signs of substance use disorders, which can lead more people into needed treatment; and

WHEREAS, managing the effects of this condition can help people achieve healthy lifestyles, both physically and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, The Recovery Month observance continues to work to improve the lives of those affected by substance use disorders by raising awareness of these diseases and educating communities about the prevention, treatment, and recovery resources that are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS does hereby proclaim the month of September 2021 as National Recovery Month in Craven County and calls upon our community to observe this month with compelling programs and events that support this year's observance.

Recreation

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015910-33301 State Grant	\$200.00	1015910-47302 C/O Other Improvement	\$200.00
TOTAL	\$200.00	TOTAL	\$200.00

Justification: During the July 6, 2021 Craven County Board of Commissioners’ Meeting in the Board Action the budget amendment was incorrectly listed at \$125,000.00. The amount in the description was correct at \$125,200.00.

Fire Department – Multiple

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
2020000-29999 FB – Tri Community Fire	\$222.00	2024340-41104 Tri Community Fire	\$222.00
2040000-29999 FB – Dover Fire	\$147.00	2044342-41104 Dover Fire	\$147.00
2050000-29999	\$182.00	2054340-41104	\$182.00
2080000-29999 FB – Harlowe	\$210.00	2084340-41104 Harlowe Fire	\$210.00
FB – West New Bern Fire		West New Bern Fire	
TOTAL	\$761.00	TOTAL	\$761.00

Justification: Budget amendment requested to cover shortage of Fire Departments Worker’s Compensation line items from the VFIS Invoice in the amount of \$99,350.00 for FY 2020-2021.

Sheriff’s Office

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1014310-38301 Misc. Donations	\$975.00	1014310-43240 Other Supplies	\$975.00
TOTAL	\$975.00	TOTAL	\$975.00

Justification: The unused donated funds made to the Sheriff’s Office in FY21 are being requested to be moved to FY22. These funds were donated to the office by various citizens and businesses for multiple divisions and to be used at the Sheriff’s discretion. This amount donated was chosen to be used for Honor Guard supplies.

Sheriff’s Office

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1010000-39901 Current Fund Balance	\$1,173.00	1014310-43240 Other Supplies	\$1,173.00
TOTAL	\$1,173.00	TOTAL	\$1,173.00

Justification: To support National Night Out, JCPC donated \$750.00 to the Sheriff’s Office in 2020. These funds remain unused as the event was canceled due to Covid -19 restrictions. They have donated another \$422.99 recently for the same event. The Sheriff’s Office is requesting these funds to be transferred to Other Supplies expenditure account to utilize for National Night Out events.

Sheriff’s Office

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1014310-38301 Misc. Donations	\$130.00	1014310-43240 Other Supplies	\$130.00
TOTAL	\$130.00	TOTAL	\$130.00

Justification: The Sheriff’s Office hosted a blood drive through The Blood Connection in which they donated \$10.00 per blood donor to the office. These funds will be utilized to purchase items needed for National Night Out.

Sheriff’s Office

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1010000-39901 Current Year Fund Balance	\$2,007.00	1014310-47301 Capital Outlay Over \$5,000	\$2,007.00
TOTAL	\$2,007.00	TOTAL	\$2,007.00

Justification: Recently there have been vehicles exchanged between personnel of the Sheriff’s Office. The 2018 Chevy Silverado, which was designated to narcotics, has been reassigned to Deputy Dear. This vehicle does not have all the necessary equipment needed for his position. The vehicle reassignment occurred after the deadline for requesting purchase orders for FY21. The Sheriff’s Office is requesting funds for the equipment needed.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ft. Barnwell Rural VFD Purchase of Truck

Chief Greg Milligan reported Ft. Barnwell VFD would be selling three older model firetrucks and using those funds to assist with purchasing a used pumper truck. He indicated they wanted to obtain a loan from CIVIC Federal Credit Union for \$100,000 to have the ability to purchase a used pumper truck when one becomes available. He requested the Board’s approval to enter into a contract agreement.

Commissioner Mark motioned to enter into a contract agreement with CIVIC Federal Credit Union for \$100,000, as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Fire Department NC Department of Insurance (DOI) Grant Match

1. Chief Milligan stated that the *Ft. Barnwell VFD* has been awarded \$30,000 from the NC Department of Insurance. He requested a \$30,000 match from the Board.

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve a match in the amount of \$30,000, as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

2. *Township #9* Chief, Roger Wetherington, reported his department was awarded \$29,972.50 from the NC Department of Insurance. He requested a \$29,972.50 match from the County.

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve a match in the amount of \$29,972.50, as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

3. Emergency Services Director, Stanley Kite, stated that *Little Swift Creek* was awarded a grant in the amount of \$29,729.50 for the NC Department of Insurance. He requested a County match for Little Swift Creek.

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the match from the NC DOI grant, as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

4. Mr. Kite reported that the *Dover Volunteer Fire Department* was awarded \$29,909.50 from the NC DOI and was requesting a County match on their behalf.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to match the NC DOI grant, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Mark and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Fire Departments (Multiple)

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
203000-39801	\$29,730.00	2034340-49699	\$29,730.00
Transfer to General Fund		Grant Match/LSC	
204000-39801	\$30,000.00	2044343-49699	\$30,000.00
Transfer to General Fund		Grant Match/Ft. Barnwell	
204000-39801	\$29,910.00	2400342-49699	\$29,910.00
Transfer to General Fund		Grant Match/Dover	
209000-39801	\$29,973.00	209430-49699	\$29,973.00
Transfer to General Fund		Grant Match/#9 Township	
1010000-39901	\$119,613.00	1019800-49783	\$119,613.00
Current Year Fund Balance		VFD Grant Matches	
TOTAL	\$239,226.00	TOTAL	\$239,226.00

At 9:06 am Commissioner Liner left the meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: RECREATION – ACCEPT BATE FOUNDATION GRANT FOR ROCKY RUN PLAYGROUND

Recreation & Parks Director, Billy Wilkes, reported that Rocky Run Park is a five-acre park that serves the surrounding communities and provides a park to bring people together. The park offers a picnic shelter, basketball court, swing set and areas to climb and slide with open space at the rear of the park. In the last several years the following projects have been included to improve Rocky Run Park.

- 2018 budget year the Shelter upgrade was completed and included vinyl wrap, recessed lighting and electrical outlets.
- 2019 budget year - rebuilt the basketball court and added a new climber
- 2021 budget year - added a new swing set and provided borders to bring the play equipment together
- 2022 budget year - adding a camera and requesting a grant match to add a new play system

Mr. Wilkes stated that in the 2022 budget process the Recreation & Parks Department identified the Rocky Run playground project as a need for the current year, as equipment is deteriorating and the separated play equipment does not allow for the social benefits of children playing together.

In May of 2021 a \$35,000 grant request was submitted and approved by the Harold Bate Foundation to provide funds to assist with the purchase and installation of a new play system. Mr. Wilkes requested acceptance of this grant and a 50/50 match from Craven County in the amount of \$35,000.00.

He indicated the timeline for the project, if approved, would be to order the equipment which takes about 8 weeks to deliver and then work with the contractor to schedule the installation of the equipment. Project completion should be early 2022. Once completed all major elements at Rocky Run park would have received an upgrade within the last five years.

Mr. Wilkes requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$70,000.00.

At 9:09 am Commissioner Liner returned to the meeting.

There was discussion regarding the age of the Rocky Run Park and recognizing the Bate Foundation for their tremendous support throughout the years.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve the following budget amendment, in the amount of \$70,000.00, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Recreation

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1010000-39901	\$35,000.00	1015910-47302	\$70,000.00
Fund Balance – Current Year		C/O Other Improvements	
1015910-33500	\$35,000.00		
Bate Foundation			
TOTAL	\$70,000.00	TOTAL	\$70,000.00

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SHERIFF

Vehicle Up Fitting Rollover – Budget Amendment

Sheriff Chip Hughes reported that the Sheriff’s Office ordered speakers and adapters for three Chevy’s purchased in FY21 that were included in Purchase Order #932. All other up fitting to these vehicles has been completed and paid for. The only up fitting that remain outstanding are the speakers and adapters. He requested that those funds roll over from FY21 to FY22 for the equipment needed and a budget amendment in the amount of \$14,994.00 be approved.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of \$14,994.00, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Sheriff’s Office

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1010000-39901	\$14,994.00	1014310-47301	\$14,994.00
Current Year Fund Balance		Capital Outlay over \$5,000	
TOTAL	\$14,994.00	TOTAL	\$14,994.00

Equipment and Ammunition Rollover Funds – Budget Amendment

Sheriff Hughes requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$40,795.00, in order to move funds that were allocated in FY21 through purchase orders. He indicated these purchase orders have not been completed due to back orders from the vendors and include radios, radio accessories, body armor, weapon packages and ammunition. Delivery time for these orders were greatly affected by Covid-19. These funds were allocated in the 4310 (Sheriff) Budget lines.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of \$40,795.00, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Sheriff’s Office

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1010000-39901	\$40,795.00	1014310-47321	\$16,971.00
Current Year Fund Balance		Capital Outlay Under \$5,000	
		1014310-43233	\$23,824.00
		Ammunition	
TOTAL	\$40,795.00	TOTAL	\$40,795.00

Equipment & Uniforms Rollover Funds – Budget Amendment

Sheriff Hughes requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$68,394.00, in order to move funds that were allocated in FY21 through purchase orders.

He confirmed that these purchase orders have not been completed due to various reasons, such as back orders from the vendors. These funds were allocated for the 4314 (SRO) account lines.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of \$68,394.00, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Mark and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Sheriff's Office

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1010000-39901	\$68,394.00	1014314-47301	\$51,402.00
Current Year Fund Balance		SRO Capital Outlay Over \$5,000	
		1014314-43502	\$ 7,195.00
		SRO Uniforms	
		1014314-47321	\$ 9,797.00
		SRO Capital Outlay Under \$5,000	
TOTAL	\$68,394.00	TOTAL	\$68,394.00

SRO Grant Rollover Funds – Budget Amendment

Sheriff Hughes requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$12,362.00, in order to move funds that were allocated in FY21 through purchase orders for the School Safety Grant. He stated these purchase orders have not been completed due to various reasons, such as back orders from the vendors. These funds were allocated in the 4314 (SRO) account lines.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of \$12,362.00, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Sheriff's Office

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1014314-33102	\$12,362.00	1014314-47321	\$12,362.00
Bureau of Justice Assistance		SRO Capital Outlay Under \$5,000	
TOTAL	\$12,362.00	TOTAL	\$12,362.00

K-9 Donation Rollover Funds – Budget Amendment

Sheriff Hughes requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$14,651.00, in order to move unused donated funds made to the Sheriff's Office in FY21 to FY22. He indicated these funds were donated by various citizens and businesses for multiple divisions such as the K-9 Unit.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of \$14,651.00, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Sheriff's Office

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1010000-39901	\$14,651.00	1014310-43246	\$14,651.00
Current Fund Balance		K-9 Supplies	
TOTAL	\$14,651.00	TOTAL	\$14,651.00

Sheriff Hughes introduced Administrative Officer, Evelyn Ochoa, and thanked her for the work she does in his office.

Because all of the items presented by Sheriff Hughes were rollovers from the FY21 Budget, Commissioner Liner requested to have asterisk marks placed beside them when in budget workshops next year as a reminder they were rolled forward into FY22.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SOCIAL SERVICES – CARES ACT FUNDING ROLLOVER -BUDGET AMENDMENT

Alissa Andrews-brown, Department of Social Services, requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$43,251.00, in order to roll forward funding received from the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) under Title III-B of the Older Americans Act (OAA), Nutrition Programs under Title III-C of the (OAA) and National Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) under Title III-E of the (OAA). There is no County match required.

She indicated that funding was previously approved in FY 2020-2021 in June and December; rolling forward so that purchase orders can be processed in order to complete the modifications in progress at the Senior Center.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of \$43,251.00, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Liner and in a roll call vote was approved 7-0.

DSS1015212 Adult and Senior 1015217

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015217-33119 CARES Act	\$43,251.00	101517-47302 C/O Other Improvements	\$43,251.00
TOTAL	\$43,251.00	TOTAL	\$43,251.00

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FACILITIES – CRAVEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE INTERIOR/EXTERIOR ENVELOPE REPAIRS

Assistant County Manager, Gene Hodges, reported that in February 2021, the Board of Commissioners directed staff to work with architects, Oakley Collier Architects (OCA) to develop a plan to address the water intrusion and masonry restoration issues at the historic Craven County courthouse. Utilizing the resources of Barnhill Contracting, the Construction Manager at Risk that has been working on Hurricane Florence repairs to the courthouse basement and Emergency Services offices, a plan to address these issues has been developed. A number of on site meetings and multiple virtual conferences have been held with representatives of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Historic Preservation Office and the City of New Bern Historic Preservation Administrator. All reviews in the field have been favorable and accepting of the proposed methodology.

Mr. Hodges stated the plan, as presented, will have Barnhill contracting with Heritage Restoration for exterior masonry work, Superior Plaster for the interior plaster work, and Proctor Paint Company for the needed painting. Additionally, they will have a third party engineer, Atlas Engineering, Inc., to independently verify all the work being done is in compliance with all agreed upon standards. OCA will also continue to provide project coordination and documentation as this restoration project progresses.

Mr. Hodges reported he was recently notified by the New Bern Historic Preservation Administrator that they are not going to approve the water repellent; this is after having the onsite meeting with the New Bern Historic Preservation Commission and the State Historic Representative.

He relayed the next step will be for the Board of Commissioners to approve a project ordinance and related budget amendment in the amount of \$729,103 and authorize the execution of a change order to Barnhill Contracting’s contract in the amount of \$675,103 and a change order to OCA’s design services agreement in the amount of \$54,000. As a reminder, when this project was bid earlier the range of prices were \$610,000 to \$1.9 million for just the exterior brick work.

Mr. Hodges stated he is requesting that the Board approve the total amount so that the project can get started, which is time sensitive, while they continue to fight the battle over the water repellent. The money would not be spent on the water repellent if approval is not gained.

There was discussion about the issue being with the New Bern Historic Preservation Commission, which is a non-elected board. The individuals who serve are appointed and they look to the State for authority; and the literature they are using has not been updated with improved products and procedures. This is the contention the county will use to argue for the water repellent, because it is not a sealant and that is what the organization opposes. Without the application of water repellent to the Courthouse building, water moisture will continue to be an issue; and the Clerk of Superior Court already has moisture damage and will continue to, at a rising cost to the taxpayers if not alleviated. It was remarked that the water repellent is invisible and does nothing to change the appearance to the historic structure.

Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the project ordinance amendment and related budget amendment and to authorize staff to execute change orders to Barnhill Contracting and OCA to perform the interior and exterior envelope repairs. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Courthouse EOC Recovery Project
FUND 415
Update

This ordinance is hereby approved in the following amount for expenditure of the Courthouse EOC Recovery Project

Expenditures:

Architectural/Engineering Design Services	\$ 604,000.00
Construction	\$2,621,593.00
Contingency	\$ 98,000.00

TOTAL \$3,323,593.00

The following revenues are hereby estimated for the Courthouse EOC Recovery Project

Revenues:

Transfer from General Fund	\$2,594,490.00
Transfer from Capital Reserve	\$ 729,103.00

TOTAL \$3,323,593.00

This ordinance is hereby approved this 19th day of July, 2021.

Courthouse EOC Recovery Project

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
4154200-39802 Transfer from Capital Reserve	\$729,103.00	4154200-47505 A&E Fees	\$ 54,000.00
		4154200-47601 Construction – General	\$675,103.00
4000000-39901 FB Current Year	\$729,103.00	4004150-49793 Transfer to Projects	\$729,103.00
TOTAL	\$729,103.00	TOTAL	\$729,103.00

APPOINTMENTS

Pending

Chairman Jones reviewed the pending appointments and stated he has an applicant, Mr. Russell Cayton from District 2, who is interested in serving on the Recreation Advisory Committee. Commissioner Mark nominated Mr. Cayton and he was appointed by acclamation.

- Adult Care Home Advisory Committee
- Community Child Protection Team
- Craven/Pamlico Regional Library
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (CarolinaEast)
- Nursing Home Advisory Committee
- Recreation Advisory Committee (District 2 – Russel Cayton appointed)
- Regional Aging Advisory Board
- Voluntary Agriculture District Advisory Board (District 6)

Current

Fireman's Relief fund Board of Trustees

Chairman Jones nominated Daniel New and Mark Dail for reappointment to the Fireman's Relief Fund Board of Trustees. There being no additional nominates, Mr. New and Mr. Dail were reappointed by acclamation. It was the consensus to defer the appointment of Jeffery Norman.

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board

Commissioner Mark nominated Brian McGuire for reappointment to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board. Chairman Jones nominated Michelle Smith for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Mr. McGuire and Ms. Smith were reappointed by acclamation.

Upcoming

Chairman Jones reviewed upcoming terms on boards and committees due to expire in August, 2021.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Approval of Conveyance After Expiration of Upset Bid Period – Gatewood Drive

County Attorney, Arey Grady, reported that the County previously received and approved an offer to purchase this real property, in the amount of \$3,000.00, subject to the completion of the upset bid process. The offer was advertised, and there were no upset bids, the final bid being \$3,000.00. The upset bid period has now expired, and Mr. Grady recommended approval of the conveyance at the purchase price of \$3,000.00. The County originally acquired this property through a tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$2,717.52. The tax value of this property is \$6,000.00.

He stated should the Board of Commissioners authorize this transaction, a resolution should be adopted, which in turn will authorize the execution and delivery of the necessary documents.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to adopt the following resolution approving conveyance after expiration of the upset bid period, seconded by Commissioner Liner and approved unanimously.

CRAVEN COUNTY
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE
AFTER EXPIRATION OF UPSET BID PERIOD

WHEREAS, Craven County owns certain real property identified as Tax Parcel Number 8-200-E-032 (hereinafter “the Real Property”), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County in deed recorded in Book 3491 Page 741 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County previously received and approved an Offer to Purchase the Real Property, and Craven County subsequently advertised said offer for upset bids as required by North Carolina General Statute §160A-269; and,

WHEREAS, the upset bid period required under North Carolina General Statute §160A-269 has expired; and,

WHEREAS, the Craven County Board of Commissioners deems it advisable and in the best interest of the County to sell its interest in the Real Property to the successful bidder and to convey its interest in said property by quitclaim deed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CRAVEN COUNTY THAT:

Section 1. The last and highest bid of MAK Properties, LLC in the sum of \$3,000.00 for the Real Property is hereby accepted, and the Offer to Purchase previously executed by Craven County subject to the provisions of North Carolina General Statute §160A-269 is hereby ratified and confirmed in its entirety.

Section 2. Upon payment of the full purchase price, the Chairman, 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, including but not limited to the execution and delivery of the quitclaim deed attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF JULY, 2021.

Local Redistricting Service

Mr. Grady referenced the proposal for the County to retain both a demographer and a law firm to assist with the redistricting to meet the legal obligation to confirm that its electoral districts meet the “one person, one vote” requirement. He indicated after researching outside vendors to assist with this process, counsel and staff recommended that the County retain demographer Blake Esselstyn and the law firm of Poyner & Spruill to assist with Craven County’s redistricting process, stating it could be done internally but would not be as efficient nor economical. He introduced Mr. Blake Esselstyn to provide a presentation prior to the Board taking action.

Mr. Esselstyn led the Board through the “who, what, why, where, how and when” of redistricting based upon the 2020 Census data. He stated that neither he nor the law firm will consider partisan data in the process. Mr. Esselstyn indicated new district lines would be drawn to compensate for growth and decline in population as indicated by the data released in August by the US Census. He provided a proposed timeline and emphasized that Commissioners and the public would have input on the districts created. The process needs to be completed by November 17th.

Mr. Grady stated that several alternatives would be provided to discuss and determine which ones are most favorable.

Commissioner Liner motioned to retain demographer Mr. Blake Esselstyn and the law firm of Poyner/Spruill to assist the County in the redistricting process. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which carried 7-0 in a roll call vote.

COUNTY MANAGER’S OFFICE

County Manager, Jack Viet, highlighted that the redistricting process will take time, be tedious and require the Board to be flexible with their calendars in order to meet the various deadlines

along the way. He indicated Finance Director, Craig Warren, would have a budget amendment at the next meeting for this approval today.

Mr. Veit referenced his *Business NC* magazine and the fact that Craven County was highlighted three times in this particular edition.

He commented on the recent Hwy. 70 Corridor meeting held in person and the financial problems DOT has faced, as well as the need to look at alternatives in the future.

Mr. Veit reported that the James City project was underway and procuring materials is much higher than originally estimated.

Mr. Veit reported that he and staff have been working with the Health Department on establishing an in-house pharmacy and are currently engaged with architects Oakley Collier on creating bid documents.

Mr. Veit also highlighted the Convention Center and the Solid Waste reports in the Memorandum distributed to the Board of Commissioners in their packets.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Liner had nothing to report.

Commissioner Smith had nothing to report.

Commissioner Mark had nothing to report.

Commissioner McCabe had nothing to report

Commissioner Mitchell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Bucher reported he was given a petition signed by several hundred citizens opposing any instruction or promotion of Critical Race Theory (CRT), "Action Civics" or "The 1619 Project". He requested to put a Resolution Opposing CRT on the August 2, 2021 Agenda for consideration and vote by the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Jones requested that citizens have the option to send in written comments on the topic.

Commissioner Mark motioned to draft a resolution in opposition of CRT to be placed on the August 2, 2021 agenda for discussion and all written comments by the public. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Chairman Jones had nothing to report.

Mr. Veit highlighted that Commissioner McCabe recently celebrated his birthday; best wishes were expressed by all.

At 10:15 am Commissioner Liner motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bucher and unanimously approved.

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Nan Holton
Clerk to the Board