

**AGENDA
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2021
8:30 AM**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

1. CRAVEN COUNTY COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAM (CCPT)
ANNUAL REPORT: Jenny Cook & Tracey Brenneman, CCPT Co-Chairs
2. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. September 7, 2021 Regular Session Minutes
 - B. Tax Releases and Refunds

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

3. HEALTH: Scott Harrelson, Health Director
 - A. Center for Disease Control (CDC) Covid-19 Vaccination Program Budget Amendment
 - B. Re-opening Schools Liaison Budget Amendment
 - C. Enhancing Detection Activities Budget Amendment
 - D. Water Sample Collection Fee Increase
 - E. New/Revised Health Fees
4. PLANNING: Don Baumgardner, Planning Director
 - A. Request to Set Public Hearing for October 4, 2021: CDBG
 - B. Craven County Schools Generator Project Bid Award
5. SOCIAL SERVICES – SUPPLEMENTAL CHAFEE (LINKS) FUNDING:
Geoffrey Marett, Social Services Director
6. CARTS: Kelly Walker, Transportation Director
 - A. Approval of Omnibus Brand and Routes
 - B. Information Regarding the FY2021-2022 Rural Operating Assistance Program
 - C. Request Authorization to Apply for State Maintenance Assistance Program

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Jeff Wood, Economic Development Director
 - A. Request to Set Public Hearing for October 4, 2021: Project Endor
 - B. Project Pittsburgh Budget Amendment
 - C. Authorization to Contract to Sell Property: Project Drum
8. APPOINTMENTS
9. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Arey Grady
10. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: Jack Veit
11. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
12. CLOSED SESSION
13. RECESS TO RECONVENE FOR REDISTRICTING WORK SESSION

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, SEPTEMBER 20, 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
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:

God of the faith of our fathers and Lord of our homage, we embrace you and one another in heart and soul, thought and mind giving you praise and trusting your faithfulness. Bless this day and our activity in your service.

O Lord, help us to remember that proclamation from ages past, "where there is no vision, people perish."

Enable us, therefore, to be visionary in our decision-making, particularly with those resolved in your wisdom by the leadership of our County. Grant this Board of Commissioners the ability to see, the faith to believe and the courage to leap forward in their journey of determination for tranquility and peace, upholding those virtues by which all may benefit from, in our "home of the brave and land of the free."

God of the Most High, may your will be done, your vision be known, and your righteousness prevail, both now and forever. Amen.

Based upon the invocation given by Reverend Samuel Tialavea, at the January 13, 2010 session of the US House of Representatives

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

CRAVEN COUNTY COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAM (CCPT) ANNUAL REPORT

Jenny Cook and Tracey Brenneman, CCPT Co-Chairs, provided the Board of Commissioners with the mandated Annual Community Child Protection Team Report. They reviewed the following information:

- Membership and agency representation
- Reports of abuse and neglect
- Contributory factors
- Substance affected infants
- CPS in-home services

- Temporary safety providers
- Foster care statistics
- Community achievements
- Coronavirus challenges
- Supporting and educating families
- Hope Family Resource Center
- Partnering
- Permanency planning
- Nancy’s House
- Overall statistics
- Child fatalities
- Recommendations moving forward

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, inclusive of the Minutes of September 7, 2021 and the Tax Releases and Refunds (*Credits* = \$23,097.55; *Refunds* = \$1,853.86). His motioned was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: HEALTH

Prior to presenting the four items on the agenda, Health Director, Scott Harrelson, provided an overview of the Health Department’s collaboration with the Craven County Schools and nurses. He indicated that the school nurses are the “boots on the ground” and under his authority they provide quarantine guidance. He reported that with the incoming liaison funds, two additional nurses would be hired and work on contract tracing efforts. Mr. Harrelson stated that Craven County has a 14% positivity rate, while the State is at 10%.

Center for Disease Control (CDC) Covid-19 Vaccination Program Budget Amendment

Mr. Harrelson reported that Craven County has received supplemental funding to assist with coronavirus vaccine activities to remove barriers and expand COVID-19 vaccination programs. He stated that funds will be used to purchase vaccine supplies and hiring contract employees for upcoming vaccination clinics, and requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$64,257.00.

Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of \$64,257.00, as requested, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Health/Emergency Preparedness

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015012-33301 State Funding	\$64,257.00	1015012-43208 Medical Supplies	\$ 4,000.00
		1015012-44050	\$60,257.00
TOTAL	\$64,257.00	TOTAL	\$64,257.00

Re-Opening Schools Liaison Budget Amendment

Mr. Harrelson relayed that to enable schools to establish and expand COVID-19 screening testing programs to support and maintain in-person learning, the federal government is providing financial resources through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to enhance close collaborative working relationships between schools and local health departments. He stated that funding will support contract Public Health Nurse (PHN) School Health Liaisons for the coordination of COVID-19 screening, testing, and vaccine administration efforts and the tools needed to complete those functions.

Mr. Harrelson requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$115,000. He stated for the record that no vaccines will be administered at the schools with this funding and that students under the age of 17 must have their parents' consent to receive a vaccine.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of \$115,000.00, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Mark and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Health/Child Health

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015050-33301 State Funding	\$115,000.00	1015050-42500 Travel/Training	\$ 2,000.00
		1015050-43201 Office Supplies	\$ 1,000.00
		1015050-43208 Medical Supplies	\$ 5,000.00
		1015050-43240 Other Supplies	\$ 3,000.00
		1015050-44050 Contract Employees	\$100,000.00
		1015050-47321 C/O \$500-\$4,999	\$ 4,000.00
TOTAL	\$115,000.00	TOTAL	\$115,000.00

Enhancing Detection Activities Budget Amendment

Mr. Harrelson reported that the Craven County Health Department has received state funding from the Communicable Disease Branch to carry out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications, and other preparedness and response activities.

He commented that funding will be used to reallocate salaries and benefits from current employees who are supporting the vaccination efforts, hiring contract employees to assist in clerical and COVID testing activities, case investigation, contact tracing, and other support management/supplies needed to enhance COVID-19 detection.

Mr. Harrelson requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$839,607.00. Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of \$839,607.00, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Upon approval of the budget amendment, Commissioner Liner stated for the public's knowledge that Craven County Schools has also received large sums of Covid funds and that last year, because of online learning, the school nurses took on the job of contact tracing. With school being back in person this year, school nurses are unable to continue in this role, requiring more collaboration from the County.

Health/Communicable Disease

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015070-33447 State Funding	\$839,607.00	1015070-42000 Postage	\$ 3,000.00
		1015070-42700 Advertising	\$ 6,000.00
		1015070-43208 Medical Supplies	\$ 12,000.00
		1015070-43240 Other Supplies	\$ 5,000.00
		1015070-43242	\$ 75,000.00

		Lab Supplies	
		1015070-44000	\$100,000.00
		Contract Services	
		1015070-44050	\$225,000.00
		Contract Employees	
		1015070-47321	\$ 7,000.00
		C/Outlay \$500-\$4,999	
		1015070-43112	\$406,607.00
TOTAL	\$839,607.00	TOTAL	\$839,607.00

Water Sample Collection Fee Increase

Mr. Harrelson relayed that the North Carolina State Water Laboratory provides water analysis for the entire state. Craven County Environmental Health uses this service for well water analysis that they are unable to perform at the Health Department’s water laboratory. Periodically the State Laboratory adjusts the types of well water tests available and the associated fee. To simplify and keep the fee schedule fluid, he proposed that a flat fee be charged to collect and ship the sample to the State Lab. The health department can then refer to their most current fee schedule (by link on the website) and simply charge the State Laboratory fee for the requested sample with an additional flat fee for sample collection.

He stated the State Laboratory requires that the sample be collected by an Environmental Health Specialist. Samples are shipped to the lab in Raleigh by State Courier Service, which requires Environmental Health to provide County resources in the form of: time it takes for travel to the site, sample collection, citizen consultation, travel back to the office, completion of forms and sample preparation for shipping; along with fuel and vehicle expenses associated with maintaining the county vehicle.

Mr. Harrelson proposed a \$35.00 fee to offset some of the expenses incurred while providing this service.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the water sample fee of \$35.00, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved unanimously.

New/Revised Health Fees

Mr. Harrelson highlighted that the Craven County Health Department has reviewed their clinical fees and requested to update three current fees and recommend one new fee, and requested that the following fees be retroactive to July 1, 2021, which is the date when Medicaid Transformation began.

Description	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
1. S0280 Medical Home, Initial Plan	\$53.00	\$73.50
2. S0281 Medical Home, Maintenance	\$158.00	\$220.50
3. D0145 Oral Evaluation	\$49.68	\$58.00

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the new/revised health fees, as proposed, retroactive to July 1, 2021, seconded by Commissioner Liner and approved unanimously.

Chairman Jones requested Mr. Harrelson to explain where parents may take their children for Covid testing, as he has received inquiries. Mr. Harrelson reported the Health Department does drive up testing Monday through Friday at 11am; Without Limits Christian Center provides testing on Tuesday mornings; and Goshen Medical Center provides testing Monday through Friday as well. Chairman Jones requested this information be pushed by the school nurses and on the Health Departments website.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: PLANNING

Request to Set Public Hearing for October 4, 2021 – CDBG

Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, requested that the Board set the second required public hearing for October 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm, or soon thereafter, to hear comments regarding the County's intent to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds.

He relayed that the purpose of this public hearing is to obtain citizens' views and answer any questions posed by citizens regarding Craven County's intentions to apply for funding associated with the FY2021 Community Development Block Grant Program, sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division (REDD), and will cover the County's community development needs, proposed activities, and a review of program compliance before the submission of the County's CDBG funding application to the state of the North Carolina.

Mr. Baumgardner indicated this CDBG program can fund a wide variety of community development activities, including housing rehabilitation, clearance, relocation, substantial rehabilitation, reconstruction, replacement, and/or emergency repairs, or public facilities activities, or housing development activities, and administration of the above activities.

He further stated that Craven County is eligible to apply for up to \$750,000.00 under the Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization Program. Craven County's application for this funding is scheduled to be submitted to the Department of Commerce by October 14, 2021.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to set a public hearing for October 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm, or soon thereafter, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved unanimously.

Craven County Schools Generator Project Bid Award

Mr. Baumgardner reported that in July the Planning Department solicited bids for the installation of five generators at J.W. Smith Elementary, Tucker Creek Elementary, Havelock Elementary, West Craven Middle School and Arthur Edwards Elementary. This grant was provided by the Golden Leaf Foundation as a resiliency measure against future damages from the lack of conditioned space inside the schools because of power loss.

He relayed that a bid opening was held on July 27th and bids for this project came in higher than anticipated, and with the Golden Leaf approved construction budget of \$1,184,730.00, the Planning Department is over budget by approximately \$1,862,671.00 only allowing completion of the first two generators on the Craven County School Generator priority list. Mr. Baumgardner indicated that the reason for the sharp increase in cost for this project is due to the increase in materials and labor. Labor increased as much as 15% and materials as much as 400%. Not only has the cost gone up, but the anticipated wait time for the generators is approximately eight months. Mr. Baumgardner requested that the Board approve Coastline Electric Construction, Inc., as the lowest bidder (\$3,047,401.00) for the installation of generators at J.W. Smith and Stucker Creek Elementary Schools.

He further highlighted that the Craven County Board of Education staff is currently exploring additional Hurricane Florence funding to be able to complete the remaining three schools. Also, the school board staff will be able to use the engineering and bid documents to complete this project.

Listed in Order of Priority	Lowest Bid	Running Total
1. J.W. Smith Elementary	\$440,943.00	
2. Tucker Creek Elementary	\$606,443.00	\$1,047,386.00
3. Havelock Elementary	\$486,043.00	\$1,533,429.00
4. West Craven Middle School	\$766,486.00	\$2,299,915.00

5. Arthur Edwards Elementary School \$747,486.00 \$3,047,401.00

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve Coastline Electric Construction, Inc. as the lowest bidder for the installation of generators at J.W. Smith and Tucker Elementary Schools, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SUPPLEMENTAL CHAFEE (LINKS) FUNDING

Social Services Director, Geoffrey Marett, explained that late on Friday September 17th, DSS was made aware of additional funds, so he provided the Board of Commissioners and Clerk to the Board a revised agenda submission and updated budget amendment in the amount of \$73,680.00.

Mr. Marett reported that the Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 116-260) enacted on December 27, 2020, provides supplemental appropriations for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood and allows flexibility on the spending of those funds that expires on September 30, 2021. He stated each county in North Carolina will receive a one-time increase in their LINKS allocation.

Mr. Marett responded to several inquiries about identifying the recipients and which would receive funding.

The Board was requested to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$73,680.00. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the following budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved 6-0 in a roll call vote, there being one “nay” from Commissioner Mark.

DSS/TANF

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015213-33446 LINKS	\$73,680.00	1015213-443911 LINKS	\$73,680.00
TOTAL	\$73,680.00	TOTAL	\$73,680.00

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: CARTS

Omnibus Brand and Routes

Transportation Director, Kelly Walker, relayed that on July 6, 2021, the Craven County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing regarding proposed changes to the current fixed route known as the Loop. The proposed changes were based on prior public input received from community outreach meetings, the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), and recommendations in the Transportation Development Plan completed in 2017. No public comments were presented at the public hearing. She indicated the opportunity to implement these changes now is based on the receipt of CARES Act funding that will allow these changes to be funded with no additional local match through June 2024.

Ms. Walker requested to launch an enhanced fixed route which would include rebranding of the fixed route, addition of bus stop location signs with route information, and expanded hours. She requested the enhanced fixed route to be identified as Omnibus. This rebranding concept was included as part of the public hearing on July 6. CARTS' outreach plan includes extensively advertising these changes using the following resources:

- 1) community cable; 2) local newspapers; 3) public service announcements and paid advertising on television and radio; 4) use of bus stop location signs to advertise Omnibus; 5) continued participation in community sponsored events; 6) other human service agencies; and 7) written advertisement such as flyers within the service area of the Omnibus routes.

On behalf of CARTS, she requested approval for a launch date of December 1, 2021, for the Omnibus plan and an ending date of November 30, 2021, for the Loop.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the Omnibus Brand and Routes, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Liner and approved unanimously.

Information Regarding the FY2021-2022 Rural Operating Assistance Program

Ms. Walker reported that the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) is a state-funded transportation grant program administered by the North Carolina Department of Transportation Integrated Mobility Division (NCDOT/IMD). ROAP consolidates the Elderly and Disabled Assistance Program (EDTAP) for the rural and urban areas of Craven County; the Employment Transportation Program (EMP) for the rural and urban areas of Craven County; and the Rural General Public (RGP) for the rural areas of Craven County into one application.

Each county within the CARTS service area is responsible for making a ROAP application for its respective county.

She stated that on September 14th, CARTS was notified that Craven County had been allocated \$102,770 for EDTAP; \$26,721 for EMP; and \$96,678 for RGP. The total amount is \$226,169, which is a decrease of \$6,551.61 from FY2019-2020. There was not an allocation for FY2020-2021. The RGP requires a 10% match which is covered by fares charged to the passengers. Ms. Walker indicated that a public hearing is not required to apply for this funding. In addition to completing the application, a Certified Statement signed by the County Manager and County Finance Officer is required. The application deadline is October 1, 2021.

Commissioner Liner motioned to authorize staff to proceed with the application process for the FY2021-2022 ROAP Grant, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved unanimously.

Request Authorization to Apply for State Maintenance Assistance Program

Ms. Walker reported that the State Maintenance Assistance Program (SMAP) is a state-funded public transportation grant program administered by the North Carolina Department of Transportation Integrated Mobility Division (NCDOT/IMD). She relayed the intention of this program is to provide operating assistance to urban, small-urban, and urban regional fixed route and commuter bus systems. Eligible uses of the funds are limited to a system's operating costs.

Ms. Walker indicated that on September 14, 2021 CARTS was allocated \$130,920 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. This is the same amount as the previous FY2019-2020 allocation. There was no allocation in FY2020-2021.

The application deadline is October 1, 2021 and the funds must be expended by June 30, 2022. She stated a public hearing is not required. SMAP funding cannot exceed the amount of local match provided for the 5307 Urban Area Formula Funds grant.

She highlighted that with approval of this grant, the CARTS local match will be 130,920 and the SMAP revenue will also be \$130,920. Ms. Walker requested approval to apply for the \$130,920 in SMAP funds.

Commissioner McCabe motioned to authorize CARTS to apply for FY2021-2022 SMAP funds, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Liner and approved unanimously.

Chairman Jones recognized Ms. Walker and Mr. Beeson for going above and beyond their assigned duties, as they each have recently taken on driving a CARTS route when needed.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Request to Set Public Hearing for October 4, 2021 – Project Endor

Economic Development Director, Jeff Wood, informed that Board that Project Endor is a local manufacturer, Carolina GSE, who plans to invest \$2.5 million dollars in real estate, machining & equipment in its existing facility and create over 15 jobs in five years. He stated that to assist in this investment, the North Carolina Department of Commerce has provided a grant of \$120,000.00 under the Rural Infrastructure Authority and the Rural Economic Development Division. This grant will be awarded and managed by the Craven County Economic Development Department

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 158-7.1, Mr. Wood requested that the Board set a public hearing on these matters at 7:00 pm, or soon thereafter, on Monday, October 4, 2021. Commissioner Mark motioned to set a public hearing on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm, or soon thereafter, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

Project Pittsburgh Budget Amendment

Mr. Wood explained that Project Pittsburgh is a local manufacturer who plans to invest \$9 million dollars in machining & equipment in its existing facility and create over 30 jobs in five years. He stated they have asked what assistance the local community can provide in this investment, stating that \$9 million investment will yield an estimated \$50,400 in taxes. Due to the investment and job creation, Mr. Wood recommended that Craven County assist in this investment by providing a \$25,000.00 grant to be utilized to assist Project Pittsburgh in the conversion of warehouse space in their facility to manufacturing space.

Mr. Wood requested that a budget amendment in the amount of \$25,000.00 be approved. Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of \$25,000.00, seconded by Commissioner Liner and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Economic Development

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1010000-39901 Current Year FB	\$25,000.00	1014920-43315 Grants	\$25,000.00
TOTAL	\$25,000.00	TOTAL	\$25,000.00

Authorization to Contract to Sell Property – Project Drum

Mr. Wood relayed that due to the amount of activity in the Industrial Park and recent investments in infrastructure, a private developer would like to purchase 6.38 acres of property within the park to mimic the shell building development the Craven 100 Alliance as well as the successful development this year by Bayfront Development.

The developer, two local businessmen forming an LLC, would like to purchase the property at the market rate price of \$20,000 per acre. Their plan would be after a period of due diligence is to invest \$1 million dollars to construct a 20,000 SF shell building, expandable to 40,000 SF.

He indicated this type of development is needed in the park and in Craven County, as warehouse space is limited.

Commissioner Liner motioned to authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract for 6.38 acres of property within lot 19 of the Industrial Park, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

Pending

Chairman Jones reviewed the following pending appointments:

- Adult Care Home Advisory Committee
- Community Child Protection Team
- Craven County Clean Sweep
- Craven/Pamlico Regional Library
- Craven County Planning Board
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (CarolinaEast)
- Nursing Home Advisory Committee
- Regional Aging Advisory Board
- Voluntary Agriculture District Advisory Board (District 6)

Current

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Tracy Monk for reappointment to the JCPC. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Monk was reappointed by acclamation.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

*Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – Parcel Number 1-028-6001, Vanceboro
(Street Address – N/A) – Tabled September 7, 2021*

County Attorney, Arey Grady, reported that Craven County has received an offer in the amount of \$3,800.00 for this real property, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$3,632.99. The tax value of this property is \$13,500.00.

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

Commissioner Mark motioned to adopt the following resolution approving the transaction and authorizing the upset bid process. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

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

WHEREAS, Craven County owns certain real property identified as Tax Parcel Number 1-028-6001 (hereinafter “the Real Property”), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County in deed recorded in Book 3310, Page 0023 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County has received an Offer to Purchase the Real Property, a copy of said offer being attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; 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 20th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager, Jack Veit, reported on the American Rescue Plan dollars, indicating that the County is still awaiting affirmative guidance on how these funds may be expended.

Mr. Veit highlighted the announcement from the Executive Branch regarding vaccination requirements in businesses with more than 100 employees. He stated he has conversed with Human Resources Director, Amber Parker, and other staff members. Enforcement of this policy will be a Department of Labor rule, administered by OSHA. Mr. Veit explained there was no action for the Board at this time as the rules are being interpreted and guidance will be sought from the County Attorney.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Mitchell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Liner had nothing to report.

Commissioner McCabe announced the Cherry Point Air Show on September 25th, stating tickets are needed but they are free. He also relayed that the Harlowe Volunteer Fire Department, in collaboration with the Sheriff's Department, would host a National Night Out Event in October.

Commissioner Mark remarked on attending the Fairfield Harbour 9/11 Ceremony, a Hospital Board meeting, and a Town of Bridgeton board meeting.

Commissioner Smith shared at length about her place of residence, providing personal documents verifying her place of residency in District 3 on Chesnutt Avenue, as a response to an anonymous letter sent to the Board suggesting she was fraudulent in her representation of her home address. She reported she does own several properties, some in other Districts, and pays taxes on each of them. Ms. Smith indicated the property on Drummond Road is under renovations, but she has no intention of living there. She stated she is a Christian woman, who is honest and lives with integrity and would not deceive the Board of Commissioners nor her constituents. Ms. Smith stated for the official record that she lives in District 3 on Chesnutt Avenue.

Chairman Jones spoke in support of Ms. Smith and attested she has been open and honest with the Board.

Commissioner Bucher had nothing to report.

Commissioner Jones reported that CSWARMA is hosting a household hazardous waste collection on October 16th at Craven County Community College.

CLOSED SESSION

At 10:32 am a motion was made by Commissioner McCabe and duly seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the county attorney regarding the pending case of Craven County v. Butler (pending in Craven County Superior Court).

At 11:21 am Commissioner Mark motioned to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and unanimously carried.

While in closed session, the Board gave instruction to Counsel regarding the pending lawsuit.

At 11:22 am Commissioner Liner motioned to recess to reconvene, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved unanimously.

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Nan Holton
Clerk to the Board