

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVE AGENDA**

- 1. PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – AGENDA TOPICS**
- 2. CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Minutes of February 20, 2023 Regular Session**
  - B. Tax Releases and Refunds**
  - C. Military Service Person of the Quarter Resolution**

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS**

- 3. SOCIAL SERVICES-COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES FUND – BUDGET AMENDMENT: Geoffrey Marett, Social Services Director**
- 4. APPOINTMENTS**
- 5. COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT: Arey Grady**
- 6. PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – GENERAL TOPICS**
- 7. COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT: Jack Veit**
- 8. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS**
- 9. CLOSED 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, MARCH 6, 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 (remote)  
 Commissioner Beatrice R. Smith

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jack B. Veit, III, County Manager  
 Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager  
 Craig Warren, Finance Director  
 Arey Grady, County Attorney  
 Lauren Wargo, Assistant to the County Manager  
 Nan Holton, Clerk to the Board

**STAFF EXCUSED:**

Amber Parker, Human Resources Director

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

*Lord Our God, God of all people, Eternal Spirit of the Universe,  
 We ask for blessings on this Board of County Commissioners, the United States of America and Craven County. Keep us strong as a nation and as a county. Sustain in us a deep sense of justice. Incline our hearts to work for the betterment of all and peace for the human family. Keep alive in us the memory of all those who made ultimate sacrifices for our benefit.*

*Bless this land with prosperity. Teach us to celebrate our differences and to unite around our common values. Be present with us in our homes, our places of work and on the way.*

*We thank you, Lord, for this day and the opportunity to serve You by serving others.*

*Based upon the invocation given by Rabbi Lance Sussman at the March 1, 2001 session of the US House of Representatives*

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

Chairman Jones stated the Closed Session needed to be amended to include NCGS 143.318-11(a)(6) to address a Personnel matter.

Commissioner Mark and Commissioner Smith amended their motion to approve the agenda, as amended, which was approved unanimously.

**PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – AGENDA TOPICS**

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

## CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, inclusive of the Minutes of February 20, 2023 Regular Session; Tax Releases and Refunds (*Credits = \$3,133.07; Refunds = \$316.88*); and Military Service Person of the Quarter Resolution. Commissioner Hunt seconded his motion, which was approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

### RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LANCE CORPORAL RACHAEL C. ALBOUCQ AS MILITARY SERVICE PERSON OF THE QUARTER

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Rachael C. Alboucq departed for boot camp in June of 2021, where she learned the importance of history, respect and became a first generation Marine in her family; and

WHEREAS, LCpl Alboucq is currently stationed aboard MCAS Cherry Point, NC, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14 (MALS-14); where she serves as a Mobile Facility Technician; and

WHEREAS, in April, 2022, she began her collateral duty inspector training requirements and recently finished her fall semester as full-time student; all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. LCpl Alboucq is known for helping her fellow Marines with college success and with career progression; and

WHEREAS, LCpl Alboucq has selflessly dedicated over 80 hours of community service while fulfilling her military obligations assisting in the following events:

- ❖ Veteran's Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden
- ❖ Havelock High School Concession Stand
- ❖ Carteret County Animal Humane Society
- ❖ MAG-14 All Terrain Competition
- ❖ Rocktoberfest
- ❖ MCAS Trunk or Treat
- ❖ Colors for Cancer 5K
- ❖ Visited elementary schools during Veteran's Day speaking about her current military experience and service to the country; and

WHEREAS, everyday Lance Corporal Alboucq pursues ways to better herself and improve her knowledge within her job in order to help serve others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS recognizes Lance Corporal Rachael C. Alboucq for her involvement in countless community service opportunities combined with her pursuit of off-duty education, which have helped forge the relationship between her active-duty counterparts and the community in which she serves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS congratulates her on being selected as Military Service Person of the Quarter.

Adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

### DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SOCIAL SERVICES COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET AMENDMENT

Social Services Director, Geoffrey Marett, requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$100,000 to be utilized in meeting the needs of individuals through the provision of Adult Protective and Guardian Services. Both services are mandated through North Carolina State Statutes.

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the following budget amendment, as requested, in the amount of \$100,000, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

*Adult Services*

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1010000-39901 Fund Balance	\$100,000.00	1015212-43905 County Social Services	\$100,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>

**APPOINTMENTS**

*Pending*

Chairman Jones reviewed the following pending appointments:

- Craven Aging Planning Board
- Craven Clean Sweep
- Emergency Medical Services
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Volunteer Agricultural District (District 6)
- Fireman’s Relief Fund (District 5)

*Current*

*Craven County Planning Board*

It was the consensus of the Board that this appointment be deferred.

*Craven Aging Planning Board*

Commissioner Hunt nominated Bettina Jahr for appointment to fill the Client Rep vacant seat. Commissioner Smith nominated Joanne Blackwell for appointment to fill the 60+ vacant seat. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Jahr and Ms. Blackwell were appointed by acclamation.

*Fireman’s Relief Fund Board of Trustees*

It was the consensus of the Board that this appointment be deferred.

*Juvenile Crime Prevention Council*

Commissioner Hunt nominated Albert Lester for appointment. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Lester was appointed by acclamation.

*Upcoming*

Chairman Jones reviewed upcoming appointments on boards and committees due to expire in March.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT**

County Attorney, Arey Grady, had nothing to report.

**PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – GENERAL TOPICS**

1. Amy Burdulis, 2312 Wild Turkey Road, New Bern
2. Courtney Reichenback, 103 Bridge Pointe Drive, New Bern
3. Carol Crayton, 905 Hampton Way, Trent Woods
4. Tim Colatoni, 104 Aspen Court, Havelock
5. Tyker Gonzales, 125 Turkey Quarter Creek Rd., Cove City
6. Chris Barta, 404 Gatewood, New Bern
7. Wylene Hameed, 9505 NC Hwy 55 W, Dover

8. Luke Elliott, 290 Shoreline Drive
9. Diane Cappel, 212 Buckskin Dr., New Bern
10. Ray Griffin, 1981 Street Ferry Rd., Vanceboro
11. Carol Williams, 2906 Moore Ave., New Bern
12. Lisa Spinsieri, 2425 Tram Rd., New Bern

### COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager, Jack Veit, announced that the March 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Session meeting would be held at Cooperative Extension, 300 Industrial Drive in New Bern; followed by a Work Session. The meeting will convene at 8:30 am as usual.

### COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

*Commissioner Mitchell* had nothing to report.

*Commissioner Howard* thanked citizens who showed up to speak tonight.

*Commissioner Mark* relayed that the mutual agreement between CarolinaEast and the UNC System is ending, as they have determined they will no longer maintain an affiliation. He indicated details should be forthcoming in a news release.

*Commissioner Hunt* had nothing to report.

*Commissioner Smith* reported that she will be holding a Town Hall meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. It will be held in the Pembroke Community Center on 200 Moore Lane. Mrs. Smith indicated she had several departmental representatives on board to present that evening. She emphasized that while it is designated for the Pembroke and Pleasant Hill communities, she would welcome any District 3 citizen to attend.

*Commissioner Bucher* reported on touring the James City area last week to revisit several properties with vacant buildings which had been identified 4 years ago. At that time, there were 75 vacant buildings and he relayed that about one-half of those have been torn down to date. He gave credit to the Baptist on Mission who are utilizing volunteers to renovate or tear down structures that property owners are not able to do for themselves. Mr. Bucher stated that a group of Penn State students are here now using their Spring Break to volunteer; and that N.C. State University students would be here to participate later in the month.

*Commissioner Jones* highlighted the fact that the 2023 Revaluation statements had been mailed out and he was receiving many inquiries, so he invited Tax Administrator, Leslie Young, to explain the difference between Assessed Value, Present Use Value, and Taxable Use Value. Ms. Young also responded to questions about appraisers visiting the property, and qualifications for exemptions.

Ms. Young then gave an update on what has been happening in the tax office since the revaluations hit citizens' mailboxes. She highlighted that most are concerned about the tax rate. Ms. Young reported as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 180 appeals have been received: 22 submitted by email, 33 submitted online, and the rest being either mailed or walked ins. She referred everyone to the Tax Department website where she said every question she has been asked can be answered by visiting that site.

### CLOSED SESSION

At 7:08 pm Commissioner Mark motioned to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143.318-11(a)(3) and (a)(6) to consult with attorney to protect the attorney-client privilege, and to discuss a personnel matter. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and approved in a 7-0 roll call vote.

At 8:11 pm, the Board returned to Open Session.

County Attorney, Arey Grady, stated the Board gave formal direction to the County Attorney on a legal matter while in Closed Session. No action was taken regarding the personnel matter.

At 8:12 pm Commissioner Mark motioned to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Hunt and approved unanimously.

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Chairman Jason R. Jones  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Nan Holton  
Clerk to the Board