

**AGENDA
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021
8:30 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

1. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Minutes of March 1, 2021 Regular Session
 - B. Tax Releases
 - C. Sheriff's Office Budget Amendment – K-9 Donation Check
 - D. Proclamation Designating April 2021 as "North Carolina 811 Safe Digging Month" in Craven County

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

2. EMERGENCY SERVICES/FIRE DEPARTMENTS – PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE ADJACENT PROPERTY TO HARLOWE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT: Milton Everett, President
3. SOCIAL SERVICES – FOSTER CARE FUNDS: Geoffrey Marett, Social Services Director
4. PLANNING – SUBDIVISION FOR APPROVAL (Donald Leonard Stewart-Final): Don Baumgardner, Planning Director
5. APPOINTMENTS
6. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Arey Grady
7. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: Jack Veit
8. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
9. CLOSED SESSION
10. RECESS TO RECONVENE IN 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, MARCH 15, 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 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:

Gracious God, what treasures You have set before us: a country rich with resources, a history founded on faith in You and invested in the noble principles of the American experiment.

And yet, we confess that we have allowed these endowments to be destroyed by moths of malice and misdirection. We acknowledge before You that we have tolerated and even taken delight in the corrosive rust of rivalries and debate.

Forgive us for taking for granted the precious gifts of life, liberty, and happiness, and letting them slip from our care, only to be stolen by pride and conceit.

Call us back to rededicate ourselves to the mercy You have shown us time and again. May we treasure in our hearts the privilege You have given us as Americans to serve as stewards of Your bounteous love.

We pray in the strength of Your holy name. Amen.

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

Chairman Jones requested to move Commissioners' Reports and Closed Session to the work session. Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, inclusive of the Minutes of March 1, 2021 Regular Session, Tax Releases (*Credits = \$4,601.35*), Sheriff's Office Budget Amendment – K-9 Donation and Proclamation Designating April 2021 as "North Carolina 811 Safe Digging Month" in Craven County. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion, which carried 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Sheriff's Office

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1014310-38301 Misc. Donation	\$400.00	1014310-43246 K-9 Supplies	\$400.00
TOTAL	\$400.00	TOTAL	\$400.00

Justification: The Sheriff's Office has received a donation check from Melinda Eddins to support the Craven County Sheriff's Office K-9 program. The donation, in the amount of \$400, will help pay for various expenses, including medical care, dog food, and other K-9 related needs.

Proclamation
**CRAVEN COUNTY
 DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021
 AS "NORTH CAROLINA 811 SAFE DIGGING MONTH"**

WHEREAS, as utility owners, excavators, designers, and homeowners work to keep pace with North Carolina's economic development, it is important to minimize damages to underground utility lines, danger to workers and the general public, environmental impact, and loss of utility services to the citizens of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina 811, a utility service notification center and leader in education celebrates its 43rd year of continuous service to the State, is key to preventing injuries and damages when excavating; and

WHEREAS, this unique service provides easy, one-call notification about construction and excavation projects that may endanger workers and jeopardize utility lines while promoting workplace and public safety, reducing underground utility damage, minimizing utility service interruptions and protecting the environment; and

WHEREAS, this vital service, which began in 1978 serves the citizens of North Carolina from the mountains to the coast, educates stakeholders about the need for excavation safety whether the project is as small as planting a tree to designing and beginning construction on a new interstate; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the North Carolina one call system received 2.1 million notification requests and transmitted over 12.2 million requests, providing protection to utility companies infrastructure, their employees, excavators, and customers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Craven County has designated the month of April 2021 as "North Carolina 811 Safe Digging Month" to encourage all excavators and homeowners of Craven County to contact 8-1-1 either by dialing 8-1-1 or contacting NC811 via the webpage of NC811.org at least three working days prior to digging in order to "Know What's Below," avoid injury, protect the environment, prevent millions of dollars in damages and to remind excavators that three working days' notice is the law, for safe digging is no accident, and that more information may be obtained by visiting www.nc811.org.

Adopted this 15th day of March, 2021

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: EMERGENCY SERVICES/FIRE DEPARTMENTS –
 PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE ADJACENT PROPERTY TO FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Milton Everette, Jr., President, Harlowe Volunteer Fire Department, presented a Letter of Intent to purchase land adjacent to the main station on Highway 101 for a future EMS department. The property is 3.7 acres and asking price is \$73,500.00. He stated that funds will be used from the Department's Money Market Account.

Chairman Jones relayed that the County’s policy with the Fire Department requires the Fire Department to inform the Board of Commissioners of any intent to purchase capital improvements.

Commissioners McCabe and Jones met with staff and Harlowe leadership and felt that it was a solid proposal and would provide an opportunity for future growth.

Chairman Jones stated that there are sufficient funds available; therefore, fire taxes would not need to be raised.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SOCIAL SERVICES – FOSTER CARE FUNDS

Social Services Director, Geoffrey Marett, requested that the Board approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$442,439.00 due to increases in the previously approved amounts for Foster Care IV-B and Foster Care IV-E. He highlighted that Craven County, in conjunction with other counties within the state and across the nation, has continued to see a significant rise in the number of children in need of foster care. He stated that Craven County and DSS is mandated to provide room and board payments for children who are in a licensed foster home/facility.

He further stated that the children that come into the custody of the Social Services Department are experiencing increases in the level of trauma due to removal from their biological parents, substance abuse and mental health issues. Mr. Marett provided statistics and a breakdown of costs and how funds have been allocated over the past several years.

Discussion ensued on source of funds, reimbursement rates and different levels of need and treatments for children, as well as reuniting children with their parents. Mr. Marett stated that he could come back to the Board with more statistics.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the following budget amendment, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

DSS 1015213

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1015213-33423 Foster Care IV-B State	\$130,327.00	1015213-43921 Foster Care IC-B State	\$260,654.00
1010000-39901 Fund Balance	\$130,327.00		
1015213-33422 Foster Care IV-E	\$157,789.00	1015213-43928 Foster Care IV-E	\$181,785.00
1010000-39901	\$ 23,996.00		
TOTAL	\$442,439.00	TOTAL	\$442,439.00

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: PLANNING – SUBDIVISION FOR APPROVAL
(Donald Leonard Steward – Final)**

Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, requested the Board’s approval on the following subdivision:

Donald Leonard Steward – Final – The property is owned by Donald Steward and surveyed by Terry Wheeler, PLS. The property is located within Twp. 3 off of Russell Rd. (SR 1260); Parcel ID 3-031-03. The subdivision contains 3 lots on 6 acres and will be served by Craven County water and proposed individual septic systems.

The Planning Board met on February 25, 2021 and recommended its approval.

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the subdivision, as recommended, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS*Pending*

Chairman Jones reviewed the following pending appointments:

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

*Current**Craven County Clean Sweep*

Chairman Jones nominated Julie Thompson for appointment. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Thompson was appointed by acclamation.

Craven Community Child Protection Team

Chairman Jones nominated Jenny Cook for appointment to replace Sandra Kutkuhn who retired. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Cook was appointed by acclamation.

Craven County Health Board

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Dr. Ronald May for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Dr. May was reappointed by acclamation.

Highway 70 Corridor Commission

Commissioner Mark nominated Bobby Darden for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Darden was reappointed by acclamation.

Fire Tax Commissioners

Commissioner Bucher nominated Jackie McKinney for reappointment. Commissioner Mark nominated Terry Gaskins, Tommy Cowan and Sammy Lilly for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Mr. McKinney, Mr. Gaskins, Mr. Cowan and Mr. Lilly were reappointed by acclamation

The appointment to fill the expiring term of James Cline was deferred.

Fireman's Relief Fund Board of Trustees

Commissioner Bucker nominated Oswald Chance and Robert Blalock for reappointment; Commissioner McCabe nominated Milton Everette for reappointment; Chairman Jones nominated Donald Heath for reappointment; Commissioner Mark nominated Matthew Spirko, Dennis Smith and Keith Morris for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, all were reappointed by acclamation.

Upcoming

Chairman Jones reviewed upcoming terms due to expire on boards and committees.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – Tract #2 on Survey by Robert Chiles Engineering – Remnant Tract located at 221 S. Front St. (Parcel Number N/A)

County Attorney, Arey Grady, relayed that the new owners of the Harvey Mansion property have discovered that the County holds title to a small “remnant” parcel associated with the Convention Center. The parcel is depicted on the survey. The parcel is subject to a utility easement in favor of the City of New Bern and an easement in favor of the owners of the Harvey Mansion property. Attorney Grady stated that he believes this tract was not included with the Convention Center complex because of these easements and he also believes the tract is worth very little value, if any, due to these easements.

Based on the foregoing, the Harvey Mansion owners have submitted an offer to purchase the tract for \$1,000.00. The tract does not have a separate parcel identification number or tax value as it has been included as a part of a larger tract.

Commissioner Smith inquired if the County set the amount of \$1,000 or was that the offer. Mr. Grady responded that it was their offer.

Attorney Grady stated that should the Board of Commissioners approve this transaction, a 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 Mitchell motioned to adopt the following resolution approving the transaction and authorizing the upset bid process. Commissioner McCabe seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Craven County owns certain real property identified on the survey attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference (hereinafter “the Real Property”), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County in deed recorded in Book 888, Page 834 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County and being more particularly described in Deed of Easement recoded in Book 946, Page 445 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 15th DAY OF MARCH, 2021.

Status of Chapter 160D Updates to the County’s Land Use Ordinances

Mr. Grady reminded the Board that new Chapter 160D of the NC General Statutes becomes effective July 1, 2021. The County’s management team, Planning Department staff and the County Attorney have been revising the County’s land use ordinances for compliance with 160D. He reported the process is well under way, and a draft of the updated ordinances is expected for review within the next few weeks.

Mr. Grady stated that the Board will need to hold a public hearing prior to formal consideration, most likely in June. Mr. Grady stated the Board may wish to schedule time during a budget session in May for a detailed review of the updated ordinances.

Chairman Jones stated that he would like this item to be included in the upcoming budget work sessions.

Commissioner Bucher provided information on a meeting he recently attended in James City. He stated that several businesses have closed in James City due to the upcoming road construction, causing loss of many jobs in the area. In response to this, he reported a new training project will begin the first week of May, lasting six weeks, with the support of Craven Community College, D.O.T. and the James City community organization. This training program will be held four nights a week designed to train people who are underemployed and/or unemployed and would like to get involved with jobs related to the construction that will be taking place in James City. The class size is limited to 12 people and you do not have to live in James City.

The program will teach math, construction safety, hazardous chemicals, heavy equipment as well as operations. Craven Community College will be providing some of the trainers. Commissioner Bucher referred citizens who want to get involved to contact him, the James City community organization, or Greg Singleton with Craven Community College. Mr. Bucher emphasized the importance of this opportunity to assist employment needs.

At 9:09 a.m. the Board recessed to reconvene at 9:45 a.m. at the Convention Center Ballroom B.

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Nan Holton
Clerk to the Board