

**AGENDA
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

- 1. PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – AGENDA TOPICS**
- 2. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approve Minutes of March 20, 2023 Regular Session and Minutes of March 20, 2023 Reconvened Session**
 - B. Tax Releases and Refunds**
 - C. Proclamation – Resilient & Thriving Communities Week 2023**
 - D. Resolution in Support of 9-1-1 SAVES Act**
- 3. 2023 TAX REVALUATION UPDATE: Leslie Young, Tax Administrator**
- 4. FACILITIES: Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager**
 - A. Craven County Courthouse/EOC Recovery Project Update**
 - B. Approval of Barnhill Preconstruction Fee**
- 5. APPOINTMENTS**
- 6. COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT: Arey Grady**
- 7. PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – GENERAL TOPICS**
- 8. COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT: Jack Veit**
- 9. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS**

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, ON MONDAY, APRIL 3, 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 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
 Lauren Wargo, Assistant to the County Manager
 Nan Holton, Clerk to the Board

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

Lord, we honor You today in prayer and thanksgiving. We pray for our County Commissioners and all who represent Craven County, their families and staffs. Grant them peace that passes all understanding and amazing grace to sustain them when days are long and rest is short.

Father, You are our refuge and fortress. You provide everything we need for life and godliness. You hear our ardent intercession, and smile when we raise our voices in praise and worship. We thank You for Your presence, love and grace.

It is in Your mighty Name we pray. Amen.

Based upon the invocation given by Reverend Dr. Alan Keiran, at the January 27, 2012, session of the US House of Representatives

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and 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 March 20, 2023 Regular Session; Minutes of March 20, 2023 Reconvened Session; Tax Releases and Refunds (*Credits = \$8,482.98; Refunds = \$1,320.85*); Proclamation – Resilient & Thriving Communities Week 2023; and Resolution in Support of 9-1-1 SAVES Act. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion, which carried 7-0 in a roll call vote.

Resilient & Thriving Communities Week 2023

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, resilient and thriving communities are vital to our community and state's future health, success, and prosperity to ensure a strong foundation for everyone at all ages and stages of life; and

WHEREAS, the science is clear that resilience is built, and that communities and systems play a key role in promoting safe, secure, nurturing environments for all; and

WHEREAS, adverse childhood and life experiences, adverse community environments, and adverse climate events impact overall quality of life and well-being of an entire community; and

WHEREAS, Healthy North Carolina 2030: A Path Toward Health by the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, identifies reduction of adverse childhood experiences by 25% by 2030 as a goal; and

WHEREAS, it is our collective responsibility to collaborate in a nonpartisan fashion to promote positive experiences, secure relationships, and supportive environments to buffer stress and adversity, and to support local resilience coalitions, collaboratives, task forces, and initiatives across the state; and

WHEREAS, investing in policies, programs, and strategies that address adversity and strengthen community resilience is essential to the health of our community; and

WHEREAS, Craven County encourages all individuals and all sectors, public and private, early childhood through post-secondary education, faith-based organizations, healthcare systems, justice systems, social service systems, businesses, and elected leaders to collaborate to strengthen our communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the County Commissioners of Craven County, do hereby proclaim **April 29 through May 6** as “**Resilient & Thriving Communities Week**” in our community, **and commend its observance to all citizens.**

April 3, 2023

Craven County

9-1-1 SAVES Act Resolution

WHEREAS, in September of 2021, U.S. Representative Norma J. Torres and Brian Fitzpatrick announced that their 9-1-1 SAVES Act passed the House as part of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act. The 9-1-1 SAVES Act is bipartisan legislation to reclassify 911 Dispatchers from “Office and Administrative Support” to “Protective Service Occupations” in the Office of Management and Budget’s Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Catalog;

WHEREAS, 911 dispatchers are the first line of response during an emergency, and they deserve to be classified in a way that recognizes their work is on par with the work of other public servants currently classified as first responders;

WHEREAS, Senator Richard Burr introduced the reclassification bill in the United States Senate, where it remains;

WHEREAS, 911 dispatchers are working with elected officials to re-introduce this legislation with the current Congress, and local support will assist this effort;

WHEREAS the Craven County (NC) Board of Commissioners is in support of such a legislative change; and

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

That the Craven County (NC) Board of Commissioners is in support of bipartisan legislation to reclassify 911 dispatchers from “Office and Administrative Support” to “Protective Service Occupations” in the Office of Management and Budget’s Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) catalog.

Adopted this 3rd day of April 2023
2023 TAX REVALUATION UPDATE

Tax Administrator Leslie Young reported five weeks into the appeal process, 1,232 appeals have been received, with 61 of those being commercial properties. Based upon the 60,000+ parcels in Craven County, she is anticipating between 2400-3000 appeals. She gave stats on each of the Townships, indicating the largest number received from Township Eight. Ms. Young relayed she would be providing revaluation estimate updates to each of the municipalities in the following week. She emphasized that May 22nd is the last day to submit an appeal.

Ms. Young also reported the Board of Equalization and Review members took their oath of office earlier today. Their hearings will be held in the months of June and July.

She stated she was encouraged by the number of YouTube views of their website on the tutorial on how to utilize the GIS and search comps. Regarding the current real estate market, Ms. Young reported the market is still strong, with houses on the market for just 55 days.

Ms. Young highlighted the Monday, May 1st Department of Revenue presentation being held at the Riverfront Convention Center. She indicated she would be back before the Board of Commissioners on June 19th for another revaluation update.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FACILITIES

Craven County Courthouse/EOC Recovery Project Update

Assistant County Manager, Gene Hodges, reported that on September 19, 2022, the Board of Commissioners approved a Project Ordinance Amendment and related Budget Amendment in the amount of \$5,607,000 for the Courthouse/EOC Recovery Project. The amendments were needed in order to budget the \$5,000,000 State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (SCIF) grant that Craven County received in November 2021. He stated County staff began working with the design team Oakley Collier Architects (OCA) and Barnhill Contracting, the Construction Manager at Risk, to begin developing a scope of work and finalizing designs. Internally referred to as Phase 3 of the project, this phase would include the new accessible entrance and elevator that provides access to all parts of the building; and additionally provide flood proofing for the portion of the facility that is below street level.

Mr. Hodges relayed that extensive collaboration was performed with the owner, the designer, and the constructor to find efficiencies and cost savings, commonly referred to as value management, which resulted in an initial Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$6,777,988 for construction of this phase. He commented that utilizing the \$5,000,000 in SCIF funding that was previously budgeted, a Project Ordinance amendment and related Budget Amendment in the amount of \$2,000,786 would be needed to move forward with contract change orders for OCA and Barnhill. Mr. Hodges provided detailed information regarding the pricing and scope of Phase 3 of this project. He indicated, in addition, the documentation provides detailed information on the changing market conditions that have occurred over the time that Craven County was notified of the SCIF grant award to present.

Mr. Hodges requested that the Board approve a Project Ordinance Amendment and related Budget Amendment in the amount of \$2,000,786, which includes adding \$1,777,988 in general construction and \$222,798 in architect and engineering fees. Additionally, he requested authorization to execute all contracts and change orders in order to begin construction on this phase of the project.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the following Project Ordinance Amendment and related Budget Amendment and authorized staff to execute change orders to Barnhill Contracting and OCA in relation to renovations related to Phase 3 of the Courthouse/EOC Recovery Project. Her 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

Architect/Engineer	\$ 1,281,798.00
Construction	\$ 9,399,581.00
Contingency	\$ 250,000.00
 TOTAL	 \$10,931,379.00

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

Revenues:

Transfer from General Fund	\$ 4,595,276.00
Transfer from Capital Reserve	\$ 1,336,103.00
Transfer from State Grant Revenue	\$ 5,000,000.00
 TOTAL	 \$10,391,379.00

This ordinance is hereby approved this 3rd day of April, 2023.

Courthouse EOC Recovery Project

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
4154200-39801 Transfer from General Fund	\$2,000,786.00	4154200-47505 Architect/Engineer 4154200-47601 Construction-General	\$ 222,798.00 \$1,777,988.00
 TOTAL	 \$2,000,789.00	 TOTAL	 \$2,000,786.00

Approval of Barnhill Preconstruction Fee

Mr. Hodges reported that on February 20, 2023, the Board of Commissioners selected Barnhill Contracting Company as the Construction Manager at Risk (CM@R) for the Department of Social Services (DSS) Building expansion and renovation project. He indicated that staff, along with the design team of Oakley Collier Architects (OCA), have had several meetings with Barnhill to begin the scoping and planning phases of this project. He affirmed all parties have a thorough understanding of the goals and direction of the County in regard to the deliverables on this project. The next steps are to enter into a Construction Manager contract with Barnhill Contracting Company and approval of the Preconstruction Proposal Fee of \$195,006 for this initial portion of the construction phase.

Mr. Hodges requested approval of a Project Ordinance Amendment and related Budget Amendment, in the amount of \$195,006, and to authorize staff to execute all necessary documents to begin the construction phase of the DSS expansion and renovation Project.

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the following Project Ordinance Amendment and related Budget Amendment, and to approve the pre-construction fee for Barnhill Contracting as the Construction Manager at Risk for the DSS Expansion/Renovation Project and to authorize staff to execute all necessary agreements for this phase. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

**Craven County Human Services Expansion Project
Fund 417
Update**

This ordinance is hereby approved in the following amount for expenditure of the County Human Services Expansion Project:

Expenditures:

Architect/Engineer	\$ 873,133.00
Construction-General	\$ 195,006.00
 TOTAL	 \$1,068,139.00

The following revenues are hereby estimated for the Craven County Human Services Expansion Project:

Revenues:

Transfer from General Fund	\$1,068,139.00
 TOTAL	 \$1,068,139.00

This ordinance is hereby approved this 3rd day of April, 2023.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Jones reviewed the pending and upcoming appointments, there being no current appointments on this agenda.

Pending:

- ❖ Craven County Clean Sweep Committee
- ❖ Craven County Planning Board
- ❖ Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee
- ❖ Fireman’s Relief Fund Board of Trustees (District 5)
- ❖ Highway 70 Corridor Committee
- ❖ Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)
- ❖ Local Emergency Planning Committee
- ❖ Volunteer Agricultural District (District 6)

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

County Attorney, Arey Grady, had nothing to report.

PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

The following citizens signed up to address the Board:

1. *Robert Griswold*, 4807 Delft Drive, New Bern
2. *Kim Fink*, 646 Goose Creek Road, New Bern
3. *Chris Barta*, 404 Gateway Drive, New Bern
4. *Sandra Barta*, 404 Gateway Drive, New Bern
5. *Tyker Gonzales*, 125 Turkey Quarter Creek Rd., Cove City
6. *Carol Crayton*, 905 Hampton Way, Trent Woods
7. *Tim Colantoni*, 104 Aspen Court, Havelock
8. *Ray Griffin*, 1981 Streets Ferry Rd., Vanceboro

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager, Jack Veit, recognized Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, on his retirement and for over 45 years of service to Craven County. He announced that Chad Strawn has been hired as the new Planning Director. Mr. Strawn was the previous Assistant Planning Director and has been with Craven County for 19 years.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Mitchell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Smith had nothing to report.

Commissioner Hunt thanked everyone who attended the Harlowe town hall meeting and stated that it was well attended with great discussions. She relayed the topic of emergency medical services and tax revaluations were prevalent. She expressed gratitude to Jeannie Butcher with the Senior Center, and also to Leslie Young, Kelly Cuthrell and Sheriff Chip Hughes. She also expressed her appreciation to all the animal welfare advocates that were in attendance.

Commissioner Mark had nothing to report.

Commissioner Howard remarked on his recent town hall meeting in which Representative Steve Tyson and Sheriff Chip Hughes were in attendance. He thanked the County Attorney for addressing the Carolina Pines issue, which has been ongoing for seven years, with many challenges involved. Mr. Howard thanked those advocating on behalf of animals tonight.

Commissioner Bucher had nothing to report.

Commissioner Jones thanked all those in attendance.

At 6:53 pm, Commissioner Hunt motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Nan Holton
Clerk to the Board