

**AGENDA  
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MONDAY JUNE 5, 2023  
6:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVE AGENDA**

- 1. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY 2023-2024 BUDGET**
- 2. PETITIONS OF THE CITIZENS – Agenda Topics**
- 3. CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Minutes of May 15, 2023 Regular Session; Minutes of May 15, 2023 Reconvened Session; Minutes of May 16, 2023 Reconvened Session; Minutes of May 17, 2023 Reconvened Session**
  - B. Tax Releases**
  - C. Health - Summer Internship Budget Amendment**
  - D. Recreation - Special Olympics Bench Donation Budget Amendment**
  - E. Finance – Medical Examiner Budget Amendment**
  - F. Finance – Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Additional State Funding Awarded to Area Day Program**
  - G. Military Service Person of the Quarter Resolution**
- 4. CRIME STOPPERS PRESENTATION: Brynn Harms, Crime Stoppers Board Member; and Cpl. Kelly Cox**

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS**

- 5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - RESOLUTION FOR NC COMMERCE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND: Jeff Wood, Economic Development Director**
- 6. SOLID WASTE – AWARD DEBRIS REMOVAL CONTRACT AND DEBRIS MONITORING CONTRACT: Steven Aster, Solid Waste Director**
- 7. FINANCE: Craig Warren, Finance Director**
  - A. Occupancy Tax Budget Amendment**
  - B. Rescue Squads Budget Amendment**

- 8. APPOINTMENTS**
- 9. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Arey Grady**
- 10. PETITIONS OF THE CITIZENS – General Topics**
- 11. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: Jack Veit**
- 12. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

**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, JUNE 5, 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  
 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.

*Loving God, You are author of life and origin of all created things.*

*We ask that Your grace and blessing be bestowed upon the men and women who have been called to serve our County on this Board of Commissioners.*

*Help them to represent their constituents wisely with an eye toward safeguarding the deeper truths of human life that come only from You.*

*Bless the people that they represent. Bless our country and our County. Help our Commissioners to make decisions that will uphold the values of peace and justice in our land and throughout the world. We ask this in God's name.*

*Amen.*

*Based upon the invocation given by Reverend Richard Doerrat at the April 4, 2000 session of the US House of Representatives*

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

County Manager, Jack Viet, stated the FY23-24 Budget is a culmination of months' worth of work, resulting in the revenue neutral tax rate of 44.48 cents.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY 2023-2024 BUDGET**

At 6:03 pm, Commissioner Mitchell motioned to open the FY 23-24 Budget Public Hearing. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously approved.

The following citizens provided comments on the budget:

1. *Albert Lester*, 706 Badger Lane, Havelock, NC
2. *Lauren Carver*, 200 N. William Street, Goldsboro, NC
3. *Nell Hudson*, 301 Fairway Drive, Trent Woods, NC

4. *Jameesha Harris*, 222 Monterey Circle, New Bern, NC

At 6:15 pm, Commissioner Mark motioned to close the Public Hearing; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith 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 May 15, 2023 Regular Session; Minutes of May 15, 2023 Reconvened Session; Minutes of May 16, 2023 Reconvened Session; Minutes of May 17, 2023 Reconvened Session; Tax Releases (*Credits = \$2,889.37*); Health – Summer Internship Budget Amendment; Recreation – Special Olympics Bench Donation Budget Amendment; Finance – Medical Examiner Budget Amendment; Finance – Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Additional State Funding Awarded to Area Day Program, and Military Service Person of the Quarter Resolution. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

***Health/Primary Care***

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1015100-38200 Misc. Revenues	\$3,000.00	1015100-44050 Contract Employees	\$3,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>

**Justification:** Craven County was awarded \$3,000 to pay for a summer intern for 250 hours at \$12 per hour. The intern will assist participants with Type 2 Diabetes, develop and teach health promotion classes, and assist the environmental staff in conducting a risk factor study.

***Recreation***

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1015910-38301 Donations	\$1,150.05	1015910-47321 C/O \$500-\$4,999	\$1,150.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,150.05</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,150.05</b>

**Justification:** This amount was donated by Special Olympics Craven County in memory of Mason Crum, a longtime Special Olympics volunteer. The bench will be placed near the Special Olympics Bocce Courts for use by the Special Olympics Bocce Team and the general public.

***Medical Examiner***

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1010000-39901 Current Year Fund Balance	\$10,000.00	1014370-44029 Investigations	\$10,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>

**Justification:** Additional funds are needed to cover autopsy investigation expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year.

*Pass-Thru*

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
1014291-33305 Structured Day Reporting	\$4,800.00	1014291-49105 Structured Day Reporting	\$4,800.00
TOTAL	\$4,800.00	TOTAL	\$4,800.00

**Justification:** Budget amendment needed to allocate additional funds from the NC Department of Public Safety for JCPC/Structured Day Reporting.

**RESOLUTION  
RECOGNIZING SERGEANT ALEXIX ILIA SEPULVEDA  
AS MILITARY SERVICE  
PERSON OF THE QUARTER**

WHEREAS, Sergeant Alexis Ilia Sepulveda is currently stationed aboard Headquarters and Headquarters, MCAS Cherry Point, where she serves as an Assistant Explosive Safety Officer; and

WHEREAS, Sgt Sepulveda assists in carrying out the installation explosive safety program, providing supervision, direction and guidance to units on the installation, as well as visiting units; and

WHEREAS, Sgt Sepulveda coordinates and schedules explosives operations at the combat aircraft loading area (CALA), issues hot work permits to military and civilian personnel, and monitors the facility grounding/lightening protection program; and

WHEREAS, her past and current accomplishments include the following accolades:

- ❖ Certificate of Commendation (2018, 2021)
- ❖ Good Conduct Medal (2018, 2021)
- ❖ Meritorious Mast (2019)
- ❖ Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2020, 2022, 2023)
- ❖ Letter of Appreciation (2022, 2023)

WHEREAS, her military commitment is evidenced by her substantial and significant contributions towards the Explosive Safety community.

WHEREAS, Sgt Sepulveda’s dedication to the community is displayed by her willingness to volunteer more than 60 hours of her off duty time, skills, and efforts to ensure the Dixon-Conderman Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2514 is able to continue providing services for local area Veterans; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS recognizes Sergeant Alexis Ilia Sepulveda for her personal dedication as a community volunteer and her strong devotion to duty.

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

Adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

**CRIME STOPPERS PRESENTATION**

Crime Stoppers Board member, Brynn Harms, provided information on the non-profit, statistics/data on arrests and recovery of assets, and how he became involved.

Corporal Kelly Cox presented information about partnerships with various agencies and organizations, fundraising, how the money is used, and their media promotions. For the public’s knowledge, Cpl. Cox provided the phone number ,252-633-5141, and their email address: [crimestoppers@cravencounty.com](mailto:crimestoppers@cravencounty.com). He emphasized that confidentiality is primary, as good people see bad things happen all the time and need a way to report without feeling vulnerable. He stated their mission is to make Craven County a safer place to live, work and raise a family.

Commissioner Hunt expressed her pleasure in having this program and their partnerships with the smaller municipalities.

Commissioner Bucher motioned to appropriate \$1,000 to Crime Stoppers in the FY23-24 Budget. Commissioner Hunt seconded his motion, and it was approved in a 7-0 roll call vote.

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
RESOLUTION FOR NC COMMERCE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Economic Development Director, Jeff Wood, reported the Craven County Economic Development Department has been working with the Coastal Carolina Regional Airport Authority to obtain funds to build out the Commercial Aerospace Development area of the airport. He stated the Authority has already been successful in winning a Golden LEAF grant to extend water and sewer. Mr. Wood requested that the Board approve a resolution authorizing the Department to apply for a NC Department of Commerce grant through their infrastructure development funds. He indicated this grant requires a match, which is being provided by the Airport Authority.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to adopt the following resolution authorizing the department to apply for the grant, seconded by Commissioner Mark and approved unanimously.

**COASTAL CAROLINA CORPORATE AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECT  
RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that a grant from the Department of Commerce through the County of Craven be made to assist the Coastal Carolina Corporate Aerospace Development project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Craven County will administer this grant in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Commerce.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County administers this grant through the County Finance Office.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the grant will be monitored quarterly to ensure compliance with this proposal and the Department of Commerce regulations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the amount of the grant application will be \$1,026,375.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Manager, Assistant County Manager, Finance Director, and the Economic Development Director have signatory authority for requisition requests of IDF funds.

**ADOPTED** this 5th day of June 2023.

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SOLID WASTE  
AWARD DEBRIS REMOVAL CONTRACT AND DEBRIS MONITORING CONTRACT**

Solid Waste Director, Steven Aster, reported as part of disaster preparedness, Craven County holds prepositioned primary and secondary contracts for Debris Removal and Debris Monitoring. Both functions are typically reimbursable by FEMA for federally declared events. On July 18, 2022, the Craven County Board of Commissioners awarded Phillips & Jordan, Inc. and Crowder-Gulf, LLC the final one-year renewal of the contract awarded after Hurricane Florence in 2018. Additionally, the Craven County Board of Commissioners awarded Tetra Tech, Inc a one-year renewal for the Debris Monitoring Contract.

Mr. Aster indicated that in April 2023, Craven County staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Disaster Debris Removal and Clearance Services and a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Disaster Debris Monitoring Services.

Both solicitations were due by the first week in May, 2023. Craven County received 7 responses to the RFP for Debris Removal and 2 responses to the RFQ for Debris Monitoring Services. He relayed an evaluation committee of experienced Craven County staff was convened and reviewed all of the responses and developed a scoring and rating matrix. It was determined that one Debris Removal company was nonresponsive due to required elements not being included.

Staff recommended that a primary and secondary contractor be selected for each activity. Additionally, it was recommended that each initial contract be for a 30-month term with two 1-year renewals, which will allow the County to have a more favorable contract renewal period in the future. He stated each contract will also include the provision that any local government or other governmental entity within Craven County can utilize these contracts through a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement. For Debris Removal and Clearance, the committee recommended that Ceres Environmental be awarded as the primary contractor and Phillips & Jordan, Inc as the secondary contractor.

For Debris Monitoring, the committee recommended that Tetra Tech, Inc. be awarded the contract as primary contractor and Thompson Consulting Services be awarded the contract as secondary contractor.

Commissioner Mark motioned to award Ceres Environmental as the primary contractor for Disaster Debris Removal and Clearance Services and Phillips & Jordan, Inc., as the secondary contractor, and to award Tetra Tech, Inc. as the as the primary contractor for Disaster Debris Monitoring Services and Thompson Consulting Services as the secondary contractor. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FINANCE**

*Occupancy Tax Budget Amendment*

Finance Director, Craig Warren, reported Occupancy tax collections countywide for the current year are running approximately 7.6% ahead of last year’s collections and are expected to exceed original budget estimates. As a result of the increased collections, the portion of occupancy taxes collected by the County and remitted to the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) will also exceed original budget estimates. He estimated that an additional \$75,000 will be needed in order to continue remitting the TDA’s portion through the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Warren requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$75,000.

Commissioner Mark motioned to approve the following budget amendment, as requested, in the amount of \$75,000, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

*Occupancy Tax*

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
2250000-31406 TDA Allocation	\$75,000.00	2257150-49698 Tourism Development Authority	\$75,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,000.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,000.00</b>

*Rescue Squads Budget Amendment*

Mr. Warren reported ambulance service fees billed and collected by the County on behalf of the following rescue squads are anticipated to exceed original budget projections. He estimated that an additional \$95,000 will be needed to continue remitting the squad payments through the end of the fiscal year. The projected increases to revenue estimates by squad are \$6,000 for New Bern Craven County Rescue, \$4,000 for Fort Barnwell, \$17,000 for Bridgeton Rescue, \$56,000 for Vanceboro Rescue, and \$12,000 for Township #7.

Mr. Warren requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$95,000.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the following budget amendment in the amount of \$95,000, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Mark and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

***Rescue Squads***

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1014331-34430 NB CC Rescue	\$ 6,000.00	1014331-43310 90% of Collections	\$ 5,400.00
1014333-34428 Ft. Barnwell Rescue	\$ 4,000.00	1014333-43310 90% of Collections	\$ 3,600.00
1014334-34426 Bridgeton Rescue	\$17,000.00	1014334-43310 90% of Collections	\$15,300.00
1014335-34427 Vanceboro Rescue	\$56,000.00	1014335-43310 90% of Collections	\$50,400.00
1014337-34434 Twp #7 Rescue	\$12,000.00	1014337-43310 90% of Collections	\$10,800.00
		1014330-44003 Admin. Collection Cost	\$ 9,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$95,000.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$95,000.00</b>

**APPOINTMENTS**

*Pending*

Chairman Jones reviewed the following pending appointments:

*Pending*

- Community Child Protection Team
- Craven Clean Sweep
- Emergency Medical Services
- Fireman’s Relief Fund Board (District 5)
- Highway 70 Corridor Committee
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Volunteer Agricultural District (District 6)

*Current*

*Craven County Planning Board*

Commissioner Smith nominated Mark Best for appointment. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Best was appointed by acclamation.

*Craven County ABC Board*

Commissioner Bucher nominated Kenneth Morris for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Morris was reappointed by acclamation.

Commissioner Smith nominated Dred Mitchell for appointment to fill the vacant seat left by Carol Crayton, who has served for 12 years. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Mitchell was appointed by acclamation.



*Craven County Fire Tax Commissioners*

Chairman Jones nominated Ron Pound for appointment to fill the vacant seat left by Carl Barwick. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Pound was appointed by acclamation.

*New Bern Board of Adjustment*

Commissioner Smith nominated Sandra Gray for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Gray was reappointed by acclamation.

*Havelock Planning Board*

Commissioner Hunt nominated Alfred Gray for reappointment. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Gray was reappointed by acclamation.

*NACo Voting Delegate*

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Commissioner Hunt to serve as the NACo Voting Delegate, as she is the only Commissioner attending the conference in July. There being no additional nominations, Mrs. Hunt was appointed by acclamation.

*Coastal Carolina Regional Airport Authority*

Chairman Jones turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Bucher since he serves on this Board and is up for reappointment.

Commissioner Howard nominated George Liner for reappointment. Commissioner Mark nominated Jason Jones for reappointment.

There being no additional nominations, Mr. Liner and Mr. Jones were reappointed by acclamation.

Commissioner Bucher indicated that Kellie Hawkins Kiser did not wish to be reappointed and there were seven current applications on file.

Chairman Jones nominated Mark Eckert for appointment. Commissioner Mitchell nominated Bob Brinson for appointment. A roll call vote was taken where each Commissioner stated the name of the candidate they supported. Mark Eckert was appointed in a 6-1 roll call. (Commissioner Mitchell voting for Brinson)

*Upcoming*

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

Commissioner Howard stated it was nice to see a lot of good application for both the ABC Board and the Coastal Carolina Regional Airport Authority. He encouraged the public to apply for vacancies on several of the other boards.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT***Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – Parcel Number 7-006-083 (Street Address N/A)*

County Attorney, Arey Grady, reported Craven County has received an offer in the amount of \$5,500.00 for this real property, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$4,928.87. He indicated the tax value of this property is \$9,800.00.

Mr. Grady stated 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 resolution; Commissioner Mitchell seconded his motion.

Commissioner Bucher stated he did not think it was in the best interest of the County to sell this property. Commissioners Mark and Mitchell withdrew their motions.

Commissioner Bucher motioned to retain this property and not approve the resolution. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved unanimously.

*Approval of Conveyance After Expiration of Upset Bid Period – Lees Avenue, New Bern (Parcel Number 8-006-173)*

Mr. Grady reported the County previously received and approved an offer to purchase this real property, in the amount of \$2,000.00, subject to the completion of the upset bid process. The offer was advertised, and there were no upset bids, the final bid being \$2,000.00. The upset bid period has now expired, and the County Attorney recommended approval of the conveyance at the purchase price of \$2,000.00. The County and the City of New Bern originally acquired this property through a tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$2,796.90. The tax value of this property is \$4,000.00.

He noted that this property is jointly owned with the City of New Bern, which has already granted final approval of this offer.

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

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

**CRAVEN COUNTY  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE  
AFTER EXPIRATION OF UPSET BID PERIOD**

WHEREAS, Craven County and the City of New Bern own certain real property identified as Tax Parcel Number 8-006-173 (hereinafter “the Real Property”), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County in deed recorded in Book 3391, Page 136 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County and the City of New Bern previously received and approved an Offer to Purchase the Real Property, and 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 Beau Lee Dorsey in the sum of \$2,000.00 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 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2023.

### PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – GENERAL

The following citizens signed up to speak:

1. *Joshua Koth*, 201 Shipman Road
2. *Isabel Goldvar*, 113 Friburg Road
3. *Emmanuel Ruiz*, 723 Lake Tyler Drive
4. *Lauren Carver*, 200 North Williams Street, Goldsboro
5. *Tyker Gonzales*, 125 Turkey Quarter Creek Road
6. *Linda Heel*, 3111 Monroe Drive
7. *James Woods Jr.* 1903 County Club Road
8. *Ray Griffin*, 1981 Streets Ferry Road, Vanceboro
9. *Jameesha Harris*, 222 Monterey Circle
10. *Elena Hebert*, 306 Green Trees Drive

### COUNTY MANAGERS REPORT

County Manager, Jack Veit, spoke highly of his staff's budget team, stating they do a great job, and he is proud of their work.

Mr. Veit entertained the Board's interest in holding another budget work session or seeking authority to draft the FY 23-24 Budget Ordinance for adoption at the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board was in consensus that another meeting was not necessary.

### COMMISSIONERS REPORT

*Commissioner Hunt* reported on a recent Trillium meeting, the NC Association of County Commissioners Advocacy Days held in Raleigh and expressed pride in welcoming the first F35 aircraft to Cherry Point.

*Commissioner Mark* commented on an upcoming precinct meeting to be held in Fairfield Harbour on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Commissioner Smith* had nothing to report.

*Commissioner Howard* stated he was pleased with the revenue neutral FY23-24 Budget. He expressed thanks to all the citizens who spoke tonight.

*Commissioner Mitchell* reported that Allies for Cherry Point has worked very hard to facilitate the arrival of the F35's and expressed her pride in that accomplishment. She commented the State budget includes an additional \$350 million for the transpark which will further boost the economy. Ms. Mitchell also announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual NC Defense Summit set for September 26-27 in Raleigh, which is the only such regional association.

*Commissioner Bucher* reported on the recent ladies golf tour that was hosted in New Bern. He indicated there were 144 young women in the area for five days. He stated it was pretty exciting and he is hopeful to see more such tournaments held locally.

*Commissioner Jones* highlighted that during their budget work sessions, there was a lot of debate regarding the schools; and conversations have been had with the Board of Education about a referendum. Mr. Jones stated it is not something the Board of Commissioners can initiate. Mr. Jones also remarked on all the discussions regarding the animal shelter and reported approximately ½ million dollars of upgrades are included in the budget. The new veterinarian will be providing reports to the Board of Commissioners on a regular basis.

In addition, Commissioner Jones commented on the number of calls recently about fire inspections.

He indicated this increase is due to the recent inspector passing qualifying exams enabling him to conduct these; and it has been several years since fire inspections have been held in Craven County.

Lastly, Mr. Jones remarked on attending the recent Memorial Day event at National Cemetery. He informed the Board that the speaker, Dr. Hines, shared about his job being able to locate the bodies of service men and women and how humbling it was to hear his presentation. Mr. Jones stated we all owe our service men and women a great debt of gratitude.

7:32 pm Commissioner Mark motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

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Jason R. Jones, Chairman  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Nan Holton  
Clerk to the Board