

**AGENDA  
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MONDAY MAY 3, 2021  
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

1. PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – AGENDA TOPICS
2. CONSENT AGENDA
  - A. Minutes of April 19, 2021 Regular Session
  - B. Tax Releases and Refunds
3. AREA AGENCY ON AGING PRESENTATION: Heather O'Connor, Area Agency on Aging Director
4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW YMCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
5. BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET PRESENTATION: Dr. Meghan Doyle, Superintendent
6. CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUDGET PRESENTATION: Dr. Raymond Staats, President

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS**

7. SHERIFF: Chip Hughes
  - A. OJP Bullet Proof Vest Grant
  - B. Sheriff's Pension Line Increase
8. APPOINTMENTS
9. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Arey Grady
10. PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – GENERAL TOPICS
11. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: Jack Veit

12. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

13. 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, MAY 3, 2021. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:00 P.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:

*Lord, we honor You today in prayer and thanksgiving. We pray for our County Commissioners and all who represent Craven County. 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 McCabe motioned to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and carried 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 April 19, 2021 Regular Session and Tax Releases and Refunds (**Credits = \$14,354.76; Refunds = \$653.61**), seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING PRESENTATION**

Katie Bordeaux, Eastern Carolina Council Director, introduced Heather O'Connor, Area Agency on Aging Director, and January Brown, Family Caregiver Support Specialist, prior to them providing the Board with an overview of the Area Agency on Aging programs available. Ms. O'Connor highlighted the Home and Community Care Block Grant services; and Ms. Brown outlined the Family Caregiver Support options available. They emphasized the desire to reach

all the County residents and making them aware of the various programming that is offered through the Area Agency on Aging.

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW YMCA DIRECTOR**

Commissioner Mitchell introduced Don Eglinton, who in turn provided the Board with highlights from the new Twin Rivers Executive Director David Heggie's career path and accomplishments. Mr. Heggie will start on May 17<sup>th</sup> and stated he wants to strengthen and create new partnerships. He is looking to take the YMCA outside of the existing walls and will challenge their teams to connect with people in new ways.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENTATION**

Dr. Meghan Doyle, Superintendent; Kimberly Smith, Board of Education; and Denise Altman, Finance Officer, were present.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Doyle led the Board through the Craven County Board of Education Budget Request for FY 2021-2022. Her presentation highlights were:

- FY 2021 Celebrations
- 2022 Budget Challenges
  - Per pupil expenditures
  - Small schools
  - State allotments
  - Cost to operate
  - Geographic proximity
  - Enrollment trends
  - Classified pay
  - Teacher turnover
- FY 2022 Local Current Expenses
  - Budget Priorities
  - Budget Opportunities
  - Budget Request
- FY 2022 Budget Request
  - Considerations
  - Revenue Adjustments
  - Expense Adjustments
  - Capital Outlay

Dr. Doyle stated the Craven County Board of Education is requesting \$21,964,991 in County Appropriations for the Local Current Expense budget. This amount is the same amount requested in the previous fiscal year. They will be using \$1,458,770 of Fund Balance to balance the FY21/22 budget.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation for her work and made inquiries about enrollment trends, the impact of private schools and home schooling, the school realignment plans, and their Fund Balance. Dr. Doyle thanked the Board for their support of having School Resource Officers at every school location.

### **CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Dr. Ray Staats, President, and Jim Millard, Vice President of Administration, were present.

Dr. Staats, using a PowerPoint presentation, highlighted the following:

- FY 21 significant infrastructure accomplishments
- CCC Covid 19 Response
- 5 year Facilities Plan
- College enrollment trends

Dr. Staats stated that Craven Community College was requesting \$4,601,425 in County Appropriations for FY21-22, which is an increase from the previous fiscal year, referencing how Operations has increased.

Commissioners inquired about the increase in legal fees, seated students versus virtual students, and some of the personnel changes. Mr. Millard addressed the personnel concern.

**DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SHERIFF**

*Sheriff's Pension Line Increase*

Sheriff Chip Hughes reported that budgeting for pensions is challenging as it changes annually. He indicated at the creation of the FY 21 Budget, it was anticipated that \$8,000.00 would be needed for the Sheriff's Supplemental Pension fund. Upon receiving the invoice recently, it was discovered that \$15,078.68 was owed. Due to this unforeseen increase in dues, he requested to add the remaining amount of \$7,079.00 to the account line 1014310-41115.

Sheriff Hughes requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$7,079.00

Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the following budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

*Sheriff's Office*

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1010000-39901	\$7,079.00	1014310-41115	\$7,079.00
Current Year Fund Balance		Benefits SHF – Supp Pension	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,079.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,079.00</b>

*OJP Bullet Proof Vest Grant*

Sheriff Hughes requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$8,768.00. He stated that the budget amendment is in reference to the Grant funds that will be utilized by the Sheriff's Office to purchase Bullet Proof Vests for sworn personnel. The Sheriff's Office has been awarded \$4,383.22 from the Office of Justice Program to purchase Bullet Proof Vests for partial reimbursement. The grant will reimburse the Sheriff's Office 50% of each vest to total the amount given.

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

**2001**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1014310-333102	\$4,384.00	1014310-47321	\$8,768.00
Bureau of Justice Assistance		Capital Outlay \$500-\$4,999	
1010000-39901	\$4,384.00		
Current Year FB			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,768.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,768.00</b>

Chairman Jones engaged Sheriff Hughes in discussion about the increased number of accidents at the Glenburnie exit onto Hwy. 70. He recommended a letter be sent to the DOT engineer and indicated the City of New Bern Aldermen were also concerned.

Sheriff Hughes gave a glowing report of the recent Sheriffs' Conference held at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, citing that all of the feedback he received was positive. He thanked the County staff, the Convention Center staff, the TDA Director, the US Marine color guard, the DoubleTree and Courtyard Marriott, the Flame and his staff for all of the hard work that went into making it a success.

Commissioner Liner inquired about the ankle bracelets and those fees being waived by the judge, which initiated discussion and need to address this current trend.

## APPOINTMENTS

### *Pending*

Chairman Jones reviewed the following pending appointments. County Manager, Jack Veit, reported on a letter from Heather O'Connor regarding the Regional Aging Advisory Board and referenced working through the Aging Planning Board to seek an appointment for it.

- 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

### *Current*

#### *Craven County EMS Board*

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to appoint Candace Pereira to the Craven County EMS Board. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Pereira was appointed by acclamation.

#### *Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council*

Commissioner Liner motioned to table this appointment.

#### *Juvenile Crime Prevention Council*

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to reappoint Ira Whitford. Commissioner Bucher motioned to appoint Jordan Sawyer. There being no additional nominations. Mr. Whitford was reappointed by acclamation and Mr. Sawyer was appointed by acclamation.

#### *Craven County Board of Adjustments*

Commissioner Liner motioned to reappoint John Brazelton. Commissioner Bucher motioned to reappoint Theron McCabe. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Brazelton and Mr. McCabe were reappointed by acclamation.

#### *Local Emergency Planning Committee*

Commissioner Mark nominated Ronnie Weems, Judy Antry, Joe Barker and Tom Glasgow for reappointment. Mr. Mark nominated Brian Bradley, Sr. for new appointment. There being no additional nominations Mr. Weems, Mrs. Antry, Mr. Barker and Mr. Glasgow were reappointed by acclamation and Mr. Bradley was appointed by acclamation.

### *Upcoming*

Chairman Jones reviewed the upcoming appointments.

## PETITIONS OF CITIZENS – GENERAL TOPICS

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

## COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

### *Initial Offer to Purchase Real Property – 243 B. James St., Vanceboro (Parcel Number 1-V-04-011-A)*

County Attorney, Arey Grady, reported that Craven County and the Town of Vanceboro have received an offer in the amount of \$3,500.00 for this real property, which was acquired through a

tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$2,890.77. The tax value of this property is \$6,300.00.

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 Liner motioned to adopt the following resolution approving the initial offer, seconded by Commissioner Mark and approved unanimously.

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

WHEREAS, Craven County and the Town of Vanceboro owns certain real property identified as Tax Parcel Number 1-V-04-011-A (hereinafter “the Real Property”), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County and the Town of Vanceboro in deed recorded in Book 3516, Page 262 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 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2021.

*Approval of Conveyance After Expiration of Upset Bid Period – 211 Loyd Ave., Grifton  
(Parcel Number 1-072-1004)*

Mr. Grady reported that Craven County previously received and approved an offer to purchase this real property, in the amount of \$2,500.00, subject to the completion of the upset bid process. The offer was advertised, and there were no upset bids, the final bid being \$2,500.00. The upset bid period has now expired, and the Mr. Grady recommended approval of the conveyance at the purchase price of \$2,500.00. The County originally acquired this property through a tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$2,155.89. The tax value of this property is \$13,500.00.

He stated that should the Board of Commissioners authorize this transaction, a resolution should be adopted, which in turn will authorize the execution and delivery of the necessary documents.

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to adopt the following resolution approving the final sale, seconded by Commissioner Mark and approved unanimously.

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

WHEREAS, Craven County owns certain real property identified as Tax Parcel Number 1-072-1004 (hereinafter “the Real Property”), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County in deed recorded in Book 3528 Page 2091 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County previously received and approved an Offer to Purchase the Real Property, and Craven County 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 Ashely F. Conklin and Daniel J. Conklin in the sum of \$2,500.00 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 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2021.

*Approval of Conveyance After Expiration of Upset Bid Period – Boone Rd.(Parcel No. 5-009-114)*

Mr. Grady reported that Craven County previously received and approved an offer to purchase this real property, in the amount of \$6,000.00, subject to the completion of the upset bid process. The offer was advertised, and there were no upset bids, the final bid being \$6,000.00. The upset bid period has now expired, and Mr. Grady recommended approval of the conveyance at the purchase price of \$6,000.00. The County originally acquired this property through a tax foreclosure, with past due taxes and costs of foreclosure totaling \$7,055.09. The tax value of this property is \$15,000.00.

He stated that should the Board of Commissioners authorize this transaction, a resolution should be adopted, which in turn will authorize the execution and delivery of the necessary documents.

Commissioner Smith motioned to adopt the following resolution approving the final sale, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

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

WHEREAS, Craven County owns certain real property identified as Tax Parcel Number 5-009-114 (hereinafter “the Real Property”), the Real Property having been acquired by Craven County in deed recorded in Book 3635 Page 774 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County previously received and approved an Offer to Purchase the Real Property, and Craven County 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 Everette George and wife, Beulah George in the sum of \$6,000.00 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 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2021.

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

County Manager, Jack Veit, informed the Board he would be making the FY21-22 Budget Presentation to them at the May 17<sup>th</sup> Commissioners' meeting and reminded them that their budget work sessions would begin immediately following their Regular Session. He stated they would meet May 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at the Convention Center for those work sessions.

Mr. Veit expressed how meaningful it was to speak before the Sheriff's Conference in the newly renovated convention center, stating it was exactly what Craven County needed. He reported there is a lot of activities and bookings going on now.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

*Commissioner McCabe* had nothing to report.

*Commissioner Smith* had nothing to report.

*Commissioner Liner* had nothing to report.

*Commissioner Mitchell* stated that May is the month of the Military Spouse and she would like the Board to indulge her by adopting a Proclamation in support. Mrs. Mitchell reported that Congressman Murphy was sponsoring a clean-up on Saturday in three locations: Cove City, Havelock and New Bern.

*Commissioner Mark* had nothing to report.

*Commissioner Bucher* reported on attending James City Transportation Trade Academy kick-off earlier today. He indicated they had great attendance and all were very excited about the opportunity.

*Chairman Jones* requested the Board to consider authorizing staff to draft a letter to the NC DOT regarding the accident issue at the Glenburnie exit at Hwy. 70. Mr. Veit indicated he would reach out to the Regional Safety Engineer and Commissioner Mitchell said she would contact Hugh Overholt on the matter. Commissioner Mark motioned to authorize a letter to the NC DOT on behalf of the Craven County Board of Commissioners; his motion seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved unanimously.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:56 p.m. Commissioner Liner motioned to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318 (a)(4) and 143-318 (a)(3), seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously approved.

At 10:22 p.m. Commissioner Mitchell motioned to return to Open Session, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved unanimously.

No action was taken in Closed Session.

At 10:23 p.m. Commissioner Mitchell motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McCabe 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