



1 **THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN MET IN**
2 **REGULAR SESSION IN THE COMMISSIONERS’ ROOM OF THE CRAVEN**
3 **COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN,**
4 **NORTH CAROLINA, ON MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020. THE MEETING CONVENED AT**
5 **7:00 P.M.**

6
7 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- 8 Chairman Thomas F. Mark
- 9 Vice Chairman Jason R. Jones
- 10 Commissioner Denny Bucher
- 11 Chairman George S. Liner
- 12 Commissioner Theron L. McCabe
- 13 Commissioner E. T. Mitchell
- 14 Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.

15
16 **STAFF PRESENT:**

- 17 Jack B. Veit, III, County Manager
- 18 Craig Warren, Finance Director
- 19 Nan Holton, Clerk to the Board

20
21 **REMOTE PARTICIPATION:**

- 22 Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager
- 23 Amber Parker, Human Resources Director
- 24 Arey Grady, County Attorney
- 25 Dr. Raymond Staats, President, Craven Community College
- 26 Dr. Meghan Doyle, Superintendent, Craven County Schools
- 27 Scott Harrelson, Health Director
- 28 Don Baumgardner, Planning Director
- 29 Kelly Walker, CARTS Director
- 30 Jeff Wood, Economic Development Director

31
32 Following the Pledge of Allegiance, County Attorney, Arey Grady, recited the following
33 invocation:

34
35 Gracious God,

36
37 The men and women assembled here to serve Craven County ask you for a blessing. We pray that
38 through your grace they gain the vision to see clearly, the courage to act rightly, the humility to consider
39 all sides of issues, the love to accept disagreement,
40 and the faith to persevere through discouragement and adversity.

41
42 May they have the wisdom to see our County’s fate as linked to your will.

43
44 We thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to serve and to grow in your service.
45 Amen.

46
47 **Based upon the opening prayer given by Reverend Grzegorz Brozonowicz the April 29, 2009 session**
48 **of the United States House of Representatives.**

49
50 Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by
51 Commissioner Liner and unanimously approved.

52
53 **PETITIONS OF CITIZENS**

54
55 There were no citizens from the public who signed up to speak.

56
57 **CONSENT AGENDA**

58
59 Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the consent agenda, as presented, inclusive of the
60 Minutes of April 20, 2020 Regular Session, Tax Releases and Refunds, Craven Animal
61 Protective Services (Sheriff) Budget Amendment, and the National Day of Prayer Proclamation,
62 seconded by Commissioner Sampson and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

63
64 *Credits*

65			
66	TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET#	YEAR
67			
68	BOWMAN, KENNETH WALTER II	2019-211425	\$64.84
69	DID NOT OWN JANUARY 1		
70			
71	HENRIQUES, ROBERT C & SINGER, JANE	2019-212208	\$35.14
72	NOT TAXABLE TO CRAVEN COUNTY		
73			
74	MANLEY, JACK CHRISTOPHER	2019-209452	\$31.30
75	NOT TAXABLE TO CRAVEN COUNTY		
76			
77	MILLER, JOHN D & KEILA CRISTINA N	2019-7634	\$311.50
78	INCORRECT OWNER/REBILL		
79			
80	RYAN, TERRENCE MICHAEL	2018-50830	\$14.04
81	MILITARY EXEMPT		
82			
83	SMITH, JULIETT	2020-430212	\$535.61
84	INCORRECT OWNER/ REBILL		
85			
86		6 - CREDIT (S)	\$992.43
87			

Refund

89			
90	TOMLINSON, ANN	2019-18072	\$173.60
91	ELDERLY OR DISABLED EXCLUSION		
92			
93		1 – REFUND	\$173.60
94			

Sheriff's Office

96				
97	REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
98				
99	1014310-38301	\$ 50.00	1014310-43240	\$ 50.00
100	Don/Cont Misc Donations		Supplies-Other	
101	1014310-38301	\$ 50.00	1014310-43240	\$ 50.00
102	Don/Cont Misc Donations		Supplies-Other	
103	1014310-38301	\$200.00	1014310-43240	\$200.00
104	Don/Cont Misc Donations		Supplies-Other	
105	1014310-38301	\$ 50.00	1014310-43222	\$ 50.00
106	Misc. Donations		Supplies-Donations	
107				
108	TOTAL	\$350.00	TOTAL	\$350.00
109				

Justification: This budget amendment will reflect three citizen donations checks for the Sheriff's Animal Protective Services (CAPS) Division and one citizen donation for the K-9 program. The total of \$300.00 will cover costs associated with the CAPS Division to include animal food and medical care for rescued, recovered, and seized animals. The \$50.00 check for the K-9 program is to be used towards expenses such as dog food, supplies and medical care for the K-9 program.

PROCLAMATION NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS, national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

124 **WHEREAS**, in The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of
 125 national purpose and identity, made “the Laws of Nature and Nature’s God” the foundation of
 126 our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given;
 127 and

128
 129 **WHEREAS**, throughout our history, Americans have consistently turned to God for
 130 guidance at pivotal moments as did President Franklin D. Roosevelt when he led the nation in
 131 prayer as courageous Americans stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day; and

132
 133 **WHEREAS**, in 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May of each year as a
 134 national Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by
 135 President Ronald Reagan; and

136
 137 **WHEREAS**, the National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to
 138 join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings
 139 received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring
 140 wholeness to the United States and her citizenry;

141
 142 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CRAVEN COUNTY**
 143 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, does hereby proclaim Thursday, May 7, 2020 as a day of
 144 prayer in all of Craven County and encourage our citizens to observe the day in ways appropriate
 145 to its importance and significance.

146
 147
 148 **Adopted this the 4th day of May, 2020.**

149
 150 **CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUDGET PRESENTATION**

151
 152 Craven Community College President, Dr. Raymond Staats, thanked the Board for their
 153 leadership and presented the Board with an overview of the past year, highlighting the following
 154 topics:

- 155 ❖ Major Facilities Infrastructure Projects, inclusive of the VOLT Workforce Development
 156 Center and the STEM Center
- 157 ❖ Major New Programs inclusive of Aviation Management & Career Pilot Technology and
 158 the Fleet Readiness Center East Apprenticeship
- 159 ❖ Enrollment Trends, stating there is uncertainty in enrollment going forward as a result of
 160 COVID 19
- 161 ❖ Workforce Development Partnerships
- 162 ❖ Academic Support Center Construction Project
- 163 ❖ Completed Facility Improvements 2019-2020
- 164 ❖ IT Upgrades 2019-2020
- 165 ❖ COVID 19 transitions, with plans for a June 27th “Drive In” graduation format
- 166 ❖ Five Year Facilities Plan, with deferral of the Student Center Chiller until FY 22

167
 168 Dr. Staats presented the Board with the FY 2021 Proposed Budget, requesting \$4,302,300 from
 169 the County.

170
 171 *Superintendent of Schools Dr. Meaghan Doyle’s presentation to the Board was delayed to allow*
 172 *time for her budget proposal to be emailed and printed.*

173
 174 **LIBRARY AGREEMENT**

175
 176 County Attorney, Arey Grady, reported that over the last year, Craven County and Pamlico
 177 County have worked to create a new inter-local agreement due to the departure of Carteret
 178 County from the regional library partnership. The new inter-local agreement was created by a
 179 committee composed of County Commissioners and staff from the remaining counties and
 180 approved unanimously in April 2020. He stated that the regional library will continue to provide
 181 the same services and operate under the same general organizational structure, practices and
 182 policies, all which will be modified as necessary to include only Craven and Pamlico Counties.
 183 This agreement maintains a cooperative regional library system approach, and will continue to
 184 benefit the citizens of both counties.

186 Commissioner Jones commended those that served on the transition team to develop the new
187 inter-local agreement. Mr. Jones stated that Craven will have four seats and Pamlico will have
188 three seats based on the number of libraries and citizens in each county.

189
190 Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the following agreement, as presented, seconded by
191 Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

192

193 **THE GREAT STATE OF**
194 **NORTH CAROLINA**
195 **Counties of Craven and**

196 **Pamlico**

197 **Interlocal Agreement**
198 **for the**
199 **Craven-Pamlico Regional**
200 **Library**

201

202 **WHEREAS**, Craven County, Pamlico County, and Carteret County are
203 currently members of the Craven-Pamlico-Carteret Regional Library, and
204 Carteret County has given notice of its intent to withdraw from same, effective
205 June 30, 2020;

206

207 **WHEREAS**, after June 30, 2020, Craven County and Pamlico County
208 intend to continue the existing regional library system as the Craven-Pamlico
209 Regional Library (hereinafter referred to as “CP Regional Library” or “Regional
210 Library System”); effective July 1, 2020, pursuant to the terms of this Interlocal
211 Agreement for the Craven-Pamlico Regional Library (hereinafter referred to as
212 “Agreement”);

213

214 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the Craven-Pamlico Regional Library is to
215 be an integral part of the lives of the people in the counties by providing them
216 with excellent educational, recreational, informational and cultural services and;

217 **WHEREAS**, recognizing the diverse communities served and the
218 specific individual needs of their residents, two governments and their libraries
219 collaboratively are committed to the education, economic development and
220 quality-of-life contributions that libraries uniquely are able to provide and;

221

222 **WHEREAS**, this collaboration provides for the most effective and
223 efficient use of local resources for the benefit of their residents and;

224

225 **WHEREAS**, this collaboration provides opportunities for service and
226 resource allocations otherwise beyond the financial and service capacities of the
227 individual governments and libraries.

228 **NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to resolutions duly adopted by their
229 governing boards, the parties hereto memorialize their commitment for the
230 continuation of the Regional Library as the Craven-Pamlico Regional Library
231 upon the terms set forth below therein for a term extending from July 1, 2020
232 through June 30, 2030.

233 **I. Governments Involved**

234 A. Craven County

235 B. Pamlico County

236

237 **II. Purpose Statement**

238 This Agreement is to perpetuate excellent library and information
239 services to the residents of the areas included within the jurisdiction of the
240 aforementioned governing bodies through their collaborative and collective
241 efforts under the legal authority of N.C.G.S. §153A-270 and N.C.G.S. §160A,
242 Article 20, Part 1.
243

244 **III. Board of Trustees**

245
246 A. The Board of Trustees shall be the governing body of the CP
247 Regional Library.

248 B. Membership.

249
250 1. There shall be 7 members of the Board of Trustees
251 providing equitable representation of each participating
252 governmental unit as follows:

253 a) Craven County: 4 members appointed by the
254 Craven County Board of Commissioners to include at
255 least one county commissioner.

256 b) Pamlico County: 3 members appointed by the
257 Pamlico County Board of Commissioners to include at
258 least one county commissioner.

259 2. Members, with the exception of the county commissioner
260 appointed to serve from each county, shall be appointed by the
261 appropriate governing body after consideration of relevant factors,
262 including nominations from the membership of the local library
263 boards according to bylaws and policies approved by each
264 governing body for that library.

265 3. Members shall be appointed in staggered terms to promote
266 consistency as well as to accommodate change. Regional bylaws
267 shall clearly define the term limits and how staggered terms shall
268 be accomplished among the counties. Members shall serve no
269 more than two consecutive terms with no single term longer than
270 four (4) years.

271 4. Vacancies on the Board of Trustees shall be filled with
272 appointments by the appropriate governing body for the length of
273 the term of the member creating the vacancy.

274 5. Effective July 1, 2020, members of the former CPC
275 Regional Library Board of Trustees from the Counties of Craven
276 and Pamlico may continue to serve as Trustees for the CP
277 Regional Library under the following guidelines: members who
278 were serving an initial full four (4) year term for the CPC
279 Regional Library on June 30, 2020, shall be eligible for
280 reappointment to a second term of four (4) years at the expiration
281 of the initial term. Members serving a second term for the CPC
282 Regional Library on June 30, 2020, will be eligible to serve the
283 remainder of that term on the Board of Trustees for the CP
284 Regional Library, but will not be eligible for reappointment at the
285 completion of that term. Others appointed to fill vacant seats shall
286 be appointed for four (4) year terms as set forth in Section
287 III(B)(3) herein.
288

289 C. Powers and Duties delegated to the CP Regional Library Board of
290 Trustees by the Counties of Craven and Pamlico.

- 291 1. The Board of Trustees shall be delegated the power to adopt
292 bylaws and rules for its own governance.
- 293 2. The Board of Trustees shall be designated the power to adopt
294 policies for the Regional Library System's administration and
295 operation.
- 296 3. The Board of Trustees shall be delegated the power to select,
297 appoint, remove, determine salary and other terms of employment
298 of a Regional Library Director.
- 299 a) These actions shall require a majority vote of the
300 Board at which a quorum is present.
- 301 b) The CP Regional Library Director shall:
- 302
- 303 i. Have a valid North Carolina Public
304 Librarian Certificate issued by the North
305 Carolina Public Librarian Certification
306 Commission;
- 307
- 308 ii. Be the chief executive and administrative
309 officer of the CP Regional Library.
- 310 c) Office space for the regional administration shall
311 be provided within one of the libraries existing within the
312 CP Regional Library System.
- 313 4. The Board of Trustees shall develop and approve an
314 annual budget which shall:
- 315 a) Be administered under the same provisions as units
316 of local government (N.C.G.S. Chapter 159), with all state
317 funds administered by the CP Regional Library and
318 expended throughout the region as described in 07 NCAC
319 021.0202.
- 320 b) Be a composite of the separate budgets of each
321 county library, as recommended by the local library board
322 of trustees, with an agreed upon amount paid by each
323 county for the materials, salaries and operating expenses of
324 each library within that county, and sent to the Finance
325 Officer in monthly or quarterly payments as negotiated by
326 the Finance Officer and the local county.
- 327 c) Include a specified amount of funding for each
328 library's operating costs with gifts, special memorials,
329 endowment and trust income and appropriations for capital
330 outlay earmarked for the designated purpose and library.
331
- 332 d) Be approved by the governing board of the county
333 for each library situated within that county.
334
- 335
- 336
- 337 e) Any additional funds not used during a budget year
338 will become part of the operating balance of the CP
339 Regional Library, and shall not be returned to the

340 respective contributing county unless and until a
341 dissolution of the CP Regional Library occurs.

342 5. The Board of Trustees shall be delegated the power to
343 appoint a Regional Finance Officer or firm who shall:

344 a) Ensure expenditure of funds consistent with the
345 budget adopted by the Board;

346 b) Report directly to the CP Regional Library Director
347 and be in attendance at all meetings of the Board of
348 Trustees.

350 6. The Board of Trustees shall be delegated the power to
351 assure compliance with all applicable State and Federal laws and
352 eligibility for the receipt of State and Federal funds.

353 7. The Board of Trustees shall be delegated the power to
354 make recommendations to the governing units concerning the
355 construction and improvement of the physical facilities of the
356 libraries within the region: however, construction and facility
357 maintenance shall be a responsibility of the local governing unit
358 unless the Regional Board negotiates and approves a collaborative
359 effort.

360 8. The Board of Trustees shall make regular reports related to
361 services and operations to each governing body, and in no event
362 less than annually, as conveyed by approved reports of the
363 Regional Library Director.

364 9. The Board of Trustees shall obtain an annual independent
365 audit of Regional Library accounts consistent with generally
366 accepted accounting principles, and submit a copy of this audit to
367 the State Library of North Carolina as well as to both county
368 finance offices.

370 **IV. Terms of Property Ownership**

371 A. A major benefit of regional cooperation is that scarce resources
372 may be shared among the various county residents without wasteful
373 duplication; however, certain ownership restrictions shall apply.

374 1. All buildings, grounds, and other facilities of each local
375 library shall remain the property of the respective county in which
376 it sits.

377 2. All books, technology, or other resources paid for with
378 local funds shall remain the property of the respective county
379 which supplied the funds.

381 3. All books, technology, or other resources paid for with
382 Regional or State funds shall remain the property of the CP
383 Regional Library System.

385 **V. Insurance Coverage and Indemnification**

386 A. Insurance Coverage

387 1. The local government units shall maintain insurance
388 coverage, including general liability insurance, for the building
389 and grounds and other facilities for each of their individual local

390 libraries.

391 2. The Regional Library shall maintain insurance coverage
392 for worker's compensation and for the vehicles used to provide
393 service to the CP Regional Library.

394
395 **B. Indemnification**

396 The CP Regional Library shall, to the extent legally permissible,
397 indemnify each person who may serve or who has served at any
398 time as an officer, director, board member, or employee against all
399 expenses and liabilities, including, without limitation, counsel
400 fees, judgments, fines, excise taxes, penalties and settlement
401 payments, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon such
402 person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed
403 action, suit or proceeding in which he or she may become involved
404 by reason of his or her service in such capacity; provided that no
405 indemnification shall be provided for any such person with
406 respect to any matter as to which he or she shall have been
407 finally adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good
408 faith in the reasonable belief that such action was in the best
409 interests of the CP Regional Library; and further provided that any
410 compromise or settlement payment shall be approved by a
411 majority vote of a quorum of Trustees who are not at that time
412 parties to the proceeding.

413
414 **VI. Provisions for Amendment**

415 A. This Agreement can be amended providing that both counties
416 accept those amendments in a regular meeting of governing boards of
417 those counties.

418
419 B. Recommendations for amendments shall be forwarded to each of
420 the county governments in writing with a thirty-day period for
421 consideration given. At the next regular meeting of the county boards of
422 commissioners after this thirty-day period, the amendments shall be voted
423 on by those bodies.

424 C. Disagreements related to this Agreement shall be resolved first by
425 a committee of representatives from each governmental unit and then by
426 their legal counsel, if necessary.

427 **VII. Provisions for Withdrawal**

428 A. A member proposing to withdraw from the CP Regional Library
429 System shall give written notice on or before July 1 to the CP Regional
430 Library Board of Trustees, the other participating governmental unit and
431 the State Library of North Carolina. The withdrawal shall be effective
432 June 30 of the following year. Any such withdrawal will result in a
433 dissolution of the CP Regional Library.

434 B. Should that member decide within this time period to rescind the
435 proposal, that member shall remain a part of the CP Regional Library
436 under the same conditions and requirements as the agreement under
437 which they became a member and no dissolution shall occur.

438 C. Should that member fully withdraw, resulting in the dissolution of
439 the CP Regional Library, the Terms of Property Ownership as stated in
440 section IV shall apply.

441
442 D. In accordance with N.C.G.S. §160A, Article 20, Part 1, Joint

443 Exercise of Power, all real property purchased by the region is owned
444 jointly as tenants in common by the participating counties; therefore, if the
445 CP Regional Library System is dissolved, the Counties of Craven and
446 Pamlico *shall* divide the joint assets as follows: on a pro rata basis to be
447 based on their respective proportionate contributions during the preceding
448 five (5) years, to be determined by an audit performed by a Certified
449 Public Accountant, based on information provided by each county's
450 Finance Officer. After all outstanding debts are resolved, any remaining
451 State or Federal funds previously distributed to the Regional Library shall
452 be returned to the State Library and remaining funds from local
453 governmental units shall be returned to them based on their respective,
454 proportionate contributions during the preceding five (5) years, to be
455 determined by an audit performed by a Certified Public Accountant, based
456 on information provided by each county's Finance Officer. Other personal
457 property such as the courier van, computers and other technology, books,
458 and any other assets shall be sold at auction and the proceeds distributed
459 in accordance with this Section or in some other equitable manner as
460 agreed upon by the committee of representatives.

461 E. The distribution of properties and resources jointly owned shall be
462 accomplished by a committee composed of representatives from each
463 governmental unit, the current CP Regional Library Director, and a
464 representative from the State Library of North Carolina.
465

466 **VIII. Review and Termination**

467 A. This Agreement shall continue to be in effect for ten years from
468 the dated signatures on the contract unless either Pamlico or Craven
469 County gives notice of an intent to withdraw, in accordance with Section
470 VII herein, or reasonable cause for amendment to the Agreement is
471 presented in writing to each of the local governmental units and the State
472 Library of North Carolina.

473 B. The Agreement may be reviewed at any time by any local
474 governmental body or the CP Regional Library Board of Trustees and, if
475 modifications are deemed reasonable and necessary, amendments may be
476 made according to the procedures stated above.

477 C. At the end of the ten-year agreement period, the CP Regional
478 Library Board shall review the Agreement, recommend any
479 modifications, and submit it for review and renewal to each of the local
480 governmental units which shall review, suggest modifications, and vote to
481 extend or decline to renew the Agreement.
482

483 D. The Agreement may be terminated if reasonable cause is
484 presented in writing by a local governmental unit to the other member of
485 the CP Regional Library, the CP Regional Library Board of Trustees, and
486 the State Library of North Carolina. The effective date of termination
487 will be memorialized by a joint written rescission of the Agreement to be
488 executed by both Craven County and Pamlico County. In the event the
489 counties cannot reach a mutual decision to terminate, both counties retain
490 the right to withdraw pursuant to the terms of Section VII herein.
491

492 E. If the agreement terminates, and no successor agreement is to be
493 executed, the CP Regional Library System shall be dissolved, and joint
494 assets distributed as described in Section VII herein.
495

496 This **AGREEMENT** shall be effective upon acceptance by all parties.

497 **IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, this Agreement has been executed by the principal
498

499 official of the governing board of each party hereto, pursuant to authority of each
 500 respective board of commissioners.

501
 502 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: HEALTH**

503
 504
 505 *New Fees Related to Covid-19*

506
 507 Health Director, Scott Harrelson, reported that telemedicine and virtual care have quickly
 508 become important tools in caring for patients while keeping staff safe as the COVID-19
 509 pandemic quickly evolves. With the emergence of the virus, there is an urgency to expand the
 510 use of technology to help people who need routine care, and keep vulnerable patients and
 511 patients with mild symptoms in their homes while maintaining access to the care they need.
 512 Limiting community spread of the virus, as well as limiting the exposure to other patients and
 513 staff members will slow viral spread. He stated that the following new billing codes need to be
 514 approved in order to be reimbursed for providing this new type of service.
 515

1	<u>New Fee Recommendation</u>
	Description: 99441 Telephone Evaluation & Management Services (5 - 10 minutes)
	Current Fee: 0 Proposed Fee: \$14.00
	Recommended Effective Date: 3/10/2020
	Reason / Justification: During COVID-19 staff (FNP, MD, PA, CNM) will use telephone evaluation and management services for established patients and routine follow up (5 to 10 minutes).
	Reimbursement Rates
	Medicaid: \$12.48
	BCBS: \$13.22

516
 517

2	<u>New Fee Recommendation</u>
	Description: 99442 Telephone Evaluation & Management Services (11 - 20 minutes)
	Current Fee: 0 Proposed Fee: \$25.00
	Recommended Effective Date: 3/10/2020
	Reason / Justification: During COVID-19 staff (FNP, MD, PA, CNM) will use telephone evaluation and management services for established patients and routine follow up (11 to 20 minutes).
	Reimbursement Rates
	Medicaid: \$24.32
	BCBS: \$24.38

518
 519

3	<u>New Fee Recommendation</u>
	Description: 99443 Telephone Evaluation & Management Services (21 - 30 minutes)
	Current Fee: 0 Proposed Fee: \$37.00
	Recommended Effective Date: 3/10/2020
	Reason / Justification: During COVID-19 staff (FNP, MD, PA, CNM) will use telephone evaluation and management services for established patients and routine follow up (20 to 30 minutes).
	Reimbursement Rates
	Medicaid: \$35.65
	BCBS: \$36.18

520

4	<u>New Fee Recommendation</u>
	Description: 98966

Current Fee: 0 **Proposed Fee:** \$15.00

Recommended Effective Date: 3/10/2020

Reason / Justification: During COVID-19 staff (LCSW) will use telephone evaluation and management services for established patients and routine follow up (5 to 10 minutes).

Reimbursement Rates

Medicaid: \$13.06

BCBS: \$12.96

521

5 **New Fee Recommendation**

Description: 98967

Current Fee: 0 **Proposed Fee:** \$27.00

Recommended Effective Date: 3/10/2020

Reason / Justification: During COVID-19 staff (LCSW) will use telephone evaluation and management services for established patients and routine follow up (11 to 20 minutes).

Reimbursement Rates

Medicaid: \$26.12

BCBS: \$24.38

522

523

6 **New Fee Recommendation**

Description: 98968

Current Fee: 0 **Proposed Fee:** \$40.00

Recommended Effective Date: 3/10/2020

Reason / Justification: During COVID-19 staff (LCSW) will use telephone evaluation and management services for established patients and routine follow up (21 to 30 minutes).

Reimbursement Rates

Medicaid: \$39.18

BCBS: \$36.18

524

7 **New Fee Recommendation**

Description: G2012

Current Fee: 0 **Proposed Fee:** \$15.00

Recommended Effective Date: 3/10/2020

Reason / Justification: MEDICARE Specific: During COVID-19 staff (FNP, MD, PA, CNM, LCSW) will use telephone evaluation and management services for established patients and routine follow up (5 to 10 minutes).

Reimbursement Rates

Medicare: \$14.78

525

526

527

Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the new fees, as recommended, seconded by Commissioner Bucher and approved unanimously.

528
529 *Additional State Funding Related to Covid -19 Budget Amendment*
530

531 Mr. Harrelson presented the following budget amendment, showing that state funding has been
532 received from Public Health Preparedness & Response in the amount of \$98,592 to prevent,
533 prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Funding will be used to
534 purchase \$10,000 in PPE supplies, contract with Strategic Emergency Management (SEM) to
535 complete the Intervention Implementation Plan & COVID-19 Community Intervention
536 Executive Summary as required by the state; pay for contract employees who are answering all
537 COVID-19 related calls; and cover salaries who are providing additional response needs related
538 to this crisis.

539
540 Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve the budget amendment, as requested, seconded by
541 Commissioner Bucher and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

542
543 *Health/BT/Admin/Family Planning*

544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555
	REVENUES	AMOUNT		EXPENDITURES		AMOUNT					
547	1015012-33301	\$98,592.00		1015012-43240		\$12,675.00					
548	State Grant			Other Supplies							
549				1015012-44000		\$ 4,000.00					
550				Contract Services							
551				1015012-44050		\$ 8,479.00					
552				Contract Employees							
553				1015012-43112		\$73,438.00					
554				Cost Allocation-Health Depts							
556	JOURNAL ENTRY										
557	1015012-43112	\$73,438.00		1015010-43112		\$ 14,438.00					
558	Cost Allocation-Health Depts			Cost Allocation-Health Depts							
559				1015040-43112		\$ 9,000.00					
560				Cost Allocation-Health Depts							
561				1015080-43112		\$ 45,000.00					
562				Cost Allocation-Health Depts							
563				1015071-43112		\$ 5,000.00					
564				Cost Allocation-Health Depts							
566	TOTAL	\$172,030.00		TOTAL		\$172,030.00					

567
568 *Additional Federal Funding Related to Covid-19 Budget Amendment*
569

570 Mr. Harrelson presented the following budget amendment, showing that additional federal
571 funding has been received from Health Resources & Service Administration (HRSA) in the
572 amount of \$57,573 to provide one-time funding to support preventing, preparing for, and
573 responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

574
575 He stated that funding will be used to cover a portion of full-time salaries in administration, as
576 well as contract providers (Theresa Davis, PA & Stephanie Reid, FNP), who are directly
577 working to prevent, prepare and respond to COVID-19. Remaining funds will be used to
578 purchase some janitorial supplies, pay for courier service for sending COVID-19 tests to the state
579 lab and much needed PPE supplies.

580
581 Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the budget amendment, as recommended, seconded
582 by Commissioner McCabe and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

583
584
585
586 *Health Adult Primary Care*

587	588	589	588	589
	REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT

590	1015100-33113	\$57,573.00	1015100-42000	\$ 1,650.00
591	FQHC		Postage	
592			1015100-43207	\$ 473.00
593			Janitorial Supplies	
594			1015100-43208	\$10,400.00
595			Medical Supplies	
596			1015100-44050	\$28,050.00
597			Contract Employees	
598			1015100-43112	\$17,000.00
599			Cost Allocation-Health Depts	
600				
601	JOURNAL ENTRY			
602	1015100-43112	\$17,000.00	1015010-43112	\$17,000.00
603	Cost Allocation-Health Depts		Cost Allocation-Health Depts	
604				
605	TOTAL	\$74,573.00	TOTAL	\$74,573.00
606				

Additional Funding for Hospice Budget Amendment

Mr. Harrelson reported that Hospice census continues to remain over 30 patients. Month ending March 31, 2020 showed a year-to-date profit of \$21,000. This only accounts for eight months of revenues with nine months of expenses. He presented the following budget amendment, requesting additional funding to cover two part-time employees and a contract clinician, as well as additional operating expenses such as fuel, prescription drugs and medical supplies for patients, and funding in contractual services line in order to close out FY20.

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

Health/Hospice

621	REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
622				
623	1015090-34800	\$71,500.00	1015090-41004	\$12,500.00
624	Medicare Hospice		Part-time salaries	
625			1015090-41524	\$17,000.00
626			Contract Clinician	
627			1015090-43111	\$ 2,000.00
628			Gasoline	
629			1015090-43205	\$15,000.00
630			Prescription Drugs	
631			1015090-43208	\$10,000.00
632			Medical Supplies	
633			1015090-44000	\$15,000.00
634			Contract Services	
635				
636	TOTAL	\$71,500.00	TOTAL	\$71,500.00
637				

At this time, Mr. Harrelson briefed the Board on the current COVID information, stating there were four active cases, which involved a group of people that work out of the county, and the Health Department is working with those employers. Overall, he reported that Craven County's active cases are declining.

CRAVEN COUNTY SCHOOLS BUDGET PRESENTATION

Each Board member was provided with a copy of the Craven County Schools FY2021 Budget Proposal and Superintendent Doyle proceeded with her presentation.

Dr. Doyle reported on the following topics:

- ❖ FY 2020 Celebrations remarking that 100% of the students and staff are utilizing distance learning as a result of COVID 19
- ❖ Vision and Mission

- 652 ❖ Goals and Measures inclusive of 100% of schools to be designated as with a School
- 653 Performance Grade of A or B; reducing teacher turnover rate to below the state rate;
- 654 Developing, monitoring, maintaining, and improving curriculum, instruction, and
- 655 assessments systems; lead and model civic engagement; and model a high performing
- 656 organizational culture
- 657 ❖ Budget challenges related to declining enrollment creating smaller schools and the cost of
- 658 operating smaller schools
- 659 ❖ Additional challenges inclusive of: the impact of COVID 19, unknown state budget
- 660 allotments, increases in benefits cost for the retirement system and healthcare, and the
- 661 loss of Impact Aid revenue
- 662 ❖ Budget priorities
- 663 ❖ FY 2021 considerations
- 664 ❖ Revenue adjustments
- 665 ❖ Expense adjustments
- 666 ❖ Capital Outlay

667
668 The Craven County FY2021 Proposed School Budget is requesting County funds in the amount
669 of \$21,964,991.00, which is the same as the FY20 budget allotment.

670
671 Dr. Doyle fielded questions regarding teacher turnover rates, a Capital 1 Project over \$100,000,
672 the number of school nurses, the lack of internet service for many of the students, and the plans
673 for identifying the potential learning gaps when the students return to the classroom.

674
675 All of the Commissioners personally thanked Dr. Doyle and the nutritional, transportation
676 workers, and teachers for the magnitude of positive efforts extended to continue educating and
677 feeding the students during this crisis.

678
679 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: PLANNING – REQUEST FOR ADDITION TO STATE**
680 **MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM (NETTIES DRIVE)**

681
682 Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, requested that the Board approve a road addition
683 resolution, allowing Netties Drive (approximately .3 miles) to be turned over to the State of
684 North Carolina for maintenance. The resolution, if approved, will be forwarded to NCDOT for
685 their final consideration and acceptance of the road to the State Maintenance System.

686
687 Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve the following standard SR2 Road Addition
688 Resolution, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

689
690 **NORTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
691 **DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS**
692 **REQUEST FOR ADDITION TO STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM**

693
694
695 North Carolina
696 County of Craven

697 Road Description: Netties Dr. (Approx. .3 miles)

698 WHEREAS, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the
699 County of Craven requesting that the above described road, the location of which has been
700 indicated in red on the attached map, be added to the Secondary Road System; and

701
702 WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the above described road
703 should be added to the Secondary Road System, if the road meets minimum standards and criteria
704 established by the Division of Highways of the Department of Transportation for the addition of
705 roads to the system.

706
707 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Craven
708 that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the above described road, and to take
709 over the road for maintenance if it meets established standards and criteria.

710
711 **CERTIFICATE**

712 The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Craven
713 at a meeting on the 4th day of May, 2020.

714
715 WITNESS my hand and official seal on this the 4th day of May, 2020.

716
717 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: CARTS – FY2020 5311 CARES ACT APPLICATION**
718 **TO NCDOT**

719
720 CARTS Director, Kelly Walker, reported that the North Carolina Department of Transportation –
721 Integrated Mobility Division (NCDOT-IMD) opened applications for FY2020 5311 (rural)
722 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding on April 24 with a
723 period of performance of January 20, 2020 to June 30, 2022. The amount allocated to systems
724 was formula based using the FY2020 5311 Community Transportation Program (CTP) grant
725 allocation. The amount allocated to CARTS is \$388,428.

726
727 She stated that all operating expenses eligible under Section 5311 for all recipients in rural areas
728 that are incurred on or after January 20, 2020 are eligible for CARES Act funding.
729 This funding is eligible for 100% Federal reimbursement and is on top of the regular 5311
730 grants. Per the FTA and NCDOT, these funds are not for replacement of lost revenue, but are in
731 place to assist transit systems with covering eligible expenses less any fares or other income
732 received. For the 5311 funds, CARTS is required to submit an accelerated application through
733 NCDOT-IMD no later than May 15, 2020. NCDOT-IMD has removed the public hearing
734 requirement; however, FTA requires the public be informed regarding the allocation and projects
735 that will be funded by CARES Act.

736
737 CARTS would like to continue to use the FY2020 5311 CTP funds as they are already
738 programed at the approved reimbursement rate of 85% (80% federal and 5% state). CARTS
739 would like to use the FY2020 5311 CARES Act funding for expenses allowed by the FTA but
740 not normally allowed in the 5311 CTP. Rural operations account for 60% of the CARTS
741 expenses and that percentage has been accounted for in the proposed budget numbers for this
742 grant application. Operational expenses not normally allowed in the 5311 Grant or allowed at
743 50% reimbursement are payroll expenses for the dispatcher and driving staff, fuel, vehicle
744 repairs and preventive maintenance. Additional operating expenses CARTS would like to
745 include in this grant application is funding for the purchase of lift guards, sneeze shields,
746 additional PPE and cleaning related supplies, and enhanced rural service.

747
748 Ms. Walker added that route enhancements on the rural side have not been fully developed due
749 to the quick timeline of this application. CARTS would like to provide transportation service to
750 the rural areas of Craven County in a more frequent manner during hours to meet some
751 outstanding unmet transportation needs. This would complement the rural service we currently
752 provide.

753
754 Ms. Walker requested permission to proceed with submitting a FY2020 5311 CARES Act
755 funding application to NCDOT-IMD in the amount of \$388,428.

756
757 Commissioner Mitchell motioned to authorize CARTS to proceed with the FY2020 CARES Act
758 Application, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and approved unanimously.

759
760 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – PROJECT BUD**

761
762 Economic Development Director, Jeff Wood, reported that due to the amount of activity in the
763 Industrial Park and recent investments in infrastructure, a private developer would like to
764 purchase 6 acres of property within the park to mimic the shell building development the Craven
765 100 Alliance executed last year. The developer, Bayfront Development, would like to purchase
766 the property at the market rate price of \$20,000 per acre. Their plan would be after a period of
767 due diligence is to invest \$1 million dollars to construct a 20,000 square foot shell building,
768 expandable to 40,000 square foot. Bayfront has provided a letter of interest and a supporting
769 documentation from a financial institution that they have the capacity to execute this size of a
770 development. This type of development is needed in the park and in Craven County.
771 Warehouse/industrial space is limited.

772
773 Commissioner Mitchell motioned to allow the County Manager to enter into a contract with Bay
774 Front Development to begin the process for sale of property at the Industrial Park.
775 Commissioner Liner seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

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DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FINANCE

Audit Services Proposals

Finance Director, Craig Warren, reported that the Finance Department issued a request for proposals (RFP) on March 10, 2020 to seven accounting firms identified by the Local Government Commission as firms that perform audit services in eastern NC. Those firms were: RSM US, LLP, Cherry Bekaert, LLP, Martin Starnes, & Associates, Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Co, Elliot Davis PLLC, Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP, and Clifton, Larson, Allen, LLP. The RFP was also posted on the County's website. The proposals were for no less than three years on the basis of an annual negotiation after the completion of the first year's contract beginning with Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Proposals from the following two firms:

1. RSM US, LLP
2. Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A.

The scoring committee evaluated the firms based on the following criteria: Quality of the Proposal, Qualifications of Audit Staff, Support to the County, and Cost. Based on this criteria, Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Company ranked the highest. Staff recommends the three year audit services contract be awarded to Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Company.

Mr. Warren responded to inquiries about the estimated hours quoted by the firms and reported that RSM has been doing the County's audit since the 1980's.

Commissioner Liner motioned to award the audit contract to Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Company, as recommended, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

Resolution Designating Agents for Public Assistance Application

Mr. Warren reported that as a result of the impacts sustained by COVID-19, the state of North Carolina was included in the federal disaster declaration issued by the President on March 25, 2020. This declaration authorizes the allocation of federal funds to assist communities in their responses efforts. As part of the Public Assistance application, the North Carolina Department of Emergency Management requires the adoption of the resolution by the governing board designating the applicant's primary and secondary agents. It is recommended that the Board authorize the Finance Director and County Manager to act on its behalf by adopting this resolution.

Commissioner Sampson motioned to adopt the resolution authorizing the Finance Director and County Manager to act on its behalf, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

Pending Appointments

Chairman Mark reviewed the following pending appointments:

- Adult Care Home Advisory Committee
- Nursing Home Advisory Committee
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- Recreation Advisory Committee
- Regional Aging Advisory Board
- Senior Legislative Tarheel Alternate

Current Appointments

Craven Community Child Protection Team

838 Commissioner Mitchell nominated Steve Garity for appointment to the Craven Community
839 Child Protection Team. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Garity was appointed by
840 acclamation.

841
842 *Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council*

843
844 Commissioner Jones motioned to reappoint Jonathan Stephens to the EMS Advisory Board.
845 There being no additional nominations, Mr. Stephens was reappointed by acclamation.

846
847 *CarolinaEast Health System*

848
849 Chairman Mark indicated he was awaiting a letter from CarolinaEast regarding their
850 appointments.

851
852 *Nursing Home Advisory Board*

853
854 Commissioner Mitchell motioned to reappoint Peter Geisler to the Nursing Home Advisory
855 Board. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Geisler was reappointed by acclamation.

856
857 *Craven Aging Planning Board*

858
859 Commissioner Liner motioned to reappoint Carolyn Bland to the Craven Aging Planning Board.
860 There being no additional nominations, Ms. Bland was reappointed by acclamation.

861
862 **COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT – INITIAL OFFER TO PURCHASE REAL**
863 **PROPERTY – TAX PARCEL 9-046-115 (No Assigned Street Address)**

864
865 County Attorney, Arey Grady, presented an offer received by Craven County in the amount of
866 \$1,300.00 for this property, which was acquired through a tax foreclosure. The total taxes and
867 costs that were foreclosed on were \$2,344.21. The current tax value is \$4,730.00.

868
869 Should the County accept this offer, then the property will then be advertised for upset bids in
870 accordance with the General Statutes. Once no further upset bids are timely received, the
871 County may accept or reject the final offer.

872
873 Commissioner Liner motioned to adopt the following resolution accepting the initial offer and to
874 advertise for upset bids, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.
875 (Commissioner McCabe left the room from 8:46 p.m.-8:52 p.m. and was absent from the vote)

876
877 **CRAVEN COUNTY**

878 **RESOLUTION**

879 **THAT WHEREAS,** Craven County has received an Offer to Purchase a parcel of
880 property owned by it identified as Tax Parcel Number 9-046-115 and more particularly described
881 in Deed Book 3501, Page 1393 in the Craven County Registry (hereinafter the “Real Property”),
882 a copy of said offer is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

883 **WHEREAS,** the Board of Commissioners is authorized to sell the County’s interest in the
884 property pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.

885 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
886 **OF CRAVEN COUNTY:**

887 **1.** That the Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the initiation of the upset bid
888 process for the Real Property by advertising notice of the offer to purchase in accordance with
889 the provisions of North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.

890 **2.** That the County Manager, Clerk and/or Attorney are authorized to take all actions
891 necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Resolution.

892

893 ADOPTED THIS 4th DAY OF MAY, 2020.

894 **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

895

896 County Manager, Jack Veit, recognized Clerk Nan Holton for receiving notification that she was
897 formally designated as North Carolina Certified Clerk.

898

899 Mr. Veit reported that last Thursday, Emergency Services Director, Stanley Kite, was notified
900 that Craven County had received an Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount
901 of \$12,000 in relation to COVID19 funding, which does require a dollar for dollar match from
902 the County. He relayed that there is a piece of equipment that has been in need for some time,
903 such as with Hurricane Florence and the Casey Hathaway search. Mr. Veit stated that Mr. Kite
904 and Mr. Whitford would like to purchase an industrial style /military grade tent to enable field
905 operations. It sleeps 100, comes with heating and air at a cost of \$24,000. He stated that his
906 belief is there would be a return of investment after just one event. Mr. Veit said it would need
907 to be brought back as a budget amendment, but he was seeking authorization to move forward
908 and accept the grant.

909

910 Commissioner Liner motioned to authorize the County to move forward and accept the grant,
911 seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

912

913 Lastly, Mr. Veit reviewed the budget work session plans, indicating that the FY20-21 Budget
914 would be presented to the Board at their regular meeting on May 18th. After having a day and a
915 half to review it in their own time, the Board would reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on May 20th, May
916 22nd, and May 26th to discuss and make decisions. Mr. Veit indicated that May 28th and 29th
917 would be reserved as optional work sessions.

918

919 **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

920

921 *Commissioner McCabe* provided each Commissioner and staff with a book by Colin Powell and
922 a press release about the NACO National Legislative Conference he attended in Washington
923 D.C. in early March. Mr. McCabe also referenced the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 and the fact
924 that we are experiencing something similar now.

925

926 *Commissioner Sampson* talked about the hard times people experience who don't have shelter
927 and are hungry. He expressed the need for everyone to help those who cannot help themselves.
928 Mr. Sampson spoke of the current virus and unavailability of tests, such that people don't know
929 if they have the virus or not.

930

931 *Commissioner Liner* thanked the community for coming together during these difficult times.
932 He expressed gratitude for the everyday people who have stepped up, sharing their time to help
933 others. Mr. Liner stated his appreciation for the people keeping it peaceful and following
934 instructions to help flatten the curve in Craven County.

935

936 *Commissioner Mitchell* also expressed gratitude for those who have gone the extra mile with a
937 smile on their face, stating this has been hard on all of us. Mrs. Mitchell encouraged people to
938 continue to use common sense, good judgement, and to practice personal vigilance based on their
939 own health situation.

940

941 *Commissioner Bucher* had no report.

942

943 *Commissioner Jones* reviewed that after the Board sent a letter to Governor Cooper requesting
944 county authority to phase out of the stay at home order, the Governor did not comply. He
945 reported that many citizens and business owners have called about being on the brink of financial
946 ruin. Mr. Jones noted that local economy continues to deteriorate due to the restrictions in place
947 and remarked on the difference between our region and areas such as Wake and Mecklenburg
948 Counties.

949

950 Mr. Jones reported that he and Chairman Mark, along with the County Manager, had reached out
951 to several surrounding counties to discuss what might be done as a region. As a result of those
952 conversations, he stated that seven or eight other counties are supportive of a regional letter. Mr.

953 Jones then read the letter that was crafted to send to Governor Cooper, indicating that if it is
954 approved, each participating County's Board Chairman would sign it.

955
956 **May 6, 2020**

957 **The Honorable Roy Cooper**
958 **North Carolina Office of the Governor**
959 **20301 Mail Service Center**
960 **Raleigh, NC 27699-0301**

961
962 **Dear Governor Cooper,**

963
964 **This letter serves to represent the desire of a group of Counties in Central Eastern North**
965 **Carolina to reopen our local County economies to avoid any further damaging effects**
966 **caused by Executive Orders 121, 135 and 138. We appreciate your leadership thus far**
967 **related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the decisions you have made, saved lives and**
968 **helped flatten the curve in North Carolina. Like you, we have had to make difficult**
969 **decisions that have been challenging and have changed the lives drastically for many of our**
970 **citizens.**

971 **These orders have placed an extreme economic hardship on our local County economies.**
972 **We no longer can sit idle as these orders cause vast economic despair and irreparable harm**
973 **to our small businesses and citizens. As a region we ask that you authorize local control of**
974 **decision making in regards to a phased reopening approach to local County governments.**
975 **We know this is the best methodology to ensure that local data, metrics and expertise are**
976 **used in local decision making. We request that you repeal Executive Order 135, better**
977 **known as the "Stay at Home Order" and the subsequent phased reopening approach and**
978 **allow local County Governments to individually determine the process and timing of any**
979 **needed local restrictions.**

980
981 **Eastern North Carolina has faced significant challenges over the last four years as a result**
982 **of devastating hurricanes that have caused personal property loss and strain on our local**
983 **economies. Hurricanes Matthew, Florence and Dorian changed fundamentally how our**
984 **local economies function. Each of our counties has seen small businesses fail, citizens lose**
985 **their jobs and families struggle to make ends meet. We continue to work in partnership**
986 **with the State of North Carolina to rebuild our communities after these disasters. To this**
987 **day each of our counties is still challenged with finding normalcy in our local economies**
988 **and the massive task of achieving long term recovery. We have worked collaboratively**
989 **with the State of North Carolina, in a manner where local government input and citizen**
990 **input was valued and helped develop the direction for which we create a recovery plan.**
991 **County governments have always been a partner in these discussions and served as the**
992 **front line for local recovery initiatives. We are asking that the State of North Carolina and**
993 **County governments follow that very same process as we begin the reopening of local**
994 **County economies. County Governments have worked in unison with the State of North**
995 **Carolina just like in times of natural disaster to help flatten the curve and slow the spread**
996 **of COVID-19. Counties have served on the front line, as our public health departments**
997 **take on the responsibility of testing, contact tracing and caring for the sick during this**
998 **pandemic. Our local data collection and ability to interpret such is the key to**
999 **understanding the timing of when our local economies can begin to reopen in a safe**
1000 **manner. We all recognize that certain restrictions must remain in place to ensure that our**
1001 **local counties remain focused on slowing the transmission of COVID-19, we however feel**
1002 **those restriction decisions should be made at the local county level.**

1003 **Local County Governments would continue to seek consultation with our local hospitals,**
1004 **local health authorities and state health experts to make educated decisions in regards to**
1005 **reopening. As local elected leaders we take these decisions seriously and would use all the**
1006 **tools and information available to protect our citizens and vulnerable populations and at**
1007 **the same time restore the economic health of our Counties.**

1008
1009 **We come with one voice, to defend our local businesses, industries and the overall economic**
1010 **well-being of our citizens. Our goal is simply to request local authority of decision making**
1011 **and avoid being grouped in a broad based, statewide decision making model. Our rural**
1012 **geography and low population density should not be lumped together with much larger**
1013 **urban counties that face very different challenges. We all agree that the most recent data**

1014 clearly reflects that the curve in Central Eastern North Carolina has flattened and that our
1015 timing for reopening should be much sooner than other parts of North Carolina.

1016
1017 **Our region of North Carolina is unique and our Counties very diverse, but we all agree**
1018 **that the challenges facing the Triangle, Triad, or Charlotte regions of North Carolina are**
1019 **greatly different than that of Central Eastern North Carolina. By allowing for local**
1020 **authority, you are allowing parts of North Carolina to move forward towards regaining**
1021 **losses in our economies and not hindering our long term recovery efforts not only from**
1022 **COVID-19 but the devastating hurricanes which have affected our region.**

1023
1024 **We want Eastern North Carolina to prosper again and to do so we need your help. By**
1025 **empowering county governments with decision making authority to make determinations**
1026 **locally to reopen our economies we can bring some normalcy back to our citizens.**
1027 **Additionally we request that you communicate with the local County leaders in our region**
1028 **to further address our concerns.**

1029
1030
1031 **With Regards,**

1032
1033 **Jerry Evans**
1034 **Chairman, Beaufort County Board of Commissioners**

1035
1036 **Bill Smith**
1037 **Chairman, Carteret County Board of Commissioners**

1038
1039 **Thomas Mark**
1040 **Chairman, Craven County Board of Commissioners**

1041
1042 **Frank Emory**
1043 **Chairman, Jones County Board of Commissioners**

1044
1045 **Linda Rouse Sutton**
1046 **Chairman, Lenoir County Board of Commissioners**

1047
1048 **Jack Bright**
1049 **Chairman, Onslow County Board of Commissioners**

1050
1051 **Pat Prescott**
1052 **Chairman, Pamlico County Board of Commissioners**

1053
1054 **Ray Mayo**
1055 **Chairman, Wayne County Board of Commissioners**

1056
1057 Commissioner Mitchell clarified that the concern is for our citizens who will lose their jobs as a
1058 result of small businesses going bankrupt and not having the means to maintain their homes nor
1059 feed their families.

1060
1061
1062 Commissioner Sampson expressed his concern over the many unknowns associated with the
1063 COVID 19, referencing the lack of testing, lack of social distancing being practiced, and how
1064 people in nursing homes are being treated. Mr. Sampson indicated this is a critical decision
1065 being made and we are all in this together.

1066
1067 Chairman Mark called for a motion.

1068
1069 Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the letter and authorize Chairman Mark to sign it;
1070 her motioned was seconded by Commissioner Liner.

1071 Commissioners Jones, Bucher, and Mark voiced Ayes in support of the letter. Commissioners
1072 Sampson and McCabe voiced Nays in opposition to the letter. The motion carried 5-2.

1073
1074 Commissioner Jones also reported that CSWARMA will be submitting their budget and rates are
1075 supposed to remain the same. In regards to the airport, he reported they were down 97% which
1076

1077 is hard to fathom, but this past week Airport Director, Andrew Shorter, has seen an increase and
1078 is hopeful that trend will continue. Mr. Jones stated that originally the airport was to receive
1079 \$18,000,000 in funding, but due to reformulations, that amount is now \$14,000,000.

1080

1081 *Commissioner Mark* refuted a rumor that the Havelock bypass was not going to be funded. He
1082 also confirmed that the Hwy. 70 James City project will also be carried out. Mr. Mark then
1083 requested that all of the Commissioners limit themselves to attending only one convention in the
1084 new fiscal year. Finally, he thanked the county staff and all county employees for doing such a
1085 fine job in difficult times and reminded the public to continue washing their hands and
1086 maintaining social distances of six feet.

1087

1088 Commissioner McCabe expressed displeasure with only being able to attend one convention.

1089

1090 At 9:33 p.m. Commissioner Jones motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Liner and
1091 approved unanimously.

1092

1093

1094

1095 _____
Chairman Thomas F. Mark
1096 Craven County Board of Commissioners

1097

1098

1099

1100 _____
Nan Holton
1101 Clerk to the Board