



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 18, 2020. THE MEETING CONVENED AT**
 5 **8:30.M.**

6
 7 **MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT IN COMMISSIONERS’ ROOM:**

- 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 Jack B. Veit, III, County Manager
- 16 Nan Holton, Clerk to the Board

17
 18 **STAFF AND PRESENTERS PRESENT VIA WEBEX/PHONE:**

- 19 Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager
- 20 Craig Warren, Finance Director
- 21 Amber Parker, Human Resources Director
- 22 Arey Grady, County Attorney
- 23 Jennifer Dacey, Chair, JCPC
- 24 Geoffrey Marett, Social Services Director
- 25 Kelly Walker, CARTS Director
- 26 Jeff Wood, Economic Development Director
- 27 Andrew Shorter, Airport Director
- 28 Don Baumgardner, Planning Director
- 29 Patrick Baker, Natural Resource Conservationist II
- 30 Steven Aster, Solid Waste Director
- 31 Stanley Kite, EMS Director
- 32 Scott Harrelson, Health Director

33
 34 Following the Pledge of Allegiance, County Attorney, Arey Grady, recited the following
 35 invocation:

36
 37 Almighty God of love and mercy, God of power and God of might; today we pray the understanding to
 38 always seek your wisdom and justice. It is through your authority righteously administered, that our
 39 Commissioners are enabled to govern this County with laws enacted for our betterment.

40
 41 So we pray for your spirit, that they might be properly guided by your divine charity and an unassuming
 42 faithfulness.

43
 44 Give both counsel and courage to the leaders of this Board of County Commissioners, as well as other
 45 leaders of this County, the State of North Carolina and these United States of America.
 46 May they always seek your purpose and the well-being of this great people. Grant now your unfathomable
 47 protection, that they lead our country with the honesty of providence and the integrity of high ideals. We
 48 ask all this through Christ our Lord.

49
 50 Amen.

51
 52 **Based upon the opening prayer given by Reverend Hank Wilkins, IV the May 14, 2008 session of the**
 53 **United States House of Representatives.**

54
 55 Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by
 56 Commissioner Liner and unanimously approved.

57
 58
 59
 60
 61 **CONSENT AGENDA**

62
 63 Chairman Mark noted that a correction needed to be made to the May 4, 2020 minutes on line
 64 643. It should read “Craven County Schools Budget Presentation”

66 Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the consent agenda, inclusive of the Minutes of May 4,
 67 2020, Tax Releases and Refund, WIC Budget Amendment, National Foster Care Month
 68 Proclamation, Request to Set a Public Hearing on June 1, 2020 for the Purpose of Receiving
 69 Input on the FY 2020-2021 Budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Liner and
 70 approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

71
 72 *Tax Releases and Refund*
 73

74 **Credits**

76 TAXPAYER NAME	77 TICKET #	78 AMOUNT
79 CHENOWITH, THOMAS 80 DID NOT OWN JANUARY 1	2019-211445	\$18.93
81 DISBROW, HOPE KEA 82 DID NOT OWN JANUARY 1	2019-211514	\$1,361.03
83 ERSKINE, NEIL A 84 MILITARY EXEMPT	2019-211519	\$6.82
85 LEMITHE, MARYLIN 86 INCORRECT OWNER/REBILL	2019-212467	\$946.15
87 WEATHERLY, JERROL DAVID SR 88 NOT TAXABLE TO CRAVEN COUNTY	2019-210870	\$57.22
89		
90	TOTAL	\$2,390.15

95
 96 **Refund**

97 ERSKINE, NEIL A	2019-211519	\$395.85
98 MILITARY EXEMPT		
99		
100		
101	TOTAL	\$395.85

102
 103 *WIC Budget Amendment*
 104

105 **Health/WIC**

106 REVENUES	107 AMOUNT	108 EXPENDITURES	109 AMOUNT
110 1015061-33402	\$3,901.00	111 1015061-47321	\$3,405.00
112 WIC Client Services		113 Capital Outlay \$500-\$4,999	
		114 1015061-43240	\$ 198.00
		115 Other Services	
		116 1015061-42200	\$ 298.00
		117 Telephone	
118 TOTAL	\$3,901.00	119 TOTAL	\$3,901.00

117 **Justification:** WIC has received additional one-time WIC special funding in the amount of
 118 \$4,119.45. The purpose of the funding is to make the department more accessible to the patients.
 119 The amount of \$4,901 must be spent by May 31, 2020 and the remainder must be spent by
 120 September 30, 2020. Immediate purchase will include three laptops and six cameras for those
 121 wishing to do their WIC visits online over the phone/computer. Remainder of funds will cover
 122 mobile broadband services.

123
 124 *National Foster Care Month Proclamation*
 125

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

WHEREAS, we all have a responsibility as individuals, neighbors, community members, and citizens of Craven County to help create healthy nurturing and safe experiences for children; and

WHEREAS, the family is the foundation of our community and serves as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support; and

WHEREAS, all young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to a caring adult who becomes a supportive and lasting presence in their lives; and

WHEREAS, National Foster Care Month is a time to reflect on the foster caregivers and child welfare professionals who are dedicated to keep children safe from abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, foster care families who open their homes to children, supporting family reunification and make a positive difference in their lives deserve respect, devotion, and support in their communities; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for more families to volunteer in the foster care system to serve children who are unable to remain at home, through no fault of their own; and

WHEREAS, the County of Craven supports organizations that strengthen families and provides the optimal environment for children to learn, grow and thrive so that all children have the benefit of happy, healthy and safe homes.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS does hereby proclaim the month of May 2020 as National Foster Care Month in Craven County and calls upon the our community to observe this month with compelling programs and events that support this observance.

Request to Set Public Hearing

A public hearing was set for June 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public input on the FY 2020-2021 Budget.

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mrs. Jennifer Dacey, Chair, presented the Council’s recommended funding allocations for FY 20-21 for the Board’s approval.

Commissioner Sampson motioned to approve the Council’s recommendation, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

CRAVEN COUNTY JCPC FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

FY 2020-2021

Funding Available: \$320,335.00

<u>Program Provider</u>	<u>Needed Programs</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
1 .Area Day Reporting Center	Juvenile Structure Day	\$95,296.00	\$85,500.00
2. Mediation Center			\$147,607.00
\$160,000.00			
Teen Court	Teen Court		
Craven Community Service/ Restitution	Restitution/Community Service		
Family Connections	Parent/Family Skill Building Services		
3. Volt Workforce Development	Vocational Skills	\$41,860.00	\$42,000.00
4. Abundant Life – Positive Impact	Mentoring Services	\$00.00	\$30,000.00

189			
190	JCPC Administrative Funds	\$11,667.00	\$2,835.00
191			
192	TOTALS	\$296,430.00	\$320,335.00
193			

194
 195 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: SOCIAL SERVICES – CHILD SUPPORT**
 196 **ENFORCEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT – ONE YEAR EXTENSION**
 197

198 Social Services Director, Geoffrey Maret, requested to extend the current Child Support
 199 Enforcement Services contract entered into with Maximus Human Services that will expire on
 200 June 30, 2020. This current extension is permitted as stated under item Number 3, "Effective
 201 Period" on page 1 of the original contract. This one year extension would be for the period
 202 beginning on July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2021. He stated that Child Support
 203 Enforcement Services are a mandated service per NCGS 110-128 through NCGS 110-142. North
 204 Carolina Senate Law 2009-451 stated that as of July 1, 2010 that the child support enforcement
 205 program shall be administered by the Board of County Commissioners of counties. This is found
 206 in NCGS 110-141. Mr. Maret requested that the one year extension be accepted by the Board of
 207 Commissioners to allow Maximus Human Services to continue to administer the child support
 208 enforcement program in Craven County on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners.
 209

210 Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve the one year contract extension, as requested,
 211 seconded by Commissioner Bucher and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.
 212

213 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: CARTS – RURAL SITE OPERATING (RSO) PERIOD**
 214 **OF PERFORMANCE EXTENSION REQUEST**
 215

216 CARTS Director, Kelly Walker, reported that CARTS was approved to receive Rural State
 217 Operating (RSO) grant funding from the North Carolina Department of Transportation -
 218 Integrated Mobility Division (NCDOT-IMD) for FY2019-2020.
 219

220 The purpose of this project is to help fund employment related transportation for rural citizens to
 221 and/or from places of employment with a guaranteed ride home. The project would allow
 222 CARTS to obtain data regarding unmet employment transportation needs in Craven County.
 223 CARTS received the written contract for the RSO funding on February 20, 2020. The kick off
 224 date for the project was set for March 10, 2020. Schools, agencies, and businesses began to close
 225 due to COVID-19 soon after the kick off date. The period of performance for this grant ends
 226 June 30, 2020. Ms. Walker requested authorization to submit to the NCDOT-IMD a period of
 227 performance extension ending June 30, 2021. This would allow CARTS to re-advertise for this
 228 project as well as reschedule outreach efforts to educate local employers and their workforce.
 229 Verification has been received that the Craven 100 Alliance (C1A) local match commitment
 230 would continue through June 30, 2021 if the period of performance extension is approved by
 231 NCDOT-IMD.
 232

233 Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the submission of a period of performance extension
 234 to NCDOT-IMD for the FY 2020 Rural State Operating Grant, as requested, seconded by
 235 Commissioner Mitchell and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.
 236

237 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – RESPONSES TO**
 238 **RFQ FOR ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR**
 239 **INDUSTRIAL PARK**
 240

241 Economic Development Director, Jeff Wood, stated that to complete the expansion of water and
 242 sewer in the Craven County Industrial Park, engineering services needed to be procured for
 243 design, permitting and construction management of the project. An RFQ for services was
 244 publicized with seven responses. Based upon the bid process, a review team analyzed the
 245 responses and interviewed four firms.

246 Mr. Wood reported that as a result of the scoring, the review team recommended that the Board
 247 make the award to WithersRavenel and allow Economic Development, along with Finance, to
 248 negotiate the terms of the purchase agreement.
 249

250 Commissioner Mitchell motioned to award the bid for engineering/construction management
 251 services for Industrial Park to WhithersRavenel, as requested, and allow Economic
 252 Development, along with Finance, to negotiate terms of the purchase agreement.

253
 254 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: AIRPORT – CARES ACT AIRPORT RELIEF**
 255 **FUNDING**

256
 257 The Board congratulated Airport Director, Andrew Shorter, on his recent award. Mr. Shorter
 258 thanked the Board and commented on how humbling it is to be recognized by peers.

259
 260 Mr. Shorter presented an FAA Grant Funding request for the Coastal Carolina Regional
 261 Airport’s CARES Act airport relief funding allocation in the amount of \$14,713,820.00, to be
 262 disbursed over a period up to but not exceeding 48 months. He stated the airport my use these
 263 funds for any purpose for which airport revenue may be lawfully used. Additionally, the
 264 CARES Act makes clear that the funds may not be used for any purpose not related to the
 265 airport.

266
 267 Commissioner Mitchell motioned to approve and execute the federal grant, as requested,
 268 seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

269
 270 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: PLANNING**

271
 272 *Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution*

273
 274 Landin Holland, Holland Consulting Planners, presented the Resolution of Adoption, which
 275 relates to the Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (RHMP). The Pamlico Sound
 276 RHMP includes Craven, Beaufort, Carteret, and Pamlico Counties, as well as all incorporated
 277 municipalities throughout the four-county region. The planning process was initiated early last
 278 year (2019), and will be completed following adoption of this resolution by the Board of
 279 Commissioners. If adopted, it will be forwarded to FEMA for their formal certification of a five
 280 year plan.

281
 282 He stated that development of the draft document involved a series of four Hazard Mitigation
 283 Planning Committee meetings, as well as two public input meetings. The County was
 284 represented by Planning Department Staff, as well as two citizen stakeholders (Daniel Hill, Jr. &
 285 Bruce Hice). Planning Staff presented the County’s draft strategies to the Board of
 286 Commissioners on February 17, 2020.

287
 288 Commissioner Liner motioned to adopt the following resolution, as requested, seconded by
 289 Commissioner Bucher and approved unanimously.

290
 291 **CRAVEN COUNTY**

292 **RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE**
 293 **PAMLICO SOUND REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

294
 295 WHEREAS, Craven County is vulnerable to an array of natural hazards that can cause loss of life and damages to public and
 296 private property; and

297
 298 WHEREAS, Craven County and participating municipal jurisdictions desire to seek ways to mitigate situations that may
 299 aggravate such circumstances; and

300
 301 WHEREAS, the development and implementation of a hazard mitigation plan can result in actions that reduce the long-term risk
 302 to life and property from hazards; and

303
 304 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Craven County Board of Commissioners to protect its citizens and property from the effects of
 305 natural hazards by preparing and maintaining a local hazard mitigation plan; and

306
 307 WHEREAS, it is also the intent of the Craven County Board of Commissioners to fulfill its obligation under North Carolina
 308 General Statutes, Chapter 166A: North Carolina Emergency Management Act and Section 322: Mitigation Planning of the
 309 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to remain eligible to receive state and federal assistance in the
 310 event of a declared disaster affecting Craven County; and

311
 312 WHEREAS, Craven County actively participated in the planning process of the Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan
 313 and has prepared a regional hazard mitigation plan with input from the appropriate local and state officials; and

314
 315 WHEREAS, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have
 316 reviewed the Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for legislative compliance and have approved the plan pending
 317 the completion of local adoption procedures;

318
319 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Craven County hereby:

- 320 1. Adopts the Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and
- 321
- 322 2. Vests the Craven County Planning Department Staff with the responsibility, authority, and the
- 323 means to:
- 324
- 325 (a) Inform all concerned parties of this action.
- 326 (b) Cooperate with Federal, State and local agencies and private firms which
- 327 undertake to study, survey, map, and identify floodplain or flood-related erosion areas,
- 328 and cooperate with neighboring communities with respect to management of adjoining
- 329 floodplain and/or flood-related erosion areas in order to prevent aggravation of existing
- 330 hazards.
- 331
- 332
- 333 3. Appoints the Craven County Planning Department Staff to assure that, in cooperation with the
- 334 other participating jurisdictions, the Hazard Mitigation Plan is reviewed annually and every five years as
- 335 specified in the Plan to assure that the Plan is in compliance with all State and Federal regulations and that
- 336 any needed revisions or amendments to the Plan are developed and presented to the Craven County Board
- 337 of Commissioners for consideration.
- 338
- 339 5. Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the
- 340 objectives of the 2020 Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- 341

342
343 Adopted this 18th day of May 2020.

344
345 *Hazard Mitigation Grant Program*

346
347 Mr. Holland reported that Craven County has received a Hazard Mitigation Public Assistance
348 Grant to be used for the expedited acquisition and demolition of 6 (six) residential structures.
349 The structures are located in repetitive loss areas of Craven County and received substantial
350 damage from Hurricane Florence. The structures are located on Scotts Creek Drive, Howell
351 Road and Frank Avenue.

352
353 On April 30th staff received appraisals back from A.D. Willis Appraisal Services. Mr. Holland
354 requested that the Board adopt the Resolution Establishing Just Compensation for Selected Real
355 Property in Craven County’s Hurricane Florence Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

356
357 These properties were appraised based on their value prior to damage received from Hurricane
358 Florence. The property located at 129 Scotts Creek Dr. was sold during the grant process and
359 according to program guidelines the new owner cannot be paid more than what they paid for the
360 property. If other appraisals from property owners are received, no more than a 15% adjustment
361 can be made from the original appraisals.

362
363 Commissioner Mitchell motioned to adopt the following resolution, as requested, seconded by
364 Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

365
366 **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING JUST COMPENSATION FOR SELECTED REAL**
367 **PROPERTY IN CRAVEN COUNTY’S HURRICANE FLORENCE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM**

368
369 WHEREAS, it has been certified by A. D. Willis, III as the County’s contract appraiser for
370 the Hurricane Florence Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) that all properties listed below have
371 been appraised in accordance with State law, Uniform Standards for Professional Appraisal Practice
372 (USPAP) guidelines, and HMGP program guidelines; and

373
374 WHEREAS the County has copies of said appraisal reports in its possession that have been reviewed and
375 found to be accurate and reliable;

376
377 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Just Compensation is hereby established by the Craven County Board
378 of Commissioners, for the following parcels:

Owner Name	Parcel Identification Number (PIN) of Parcel to be Acquired	Street Address	Established Fair Market Value
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Owner Name	Parcel Identification Number (PIN) of Parcel to be Acquired	Street Address	Established Fair Market Value
Allen & Janice Arthur	2-047-1-5CT4-005	1800 Frank Avenue, New Bern	\$162,500.00
Herbert Coombs	7-004-030	601 Howell Rd, New Bern	\$99,400.00
Michael Kennedy	7-004-031	605 Howell Rd, New Bern	\$99,900.00
Jessie Smith	7-004-015; 7-004-016	405 Howell Rd, New Bern	\$105,100.00
Thomas & Vivian Dean	7-005-007-T	126 Scotts Creek Dr, New Bern	\$108,700.00
Mary Jean Gushlaw	7-005-007-G	129 Scotts Creek Dr, New Bern	\$30,000.00

381
382 This 18 day of May, 2020.

383
384 *Request to Set Public Hearing for Amendments to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance*

385
386 Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, reported that FEMA approved flood maps, as provided by
387 the North Carolina Flood Mapping Program, are set to go into effect on June 19, 2020 for Craven
388 County. To remain in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program, the County is
389 required to amend its current ordinance to reflect the newly revised State model Flood Damage
390 Prevention Ordinance (FDPO); which regulates development within the regulatory flood zone(s).
391 Approving the amendments, as written, within the revised Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
392 will coincide with the adoption of the FEMA/State approved flood maps.

393
394 He stated that Preliminary flood maps were released to the County and the public on the State
395 website (www.ncfris.gov) for review on June 30, 2016. These maps were created using data
396 collected from prior hurricanes such as: Emily (1993), Fran (1996), Isabelle (2003) and Ophelia
397 (2005) and two extratropical storms of 2006 as well as 600 + computer simulated storms. Since
398 the release of these maps the Planning Department has used many methods to raise awareness to
399 inform the public of the proposed flood map changes such as: notification on tax bills,
400 announcements on the County’s website, public workshops/events, presentations to local
401 organizations, outreach to each township as well as flood zone assistance via phone or in office
402 meetings with the public.

403
404 He highlighted that failure to adopt the proposed amendments within the ordinance will result in
405 loss of flood insurance for homeowners. Federally supported funds will also potentially be lost.
406 Loss of these funds would impact those citizens eligible for assistance through the Hazard
407 Mitigation Program.

408
409 Commissioner Liner motioned to set a public hearing for June 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to hear
410 comments and consider adoption of the amended Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, seconded
411 by Commissioner McCabe and approved unanimously.

412
413 Commissioner Jones inquired if the ordinance mirrors other coastal counties or is it totally
414 separate. Mr. Baumgardner responded that it is the only ordinance that all coastal counties have;
415 a state model which is required for FEMA.

416
417 Commissioner Jones asked how many properties will be added to the floodplain and need
418 insurance. Mr. Baumgardner responded that there are approximately 331 structures that have
419 been added; however, there are 438 structures that have been removed from the floodplain.

420
421 *Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) Survey Services*

422
423 Natural Resource Conservationist II, Patrick Baker, reported that on April 27th Craven County
424 solicited qualifications seeking qualified licensed professional engineering or surveying firms to
425 perform survey services in support of the County’s Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)
426 Projects. On May 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. a pre-bid conference call was held with 8 firms present. A

427 bid review committee ranked all submitted qualifications and recommended the award go to
 428 Vaughn & Melton.

429
 430 Commissioner McCabe motioned to award the contract to Vaughn & Melton, as recommended,
 431 seconded by Commissioner Sampson and approved unanimously.

432
 433 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTER: SOLID WASTE – BUDGET AMENDMENT**

434
 435 Solid Waste Director, Steven Aster, reported that since the middle of February, the Solid Waste
 436 Department has seen a significant increase in volume of trash and citizens visiting convenience
 437 sites. This has led to record setting numbers of trash and pulls from the Convenience Sites. The
 438 increase in numbers are in the bulk waste (furniture, loose garbage, mattresses, plastic play
 439 houses), yard waste (leaf and limb from yard), and construction debris (lumber, shingles, nails,
 440 concrete, sheetrock).

441
 442 He stated that the Solid Waste Department budgeted for 330 pulls (waste boxes emptied) per
 443 month for Fiscal year 19-20. In the month of April, the Solid Waste Department emptied 473
 444 waste boxes from Convenience Sites. The average pulls from the sites in fiscal year 19-20 has
 445 amounted to 370 pulls per month, which is an increase of almost 10% per month for Fiscal Year
 446 19-20. Convenience Sites Attendants utilize the County issued backhoes to pack the waste boxes
 447 in order to achieve maximum tonnage before calling the waste boxes to be emptied.

448
 449 The funds needed to cover the shortfall will come from the Hurricane Florence FEMA revenue
 450 line. The total of \$175,000 will ensure the Solid Waste Department can continue to serve the
 451 citizens in Craven County this fiscal year.

452
 453 Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve the following budget amendment, as requested,
 454 seconded by Commissioner Liner and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

455
 456 ***Solid Waste***

457

458 REVENUES	459 AMOUNT	460 EXPENDITURES	461 AMOUNT
462 1014290-33111	463 \$175,000.00	464 1014721-44067	465 \$60,000.00
466 FEMA Revenue		467 Hauling	
		468 1014721-44066	469 \$42,000.00
		470 Tipping Fees Yard Waste	
		471 1014721-44064	472 \$73,000.00
		473 Tipping Fees Demolition	
474 TOTAL	475 \$175,000.00	476 TOTAL	477 \$175,000.00

478
 479 **Justification:** Since the middle of February, the Solid Waste Department has seen a significant
 480 increase in volume of trash and citizens visiting the convenience sites. This has led to record
 481 setting numbers of trash and waste boxes emptied from the convenience sites. The increase in
 482 numbers at the convenience sites has put the Solid Waste Department in a shortfall for Fiscal
 483 Year 19-20, in the Hauling and Tipping fees line items.

484
 485 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: EMERGENCY SERVICES – BUDGET AMENDMENT**

486
 487 Emergency Services Director, Stanley Kite, presented a budget amendment requesting to cover
 488 expenses for the Emergency Shelter for the COVID 19 Pandemic. Emergency Services received
 489 a 50/50 grant from the State of North Carolina as part of the Care’s Act for supplemental money
 490 to the Emergency Management Performance Grant. County Manager, Jack Veit, first presented
 491 this request on May 4, 2020, when he sought authorization to move forward.

492
 493 Commissioner McCabe motioned to approve the following budget amendment, as requested,
 494 seconded by Commissioner Sampson and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

495
 496 ***Emergency Services***

489	REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
490				
491	1014320-33426	\$12,137.00	1014320-47301	\$24,274.00
492	EMPG Grant		C/O over \$5,000	
493				
494	1014290-33118	\$12,137.00		
495	COVID19 Relief Fund			
496				
497	TOTAL	\$24,274.00	TOTAL	\$24,274.00
498				

499 **Justification:** Budget amendment to cover expense for the Emergency Shelter for the COVID
 500 Pandemic. Emergency Services received a 50/50 grant from the State of North Carolina as part
 501 of the Care’s Act for supplemental money to the Emergency Management Performance Grant.
 502 Mr. Kite reported that Tropical Storm Arthur is off the coast of Cape Hatteras and no longer a
 503 threat to Craven County.

504
 505 **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: HEALTH – UPDATED/NEW FEE REQUESTS**

507 Health Director, Scott Harrelson, commented that on May 4, 2020, the Board of Commissioners
 508 approved fees for Telephone Evaluation & Management Services. NC Medicaid has recently
 509 announced that they are temporarily increasing the telephonic rate to 80% of Physician E&M
 510 comparable rates, retroactive to March 10, 2020 due to COVID-19. Additionally, he requested
 511 two new fees. One fee includes a stool-based test that screens for colorectal cancer for those
 512 patients who have limited access to a colonoscopy. The other is for a health risk assessment for
 513 maternal depression that is completed at the child's visit.

515 Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the following updated/new fees as requested, seconded
 516 by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

517

1	<u>New Fee Recommendation</u>
Description: 99441 Telephone Evaluation & Management Services (5 - 10 minutes)	
Current Fee: \$14.00 Proposed Fee: \$59.00	
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).	
On May 1, 2020 NC Medicaid Special Bulletin COVID-19 #80 was released. To support primary and specialty care providers in conducting telephonic visits when face-to-face or telehealth is not a viable option, NC Medicaid is temporarily increasing the telephonic rate to 80% of Physician E&M comparable rates , retroactive to March 10, 2020.	
Reimbursement Rates	
99441 is equivalent to an office visit 99212. Our current fee for a 99212 = \$73.65. Eighty percent of that charge = \$58.92	

518

2	<u>New Fee Recommendation</u>
Description: 99442 Telephone Evaluation & Management Services (11 - 20 minutes)	
Current Fee: \$25.00 Proposed Fee: \$100.00	
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).	
On May 1, 2020 NC Medicaid Special Bulletin COVID-19 #80 was released. To support primary and specialty care providers in conducting telephonic visits when face-to-face or telehealth is not a viable option, NC Medicaid is temporarily increasing the telephonic rate to 80% of Physician E&M comparable rates , retroactive to March 10, 2020.	
Reimbursement Rates	
99442 is equivalent to an office visit 99213. Our current fee for a 99213 = \$124.00. Eighty percent of that charge = \$99.20	

519

3	<u>New Fee Recommendation</u>
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Description: 99443 Telephone Evaluation & Management Services (21 - 30 minutes)

Current Fee: \$37.00 **Proposed Fee:** \$150.00

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).

On May 1, 2020 NC Medicaid Special Bulletin COVID-19 #80 was released. To support primary and specialty care providers in conducting telephonic visits when face-to-face or telehealth is not a viable option, NC Medicaid is temporarily increasing the telephonic rate to **80% of Physician E&M comparable rates**, retroactive to March 10, 2020.

Reimbursement Rates

99443 is equivalent to an office visit 99214. Our current fee for a 99214 = \$187.00. Eighty percent of that charge = \$149.60

520
521

4	New Fee Recommendation
Description:	82274
Current Fee:	0 Proposed Fee: \$22.00
Recommended Effective Date:	5/1/2020
Reason / Justification: FIT/iFOBT is a stool-based test used for colorectal cancer screening. The test can be conducted annually on average risk patients (no personal/family history of colon cancer, adenomas, or genetic syndromes). It provides a screening tool for those patients who have limited access to a colonoscopy. This test will not substitute a colonoscopy. Patients, who have a positive FIT/iFOBT test result, will be referred for a colonoscopy.	
Reimbursement Rates	
Medicaid: \$21.23	
BCBS: \$20.91	
Contracted LabCorp Rate: \$20.00	

522

	New Fee Recommendation
Description:	96161
Current Fee:	0 Proposed Fee: \$17.28
Recommended Effective Date:	5/1/2020
Reason / Justification: Administration of caregiver-focused health risk assessment instrument (e.g., depression inventory) for the benefit of the patient, with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument.	
Health risk assessment for maternal depression done at the child’s visit (questions for caregiver).	
Reimbursement Rates	
96161 is equivalent to a similar established fee 96160 (depression screening tool for patients) = \$17.28.	

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COVID-19 REPORT

Mr. Harrelson stated the currently Craven County has 81 active COVID 19 cases and one of those is hospitalized. He conveyed that the vast majority of these are linked to one work site outside of the county, and that these individuals are closely connected, highlighting this was not community spread.

Overall Mr. Harrelson reported Craven County has had 125 cases, and with the increased testing that is ongoing, there will be more cases identified. Upon an inquiry from Commissioner Jones, Mr. Harrelson indicated that the cases that have been identified are not a result of re-openings in Phase 1. These cases occurred prior to that, but due to testing delays, the results came in after. Responding to a question from Commissioner Mitchell, Mr. Harrelson relayed that it can take up to three weeks for patients to recover and become asymptomatic; but they may still test positive.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS: FINANCE – RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE BUDGET AMENDMENT

543
 544 Finance Director, Craig Warren, reported that Craven County has exceeded the original budget
 545 projected for the retiree health insurance benefit. Through the month of April 2020, there have
 546 been 12 retirees added that qualify for this benefit. Actuals for this line item are currently
 547 running 8.59% higher than last year. Based on this new projection, a budget amendment in the
 548 amount of \$100,000 is needed in order to cover this shortfall.

549
 550 Commissioner Liner motioned to approve the following budget amendment, as requested,
 551 seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved 7-0 in a roll call vote.

552
 553 **Finance**

554

555	REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
556	1010000-39901	\$100,000.00	1014290-41112	\$100,000.00
557	Current Year Fund Balance		Retiree Health Insurance	
558				
559				
560	TOTAL	\$100,000.00	TOTAL	\$100,000.00

561
 562 **Justification:** Craven County has exceeded the original budget for retiree healthcare cost for the
 563 current fiscal year.

564
 565 **APPOINTMENTS**

566
 567 *Pending Appointments*

568
 569 Chairman Mark reviewed the following pending appointments:

- 570
- 571 • Adult Care Home Advisory Committee
 - 572 • Nursing Home Advisory Committee
 - 573 • Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
 - 574 • Recreation Advisory Committee
 - 575 • Regional Aging Advisory Board
 - 576 • Senior Legislative Tarheel Alternate
 - 577 • CarolinaEast Health Board of Commissioners – Chairman Mark reappointed Trawick
 - 578 Stubbs, P.O. Rodgers and David Blaine. In addition, Thomas Mark was appointed by
 - 579 acclamation

580
 581 *Current Appointments*

582
 583 *Fire Tax Commissioners*

584
 585 Commissioner McCabe nominated James Hendrix for reappointment to the Fire Tax
 586 Commission. There being no additional nominations Mr. Hendrix was reappointed by
 587 acclamation.

588
 589 *Craven Community Child Protection Team*

590
 591 Commissioner Liner nominated Maurice Anderson for appointment to the Craven Community
 592 Child Protection Team. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Anderson was appointed by
 593 acclamation.

594
 595 *Upcoming Appointments*

596
 597 Chairman Mark reviewed the following upcoming appointments to boards and committees due to
 598 expire in June:

- 599
- 600 • Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board
 - 601 • Havelock Planning Board
 - 602 • Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
 - 603 • Craven County Tourism Development Authority

- 604 • Coastal Carolina Regional Airport Authority
- 605 • Craven County Social Services Board
- 606 • Fire Tax Commissioners
- 607 • Nursing Home Advisory Committee
- 608 • Craven County ABC Board
- 609 • Eastern Carolina Regional Housing Authority
- 610 • New Bern Planning and Zoning Board

611
612 **COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT – INITIAL OFFER TO PURCHASE REAL**
613 **PROPERTY-TAX PARCEL 5-014-305 (NO ASSIGNED ADDRESS)**
614

615 County Attorney, Arey Grady, presented an Offer received by Craven County in the amount of
616 \$3,000.00 for this property. The current tax value is \$3,600.00.

617
618 The County acquired this parcel in 2007 as part of a dispute resolution with the owners at the
619 time. The settlement amount was \$21,000.00.

620
621 Should the County accept this offer, then the property will then be advertised for upset bids in
622 accordance with the General Statutes. Once no further upset bids are timely received, the County
623 may accept or reject the final offer.

624
625 Commissioner McCabe motioned to table this until further notice. His motion was seconded by
626 Commissioner Sampson

627
628 Discussion ensued regarding setting a particular date to bring it back, versus just leaving it open
629 ended. Commissioner McCabe argued he needed time to talk with the church, as they have
630 rented the property in the past for the purpose of using as a refuge during inclement weather.
631 Commissioner Mitchell sought clarity on who owned the property, when the church last paid rent
632 to use it, and spoke on behalf of the people wanting to purchase it for niche farming.

633
634 Commissioner Jones requested that the staff look into the history of the church using the
635 property as a refuge during inclement weather and determine if it would behoove the County to
636 donate the property to the fire department with a deed restriction that they could not sell it.
637 County Manager Veit indicated he would report back to the Board on this.

638
639 Commissioner McCabe amended his original motion to bring it back on July 6th; seconded by
640 Commissioner Sampson and approved in a 6-0 roll call vote, with Commissioner Mitchell being
641 the one dissenting vote.

642
643 The Initial Offer to Purchase Tax Parcel 5-014-305 was tabled until July 6, 2020.

644
645 **COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT**
646

647 County Manager, Jack Veit, noted the anomaly that Craven County has spent five out of the past
648 eighteen months in a State of Emergency, and the other thirteen months were spent on recovery.
649 Mr. Veit remarked at the beginning of 2020 the County was at the cusp of addressing several big
650 picture items, but upon the arrival of COVID 19, this is not the budget he anticipated presenting.
651 He indicated he was personally disappointed, as the County was on the verge of taking the next
652 step forward, and he feels that now we have to take a step backwards. Mr. Veit informed the
653 Board that he and the Finance Director had to do this budget in a vacuum this year, over the
654 phone and computer and without any hard data on sales tax, nor occupancy tax revenues. He
655 stated they would be revisiting the budget mid-year, after sales tax and occupancy tax revenue
656 data was available, to determine the County’s standing at that time.

657
658 Mr. Veit presented the 2020-2021 Proposed Budget, as follows:

659
660 May 18, 2020

661
662
663 Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board of Commissioners:
664
665

666 It is my privilege to present to you the recommended fiscal year 2021 budget for Craven County.
667 As proposed, this budget incorporates the priorities and policy direction of the Board of
668 Commissioners while continuing to provide the highest quality of services to the citizens of
669 Craven County in the most fiscally responsible manner. This proposed budget is balanced and
670 recommends that the ad valorem tax rate for the fiscal year 2021 remain the same as the current
671 year at 54.94 cents per \$100 of valuation. The recommended general fund budget for fiscal year
672 2021 is \$114,699,171 and includes a fund balance appropriation of \$1,065,553 to balance the
673 budget.

674

675 Although the recommended budget includes a fund balance appropriation, local governments are
676 strongly encouraged to maintain adequate fund balances in order to ensure against unanticipated
677 events that could adversely affect the County's financial position and jeopardize the continuation
678 of County services. As such, the County continues to budget and operate in a fiscally responsible
679 manner which has provided a fund balance sufficient enough to accomplish this while also
680 remaining consistent with that of our peers statewide. Craven County's available fund balance
681 was 27.90% of expenditures at June 30, 2019, while other counties with over 100,000 in
682 population had fund balances averaging 28.06% and all one hundred counties averaging 30.43%.
683 Revenues collected for the first ten months of the current fiscal year are \$4.4 million ahead of
684 last year, while expenditures for the same period are approximately \$3.5 million more. The
685 increase in revenue has mostly been a direct result of the positive growth in commercial and
686 residential development experienced within the County.

687 Sales tax collections for the year through April have been running 9.3% higher than the same
688 time last year. Additionally, better than projected revenues received from other sources including
689 the Medicaid-Sales Tax hold harmless distribution and increased investment earnings have also
690 contributed to the County's enhanced revenue position while offsetting the increases to
691 expenditures.

692

693 The positive economic conditions that we have experienced so far this fiscal year are not
694 expected to continue due to the ever-changing condition related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

695

696 Expenditures and transfers out for the first ten months of fiscal year 2020 are higher than the
697 previous year mostly due to budgeted increases across many of the functional areas including
698 general government, public safety, and environmental protection. Some of these increases are
699 one-time costs such as the County's emergency responses to both Hurricane Dorian and the
700 COVID-19 pandemic while others are reoccurring such as the two additional School Resource
701 Officers funded by the County in our elementary schools and the continuation of the County's
702 Curbside Recycling Program. The County ended fiscal year 2019 in a strong financial position
703 adding approximately \$2.2 million to fund balance. Higher than projected revenues along with
704 the County's conservative approach to spending provided the ability to transfer \$408,000 into the
705 Capital Reserve Fund last fiscal year. Although we were able to make a transfer in,
706 approximately \$1.2 million was used towards budgeted capital items and projects reducing the
707 Capital Reserve Fund's balance by approximately \$642,000 as of June 30th, 2019. As we have

708 experienced over the past few years, funding of the capital reserve when excess revenues or
709 savings are realized continues to serve as an important part of the County's financial position and
710 provides for future needs while helping to prevent tax increases and borrowing costs to fund
711 capital items.

712

713 There are a number of factors that had a significant impact on the proposed budget. The current
714 assessed value for fiscal year 2021 is estimated to be \$9.9 billion, a 5.77% increase over the
715 estimate of \$9.36 billion used for the fiscal 2020 budget. The County has experienced growth in
716 the tax base over the past year with most of this increase being the result of the recovery efforts
717 from Hurricane Florence progressing much faster than anticipated.

718

719 Total revenues and expenditures each amount to \$114,699,171 in the recommended budget for
720 fiscal 2021. This represents a decrease of \$1.5 million or 1.3% compared to the current budget of
721 \$116,202,160 through the end of April. Property tax revenues are estimated to increase by 5.7%
722 over the amount budgeted in fiscal year 2020, while sales tax revenues are projected to decrease.

723 It is expected that the COVID-19 pandemic will have significant impacts on this revenue source
724 heading into the fiscal 2021 budget year. The recovery of this revenue source will be over an
725 extended period of time as public safety restrictions are lifted and consumer activity returns to
726 normal levels. As there is no comparative data for a public health crisis such as this, the
727 methodology most widely being adopted around the State is to project sales tax using a staggered
728 approach to recovery with adjustments each quarter. Our adjustments to budget sales tax next
729 year is based on the most recent twelve months of collections using a quarterly reduction of 15%
730 for the 1st quarter, 10% for the 2nd and 3rd quarters, and a 5% reduction for the 4th quarter.
731 Overall, sales tax revenues are budgeted at a decrease of \$805,000. The budget also includes no
732 new fees or increases.

733

734 Transfers into the General Fund from the Capital Reserve Fund are down approximately
735 \$1,062,054 from the current budget. Capital expenditures and major repair projects were closely
736 examined and only as a result of the Capital Reserve Fund, many were able to be funded.
737 Overall capital outlay costs are down approximately \$1.3 million compared to the current
738 budget. Out of the total \$4.2 million capital expenditures budgeted for fiscal year 2021, \$2.7
739 million is funded with transfers from the Capital Reserve Fund. The majority of capital
740 expenditures funded in this budget include the maintenance and replacement of vital
741 infrastructure in the areas of technology and facility improvements.

742

743 In addition to the capital items funded in this budget, the County is planning for several major
744 projects heading into next fiscal year. One of these is the continuation of the County's
745 Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software replacement project. With the accounting module
746 completed in fiscal 2019, resources have been allocated towards implementing the
747 payroll/human resources module which is expected to be completed in the fall 2020. The
748 remaining utility billing and permitting modules are expected to begin in the spring and summer
749 of 2021. Phase two of this project included the replacement of the tax software. Both the

750 collections and billing modules went live earlier this fiscal year, leaving only the appraisal
751 component to complete. The completion date for the appraisal module is targeted for the summer
752 of 2022. The County's Hurricane Florence recovery efforts will continue with the restoration and
753 improvement of the Convention Center.

754
755 The restoration phase of this project has been completed with the improvements to expand the
756 pre-function space and back veranda underway. These are expected to be completed in
757 September. Other major hurricane recovery projects include the restoration of the Courthouse
758 buildings, relocation of the Lawson Creek Pump Station, and repairs to the water system's
759 telemetry components. All three of these projects are in the final stages of planning with final
760 funding determinations being negotiated with FEMA. Other major projects programmed into the
761 fiscal year 2021 budget include completing the construction of the new Recreation
762 Administration Building Offices at Creekside Park, replacement of the camera system at the
763 Judicial Center Complex, completion of the epoxy flooring project at the Jail, and improvements
764 at Creekside Park to increase citizen accessibility.

765
766 The total salaries and benefits in the recommended budget for fiscal 2021 are \$300,000 higher
767 than the original budget of 2020 and does not include a cost of living adjustment for county
768 employees. This increase does not take into consideration the additional 27th pay period
769 budgeted in the current fiscal year. After adjusting for this additional pay period, the increase in
770 total salaries and benefits would have been \$1.7 million. Of this increase, approximately
771 \$302,000 was for positions added during the current fiscal year. Those included; an Information
772 and Communications Specialist in HR, a Finance Accounting Technician III, two School
773 Resource Officers at Brinson Memorial Elementary and Arthur W. Edwards Elementary
774 Schools, and a Child Support Deputy. There are 12 new full time positions recommended in the
775 budget and they are; an HR Technician II, a IT Database Analyst, a Opioid & Firearms Violence
776 Investigator, four School Resource Officers, one Sheriff Administrative Assistant, a
777 Telecommunicator I, a Hospice Accounting Clerk IV, a Social Worker I, and a Social Worker
778 III.

779
780 Total benefit costs are budgeted to be approximately \$930,000 higher than the current budget as
781 a result of increases in the County's health and dental premiums and the retirement system rates.
782 So far this year, health and dental claims have been running higher than last year's levels. To
783 offset these costs, the budget includes a five percent increase to both County and employee
784 premiums and accounts for \$419,000 of the total increase to benefit costs. For the second year in
785 a row, the retirement system employer contribution rates were increased in the budget by 1.2%.
786 This accounts for \$460,000 of the total increase in benefit costs and is the rate established under
787 the retirement system's Employer Contribution Rate Stabilization Policy which is anticipated to
788 remain the same through fiscal 2022.

789
790 Overall current expense funding for Craven County Schools is recommended to remain flat at
791 \$22,129,991, per their request, and continues the County's investment and support for our local
792

793 school system. The school system faces budget challenges that are complex and varied, similar
794 to the County. While this recommended funding amount continues Craven County's
795 commitment to the school system, there are still long term issues that will need to be addressed.
796 As revenues from federal and state sources tied to enrollment numbers continue to decline, the
797 cost to operate and maintain these shrinking schools does not. This issue will be ongoing and
798 will likely need to be addressed as we plan for the future. Current budget challenges faced by
799 the schools in the upcoming budget year include increases for retirement system contributions
800 and healthcare premiums in addition to decreases in federal and state funding as enrollment
801 declines. Forecasted numbers by the schools continue to predict the decline in enrollment will
802 continue over the next 4 years in all areas K-12. In addition to funding these increases, the
803 budget also recommends increasing the local supplement by 1.00% to 10.0% at an annual cost of
804 \$653,000 in order to meet the school system's priority of improving teacher recruitment and
805 retention. Capital outlay requested is \$1,994,967, the same as the current year's budget and
806 includes two category 1 projects over \$100,000 including a gym floor replacement at Havelock
807 High School at \$160,000 and corridor fire door replacements at New Bern High School for
808 \$150,000. Also included in the Capital Outlay amount requested is \$900,000 and continues the
809 3rd year of funding for the systems year Apple iPad lease agreement.

810
811 The proposed budget funds Craven Community College's requested current expense at
812 \$3,929,300 which represents an increase of \$168,185 over the current year. Part of this increase
813 includes \$28,394 towards additional personnel cost for salaries, retirement, and health benefits.
814 The budget also funds the full year allocations for both the Volt Work Force Development
815 Center in New Bern and the new Stem Building in Havelock. The expenses for both The Volt
816 Center and the new STEM Center were phased in over time to correspond with the programming
817 of services at both facilities and the reoccurring expenses were anticipated.

818 Capital Outlay for the college was budgeted at \$373,000 due to the college realizing savings
819 from deferred maintenance projects that were not performed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It
820 is anticipated that this allocation will return to the agreed upon amount of \$500,000 in
821 subsequent budgets.

822
823 The proposed fiscal year 2021 budget provides balance and fiscal responsibility in addressing the
824 many needs across the County while continuing to maintain the lowest tax rate possible for the
825 citizens of Craven County. Craven County values the competitive edge maintaining a low tax
826 rate offers in areas such as economic development and retirement relocations. As always, there
827 is still the possibility that the General Assembly may take actions that could affect the County
828 budget. We will continue to monitor for those potential impacts however I believe Craven
829 County continues to be well positioned fiscally to address any challenges that may come
830 forward.

831
832 I wish to commend the Department Heads, staff and agencies for their cooperation and valuable
833 assistance in this very difficult budget process. I would also like to thank our Finance Director
834 Craig Warren, Assistant County Manager Gene Hodges, and Human Resources Director Amber

835 Parker for their essential contributions in developing this budget. I look forward to working with
836 the Board of Commissioners in finalizing the fiscal year 2021 budget. The recommended budget
837 shall immediately be available for public inspection in the Manager's office and posted on the
838 County website. I recommend the Board schedule a public hearing at 7:00 PM on June 1, 2020
839 and conduct budget study sessions as required.

840

841

842 Respectfully submitted,

843

844 Jack B. Veit, III, Craven County Manager

845

846 Chairman Mark commended Mr. Veit and Staff.

847

848 He asked that Commissioners review the budget on their own prior to meeting on Wednesday,
849 May 20th at 8:30 a.m. to begin budget deliberations.

850

851 Chairman Mark commented that there are businesses going out of business and people that are
852 unemployed, and stressed the importance of protecting the citizens of Craven County by setting
853 the example of a lean budget so that next year there can be a greater budget.

854 In setting the example, Commissioners and staff should not travel to conferences; one of which
855 has been cancelled already. Mr. Veit highlighted that this group of Commissioners in the past
856 has presented budgets to the citizens with lower taxes, good property values and will be able to
857 do that again.

858

859 He thanked Commissioners for work they have done during the COVID 19 experience; stating
860 that it has not been easy for anyone. He thanked citizens for being compliant and commented
861 that the State is also going to have a lean year.

862

863 At 10:14 a.m. Chairman Mark requested a five minute recess.

864

865 COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

866

867 *Commissioner McCabe* had nothing to report.

868

869 *Commissioner Sampson* commented on two school teachers that recently made headlines in the
870 *Sun Journal*. Gayle Hardy was named Teacher of the Year for Craven County Schools and West
871 Craven Principal, Tabari Wallace, for recognizing his 2020 graduates. He stated that he was
872 very proud of these two outstanding individuals.

873

874 *Commissioner Bucher* expressed his disappointment with not receiving a response from the
875 Governor's office in regards to the joint letter sent to him two weeks ago. He commended the
876 County Manager and staff for their perseverance with adjusting the traffic light at Thurman
877 Road. There is now a turning arrow; providing more safety for citizens. He also commented
878 that he talked to DOT about the roundabout in western Craven County.

879

880 *Commissioner Mitchell* commended Craven and Pamlico Animal Shelter; stating the euthanasia
881 rate has been lowered to 21% which is below the state's average of 28%; great progress is being
882 made.

883

884 She commended citizens of Craven County for being so responsible with the Stay at Home order
885 and being diligent about wearing masks and personal hygiene. She cautioned citizens that if they
886 see large gatherings to contact the authorities and allow them to address the issue.

887 She stressed to be kind and compassionate to others that may not wear a mask, there may be
888 other reasons why they may not; assume other people are doing the best that they can.

889

890 *Commissioner Liner* commented on the passing of two important people in the community.
891 Arland Bell, served the School Board and Havelock in many different ways. He was an

892

893 opponent, but a fine gentleman and Pine Knoll Shores Mayor, Ken Jones, who has always been
894 very supportive and helpful.

895
896 Mr. Liner thanked the Sheriff's Office for being out at Carolina Pines on Friday, May 15th to
897 recognize the 2020 graduates. Seniors are missing out on a lot of milestones, and this
898 recognition was very well received.

899
900 He highlighted that on Monday, May 25th at noon, the Military Council, along with himself, will
901 be laying a wreath at the Courthouse at one of the monuments because they are not allowed to be
902 in the cemetery at this time. The VA is laying a wreath at the cemetery, but the public is not
903 invited. The cemetery will be open and people are allowed to go inside to place a flag, but the
904 VA will not be placing flags at each gravesite. The cemetery will be open Memorial Day
905 weekend for family and friends.

906
907 *Commissioner Jones* had nothing to report.

908
909 *Commissioner Mark* at 10:35 a.m. requested that the Board recess.

910
911 **CLOSED SESSION**

912
913 At 10:44 a.m. Commissioner Mitchell motioned to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-
914 318.11 (a)(3) attorney/client privilege and NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6) to discuss a personnel
915 matter, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and approved unanimously.

916
917 At 11:03 a.m. Commissioner Mitchell motioned to return to open session, seconded by
918 Commissioner McCabe and approved unanimously. No action was taken.

919
920 At 11:04 a.m. Commissioner Mitchell motioned to recess until Wednesday, May 20th at 8:30
921 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Liner and approved unanimously.

922
923
924 _____
925 Chairman Thomas F. Mark
926 Craven County Board of Commissioners

927
928
929 _____
930 Nan Holton
931 Clerk to the Board

932