

THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF AUGUST 7, 2000 ON AUGUST 14, 2000 AT 3:00 P.M. IN JOINT SESSION WITH THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Albert H. Toon
Vice Chairman C.W. "Pete" Bland
Commissioner Lee K. Allen
Commissioner Donald L. Phillips
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Commissioner J. Harold Talton
Commissioner Charles F. Tyson, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
George B. Sawyer, Assistant County Manager
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer
James R. Sugg, County Attorney
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Linda Thomas, Vice Chairperson
Arland Bell
Becky Kafer
Leon Staton

BOARD OF EDUCATION STAFF PRESENT:

William Rivenbark, Superintendent
David Clifton, Finance Officer
David Henderson, Attorney

Following an invocation by Commissioner Allen, the Board of Education was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Linda Thomas. Mr. Gary Cattel, with Roof Engineering, Inc., was contracted to bring in a third party recommendation on addressing the roofing needs of the Craven County Schools, and he presented his findings to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Cattel explained the process of information gathering, which included interviews with principals of the schools in question and examination of the roofs. As a result, a five (5) year schedule for roof repairs at fourteen (14) schools across the County was proposed, as follows:

- **2001:** Bangert Elementary, Grover C. Fields Middle, Trent Park Elementary, Vanceboro Farm-Life Elementary
- **2002:** Arthur Edwards Elementary, Brinson Memorial Elementary, J.T. Barber Elementary
- **2003:** Graham Barden Elementary, H.J. MacDonald Middle, Oaks Road Elementary
- **2004:** Havelock Middle, West Craven Middle
- **2005:** Havelock High, West Craven High

The projected budget for the projects includes an eight percent (8%) design fee, as well as a four percent (4%) inflation factor for each of the delayed years. Commissioner Phillips inquired of Mr. Cattel if it would be most effective to contract a roofer to do the maintenance on these roofs or to do it in house. Mr. Cattel responded that contracting with a roofer would be the most effective way to do it. He stated that the life expectancy of the roofs is projected at twenty (20) years for a built up, modified roof, and thirty (30) years for a metal roof. Commissioner Tyson inquired about the total needs of the school system for the next five to seven years. It was projected that \$15 million would be needed within that time frame for two additional elementary schools, \$25-\$30 million would be needed for a new high school by the year 2007, and \$10 million would be

needed for an elementary school in the Highway 70 East corridor between 2007-2010; \$10 million would be needed for roofs, as well as funds for renovations, for a projected total need of \$70 million. It was stated that the current sales tax revenue is \$28 million. County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, stated that if \$25 million were borrowed now, after beginning the pay down, the County would be eligible for another borrowing around the year 2007. There was discussion of the bid process on the projects beginning in the January – February, 2001 time frame in order to solicit the best price; however, work would not begin until the summer when the schools are closed. School Board member, Becky Kafer, stated that the roofs would be an appropriate item to place on a bond referendum because they are perceived as a universal problem. Options for funding the needs centered around the concept of spending available funds for the first year's project on a cash basis, and paying back the funds in order to borrow for the remainder of the financing. School Board member, Arland Bell, suggested use of the current debt service funds and the combined fund balance to begin the work. Commissioner Talton moved to commit up to \$2,041,589.00, which would represent an amount currently available in the debt service fund to complete the first year's segment of the proposed project for the year 2001. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tyson. Commissioners Allen and Tyson stressed the importance of the School Board's sharing in the responsibility to raise financing for the projects, specifically citing previous discussions about the sale of surplus properties. Following a lengthy discussion, the motion was amended to include a commitment to J.T. Barber roof repairs in the amount of \$700,539.00, with the funding being contingent upon the School Board providing the additional \$700,539.00 funding to address the needs at J.T. Barber. The amended motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Allen introduced discussion concerning the condition of bleachers at Havelock High and West Craven High Schools. He stated that the current bleachers are non-compliant with OSHA, and renovation would require approximately \$264,000. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, indicated that this is not a County responsibility and the Board of Education agreed to review the matter in committee.

At 5:10 p.m. the Board of Education adjourned.

Commissioner Talton requested to go into closed session, as requested by County Manager, Harold Blizzard, regarding industrial development pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bland and unanimously carried.

At 5:25 p.m. the Board returned to regular session by motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Bland. The County Attorney stated that there was no action to report. Commission Talton moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bland and unanimously carried.

Albert H. Toon, Chairman
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board