

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED MEETING OF MAY 29, 2001 ON MAY 30, 2001 IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 6:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Harold Blizzard, County Manager  
George B. Sawyer, Assistant County Manager  
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer  
Ray H. Moser, Human Resources Director  
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board

**DICUSSION OF FY 2001-2002 CRAVEN COUNTY BUDGET**

The Board continued to review the remainder of the line item budget. Mr. Blizzard explained that the recommended budget included a 3% increase for agencies, such as the library and mental health. During the review of the Department of Social Services budget there was extensive discussion concerning the radical increase in Medicaid costs. The cost for the County has increased by \$1.5 million from FY 2000-2001 to FY 2001-2002. Mr. Blizzard explained that this factor accounts for more than will be raised by a \$.03 tax increase. He further stated that without the increase in Medicaid costs no tax increase would have been necessary. It was the consensus of the Board to officially, and as a collective, express outrage and concern to the state legislature concerning the funding crisis. It was suggested that this be introduced as a motion at the Board's next session.

Commissioner Tyson reported that the Harold Bate Foundation has committed verbally to assisting with the Cove City Library at \$25,000 per year over three years. He stated this contribution would fund some of the required renovations.

In reviewing the Convention Center budget, the Board was informed that the current expenses are higher than projected, as are the current revenues, resulting in a slightly decreased net cost to the County for operation of the Convention Center.

Mr. Blizzard discussed with the Board of Commissioners the future of the Township 7 sewer system. He stated that a rate increase of 10% is recommended in the upcoming year with another 10% increase likely in the next year. He mentioned New Bern's proposal to take ownership of the system, and identified two positions recommended for elimination. They are an Enflow/ Infiltration Technician and Field Supervisor. He stated that the rate changes being recommended for water are moving toward a common rate countywide of \$1.90 per 1000 gallons.

The Board was advised by Ray Moser, Human Resources Director, that some alternatives for their consideration in addressing the issue of rising insurance costs will likely be presented at a later date. Commissioner Allen requested that the Board consider an allocation of \$10,000 for the Havelock Historical Society; however, the consensus among the majority of the Board was not to do this. Commissioner Talton requested that the Board consider an appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 to Swiss Bear; however, the request failed to gain majority consensus. Commissioner Toon requested that the Board consider a \$26,500 appropriation to the Harlowe Community Center to accommodate the parking lot paving and activities necessitated by the move of the precinct voting station; however, there was no consensus to consider this request. Commissioner Bland

requested that the Board consider in its budget an allocation of \$7,000 for teen court, and it was the consensus among the majority of the Board to consider adding this to the budget.

The Board reached agreement that the next work session would be held following its next regular meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

At 8:15 p.m. Commissioner Tyson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Talton and unanimously carried.

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Chairman C.W. "Pete" Bland  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board