

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS REGULAR SESSION OF JUNE 4, 2001 ON JUNE 5, 2001 IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 5:40 P.M. IN BUDGET WORK SESSION

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
James R. Sugg, County Attorney

As the Board began discussion of the proposed FY 2001-2002 budget, consensus was reached that the County should strive to maintain a minimum of 15% in fund balance. Commissioner Bland expressed his readiness to accept the proposed budget with minor amendments that were reached by consensus in the last budget work session, however, some Commissioners were not prepared to do so. Commissioners expressed the understanding that needs in the community will not go away, although there is a need to place constraints on the budget. Commissioner Sampson expressed the desire that funds appropriated to the James City Community Center in the current year be carried over if not used by June 30th. Commissioner Phillips expressed the opinion that the tax rate increase should be deferred until next year, if necessary, to determine the effect of the revaluation. He also expressed concern that a tax rate increase at this time would hurt the bond referendum projected for November.

It was the consensus among the majority of the Board that the County Manager be authorized to draft the budget ordinance based on the recommended budget, with the addition of a School Resource Officer, an appropriation of \$7,000.00 to fund teen court, and funding for a school Social Worker position.

Commissioner Toon requested that staff assist in preparing for him a summary of the Board's position on the budget in order to provide some information to his constituents.

County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, recommended the following changes to the financial accounting procedures:

1. Institute a minimum amount of \$1,000 for purchase orders.
2. Authorize the County Manager to transfer up to \$10,000 between line items (increased from \$2,000).
3. Raise the capitalization rate for fixed assets from \$1,000 to \$5,000, by recommendation of the auditor in order to eliminate the amount of fixed assets to track.

There was no objection by the Board to these recommendations.

The Manager agreed to draw up the budget ordinance for the Board's consideration for adoption at its June 18th meeting.

At 6:55 p.m. Commissioner Phillips moved to recess until 7:00 p.m. on June 11th, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

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

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board