

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF JULY 2, 2001 ON JULY 9, 2001 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED SIGN ORDINANCE.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman C.W. "Pete" Bland
Vice-Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Commissioner Lee Kyle 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
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
James R. Sugg, County Attorney
Don Baumgardner, Planning Director
Chris Roberson, Planning Department
Shelton Phillips, Inspections Department

Also present were the following resources:

Mike Avery, City of New Bern Planner
Annette Stone, City of New Bern Planning Department
Rupert Fuller, North Carolina Department of Transportation
Ed Latham, North Carolina Department of Transportation (retired)

Following an invocation by Commissioner Sampson, an update was provided on the request by Neuse Harbour residents for assistance in a paving project. The Board was informed that a meeting had been held between County Attorney, Jim Sugg, Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, and Chris Roberson of the Planning Department, along with representatives of the Neuse Harbour property owners. It was determined that the projected amount to pave the areas already deemed eligible for paving would be \$60,000-\$65,000, which some of the residents would be willing to fund by voluntary assessment. However, this would require seventy five percent (75%) of the owners on the affected roads petitioning to do so. There was discussion concerning the County's interest in advancing the funds, to be reimbursed once the residents' assessments are collected. Commissioner Tyson moved to instruct staff to survey owners of the eligible roads of Phase I to determine if they have an interest in pursuing the project, to be funded in advance by the County and reimbursed by their assessments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

PROPOSED SIGN ORDINANCE

The Board reviewed draft No. 9 of the proposed sign ordinance. Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, reported that two permits that were issued in January, prior to the extension of the moratorium, are still outstanding and are scheduled to expire on July 10th. Two of the permitted signs are currently under construction. He reported no activity to date on the other two permits that were issued.

An inventory of existing signage was presented for comparison purposes. Consensus was reached as to height and area standards for on-premise signs. The discussion centered around current and future signage in the triangle area from the bridge to the railroad on Hwy 70 E. There was discussion about petitioning for an exception to restrictions on logo signs, as well as the possible use of City property for placement of a panel of logo signs. Mr. Fuller advised the Board that the City property could not be used for placement of such signs because they would be considered an off-premise sign. Staff,

along with designated Commissioners, were directed to meet with Outback representatives and other property owners in the area before its August 6th meeting. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, Commissioner Talton, and Commissioner Tyson were designated to meet and discuss the possibilities of logo signage for establishments in this limited area, due to the height of the road ramps, and impending height restrictions for on-premise signs.

INVENTORY TAX FUNDS WITHHELD

Commissioner Talton recommended funding some of the non-profit organizations that had been excluded from the 2001-2002 budget, should inventory tax monies be returned to the County. He stated, however, that he would not be in favor of making such appropriations until the money is actually received. Commissioner Tyson stated that he would be in favor of using some of the funds to fund non-profit organizations and to return the remainder to the citizens in some way. Commissioner Sampson suggested that funding for non-profit organizations should be based upon the recommended list proposed by Commissioner Tyson during deliberations on the FY 2001-2002 budget.

NCACC DIRECTORS

Commissioner Allen reported that Duplin County is the next County in line for a Board Directorship on the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners in District 3, which will be followed by Craven County.

UPDATE ON VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM

Commissioner Allen announced that the Vector Control Program is being headed by Ray Silverthorne in the interim since John Neely's resignation.

At 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Talton moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

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

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board