

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED REGULAR SESSION OF AUGUST 6, 2001 ON AUGUST 14, 2001 IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION ON REDISTRICTING. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 4:00 P.M.**

**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

Following an invocation by Commissioner Sampson, the Board recognized Ms. Debra Stagner of Tharrington-Smith law firm in Raleigh, who presented current numbers concerning the Craven County voting districts, as follows:

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>DEVIATION</b>	<b>% DEVN.</b>
1	14,404	1,342	10.27
2	14,963	1,901	14.55
3	10,595	-2,467	-18.89
4	12,901	-161	-1.23
5	12,573	-489	-3.74
6	11,431	-1,631	-12.49
7	14,569	1,507	11.54

She then presented one (1) alternate plan for redistricting Craven County in order to bring the County into compliance with the one-man one-vote requirement. She stated that this plan could serve as a starting point relative to establishing equity in the County.

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>DEVIATION</b>	<b>% DEVN.</b>
1	12,421	-641	-4.91
2	12,521	-541	-4.14
3	12,889	-173	-1.32
4	13,049	-13	-0.10
5	13,569	507	3.88
6	13,608	546	4.18
7	13,379	317	2.43

Ms. Stagner clarified that the alternative plan for redistricting only affects the district lines relative to population. She stated that a change in the method of election can only occur by local referendum or local act of legislature. Both methods require pre-clearance by the Justice Department. She further stated that time limitations would make it difficult to put this on a November referendum ballot, but not impossible.

Commissioner Tyson inquired if the voting precincts would change if redistricting occurs. It was verified by the Director of Elections, Kathleen Orringer, that the polling

places would remain the same. The process for adopting an alternative plan for Commissioners' districts would be as follows:

1. Public hearing or public comment period, which is not required but recommended.
2. Adoption of the plan by resolution
3. Tharrington-Smith submission of the plan and resolution to the Justice Department.

Commissioner Toon moved to set a public hearing for September 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. concerning the proposed alternative plan, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried. The Board requested additional information on demographics by district according to the newly drawn maps accompanying the alternative plan. Ms. Stagner agreed to collaborate with the Craven County Elections Department in compiling the demographics.

The County Attorney advised the Board that August 31, 2001 is the deadline for accepting anything on the ballot for a November election. Therefore, if a change in the method of voting were to be considered it would need to be submitted no later than August 31<sup>st</sup>.

At 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Talton moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

---

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

---

Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board