

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN MET IN SPECIAL SESSION IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2001, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS. 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:

- George 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

Chairman Bland explained that the purpose of the special meeting was to consider use of prior year's inventory tax reimbursement to fund special appropriation requests that were denied in the FY 2001-2002 county budget. Commissioner Tyson was asked to review his recommended list of special appropriations, which he submitted on June 18th, totaling \$136,000, which follows:

Swiss Bear	\$15,000.00
Council on Women	\$15,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 4,000.00
Coastal Women's Shelter	\$15,000.00
Senior Companion	\$15,000.00
Merci Clinic	\$15,000.00
RCS Homeless Shelter	\$10,000.00
Craven Arts Council & Gallery	\$10,000.00
Red Cross	\$10,000.00
Lower Neuse Initiative	\$10,000.00
Smart Start	\$ 5,000.00
Libraries (Extra help or extended Hours: New Bern, Cove City, Havelock, Vanceboro)	<u>\$12,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$136,000.00

County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, distributed the list of special appropriation requests that were omitted from the budget, totaling \$373,443. The total of requests for the same organizations in the previous year's budget was \$186,893. He stated that the amount of inventory tax reimbursement received in July of 2001 was \$444,103; however, after reflecting the sewer grant match for the West Craven sewer line in the amount of \$146,250, which has been committed by the Board, the balance available for consideration of special appropriations would be \$297,853. Commissioner Talton submitted an alternate list of funding recommendations, which follows:

Swiss Bear	\$25,000.00
Council on Women	\$15,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 4,000.00
Coastal Women's Shelter	\$15,000.00

Senior Companion	\$10,000.00
Merci Clinic	\$15,000.00
RCS Homeless Shelter	\$ 5,000.00
Craven Arts Council & Gallery	\$12,000.00
Red Cross	\$10,000.00
Lower Neuse Initiative	\$15,000.00
Libraries (Extra help or extended Hours: New Bern, Cove City, Havelock, Vanceboro)	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$136,000.00

Commissioner Tyson reminded the Board that the current year's inventory tax refund, which is included in budgeted revenue, may not be reimbursed by the State next year. He asserted that it would be prudent to reserve some of the \$444,130 inventory tax reimbursement from FY 2000-2001 to address a possible shortfall in closing the 2001-2002 budget should that occur. Commissioner Allen submitted Coastal Women's Shelter and Merci Clinic as funding priorities. Commissioner Phillips stated that he would support funding the humanitarian priorities. Commissioner Sampson requested consideration for James City Family Resources Center's Smart Start Program. Commissioner Talton moved to reach agreement on a total amount of \$136,000 for the allocation, then deciding on the amount of each appropriation, seconded by Commissioner Tyson. During discussion of the motion, Commissioner Allen explained that he would support a total allocation of \$45,000 to fully fund the request of Merci Clinic and Coastal Women's Shelter. The motion carried with six (6) "Ayes", there being one "Nay" from Commissioner Allen. Commissioner Tyson clarified with the Board and staff that the inventory tax that was received could be utilized to lower the tax rate should the Board desire to do so; however, he did not advocate this alternative, given the uncertainty concerning the future of the inventory tax. Commissioner Talton recommended reducing his proposed allocation to Swiss Bear by \$10,000 to apply to Havelock ball field lighting, to honor the County's contract with Havelock. The recommendation was withdrawn after Commissioner Allen explained that there was no contract, but simply a verbal request and conversation about it. There was also discussion concerning an appropriation to the libraries requested by Commissioners Phillips and Talton, and there was consensus to allow \$4,000 each for New Bern, Havelock, Cove City, and Vanceboro Libraries. Commissioners Talton and Phillips stated that they would not vote for an allocation to Smart Start because the State has cut funding on the local level for this program. They expressed philosophical opposition to assuming funding responsibility for programs when the State has abdicated its role.

At 4:45 p.m. Commissioner Talton withdrew without having been excused by the Board.

Discussion proceeded on the proposed allocations and adjustments. Commissioner Allen moved to reduce the amount of each proposed allocation proportionately on the list proposed by Commissioner Tyson, in order to raise Coastal Women's Shelter allocation by \$10,000, reflecting full funding of their grant match. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sampson and carried unanimously by the six (6) remaining Commissioners in a roll call vote. The Finance Officer was directed to prepare the numbers with the proportionate adjustments for a budget amendment to be considered at the Board's meeting on August 6, 2001.

At 5:05 p.m. Commissioner Phillips moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tyson and unanimously carried.

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

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk

