

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MARCH 18, 2002 ON MARCH 27, 2002 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Commissioner Donald Phillips

**STAFF PRESENT**

Harold Blizzard, County Manager  
George B. Sawyer, Assistant County Manager  
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer  
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board  
James R. Sugg, County Attorney

**10:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING ON BOND ORDER**

Following an invocation by Commissioner Sampson and the Pledge of Allegiance, the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners reported to the Board of Commissioners that the bond order entitled, "BOND ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$15,200,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN," which had been introduced on March 18, 2002, had been published on March 20, 2002, with notice that the Board would hold a public hearing thereon on March 27, 2002, at 10 o'clock, A.M. The Clerk of the Board of Commissioners also reported that the County's Finance Officer had filed in the Clerk's office a statement of debt complying with the provisions of The Local Government Bond Act, and such statement as filed showed the net indebtedness of the County to be 1.52% of the assessed valuation of property in the County subject to taxation. At 10:10 a.m. Commissioner Allen moved to go into public hearing, as advertised, on the refunding bond order, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried. At 10:10 o'clock, A.M., the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners announced that the Board would hear anyone who wished to be heard on the questions of the validity of the refunding bond order and the advisability of issuing the refunding bonds. At the direction of the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners read the refunding bond order and the published notice of hearing. There were no members of the public present who wished to speak. At 10:12 a.m. Commissioner Allen moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Talton and unanimously carried.

Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, recommended that the Board proceed to adopt the bond order in the amount of \$15.2 million of refunded bonds; however, he also recommended that the bonds not be sold immediately. He explained to the Board that rates have increased since March 4<sup>th</sup> when this action was initially contemplated, therefore, savings would be far less than originally projected, only amounting to approximately \$13,000 per year. He advised the Board that the bond order, if adopted, would be valid for seven years, which would allow the sale of the bonds quickly should interest rates become more attractive. Commissioner Sampson moved to adopt the bond order without change or amendment, and direct the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners to publish as prescribed by The Local Government Bond Act the bond order entitled, "BOND ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$15,200,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN," introduced at the meeting of

the Board of Commissioners held on March 18, 2002. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Talton and unanimously carried.

### **REDISTRICTING**

Commissioner Bland initiated discussion concerning the pending redistricting for Commissioners' Districts. He stated that his desire would be that the Board accomplish whatever is necessary to be able to vote in districts in the November 2002 general election. Commissioner Allen inquired of the County Attorney what would happen if the Board should take no further action concerning redistricting and if the County were to be challenged on the district imbalance, who would be responsible for redrawing the district lines. County Attorney, Jim Sugg, responded that in that a judge would most likely redraw the lines, subject to review by the Justice Department. The County Manager was directed to solicit an opinion from Mike Crowell, of Tharrington Smith Law Firm, for April 1, 2002, concerning the questions. The proposed action would be to keep the district lines the same as in 1997, which satisfied the Justice Department, while changing the voting method to seven (7) single member districts, which has already been approved by the Justice Department.

At 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Talton moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tyson 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