

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MAY 28, 2003 ON JUNE 2, 2003 AT 4:00 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 TO CONDUCT A BUDGET WORK SESSION.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.  
Vice Chairman Lee Kyle Allen  
Commissioner George Brown  
Commissioner Bill Harper  
Commissioner Perry Morris  
Commissioner M. Renée Sisk  
Commissioner Leon C. Staton

**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

**SALE OF SCHOOL BONDS**

County Finance Director, Rick Hemphill, presented a proposal for savings of approximately \$50,000 a year on the sale of school bonds. It was the consensus of the Board to allow Mr. Hemphill to proceed with the arrangements.

**PROPOSED RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE**

Human Resources Director, Ray Moser, introduced discussion concerning retiree health insurance. He presented results of research among North Carolina counties and a range of options, which the Board may wish to consider for Craven County, and showing Craven County's maximum potential liability for each option. The proposed insurance would close the gap between the beginning of retirement and the beginning of Medicare coverage and would be withdrawn when Medicare coverage begins. He proposed that the County enter into a liability study at a cost of \$10,000. After establishing guidelines for the study, he would then return with more accurate figures and enact the plan when the Board is ready. It was the consensus of the Board to consider the cost of the study and of funding the plan should it go forward in the FY 2004 budget.

**SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS**

The Board discussed special appropriations for the following agencies.

- *United Senior Services* – County Manager Blizzard announced that he and the Study Committee for United Senior Services, Inc. were scheduled to meet with the Executive Committee of the Agency on June 5<sup>th</sup> and would report back to the Board.
- *Havelock Historical Society*
- *Swiss Bear*
- *Veterans Council*
- *Teen Court*
- *Community Resource and Development Center*
- *Tryon Palace*- There was discussion of funding Tryon Palace for one year only, as opposed to committing funding for five years, as requested.
- *Craven Arts Council and Gallery*
- *River Bend Parks*

The total considered for inclusion in the budget for all special appropriations was \$548,614.

At 6:05 p.m the Board was declared in recess.

At 6:25 p.m. the Board was declared back in session.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

The County Finance Officer reported that the vehicle self insurance policy that was proposed earlier is only to cover the County's personal property; however, injury to employees would be covered by other means. He assured the Board that there would be no gaps in coverage should the County opt for the vehicle self insurance plan.

The Board further discussed fees to board members Elections, Social Services, Equalization and Review, Planning and Board of Health.

There was discussion of the hours of the Vanceboro and Cove City Libraries and interest in reducing weekend hours in order to expand weekday hours.

At 6:45 p.m. Commissioner Morris moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

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Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk