

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2003 ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2003 IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Vice Chairman Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner George Brown
Commissioner Perry Morris
Commissioner M. Renée Sisk

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Bill Harper
Commissioner Leon C. Staton

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
George B. Sawyer, Assistant County Manager
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
James R. Sugg, County Attorney
Scott Hart, County Attorney's Office

REPORT ON LITIGATION

Scott Hart reported that cases filed by Linda Walker have been settled, two (2) in the office of Administrative Hearings and one (1) in Federal District Court. Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) was paid by the County, with a similar amount paid by the insurance company, and the cases were dismissed with prejudice. He also indicated that the plaintiff, Ms. Walker, had signed a release.

UPDATE ON HURRICANE ISABEL

Stanley Kite, County Emergency Services Director, reported that the preliminary damage assessment in Craven County based on tax records in areas outside of the municipal limits is \$1.9 million. He indicated that most of the damage was sustained in the Harlowe area as a result of wind and water, followed by Townships 3 and 9 with mostly wind damage. He stated that the recovery team is in the process of coordinating volunteers, seeking temporary units from FEMA and prioritizing debris removal. Remaining issues include debris removal from private roads and the necessity to gain clarification from the Department of Transportation concerning their responsibility. It was suggested that the County collect the debris in the hardest hit areas on private roads and seek reimbursement from FEMA if the Department of Transportation will not provide this service. County Attorney, Jim Sugg, suggested that the Health Department may be able to declare that the piles of debris constitute a health hazard, thereby prompting a swifter and more positive response. Commissioner Brown moved to send a letter from the Board of Commissioners to Craven County Department Heads thanking them and their employees for their volunteerism and service during the storm. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

RETIREES HEALTH INSURANCE

Craven County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, explained the role of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and the impact of a pending rule, statement #34 on post retirement benefits of governmental entities. Human Resources Director, Ray Moser, presented the results of the Buck Consultants' Study and their implications for the County's proposed insurance plan for retirees. He advised the Board that \$27,000 would be needed to implement a plan, effective October 1st, which would cover medical and some wellness benefits but not dental. An allocation of \$10,000 has already been made

to fund the study; however, the study was done at no charge based on the County's participation in a major survey by the firm. This amount is available to help fund the plan. Commissioner Allen moved to implement the plan effective October 1, 2003 and to allocate the additional \$17,000 from fund balance needed to fund the plan. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion, which carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

Budget Amendment

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0000-399-01-00 Fund Balance	\$ 17,000.00	101-0560-400-11-06 Health	\$ 17,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 17,000.00	TOTAL	\$ 17,000.00

Justification: Health Insurance for FY 2004 for retirees.

BEAVER MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Morris noted recurring problems with beaver dams that are backing up water in various areas of the County and asked if the Beaver Management Program could be involved to get Claude Taylor to review the subject areas countywide and determine which are the most affected. It was the consensus of the Board to follow the recommendation of Commissioner Morris.

Commissioner Allen expressed concern about a stand of pine trees encircling the Township Six water tank in Carolina Pines. He inquired if they could be harvested, thus providing a benefit as well as removing a potential hazard. He stated that residents of the area are concerned about the hazard. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, indicated that he would check on the situation.

NAME BADGES

Mr. Moser advised the Board that Fire and Rescue Squads within the County have requested that the Human Resources Department make name badges utilizing the County's equipment for their personnel. The Board was asked to authorize the County to produce the badges for the fire and rescue personnel, with the cost of materials paid by the departments and squads. The Board did not object.

At 10:35 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk