

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS REGULAR SESSION OF MARCH 17, 2003 ON MARCH 24, 2003 IN COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO CONDUCT A WORK SESSION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE SEPTIC SYSTEM PERMITTING PROCESS IN CRAVEN COUNTY. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 10:00 A.M.

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
 Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
 James R. Sugg, County Attorney
 Wanda Sandelé, Health Director
 Ray Silverthorne, Environmental Health
 Rick Evans, Environmental Health

Following an invocation by Commissioner Sampson and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Allen made a request on behalf the New Bern Chamber of Commerce for an appropriation of \$2,000 to support the Blue Angels flyover at Union Point and other festivities on Saturday, May 3rd. Commissioner Allen moved to contribute \$2,000 from fund balance, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Special Appropriation

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0000-399-01-00 Fund balance	\$ 2,000.00	101-0564-430-96-28 NB Chamber – Air Show Reception	\$ 2,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,000.00	TOTAL	\$ 2,000.00

WORK SESSION

Commissioner Morris opened discussion of specific cases where septic permits were denied by the Craven County Environmental Health Division. These cases including Linwood Jones on Great Swamp Rd., Linwood Morris on Maul Swamp Rd and 118 Yoder's Farm Center, were discussed individually. In the case of Linwood Jones there was a discrepancy between the determination of Soil Scientist, Ed Karnowski, and the Health Department. Mr. Silverthorne responded that in cases where a private Soil Scientist has come up with a different opinion, the Health Department seeks coroboration by regional Soil Scientists. Also, regional Soil Scientists are used to review every denial. In the case of Linwood Morris, there was a discrepancy between the State's review and determination of the type of system that should be permitted, and the action of the Health Department. Mr. Silverthorne explained that after initial review, the State had instructed revocation of the permit and required an 18 inch mound system. He further stated that whenever a permit is denied, a denial letter to the owner of the property outlines the owner's remedies, which include having a hearing. The State Health Director can

ultimately make a determination. In the case of Yoder's Farm Center, Mr. Silverthorne recapped in detail the chronology of the process from the initial application in 1998 when four (4) parcels were combined into a fifteen acre tract. The issue in this case was created by the presence of a restaurant on the premises and the maximum number of people served by the restaurant that could be permitted at the site. Mr. Silverthorne further explained that the flow at that particular site must be kept under 3,000 gallons per day to avoid the requirement of State permitting. Mr. Yoder, the owner, is seeking to increase the capacity of the restaurant within those limits. Water conservation methods were recommended to reduce the flow. Mr. Silverthorne stated that the establishment is currently in violation, as it has been permitted for 46 seats; however, the restaurant capacity has subsequently increased to 50 seats and then 55 seats, according to the Health Department's Hotel and Restaurant Inspection Report. The owner desires to have a 75 person capacity approved. Health Department staff have stated that they will continue to try to work with the owner to help him as they have done in the past; however, part of the problem results from his not wanting to go through the State permitting process. Commissioner Allen inquired how many denials are issued by the Craven County Department of Environmental Health. Mr. Silverthorne responded that ten to eleven percent of applications are denied, whereas the State average is thirteen percent. Commissioner Allen inquired if it would be possible for the Board of Commissioners to know when there are departures from the norm and where there are unusual circumstances that may become problems. Health Director, Wanda Sandel , stated that when a citizen has a problem and contacts a Commissioner, the Commissioner is welcomed and encouraged to come and discuss the concern with the Health and Environmental Health staff to receive an explanation of the denial.

Mrs. Aggie Anderson, a citizen of the Ernul community, was present at the meeting, and was recognized to speak. She explained that her permit was denied for a 24 inch mound, and the Health Department determined that a pump system would be needed; however, Mr. Karnowski disagreed with that determination. She was directed to consult with the Environmental Health staff to work out a solution. Commissioner Brown asked the Environmental Health staff to help the Board identify areas in the County where the only solution to septic tank permitting is a sewer system.

At 11:40 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk