

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN  
RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MAY 19, 2005 ON JUNE 1, 2005  
AT 9:15 A.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' 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 George N. Brown, Jr.  
Vice Chairman Perry L. Morris  
Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen  
Commissioner Bill Harper  
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.  
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

Following an invocation by Commissioner Morris, the Board considered a request by Human Resources Director, Ray Moser, to reclassify two positions from the Sheriff's Department, as follows:

1. Deputy Sheriff – Administrative Captain from a grade 71 to a grade 68 Deputy Sheriff – Administrative Lieutenant
2. Drug Task Force Supervisor at a grade 68 to Drug Task Force Captain at a grade 71

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

*Request for Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow*

Commissioner Allen requested that the remaining \$25,000 appropriated to the Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow be released. He stated that he would also be recommending \$25,000 in the budget for the 2005-2006 organization. He moved that the \$25,000 already appropriated be released, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried. During discussion Commissioner Morris inquired how much was remaining in the organization's account. Commissioner Allen indicated that there is a balance of \$80,000 remaining in the account of Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow; however, the organization is asking that all entities release the funds that are already committed to it.

*Proposed Budget*

The Board commenced the review of the proposed budget beginning with the Recreation Department, through Special Appropriations. Commissioner Allen reminded the Board of an informal verbal agreement to provide \$11,836 for Havelock ball field lights; however, this amount was not included in the Recreation Department budget. He asked that it be considered under special appropriations. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, outlined other improvements that were included in a budget request, totaling \$639,000 by the Recreation Department and indicated that the recommended budget only reflects \$166,000 of this amount. There was discussion of the agreement that had been made upon the development of Creekside Park, acknowledging that the next major investments in recreation would be at the western end of the County, understanding that Creekside would have future needs deferred until recreational areas in other parts of the County are developed.

During the discussion of the library budget the disparity in funding for New Bern compared to other libraries was noted. The justification given was that New Bern's operation is larger than the others. There was also speculation on the future obsolescence of libraries for research, given the growth in on-line research and the wide-scale access to computers.

It was noted that the Convention Center proposed budget includes operational costs only and not the mortgage on the building. A five percent (5%) rate increase in fees is also reflected.

The Board of Education budget reflects an increase in \$680,000, including current expense and capital outlay.

The Board reached consensus to defer consideration of the New Bern/Craven County Rescue budget, and consideration of a recommendation to consolidate Senior Centers in Harlowe and Havelock.

### *Special Appropriations*

The Board considered a request for special appropriation and reached consensus to fund the following agencies at some level.

- Swiss Bear
- Veterans Council
- Teen Court
- Structured Day Reporting Center
- The Mighty Tau
- Vanceboro Community Center
- Community Coalition Against Family Violence
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Coastal Women's Shelter
- Senior Companion Program
- Title V Match
- Merci Clinic
- Health ENRICH (Healthy Carolinians)
- Religious Community Services
- Red Cross
- Harlowe Community Center
- Boys & Girls Club
- Neuse River Development Corporation
- Vanceboro Christian Help
- Tryon Palace expansion
- Craven Arts Council
- Town of River Bend Park
- North Carolina Symphony
- Havelock ball field lights
- Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow
- New Bern 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Observance

The Board reached consensus not to fund the following agencies:

- Havelock Historical Society
- Craven Literacy Council
- Coastal Health Resources

At 12:30 p.m. the Board recessed and reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

*Cove City Park Request*

The Board discussed a request by Commissioner Brown that the Cove City park area be given some consideration and the Board reached consensus to fund that project.

At 2:40 p.m. Commissioner Morris moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Staton and unanimously carried.

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Chairman George N. Brown, Jr.  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board