

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED REGULAR SESSION OF MAY 23, 2006 ON MAY 25, 2006 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WAS TO CONDUCT A BUDGET WORK SESSION.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Perry L. Morris  
 Vice Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.  
 Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen  
 Commissioner George N. Brown, Jr.  
 Commissioner M. Renée Sisk  
 Commissioner Leon C. Staton  
 Commissioner Steve Tyson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Harold Blizzard, County Manager  
 Ray Moser, Assistant County Manager  
 Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer

**APPOINTMENT**

Commissioner Allen moved to appoint Bob Emory to the Coastal Resources Advisory Committee to replace Natalie Baggett, who resigned. Commissioner Tyson seconded the motion with Mr. Emory being appointed by acclamation.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT**

County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill presented the following budget amendment, which carried unanimously in a roll call vote by motion of Commissioner Allen and seconded by Commissioner Staton.

*New School***Journal Entry**

<b>TRANSFER FROM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>TRANSFER TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
275-8500-480-97-32 To Fd 382	\$423,486.00	275-0000-101-00-00 Cash	\$423,486.00
382-0000-101-00-00 Cash		382-0000-366-04-00 Fr Schools D/S Fd 382	\$423,486.00

Schools Debt Service to project pending loan

**Budget Amendment**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
275-0000-399-00-00 Fund Balance	\$423,486.00	275-8500-480-97-32 To Fd 382	\$423,486.00
382-0000-366-04-00 Fr Schools D/S Fd 382	\$423,486.00	382-8500-480-76-50 Roads	\$89,486.00
		382-8500-480-76-44 Site Work	\$334,000.00

**Justification:** Budget funds to be transferred from the Schools Debt Service in the New Elem School Project pending final receipt of loan.

**BUDGET REVIEW**

The Board proceeded with review of the proposed FY 2006-2007 budget, beginning with Department 5900 (Vector Control).

Commissioner Allen requested that the Board consider fully funding the request of the Havelock Library, as opposed to the County Manager's recommended appropriation. The Manager was directed by the Board to call Dr. Ralls, President of Craven Community College, to determine any possible effects of the recommendation on the accreditation of the college. He reported that the requirement for the college accreditation is for a master librarian to represent the college at the shared library. This is not a facility hours or County funding issue.

There was discussion concerning adding funds to the Convention Center budget for the purchase of a professional stage to address the needs of the NC Symphony and other clients. Consensus was reached to add \$25,000 to the Convention Center's Capital Outlay/Equipment line.

Consensus was reached to release \$120,000 from Capital Revenue in the County budget and to add \$120,000 to the schools' budget under Teacher Supplements due to an accounting error by County staff in developing the budget.

Allocations to the fire departments, rescue squads and non-profit organizations were discussed.

The Board also reached consensus on the following changes to the recommended budget.

- Appropriate an additional \$5,000 to the Havelock Library
- Allocate \$25,000 to the Vanceboro Library on the condition that the parking lot meets the County's building code requirements.
- Continue to pay 100% of the retirees' insurance based on the current policy of payment \$14,000.
- Appropriate \$25,000 to the Highway 70 Corridor Committee provided three other counties participate
- Fund Highway 17 Association in the amount of \$36,000 with three other counties on the condition that they participate in their share.
- Allocate \$20,000 to Swiss Bear
- Appropriate \$5,000 to the New Bern Historical Society

Concerns were discussed relative to funds for matching fire department grants. There was consensus that ad valorem taxes should not be used to match fire department grants if funds are not available from the district's fire tax revenues.

By consensus, the Board scheduled the next budget work session for June 7, following the public hearing on June 5.

Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

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Chairman Perry L. Morris  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board