

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED REGULAR SESSION OF JUNE 5, 2006 ON JUNE 12, 2006 AT 10:00 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
 Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
 James R. Sugg, County Attorney

SENIOR CENTER CATERER BIDS

DSS Director, Kent Flowers and Assistant Director, Alfreda Stout, provided an update on the status of the bids for the Senior Center caterer contract. The Board was informed that approximately 200 meals are served daily, 80 of those being home delivered meals and 120 congregate meals. They presented information on the two bids that were received for the contract and the issues and concerns that arose with one of the bidders who is the current provider. They stated that the recommended bidder is higher and that this additional cost was factored into the budget that had been submitted to the Board. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, presented complaints of the current caterer concerning the process of notification to bidders. Commissioner Allen moved to select the caterer that was recommended by the Department of Social Services and the DSS Board (Golden Corral), seconded by Commissioner Staton and unanimously carried.

Other senior concerns that were addressed by Commissioners were the desire on the part of the George Street senior citizens to develop a garden and improve the interior of the site with pictures, etc., as well as developing some type of walking activity. Ms. Stout stated that staff would provide some exercise activity during the summer hiatus of the activities conducted by the community college staff.

2007 CONVENTION CENTER RENTAL RATES

The Board received the proposed rental rates for the Convention Center for FY 2007, which reflects the projected percentage increase that has been advertised to clients during the current year, as follows:

**NEW BERN RIVERFRONT CONVENTION CENTER
 2007 RENTAL RATES**

	Daily Rental Rate 2006	Daily Renal Rate 2007
Colonial Capital Ballroom (A, B & C)	\$2,505	\$2,155
Ballroom A	\$1,025	\$1,080

Ballroom B	\$600	\$630
Ballroom C	\$500	\$525
Tryon Room (A and B)	\$425	\$450
Tryon Room A	\$275	\$295
Tryon Room B	\$225	\$235
Berne Room	\$325	\$345
Craven Board Room	\$175	\$185
Heritage Hall	\$375	\$395
Promenade	\$225	\$235
Riverfront Veranda	\$375	\$395
Entire Facility	\$3,200	\$3,360

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the proposed rates, seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously carried. Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, advised the Board that two caterers, Smithfield’s and Bakers Square did not attend a mandatory caterer’s meeting that was held earlier in the morning and, as a result, will be dropped from the approved caterer’s list.

INTERLOCAL TAX COLLECTION AGREEMENT WITH VANCEBORO

The Board was presented a tax collection agreement from the City of Vanceboro for collection of Vanceboro ad valorem taxes by the County Tax Department. Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Interlocal Tax Collection Agreement and authorized its execution, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried.

REQUEST FOR VANCEBORO COMMUNITY CENTER

Commissioner Morris requested that the Board consider an allocation to replace the air conditioner at the Vanceboro Community Center at an estimated cost of \$1,550 for the entire unit replacement with a five-year warranty. He informed the Board that the cost to replace just the compressor would be \$1,350 with a one-year warranty. Commissioner Staton moved to approve an allocation from fund balance to replace the entire unit at the projected cost of \$1,550, seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Assistant County Manager, Ray Moser, introduced discussion concerning the personnel of the Soil and Water Conservation Department. He advised the Board that no federal employee may oversee the conservation function outside of the technical role as advisor. This role is being performed by Andy Metts. As a result, it was determined that he can no longer serve in a supervisory capacity, and an existing employee was recommended to assume the role for administrative issues. The Soil and Water Conservation Board will continue to assume duties relative to policy issues. Commissioner Brown moved to approve the designation of Pamela Hawkins as Administrative Support Assistant II and the reclassification of Clerk at grade 57 to grade 59. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously carried.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Commissioner Allen requested the consent of the Board to appropriate \$63,545 for the Havelock Library, which was the amount of the request to the County. Commissioner

Morris stated that, according to his research, the extent of the library hours, has no impact on the accreditation of the community college. He stated that the Havelock Library site is already open more hours than the library on the New Bern campus of the college. Commissioner Staton indicated that he would be willing to appropriate additional funds above what was recommended by the County Manager to the Havelock Library, but not as high as \$63,545.00. This was also the sentiment expressed by Commissioner Sisk. The motion failed, there being two (2) "Ayes" from Commissioners Allen and Staton and five (5) "Nays" from Commissioner Brown, Sisk, Morris, Sampson and Tyson. Commissioner Sisk moved that another \$5,000 be appropriated to the Havelock Library operation with the recommendation that the library remain open one hour later. The motion carried with four (4) "Ayes" from Commissioners Allen, Sisk, Staton and Tyson, there being three (3) "Nays" from Commissioners Brown, Sampson and Morris.

MISCELLANEOUS REQUESTS

Mr. Hemphill advised the Board of the need to adjust the budget as a result of a Sheriff's Department employee retiring on June 30. He stated that an additional \$6,000 would be needed to provide the separation allowance for Isaac Strawbridge.

Commissioner Brown advised the Board that a full NC House Budget Committee had recommended that Medicaid be permanently capped at the current level.

Commissioner Staton requested that the Board consider appropriating \$10,500 for a walking track at the Harlowe Community Center. There were no Commissioners who voiced support for the request; however, there was consensus that the request should flow through the Parks and Recreation budget process.

At 11:10 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to go into closed session concerning performance of personnel pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6). Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. When the Board returned to open session at 11:30, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman Perry L. Morris
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board