

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN  
RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF FEBRUARY 21, 2007 ON  
FEBRUARY 28, 2007 AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE OF  
THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN  
STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.  
Vice Chairman Jason R. Jones  
Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen  
Commissioner Theron McCabe  
Commissioner M. Renée Sisk  
Commissioner Steve Tyson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Harold Blizzard, County Manager  
Ray H. Moser, Assistant County Manager  
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer  
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board

After the Board convened, it departed for Grover C. Fields Middle School to tour the facilities that are the subject of proposed projects presented by the Board of Education on February 21, 2007. **Commissioner Morris joined the group at Grover C. Fields Middle School.** A review was conducted in the Media Center at Grover C. Fields, which was built for 630 students during the 1950's. The proposed renovation to the media center is to rebuild it on the first floor as a matter of accessibility and convert the space which is currently the media center into additional classrooms. The Board was given a tour of the science wing, which is proposed to be demolished and the site of the newly rebuilt media center. It was stated by school board personnel that rehabilitation of the science wing would be cost prohibitive because of unabated asbestos present, and the fact that the wing is not on the new HVAC system. Following the tour of Grover C. Fields, the Board continued on to J.T. Barber Elementary School and reviewed with schools' personnel and the principal the following proposed projects:

- Renovations to the administrative complex, including the conference room, workroom, storage area, bathroom, greeting area and offices. The purpose is to enlarge these areas
- Expansion of the vault
- Relocation of mailroom
- Renovations to teacher's lounge and workroom
- Expansion of the administration area to accommodate the counselor, the nurse and the school social worker
- Renovations to the entrance roadway and parking lot
- In addition, the intercom would be replaced in the proposed project

Renovations to the current media center are proposed, as follows:

- Relocation of in-school suspension room
- Office area established for Psychologist
- Testing area for other itinerate of school system and Department of Social Services

The Board next toured the central maintenance garage and heard the explanation of the proposed replacement. It is proposed that the garage be demolished and a new garage built with bays large enough to accommodate the longer length buses that are currently being introduced into the fleet.

The Board then toured the media center at Oaks Road Elementary School for the purpose of experiencing a newly renovated media center that would be the standard for the expansion and renovation at J.T. Barber.

At 3:10 p.m. the Board returned to the Commissioners' Conference Room in the Administration Building and at that time County Attorney, Jim Sugg, joined the meeting. The Board reviewed the proposed projects for the proposed borrowing, including the following:

Elementary School	\$14,000,000
Fiber Optic Project (phase 1 & 2)	1,200,000
Fiber Optic Project (phase 3)	1,000,000
Other School Projects	
J.T. Barber	2,687,955
Grover C. Fields	1,975,820
Bus Garage	2,688,400
Land	750,000
Land for Airport	2,000,000
Law Enforcement Center	30,000,000
West Craven Park Match	<u>500,000</u>
Total	<u><b>\$56,802,175</b></u>
<u>Other Potential Items</u>	
Tryon Palace Commitment	\$1,000,000
School Intercom/Phones	471,000

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, stated that the jail project cost estimate started at approximately \$18 million but has increased to approximately \$29 million as a result of additions to the project, such as courtrooms and alternate heating and air systems that would have an increased lifespan and increased durability.

There was discussion of the general obligation bond, financing versus the certificates of participation, which must be collateralized. The consensus of the Board was to authorize staff to begin the paperwork for the proposed borrowing with the understanding that there will be opportunities to reconsider during the process. Commissioner Jones asked if the County has ever borrowed this much money without going to the voters. County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, responded that this was the largest borrowing using this method. Commissioner Sisk moved to authorize staff to begin the paperwork for the proposed borrowing with the understanding that there will be opportunities to reconsider during the process, seconded by Commissioner Morris and carried with six (6) "Ayes", there being one (1) "Nay" from Commissioner Jones.

Mr. Blizzard inquired of the Board's intent relative to the matter of recreational water testing in the river and creeks, especially in Township 7. Commissioner Allen moved that the County and the Health Department not embark on this process, seconded by Commissioner Morris and carried with six (6) "Ayes", there being one (1) "Nay" from Commissioner Tyson.

Commissioner Tyson asked that staff check with the Board of Education concerning the evaluation of the Weyerhauser tract in Township 7 that would be purchased for the new high school and its suitability for such construction. He also asked that staff check with the school board concerning the possibility of obtaining Homeland Defense Grant funds for some of the proposed projects, such as the improved intercom system at J.T. Barber Elementary School, inasmuch as the school personnel raised some concerns about the adequacy of the current system during emergency events.

At 3:55 p.m. Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

---

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

---

Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board