

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN MET IN SPECIAL SESSION ON TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007 AT 8:30 A.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE 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 Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Vice Chairman Jason R. Jones
Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner Theron McCabe
Commissioner Perry L. Morris
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

Following an invocation by Commissioner Morris, the Board received a presentation of proposed changes to the FY 2007-2008 Budget that had been agreed upon by consensus to date. There was discussion of additional proposed changes, as follows:

- Commissioner Allen advocated for funding to ACT, stating that NADEP is threatened. He proposed inclusion of \$7,500 and by majority consensus staff was directed to include this amount in the budget for adoption, with one (1) dissenting opinion by Commissioner Morris.
- Commissioner Jones requested an additional \$3,500 for the Cove City Library, to operate without taking from the book fund. He also indicated a need for computer replacements. Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner McCabe seconded that staff would be directed to add \$3,500 to the recommended appropriation to the Cove City Library. It was stated that the County will also look for usable computers within the County that can be donated to the Library.
- Commissioner McCabe advocated for additional funds in the amount of \$15,572 for the Harlowe Community Center, to include \$9,200 for re-concreting the basketball court, \$200 for paint machine for the basketball court, \$1,100 for two (2) team benches, \$1,700 for four (4) fan benches, \$479 for one (1) handicap swing, \$1,000 to replace sand under the swing, \$1,800 for labor and the remainder for paint at the picnic shelter. Following a motion by Commissioner McCabe for approval of the appropriations, seconded by Commissioner Jones, there was considerable discussion concerning the request. Commissioner Tyson expressed a need for a philosophical policy for addressing these kinds of requests. Commissioner Allen expressed the opinion that recreation requests should be processed through the Parks and Recreation Department. The motion to add the appropriation as requested in its entirety to the budget ordinance for approval was unanimously carried.
- Commissioner Tyson advocated for an allocation to the Coastal Carolina Chapter of Red Cross and moved that \$2,000 be added to the budget ordinance for adoption, seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously carried.
- Commissioner Morris advised the Board that he would have an upcoming request relative to the Vanceboro Community Center; however, it would be deferred as there are no figures available yet.
- Commissioner McCabe asked that the Harlowe fire tax rate be increased by ½ cent from .057 to .062 to facilitate needs of the fire department. This would

require use of approximately \$5,500 from the department's fund balance for addressing their capital needs, leaving \$45,000 in fund balance.

- Commissioner McCabe advised the Board that an appropriation of \$6,000 for a new air conditioner for the Harlowe Community Center, which was made in the 2006-2007 budget, is remaining; however, an air conditioner has already been purchased using operating funds for the amount of \$2,100. He asked that the center be allowed to keep the appropriation for other needs, such as carpet, chairs and tables. The Board reached consensus that the Harlowe Community Center should be reimbursed for the air conditioner from the current appropriation of \$6,000 upon submission of an invoice; however, the balance of the \$6,000 would remain with the County.
- Commissioner McCabe advised the Board that a church, which is adjacent to the Marvin Moore property at Adams Creek, has expressed interest in using the now vacant lot for additional parking. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, advised that the County does not have title to the lot yet; however, staff agreed to work on an agreement after the title is transferred with terms such as the care, rent, liability and duration of the usage.

At 10:05 a.m. Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried.

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board