

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN MET IN SPECIAL SESSION, AS ADVERTISED, WITH THE CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AT 8:30 A.M. ON JULY 23, 2007. THE SESSION CONVENED IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM 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 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  
James R. Sugg, County Attorney

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Esther Hardin, Chairman  
William Miner  
Ray Wood

After providing an invocation, Chairman Sampson stated that the purpose of the meeting was to hear from the Board of Elections.

Board of Elections Chair, Esther Hardin, stated that the Board of Elections had asked to speak to the Commissioners to discuss the resignation of the Director of Elections, Tiffiney Miller, and to review the salary range for the position. There was consideration among the Board of Commissioners concerning the propriety of discussing the matter in open session rather than closed session. Mrs. Hardin stated that her purpose was to recognize and acknowledge receipt of Ms. Miller's resignation and to present what the Board of Elections feels would be necessary for her to remain in the position. She stated that the Board of Elections was requesting that the Director of Elections position be placed in a grade with other Department Heads. Commissioner Morris stated that the Board of Commissioners is only responsible for setting the salary of the County Manager and several elected officials, specifically the Register of Deeds and the Sheriff. He stated that all other employees of the County are subject to the salary and classification plan. He also stated that the adoption of the pay plan by the County has eliminated politics and partisanship from the subject of compensation to County employees. Commissioner McCabe stated that Ms. Miller has done a good job and that she should receive some increase. Commissioner Allen stated that performance is not an issue because it has already been documented; however, the County must be evenhanded with all employees. He stated that the pay plan is currently in the process of being reviewed. Commissioner Jones moved that the Board go into closed session with the Board of Elections at 8:42 a.m. pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6), to consider qualifications and performance of personnel. Commissioner McCabe seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

At 9:30 a.m. the Board returned to regular session. County Attorney, Jim Sugg, restated the Board's authority and motion for going into closed session. He stated that the matter had been discussed in regard to the Board of Elections personnel, but no action was taken. Commissioner Allen stated that the pay plan evaluation is nearing completion and will be available for review by the staff and Commissioners within several weeks.

At 9:32 a.m. Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

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Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board