

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS REGULAR MEETING OF MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009 ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009 AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE PURPOSE OF THE THIS MEETING WAS TO CONDUCT A JOINT SESSION WITH THE CITY OF HAVELOCK BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Vice Chairman Theron McCabe
Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner Perry L. Morris
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
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

HAVELOCK COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Jimmy Sanders
Commissioner George Liner
Commissioner Bob Priesing
Commissioner Jim Stuart
Commissioner Danny Walsh

HAVELOCK COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Will Lewis

HAVELOCK STAFF PRESENT:

Jim Freeman, City Manager
Dave Harvell, Assistant City Manager
Cindy Morgan, City Clerk
Diane Miller, Public Information Officer
Lee Tillman, Finance Director

Following an invocation by Commissioner Allen, Chairman Jones announced that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a listening session to hear Havelock's concerns. There was consensus among those present to keep the meeting within two hours.

The two Boards proceeded to discuss concerns that were outlined by the City of Havelock, as follows:

Havelock Library Budget Contribution

The City of Havelock requested that the Board consider making an annual budgetary contribution to the Havelock Library based upon a pro rata cost share formula, and asked that the County consider a 65% County/35% city pro rata share, to reflect patron usage. Part of the rationale for the request was funding formulas for other libraries in Craven County. There was discussion of the total library budget for 2007 relative to the County's contribution, as it appeared on a spreadsheet presented by Havelock. It was clarified that the County's contribution was \$72,593 toward a total budget of \$139,317. Commissioner Stuart advocated moving the Havelock Library funding from contributions to a line item in the City's budget with a concrete proportion which is predictable. The question was raised as to whether or not the amount of the County's contribution stated for the Havelock Library reflects \$30,000 allocated to Craven Community College for support of the library in Havelock. There was some debate as to whether or not this amount needed to be included in the County's contribution; however, it was emphasized

that the \$30,000 is still an amount coming from the County's budget to support the Havelock Library. Mayor Sanders requested that the County Board and staff work with Havelock for developing a standard procedure for funding the Havelock Library. Chairman Jones indicated that the County staff and Board are currently working on amending and redrafting the Craven Pamlico Carteret Regional Library Agreement, and therefore, cannot make a commitment before that process is completed. He assured Havelock representatives that their concerns will be reviewed, and recommended that the County's and City's representatives on the Craven Pamlico Carteret Regional Library Board be invited to budget deliberations relative to library funding.

Recreational Partnerships

Mayor Sanders stated Havelock's opinion that \$20,000 of funding by the County toward Havelock's Recreation budget of \$822,361 is an inadequate proportion, based on research which shows that an estimated 40% of program participants are not City of Havelock citizens. He suggested that a \$200,000 allocation would be more desirable. Commissioner Sampson commented that no money is given to New Bern's Recreation Department. Commissioner Morris stated that \$20,000 was originally earmarked for the Havelock Recreation Department by Craven County adequate insurance coverage. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, stated that an additional \$20,000 was contributed by the County in the current budget for capital and general purposes. Mayor Sanders reported that Havelock Parks and Recreation has built Phase I of a joint use playground at Arthur Edwards Elementary School in collaboration with the Board of Education. He suggested partnering with the County for other joint use playgrounds. Mr. Blizzard stated that the Board of Education funds that were applied to recreation facilities came from the County. Commissioner Allen stated that Havelock's representative on the Recreation Board should play an active role in submitting appropriate budgetary requests in a timely fashion.

EMS Service Funding

Mayor Sanders stated that closing of the Emergency Room on board MCAS Cherry Point and personnel increases resulting from the most recent BRAC (Base Realignment and Closing) has lead to a detrimental impact on Havelock's EMS program. He expressed concern about the current service call cost gap due to geographical distance. Havelock currently needs one new ambulance or a good used one, estimated to cost between \$100,000 - \$150,000, and requested consideration of funding to help close the gap or to provide one-time capital funding. He asked that the Board provide an objective review of their request rather than referring it to the EMS Advisory Council.

Water Matters

The Mayor indicated that the City of Havelock is interested in entering into a 50%/50% cost arrangement with the County for an engineering assessment that provides cost options to transfer County water customers located in the City onto the City's water system. In addition, the City requested to explore an opportunity to partner with the County and cost share on water supply should the City, in the future, provide sewer service outside its corporate limits along Highway 70 to Catfish Lake Road. The City's policy requires those receiving City sewer to receive City water and agree to voluntary annexation within a five year period. Consensus was reached that County and City utilities staff will consult and determine if the services of an engineer are needed.

Centralized County Public Safety Dispatch

The Mayor stated that the City of Havelock presently expends approximately \$250,000 annually for its own public safety dispatch. He requested that the County revisit previous discussions with the City to determine if a central public safety dispatch program would be beneficial in efficiency and cost savings. Mr. Blizzard stated that the County is in the midst of a major change in its total operation. He stated that it would be necessary to wait until the new system is in place and running smoothly before considering any type of partnership.

Highway 70 Growth Corridor Planning

In light of the growth along the Highway 70 corridor between Havelock and James City, potential utility service area agreement between Havelock and the City of New Bern, and Havelock's policy to require voluntary annexation for utility services between Havelock and Catfish Lake Road, the Mayor introduced discussion concerning the possibility of a process to coordinate planning related activities and building inspections in this growth corridor. Chairman Jones indicated that he has some concerns about annexation as a result of strong sentiments expressed against annexation by citizens at the County's zoning public hearings. Consensus was reached that the City and County, staffs should consult on this matter.

Havelock Courtroom Use

The Board of Commissioners was advised that the City is in the process of undertaking plans to upgrade several municipal facilities, including the council chambers area where the district court conducts hearings twice monthly. There was a question as the County's desire to consider potential upgrades for the court system, such as security, metal detectors and general ergonomics for the workflow of the court system. Mr. Blizzard stated that the County is not obligated to maintain that facility because it does not own the building. Official court facilities are maintained by the County; however, this facility was sanctioned as requested by the City of Havelock and MCAS Cherry Point as a convenience to citizens and is not an official court facility. The consensus was that the annex will remain as it is unless the courts wish to fund improvements; however, neither the City nor the County will fund improvements to the facility.

At 6:47 p.m. Commissioner Sampson moved to adjourn, with the agenda having been exhausted, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board