

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MAY 18, 2009 ON MAY 21, 2009 AT 8:30 A.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' 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 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

Following the roll call, County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, reviewed the status to date for the current budget year, as follows:

- Revenue year-to-date is running slightly higher than year-to-date budget
- Sales tax year-to-date is down, partially due to Medicaid trade-off
- Expenditures are in line with budget
- Medicaid is down due to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds of \$270,000 credited retroactively to October 2008 assuming greater part of the cost
- County is \$3,662,628 to the good year-to-date, compared to \$5,741,345 last year

The Board and staff proceeded to review the budget, beginning with the General Fund Revenue by Department, excluding special appropriations, and discussion highlights were summarized, as follows:

Schools

Capital Fund and Fund Balance requirements were discussed and it was noted that schools are not required to maintain Fund Balance.

It was also noted that Article 44 Municipal Hold Harmless sales tax loss is permanent as a result of the Medicaid trade-off.

Proposed sales tax budgeted has been lowered by about 6%. Projections were based on actual year-to-date revenues in the current year.

Human Resources

There was discussion that Christmas gifts and the employee banquet would be eliminated; however, the Board may revisit the issue at a later date.

Information Technology

It was recommended that a new position be created for a PC Technician, at a Grade 66 and a salary of \$37,568.

Finance

There was discussion of a position re-classification for an Accounting Tech II, Grade 61 to an Accounting Tech III, Grade 63.

At 10:00 a.m. the Board recessed.

At 10:10 a.m. the Board returned to its recessed session.

Elections

The Board discussed the potential of a November run-off for New Bern and potential June primary run-off, which has not been included in the proposed budget.

Public Buildings

It was recommended that a small area of the old jail be maintained to hold detainees on the day of their court appearance.

Maintenance

It is recommended that an additional Maintenance Technician position be created to accommodate the growing demands, particularly at the Law Enforcement Center. This position would be a Grade 64, with a salary of \$34,203.

Sheriff

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, recommended two new positions for Transport Officers and recommended two Electronic Offender Monitoring positions, one being a new position and one an existing position being transferred from D.A.R.E. position and reclassified.

The Chairman inquired what new positions have been given to the Sheriff in the last three years, and other added value provided to law enforcement.

Jail

The County Manager recommended four new jailer positions and one reclassification from clerk to jailer at a salary of \$28,300.

At 12:00 noon the Board went into recess.

At 12:20 p.m. the Board reconvened its recessed session and the review continued, beginning with communications.

Inspections

It was noted that there were two unfunded inspector position vacancies due to one resignation; one position approved, but never filled. Currently four positions, including one Chief Inspector, have been given the added responsibility of fire inspections.

Rescue Squads

The recommended budget reflects no change. The Board may wish to consider the debt set-off program for ambulance billings. The Chairman stated that within the next year, it may be necessary to consider consolidation of squads, and/or paying more staff. Commissioner Morris moved to pursue the debt set-off program, seconded by Commissioner Tyson and unanimously carried, to be effective as soon as the program can be set up with an agency.

There was discussion regarding grant match budgeting and it was the consensus to budget matching funds for potential grants.

Environmental Health

It was noted that there are two Environmental Health Specialists unfunded in the proposed budget.

At 1:45 p.m. the Board moved to recess.

At 2:00 p.m. the Board returned to its recessed session and continued the budget review, beginning with Solid Waste.

Health – Dental

The County Manager recommended re-negotiation of the dental contract to put incentives in place.

Health – Maternity

The County Manager recommended hiring a physician versus continuing to contract with Eastern Carolina Women's Center.

Home Health

It was noted that there are currently two Community Health Technician positions unfunded, and one being abolished.

At 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Tyson moved to adjourn to reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on May 22, 2009, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

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Chairman Jason R. Jones  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board