

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MAY 21, 2009 ON MAY 22, 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 an invocation by Commissioner Tyson, the Board began the budget review, beginning with CARTS.

Recreation

It was recommended to re-classify a Maintenance Tech I to a Maintenance Tech II. In addition, two new part-time positions were recommended to staff Volleyball at Farm Life School, tournaments at Creekside and West Craven parks, not to exceed 100 hours per month. One part-time Grounds Keeper was also recommended.

The Chairman requested that young pine trees growing near the entrance to West Craven Park be removed.

Commissioner Allen inquired what can be done for eastern Craven County recreation, because nothing appears in this budget. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, stated that the Board decided to develop a facility in the central part of the county, western area and eastern Craven County, in that order. A little work remains to be done at West Craven park, and afterwards consideration can begin to determine what is desirable on the eastern end.

Commissioner Tyson moved to defer discussion on the Havelock recreation needs until review of special appropriations. The majority of the Board was in agreement, with Commissioners Allen and McCabe dissenting.

Libraries

There was discussion regarding the Regional Library and it was the consensus of the Board to continue studying Craven County's membership for the next budget cycle.

Debt Service

County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, explained that funds will be short in June 2011 by several hundred thousand dollars per year, without ADM payments for February, May and October 2009, and assuming that lottery money distribution continues.

Concerning land purchase for schools, Mr. Hemphill stated that current debt sources will not be available again until 2018/2019, assuming lottery funds continue, uninterrupted and ADM funds return.

He stated that there is \$1 million available for purchase of a school site and potentially an additional half million from savings on other projects. Combined, these amounts are still insufficient. It was the consensus of the Board that the County does not have the funds to purchase a site.

At 10:30 a.m. the Board moved to recess.

At 10:50 a.m. the Board reconvened its recessed session.

At 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Morris moved to go into closed session regarding property acquisition, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5), seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

At 11:15 a.m. the Board returned to open session. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, announced that after discussing three sites and prices, it was determined that they are out of the County's price range.

Fire Departments

The Board was advised that fire departments have received grant awards for FY 2010, as follows. These grants will require matching funds.

Cove City	\$11,481.41
Dover	\$ 5,725.00
Ft. Barnwell	\$ 9,792.24
Little Swift Creek	\$14,850.00
No. 7	\$28,100.00
Rhems	\$15,250.00
Harlowe	\$10,000.00

The Chairman announced that the NC House of Representatives' budget is proposing consolidation of three community colleges. One of the proposed consolidations is Pamlico and Craven. Pamlico County plans to adopt a resolution in opposition to consolidation. Craven County has been requested to do likewise. Commissioner Allen moved to adopt a resolution in opposition to consolidation of Craven and Pamlico Community Colleges, to forward to the legislative delegation, Dr. Katherine Chew, Pamlico County and Dr. Scott Ralls. Commissioner Tyson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

At 11:50 a.m. Commissioner McCabe moved to recess to reconvene Thursday, May 29 at 5:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

Chairman Jason R. Jones
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board