

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MAY 22, 2009 ON MAY 28, 2009 AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE 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 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 Allen, the Board resumed the FY 2009-2010 budget review beginning with Twp. #5 Fire Department. Commissioner McCabe recommended that the fire tax rate remain as it is at \$0.062, and not fully fund Twp. #5 Fire Department request. The consensus of the Board was to leave the rate as is. Mr. Blizzard informed the Board that he has advised the newspaper reporter of errors that were printed in the May 27, 2009 edition of the *Sun Journal* relative to discussions about the fire department budgets at the May 22, 2009 budget work session. The article mistakenly reported the matching funds for the fire departments' grants had been approved.

Discussion continued relative to the matching funds. It was noted that the matching funds are not required to come from the County, and that, with the exception of Twp. #3, departments produce the match from their operating funds. Twp. #3 does not have an adequate tax base to fund match. The only district with a rate increase recommended is Rhems, due to loss of sales tax and their indebtedness from a new facility and equipment. It was the consensus of the Board to defer consideration of grant matches when departments bring their requests before the Board.

The Board continued with review of requests for special appropriations, as follows, and reached consensus on appropriations, after being advised that any appropriations will come fund balance.

- Hwy 70 Corridor – this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year of a five year commitment
- Hwy 17 Association – no pre-set amount of commitment; population based
- Down East RPO
- National Guard
- ACT/BRAC
- Military Growth Task Force – 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a two year commitment  
Commissioner Tyson commented that when giving commitments, a contingency should be included for unforeseen changes in economic conditions
- Cove City Livestock
- Havelock Historical Society– no request
- Swiss Bear
- Beaver Management Program
- Senior TarHeel Legislator
- Veterans Council
- Teen Court
- Structured Day Reporting
- State of the Child – consensus to consider when requested

- Promise Place – staff directed to ask a representative to come before the Board with a presentation on the agency
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Senior Companion Program
- Merci Clinic
- Religious Community Services
- Staff House
- Harlowe Community Center – Commissioner McCabe requested \$6,000 for carpet replacement and ceiling lights
- Havelock Senior Center
- Boys & Girls Club
- Forest Resources – County: 40%; State: 60%
- Arts Council
- River Bend
- NC Symphony
- Havelock Parks and Recreation – Commissioner Allen advocated for support of programs, but not infrastructure
- Employee Recognition

At 6:55 p.m. Commissioner Tyson moved to go into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Allen to consider performance and salaries of the County Manager and elected officials, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

At 7:05 p.m. the Board returned to regular work session. The Chairman announced that the Board reached consensus on salaries of the County Manager and elected officials.

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, clarified positions in the following areas:

- Health – Maternity Physician (OB/GYN) to be contracted at a salary of \$139,610.

Mr. Blizzard recommended that the County cease its contract with East Carolina Women's Center eliminating \$30,000 from the budget.

- Health – reclassify an Accounting Tech II to an Accounting Tech III at \$1,679 in additional cost.
- Health – reclassify a Computing Support Tech II to Computer Systems Administrator at \$6,200 in additional cost

Library costs at Havelock were clarified.

Information on Sheriff's Department staffing over the last three years, as requested by the Chairman, was distributed to the Board for review.

The water capital reserve fee comparison with the County and around the region was distributed, with the average fee shown to be \$2,500.

Commissioner Tyson recommended that staff and Rusty Hayes, Water Superintendent, be asked to come up with recommendations on a capital reserve fee. Commissioner Morris moved to go into water session to discuss water matters, seconded by Commissioner Tyson. The motion failed, there being two (2) "Ayes" from Commissioners Morris and Tyson, and four (4) "Nays".

At 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

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Chairman Jason R. Jones

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board