

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF NOVEMBER 2, 2009 ON NOVEMBER 10, 2009 AT 1:13 P.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 WORK SESSION.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Jason R. Jones
 Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen
 Commissioner Perry Morris
 Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
 Commissioner M. Renée Sisk
 Commissioner Steve Tyson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vice Chairman Theron McCabe

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
 Ray Moser, Assistant County Manager
 Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer

STAFF ABSENT:

Gwendolyn M. Bryan

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kent Flowers, DSS Director
 Joan Harrell, Human Resources Director
 Parina Fonville, Child Support Enforcement Staff

RESOLUTION

Following an invocation by Chairman Jones, Commissioner Allen moved to adopt the following resolution honoring Raymond Benton on his 90th birthday, seconded by Commissioner Tyson and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION
 HONORING CHAIRMAN RAYMOND E. BENTON
 ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY**

WHEREAS, ninety years ago, on November 8, 1919, Raymond E. Benton was born, making him today the oldest elected official in Craven County Government; and

WHEREAS, he was married to Agnes Fulcher of Craven County for over sixty years before her passing, where together they successfully raised a son; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benton has served as a Mason, a Shriner and was Director of Chefs in 1953-1954; and

WHEREAS, he served as Mayor of Bridgeton from 1965-1967, as well as the owner and operator of Craven Well Drilling Company for over thirty years and owner and operator of Duck Creek Marina in Bridgeton since 1975, while also being instrumental in the creation of the Bridgeton Fire Department where he served as Chief; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benton was first appointed by the Craven County Board of Commissioners to the First Craven Sanitary District Board to fill a vacancy in November, 1984 and then again in September 1988, while serving as it's Chairman since 1991; and

WHEREAS, During his time on the Board, the Sanitary District has grown from serving the Town of Bridgeton and the immediate surrounding areas to almost 6000 Craven County citizens with a safe public water supply; and

WHEREAS, he, along with other members that have served with him, have played a vital part in insuring that the citizens of the First Craven Sanitary District have a dependable supply of public water at a reasonable cost; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Benton has been a constant in the ever changing face of the First Craven Sanitary District and represents all the best in public service and has set an ethical and intellectual standard to which we all should aspire.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Craven County Board of Commissioners assembled this 10th day of November, 2009 to say Congratulations to Chairman Raymond E. Benton on his 90th birthday and his completion of years of dedicated and productive service to the citizens of Craven County.

Adopted this 10th day of November, 2009.

Commissioner Allen made a motion to appoint County Manager, Harold Blizzard, as temporary clerk, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

RECOVERY ZONE BONDS

County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, asked the Board to determine whether or not they wanted to pursue recovery zone bonds. It was noted the County could buy land, such as for a school, water, or a treatment plant but it would need to be done by April. Commissioner Sisk asked if the bonds could be issued at a later date. Mr. Hemphill responded that he did not know of any additional allocations at a later date. Commissioner Allen stated that he dislikes having to just give it away. Mr. Blizzard emphasized that it is just a loan, which must be repaid. The water projects are not far enough along to utilize these funds. Commissioner Sisk recommended to let it pass at this time and Commissioner Morris concurred. Commissioner Allen moved not to proceed with the bonds, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Social Services Director, Kent Flowers, announced that the State has passed a law that shifts responsibility of child support enforcement to counties, and requires Commissioners to determine how they want to operate child support enforcement. Commissioner Tyson inquired why some counties are running child support and some are not. Mr. Flowers stated that years ago counties had to decide whether the county wanted to run child support or let the State run it.

Mr. Flowers handed out a packet of information, and advised that the County must do a transition plan. He stated that five counties have private firms running their programs.

He gave a general overview of the Child Support Enforcement Program presently in force now by the State of North Carolina and housed at the O'Mark's Building. He discussed options detailed in the handout. Mr. Flowers presented positives for contracting with a private firm.

If a contract does not work out, the program can revert to DSS after the contract period is ends. Commissioner Allen stated that he leans more toward a smaller government than a larger government but is open minded.

Mr. Flowers also presented positives for DSS to run the program.

Commissioner Sampson stated his opinion that Craven County Department of Social Services should administer this program.

Commissioner Allen stated that the County should explore the contractual arrangement.

Commissioner Tyson stated that more cost analysis is needed for consideration of contracting the program.

Commissioner Sisk stated that she is undecided, but would like to look at a cost comparison.

Commissioner Morris stated that a contractor might be the easiest way to proceed and would like to look at the contract arrangement and cost in other counties. He expressed concerns about incentives.

Chairman Jones stated that it was the consensus to look at the prospect of a contractual arrangement for cost comparison and come back with more information.

Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sampson.

Chairman Perry Morris
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board