

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MAY 17, 2010 ON MAY 24, 2010 AT 9:00 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 Perry L. Morris
Vice Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner Jason R. Jones
Commissioner Theron McCabe
Commissioner M. Renée Sisk
Commissioner Steve Tyson

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
Jack Veit, III., Assistant County Manager
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board

Following an invocation by Commissioner Morris, County Manager, Harold Blizzard reminded the Board of the following matters that are still pending:

- Croatan Church
- Water Ordinance & Allocation Policy & Capital Reserve Fees
- Revaluation Cycle

County Attorney, Jim Hicks, requested time to conduct training on Conditional Use Permitting Procedures.

Resolution

County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, requested adoption of a resolution of agreement for the NCACC Risk Pool for liability & property coverage. Commissioner Allen moved for adoption of the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Sampson and unanimously carried.

Mr. Hemphill reported that over seven years in the pool, the County has saved money. The Insurance Center has not been able to compete with the NCACC rate.

Revenue Summary

Mr. Hemphill prefaced the deliberations, explaining the formula for reaching the revenue neutral tax rate. Commissioner Tyson stated that he has a problem with the methodology, which provides for growth. The current excess of revenues over expenditures is \$4,484,525 versus \$3,662,628 at this time in the previous year. Mr. Hemphill does not anticipate the need to appropriate from fund balance to close the current fiscal year.

Income from the Register of Deeds and Inspections is down significantly. The budget presented does not reflect any recovery in the housing market.

Salaries account for approximately 33% of the budget.

2010-11 Budget Review

It is anticipated that there will be \$1.6 million in savings this year as a result of the sales tax/Medicaid exchange.

Review of the proposed budget commenced by line item.

Department 0101 – Commissioners

County Attorney, Jim Hicks, requested a rate increase from \$150/hr. to \$175/hr., already being charged to other local government clients. The budget for this line item would need to increase by approximately 15% (from \$200,000 to \$230,000) to accommodate the request. The consensus was to leave the rate at \$150. The County Manager was asked to communicate the Board's consensus to Mr. Hicks.

Fees to Board members were deferred.

0201-0203 – Administration

The state has increased the retirement rate from 4.8% to 6.25% (35% increase) totaling \$388,000 more in the proposed budget.

The Board proceeded with review of the following budgets:

0301 – Human Resources

No major changes noted.

At 10:25 a.m. the Board went into recess.

At 10:35 a.m. The Board reconvened in session with review of the following departmental budgets: 0401 – Information Technology through 6400-Health-Family Planning. Following are highlights of the discussion.

0805 – Tax Appraisal

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, reported that Chief Inspector, Glenn Jones, requested 2,000 hours to keep some of the part-time employees until December to help get caught up on appraisal; 1,000 hours were left in the recommended budget.

1307 – Court Facilities

There was discussion of more space at the Havelock DMV and who would pay. Commissioner McCabe stated that he would look into the matter.

2001 – Sheriff

The Sheriff's Department requested two additional positions, but these were not recommended. An additional 2,000 part-time hours for bailiffs were requested, with 1,000 recommended. In the Capital Outlay/vehicles line, seven to eight vehicles were approved in the current year and the Sheriff expressed the need to catch up to a normal level of 14 vehicles being replaced. There was discussion regarding the use of Sheriff's vehicles off duty and moonlighting.

Commissioner Sisk recommended that ten cars would be a good compromise at a cost of \$240,000. It was the consensus of the Board to budget funds for ten cars for the Sheriff's Department.

2008 – Sheriff – Jail

Electronic Monitoring Fees: Participation is current lower than anticipated and 100% are not paying customers. Only 15 out of a possible 25 are budgeted to be paying in the upcoming budget.

2315 – Fire Marshal

There was a request to reclassify Telecommunicator I to Telecommunicator II, which was recommended, and a request was made for a new telecommunication position, which was not recommended.

2401 – Inspections

A new \$45 fee for roof inspections applies to new construction and re-roofing.

2601 – Animal Control

Mr. Blizzard announced that Cherry Point is closing their animal shelter, and paying Animal Control \$9,000 to take it over. He recommended a new part-time position.

2801 – Rescue Squad Administration

The amount of \$170,000 for each squad includes money for additional staff. There was discussion regarding community based squads versus consolidation for 24/7 coverage. The budget includes a recommended consolidation study. Commissioner Morris introduced the issue of non-revenue mutual aid calls to Pamlico County answered by Bridgeton Rescue. Twp. 7 helps to cover Bridgeton in those cases. He inquired if this issue should be addressed with the Pamlico County Commissioners. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with the study.

3101 – Environmental Health

There is currently one more position, Environmental Health Specialist, being unfunded. The department eliminated a \$2,700 wastewater certification fee.

3201 – Solid Waste

Trash sticker sales are expected to decline due to Havelock starting its own program. Commissioner Jones commented that sticker outlets in the western end of the county are limited and difficult to find.

4001 – Planning

The Planning Department will need \$10,000 for engineering on the zoning ordinance.

5100 – Medical Services

This was deferred.

6400 – Family Planning

A new full-time position was requested and recommended with reservations. It was the majority consensus not to add the position.

At 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to recess until 9:00 a.m. on May 25, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Chairman Perry L. Morris
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board