

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN
RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MAY 16, 2011 ON MAY 18, 2011
AT 8:20 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 Steve Tyson
Vice Chairman Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner Scott C. Dacey
Commissioner Thomas F. Mark
Commissioner Theron L. McCabe
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Commissioner Jefferey S. Taylor

STAFF PRESENT:

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

Budget Process

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, provided an overview of the budget process and County Finance Director, Rick Hemphill, provided an explanation of calculations in reporting tables, fund balance analysis, revenue projections and prior years' comparisons.

Chairman Tyson inquired as to the protocol for Board Members' contact with the County Attorney. It was the consensus of the Board that questions should be directed through staff as much as possible to minimize costs. Staff should instruct the County Attorney to explain to private citizens who call that such service is not a budgeted. The Chairman suggested that this policy issue be addressed in the upcoming review of bylaws later in the year.

Revenues

Mr. Hemphill informed the Board that the estimated tax base equals \$9,620,000,000. One penny on the tax rate equals \$943,000.

The Board was advised that pending legislation to change the basis of sales tax distribution to unincorporated valuation from countywide valuation would have a tremendous negative impact on the County.

Commissioner Taylor stated that he would like to examine oversight of the ABC Board.

Items marked for further review:

- Sales tax budgeted at 5% increase may warrant adjusting more conservatively.

At 9:57 a.m. the Board went into recess.

At 10:10 the Board reconvened.

Staff was asked to provide an itemization of the Board's membership fees.

Items marked for further review:

- Cable Service (TV-10) – Consider collaborating with the City of New Bern on TV-3. Mr. Hemphill stated that the City gets PEG money, but only one entity with the County can qualify.

- Legal fees for redistricting
- Special Appropriations

Health Insurance – Staff is considering an alternate provider.

Information Technology- The Board discussed feasibility of IT function being privatized. This may be considered in the future; however, at present it was determined that it is not the most efficient and cost-effective option.

GIS – The Board expressed interest in enhancing cross-training to utilize staff more fully. The size of staff should be studied.

The retiree health benefit was explained to the Board. Commissioners are not eligible because they are not on the retirement system.

Effects of Health Care Bill on County's insurance:

- July 1 – Covers children up to 26 years of age
- The County's policy is grandfathered in many areas as long as no major changes to plan. Staff would not recommend changes to plan at this time.

Fire/Rescue Squad Audits were recommended, with staff choosing the rotation.

At 11:55 a.m. the Board went into recess.

At 12:40 the Board reconvened.

Fire Department Grant Matches – It was the consensus of the Board, with the exception of Commissioner McCabe, that the County provide half of the grant matches for 2012, with the understanding that the districts will be required to provide the remainder of the match or seek alternative funding. EMS will support districts by lending technical assistance.

It was the consensus of the Board that a bi-partisan letter of appeal from the Craven County Board of Commissioners be sent to the State Election Board to seek clarification or justification for withdrawal of a HAVA grant offer due to the specified equipment being denied in Craven County, although approved in other North Carolina jurisdictions.

Items marked for further review:

- Register of Deeds salary
- Disposition of 509 Broad Street

At 2:40 p.m. the Board recessed to reconvene on Monday, May 23 at 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Steve Tyson
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board