

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MAY 24, 2011 ON MAY 25, 2011 AT 4:12 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 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

The Board conducted a second review of selected line items.

- Commissioners' Membership Dues

There was discussion regarding the value of the New Bern Chamber of Commerce membership. Commissioner Taylor moved to withdraw from the New Bern Chamber, seconded by Commissioner Mark. The motion was withdrawn after further discussion.

The Board authorized the County Manager to negotiate \$1,110 for membership dues, the same amount that is paid for Havelock Chamber of Commerce dues. This was the majority consensus, with Commissioners Dacey and Mark dissenting.

- CTV10 Proposal – Pending
- Legal Fees for Redistricting – It was the consensus not to budget this item separately. Commissioners' legal line item should be adequate to cover costs.
- Highway 17 Association – It was the consensus of the Board to allocate \$30,000. In the meantime it was suggested to check with the legislative delegation concerning the efficiency of the program. The appropriation is to be released upon Board approval.
- NC 20 – Pending  
The Board requested to see the budget and what other units of government are paying their share.
- In order to initiate tax notice mailing savings, Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, recommended discontinuing the second delinquent motor vehicle "block" notices, while maintaining other notices, which generate more payments. This measure will save approximately \$7,500.
- Register of Deeds Salary – This will be reviewed in closed session.
- EOMP – It was the consensus of the Board to maintain 25 bracelets pending the Sheriff's monthly reports, and consider increasing the number if justified by sustained maximum performance. The Sheriff still needs to develop a written vehicle policy, which is a prerequisite to releasing an allocation for additional vehicles.

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- It was reported that number of Sheriff's employees compared to other counties is about average for similar size counties in the area.
  - Jail fees paid by inmates cannot be charged to indigent inmates. There needs to be an increased effort to collect the fees among those who can pay, and not utilizing a court appointed attorney. The Assistant County Manger will research this.
  - Mr. Hemphill reported that the Jail Medical Contract renews automatically on an annual basis. It requires a 60 day notice to rebid and the Board will make a note to bid next year.
  - Building Inspection fee study has determined that for the department to be self-supporting, a 71% increase would be required. Staff was directed to continue discussions with stakeholders, and to determine the legal process for changes. The Chairman favored raising fees to some midpoint.
  - Vector Control Program effectiveness was questioned. It was the majority consensus, with Commissioners McCabe and Sampson dissenting, to discontinue it. Reassigned staff will continue to be available for consultation.
  - Water sample fees – It was the consensus to increase fees from \$25-\$30.
  - Teen Court – pending

Another budget study session was scheduled for Friday, June 10 at 3:00 p.m. The Board will need to recess the June 6 regular session.

At 6:55 p.m. the Board adjourned.

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Chairman Steve Tyson  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board