

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN
RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF JANUARY 17, 2012 ON
JANUARY 20, 2012 IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN,
NORTH CAROLINA. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS
REDISTRICTING.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice Chairman Scott C. Dacey
Commissioner Thomas F. Mark
Commissioner Theron L. McCabe
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Commissioner Jefferey S. Taylor
Commissioner Steve Tyson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chairman Lee Kyle Allen

STAFF PRESENT:

Jack B. Veit III., Craven County Manager
Gene M. Hodges, Assistant County Manager
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Director
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
Jim Hicks, County Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Vice Chairman Dacey, and turned over to Attorney Marshal Hurley, who was hired by the County to lead the planning for redistricting. He explained some of the criteria to achieve the one man one vote requirement. Exact numerical equality is not required at the county level, but the goal is the closest achievable variance (not more than 5%) to satisfy the letter of the law. Districts must be contiguous, notwithstanding bodies of water, and should be as compact as possible. Similar communities of interest should be grouped together.

In Craven County, 14,786 is the equal population per district target. Currently the Craven County Commissioner Districts are under or over the target population by the following percentages:

District 1 – 17.35%
District 2 – 23.4%
District 3 - 28.84%
District 4 - 5.59%
District 5 – 27.76%
District 6 – 26.49%
District 7 +47.98%

John Morgan, President of Applied Research Coordinates, LTD., reviewed current maps and statistics. Commissioner Dacey suggested starting with District 3, which is a minority district, to get it established, meeting all of the criteria relative to population and percentage of minorities. Mr. Morgan used an interactive program to demonstrate each Commissioner's input as to preferences of census blocks, tracking minority percentages, and population alignment. The result was seven balanced districts with less than 1 % deviation, with District 3 gaining a percentage point in minority population, and the other minority district, District 5, maintaining approximately the same percentage of minority population.

At 11:10 a.m. the Board was recessed.

At 11:20 a.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

Next Steps:

- Consult with Chairman Allen
- Mr. Morgan will send statistics and maps to the County Manager
- If Chairman Allen is in agreement, the Board can decide to move forward with the proposed plan
- Formalize Board action to approve the proposal with a four-month window for submission to the Justice Department.

CLOSED SESSION

At 12:15 p.m. Commissioner Tyson moved to go into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Mark, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) – (Property Acquisition) relative to the Catholic High School parcel for a new high school.

At 1:00 p.m. the Board was declared back in open session.

County Manager, Jack Veit, asked County Attorney, Jim Hicks, to comment on a recent ruling concerning prayer at Commissioners' meetings. He summarized the ruling, as follows:

- The only acceptable reference to deity is "God".
- Prayer needs to be for the Board itself, not for the audience
- The Board cannot bring in outsiders of various denominations and religions to offer prayer.

At 1:05 p.m. Commissioner Tyson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Chairman Lee Kyle Allen
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board