

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS REGULAR SESSION OF MAY 19, 2014, AND RECONVENED SESSIONS OF MAY 20, 2014, MAY 21, 2014 AND MAY 27, 2014 AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE PURPOSE OF THIS RECONVENED MEETING WAS TO CONDUCT A BUDGET WORK SESSION.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jack B. Veit III, County Manager  
Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager - Facilities/Operations  
Richard F. Hemphill, Assistant County Manager – Finance/Administration  
Amber Parker, Human Resources Director  
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board

The Board considered a request from County Attorney Associate, Aaron Arnett, on behalf of the Board of Education, that the County adopt a resolution waiving its right of first refusal for a portion of the old Bridgeton Elementary school property. He stated that the Board of Education has agreed to deed the three acre waterfront property, pending the County's agreement, to the Town of Bridgeton in exchange for removal of restrictions on the building. Commissioner Sampson moved to adopt the resolution waiving the County's right of first refusal for six months, to allow for the settlement. Commissioner Tyson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Board proceeded to finalize the budgets for the following fire departments:

- Township #3. Commissioner Taylor stated that two of the three Twp. 3 Fire Tax Commissioners voted not to raise the tax rate if \$8,000 of their \$8,000 Fund Balance can be appropriated. It was noted, however, that with only \$15,000 in Fund Balance and an appropriation of \$8,000 of it, a fire tax rate increase will likely be inevitable in the next budget.
- Township #9. Commissioner Taylor agreed to raise the Twp.9 rate by one cent, but requested that half of the increase be withheld from their monthly disbursement to go into Fund Balance for capital reserve.
- Tri-Community. Mr. Hemphill clarified that the Tri-Community capital reserve amount is \$50,000, not \$60,000.
- Township #5. Mr. Veit advised the Board that 82 homes will go from an insurance rating of 10 to a 9E, rather than a 10 if Twp. 5 does not reach agreement with Carteret County. Commissioner McCabe stated that the fire chief and president will not accept the \$30,000 being offered by Carteret County. He asked that the matter be deferred until after a scheduled meeting with Mr. Veit, Carteret County and himself on June 6.

Building Inspection Fees

The Board discussed inspection fee adjustments that are included in the recommended budget. Commissioner Sampson stated his preference to maintain the fees as they are, given the constrained economic climate; however, he reconsidered after discussion. Mr. Veit explained that the goal has been to move toward the department's supporting itself through fees. The shortfall that would be created by not including the fee increase would require funds from elsewhere. The general consensus was to leave the fee increase.

Health – Hospice

The proposed budget does not include an additional physician or palliative care, but only reflects hospice as it is currently. After discussion the consensus was to leave the budget recommendation as it is, without addressing palliative care.

Schools

There was discussion of the impact on the County's budget of an 11% salary increase for teachers in the proposed N.C. Senate budget, which could be an additional \$330,000; however, nothing can be finalized until the State adopts its budget.

Structured Day Reporting Center

Consensus among the majority of the Board was to include an appropriation of \$7,500 for Structured Day Reporting Center, with Commissioners Allen, Mark and Taylor dissenting.

It was agreed to recess the June 2 regular session to reconvene at 4:00 p.m. on June 11 to resolve the Harlowe (Twp. 5) issue.

At 6:35 p.m. Commissioner Sampson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried.

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Chairman Thomas F. Mark  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board