

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS REGULAR SESSION OF JUNE 2, 2014 AT 4:00 P.M. ON JUNE 11, 2014 IN THE COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE PURPOSE OF THE 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 (Via Conference Call)
Commissioner Theron L. McCabe
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Commissioner Steve Tyson (Via Conference Call)

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

Twp. #9 - County Manager, Jack Veit, reported that, as a result of Twp. 9 Fire Department's request in the last work session, their appropriation will be \$175,619, and the amount of their one cent tax rate increase held by the County for future capital needs will be \$19,793.

Twp. #5 – Mr. Veit reported that he had met with Commissioner McCabe and Carteret County management on June 6 concerning Twp. #5 (Harlowe) Fire Department. As a result of those negotiations, the district Fire Tax Commissioners met on June 10 and agreed to accept from Carteret County the full amount of their contractual payment for fire protection on a pro rata monthly basis for six months. This amounts to payment of \$8,000 per month for the Harlowe Fire Department to provide fire protection to a portion of Carteret County during the six month transition period to be covered by Carteret County. In addition, the Harlowe Fire Department is requesting \$21,000 which Carteret County has in reserve for the department. Harlowe is not requesting a rate increase.

In response to requests by the Board, Mr. Hemphill provided information on the County's current debt status, and Mr. Veit presented a breakdown of costs for law enforcement vehicles.

Mr. Hodges advised the Board of an offer of two surplus vehicles from the ABC Board: a 2013 Chevrolet Impala with 113,000 miles and a Mercury Marquis with 64,000 miles. Staff recommended that the Board accept the donation of the Impala, which could be utilized by a School Resource Officer, and the Mercury, which could be used by the Planning Department. Commissioner Sampson moved to accept the vehicles and to allow staff to complete the necessary paperwork for the transfer, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Mr. Hodges reported his research on the cost of lighting the tennis courts at West Craven Park, estimating a cost of \$165,000 to \$170,000. Commissioner Mark stated he has observed that the most frequent use of the courts is during the day. There was no interest in moving forward at this time.

Ms. Parker requested that the Board adopt an amendment to the Personnel Policy to reflect a 5% increase in the payment of retiree health insurance. Commissioner Allen moved to adopt the amendment, seconded by Commissioner Mark and unanimously carried.

Mr. Hemphill distributed a summary of changes to the recommended budget that the County Manager Presented to the Board on May 19. He reported that the changes to the budget made by the Commissioners will result in an additional \$27,292 of Fund Balance in order to balance the budget.

Mr. Hemphill presented the following budget amendment for additional excise tax for the Register of Deeds.

RC061114

APPROVED

101-1001-357-60-00	\$40,000.00	101-1001-400-11-03	\$ 560.00
Excise Fees		401K	
		010-1001-400-22-00	290.00
		Telephone	
		101-1001-400-45-02	39,150.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$40,000.00</i>		<i>\$40,000.00</i>

Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the foregoing budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

The Board was apprised of an error that occurred stemming from the adoption of the Tax and Tag program which was instituted in August 2013. Municipality fire taxes were not included on the bills for any municipalities except New Bern, due to a glitch in the programming during the transition period. There is a total of \$21,245 that should have been billed and collected for four fire departments: Twp. #3, West New Bern #2, West New Bern/Trent Woods and Twp. #1. The problem has been corrected going forward; however, Mr. Hemphill proposed to take this amount from Fund Balance for distribution to the fire departments, as the tax department is prohibited from rebilling for these amounts. Consensus was to add this item to the June 16 regular session agenda for action.

At 4:40 p.m. Commissioner Taylor moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Chairman Thomas F. Mark
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board