

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MAY 16, 2016 ON MAY 19, 2016 AT 8:30 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 George S. Liner
Vice Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Commissioner Scott C. Dacey
Commissioner Jason R. Jones
Commissioner Thomas F. Mark
Commissioner Theron L. McCabe
Commissioner Steve Tyson

STAFF PRESENT:

Jack B. Veit III, County Manager
Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager
Craig Warren, Finance Director
Amber Parker, Human Resources Director
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Liner recapped Legislative Day at the General Assembly, which was attended by several Commissioners and staff members on May 18.

The Board addressed items tabled from the Monday, May 16th reconvened session.

Review of Membership Fees and what each Fee Entails

- MPO/RPO – It was the consensus to move from the Commissioner's budget to Planning or Administration
- NACo – membership fee remains flat.
- NCACC – \$10,388 is population based (slightly up from previous year)
- SOG – \$12,542 – population based
- ECCOG – Slight reduction from previous year
- ACT - \$25,000 – based on population
- Hwy 70 - \$25,000 – paid by four core members; according to by-laws
- Hwy 17 – Onslow County dropped out two years ago and Pender County dropped out last year. Last year Craven County funded for six month increments and asked for development of a plan. The plan was never submitted.

Chairman Liner stated that he thinks the County needs to remain involved since funding priorities have been advanced. He supports funding Hwy 17 at \$25,000 with expected results submitted in writing. He feels it is not the right time to send the message that pulling out would give and will respect Commissioner Mark's recommendation.

Commissioner Mark agreed, but for one year only and if there are no results in a year, the County should drop their membership.

Commissioner Dacey moved to approve the amended motion and appropriate \$12,500 now with a mid-year report and plan to go forward. The County Manager will put the terms in writing and have the committee appear before the Board on December 5, 2016. Commissioner Mark seconded the motion, and there was general consensus to do so.

City of Havelock Recreation Request

Chairman Liner stated that he is not putting forth the Havelock request for \$200,000, but requests \$30,000 for two electronic score boards at the Walter B. Jones Park. Commissioner Dacey stated that he has a conflict with this request; having rejected a similar request from Trent Woods.

Commissioner Tyson suggested a written policy regarding the funding of municipal parks.

County Manager, Jack Veit, stated the County could consider this a payment in lieu of building a regional park at the eastern end of the County, which was the original plan. Also, Creekside Park cannot accommodate LaCrosse. If Havelock is willing to develop dedicated fields for LaCrosse, Craven County would not need to make a provision for it.

After polling the Board, Commissioners Sampson, Jones, McCabe and Tyson were in agreement with inclusion of this request.

Commissioner McCabe withdrew his request for funding the ballfield lights in Harlowe due to the estimate returned being too expensive. He stated that the basketball court needs lines and nets; filler dirt is needed in the playground and the community center shelter is in need of repairs. He is seeking \$5,000 for Harlowe park repairs and maintenance.

Commissioner Jones recommended that Commissioner McCabe's request be placed on the be-back list to allow Commissioner McCabe time to clarify the needs with the County Manager and his staff.

Public Buildings

Convention Center: The debt service on the convention center will be satisfied in 2019. The Board will need to determine what to do going forward relative to potential needed expansion, repairs, and/or improvements.

Housekeeping: Would like to consider contract employees as retirements occur.

At 9:50 a.m. the Board went into recess.

At 9:55 a.m. the Board reconvened in work session.

Havelock Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV): The site currently costs \$21,000 per year, with \$14,000 received back from Havelock in rent. Havelock no longer wishes to pay the lease. The continued viability of this facility was questioned.

Sheriff

The budget submitted by the Sheriff came in less than last year's budget.

Mr. Veit alerted the Board to a federal law change that dictates what the requirements are for exempt employees. He explained that the threshold has gone from approximately \$23,000 to \$47,000. He stated that approximately 19 people, some in the Sheriff's Department, will be affected as of December 1, 2016 when the law goes into effect.

Inspections

Commissioner Jones inquired about the feasibility of a blanket inspection fee for beginning to end of entire process. This was placed on the list for further study.

Rescue Squads

Commissioner Jones stated that he will meet with Commissioner Mark and the County Manager regarding Vanceboro. This was placed on the list for further review.

At 11:25 a.m. the Board went into recess.

At 11:40 a.m. the Board reconvened in work session.

Solid Waste

Commissioner Jones inquired if on-site sticker sales is a possibility. Assistant County Manager, Gene Hodges, stated that logistically it is difficult and the employees that are sought for these positions do not necessarily have the skills for handling the sales.

Soil Conservation

Commissioner Jones stated that the County will need to be looking harder at beaver management as a maintenance issue after the first cycle of stream clean-out for all areas is completed.

At 12:20 p.m. the Board went into recess.

At 12:45 p.m. the Board returned in work session.

The Board continued review of the budget, beginning with Economic Development, followed by Mental Health.

Veterans Services

The full-time salary line in the budget reflects a Veterans Services Director, a Veterans Services Officer, and an Administrative Assistant, which is one more position than currently funded.

Department of Social Services (DSS) Administration

Kent Flowers, Alfreda Stout and Kim Morton presented an overview of the DSS issues. They distributed letters from the Department of Health and Human Services from February 17 and April 12 summarizing current issues and potential future issues.

They stated that they need six additional full-time employees (one Income Maintenance Caseworker II for intake; two additional Income Maintenance Caseworkers II for Medicaid; two Income Maintenance Caseworkers III as trainers; and one Income Maintenance Caseworker II for Food/Nutrition). Additionally, 12 new part-time positions are requested and three current part-time positions are needed to continue. They stated that staffing is never caught up with the rise in caseload from 2008-2013, and now additional levels of processing are being added regularly.

Ms. Stout asked if the Board would allow them to come back in December if the proposed numbers are not working to allow the department to keep pace with the required standard.

Current individuals served: Adult Medicaid – 15,000; Food and Nutrition – 7,900

Commissioner Jones suggested that the County Manager get some figures and statewide data that can be used to educate the public.

At 2:10 p.m. the Board went into recess.

At 2:20 p.m. the Board returned to work session.

Schools

The County Manager provided the rationale for the budget recommendations for the schools.

Commissioner Dacey stated that he does not see a plan for going forward in consideration of the attrition. Analysis demonstrates that the County Manager's recommendation would bring the per pupil average equal to or greater than the state average.

He also stated that he is concerned about the schools' fiscal responsibility in light of past appropriations to projects not completed, and resulting funds that have been re-directed. He presented a draft of alternatives based on the Carteret County model.

Options:

- Manager's recommendation
- \$200,000 out of Information Technology to Operations
- Meet with the Board of Education to discuss options

At 3:30 p.m. the Board recessed until 8:30 a.m. on May 20, 2016.

Chairman George S. Liner
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board