

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MAY 19, 2016 ON MAY 20, 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  
Jim Hicks, County Attorney

Chairman Liner suggested reconvening the work session Wednesday, June 1 or Thursday, June 2 to get the Board of Education issues resolved. He asked, and received, the Board's consensus to schedule another budget work session at 8:30 a.m. on June 1.

Chairman Liner asked the County Manager to contact the School of Government about how the Board could handle Commissioner Dacey's recommendation regarding disbursement of School Capital funding on an as-needed basis. He instructed staff to meet with the Board of Education to get clarity on the schools' fund balance.

Chairman Liner stated that he cannot understand the schools' figures and needs a better understanding in order to make a decision.

At 8:40 a.m. Commissioner McCabe moved to go into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Tyson regarding a personnel issue pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6).

At 9:10 a.m. the Board returned to regular session.

Human Resources Director, Amber Parker, requested an amendment to the Personnel Resolution to adjust rates for retiree insurance, to align them with the proposed salary adjustment.

Commissioner Sampson moved to approve the requested amendment, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

**Community College**

There were no changes and no questions.

Commissioner Dacey presented the following questions regarding the Board of Education:

He stated that he would like for staff to ask schools for a plan to stop leakage of students from public schools going to charter schools.

He stated that he agrees that the facility maintenance fund be decreased as reflected in their budget by \$100,000, but questioned if this is appropriate, or if this is short sightedly avoiding preventive measures that could cost more in the long term. He inquired if the Efficiency Consultant report is available yet.

Commissioner Dacey asked what causes the decrease in Area Day Reporting enrollment. County Manager, Jack Veit, responded that he has asked Superintendent of Schools, Lane Mills, and Debbie Hodges, Director of Student Support Services, to investigate.

### **Fund Balance**

Former Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, clarified his understanding of the schools' Fund Balance, stating that there was \$456,000 unassigned at the end of FY15.

### **Recreation**

Commissioner Jones introduced a request received by Commissioner Dacey for installation of electricity at the Rocky Run Park picnic shelter. An estimate of \$1,200-\$1,500 was received from R. Brown Electric for installation. Duke Energy estimated the monthly electricity bill at \$17, or \$35 with a night light. The Board reached consensus to add \$1,500 to the small capital line and \$500 to the utilities line.

### **Libraries**

No change except a 2% salary increase, which is the same as the County. The County will be picking up maintenance at Cove City and New Bern libraries.

Commissioner Dacey provided an update on Dr. Burgin's library study alternatives:

1) Keeping downtown library and opening several satellites; and 2) Relocating in a larger facility.

Option #1 was originally preferred but it was later suggested that the library partner with Craven Community College.

The Library Foundation Board approved \$20,000 for a \$60,000 study. The County would need to put in \$20,000 also. The downtown building is 90% owned by Craven County; 10% by the City of New Bern. Also, private contributions helped to fund the facility.

Commissioner Tyson commented that \$60,000 is too much for the study and he would like to review all relevant documents.

#### **Three Issues under Scrutiny:**

- Traffic/Accessibility
- Institutional vs. public facility
- Footprint and design to accommodate needs

The County Manager stated he will ask the librarian to assemble all agreements and grant documents. Documents for the recently passed \$1.2M bond have a two and a half year window. The County Manager suggested, if the Board is willing, to put together a sub-committee to study and meet with staff. Commissioners Tyson, Dacey and Sampson agreed to form the sub-committee.

Commissioner Dacey stated that he will get information regarding the time sensitivity for using bond funds.

At 10:15 a.m. the Board went into recess.

At 10:25 a.m. the Board reconvened in budget work session.

### **Convention Center**

The budget includes re-focusing on major conferences.

At 10:35 a.m. Commissioner Tyson departed the meeting.

The Board did not approve \$25,000 for teleconferencing equipment. Information Technology Director, Dennis Holton, has a possible alternative, but may come back next year to add this feature.

The County is spending \$403,000 subsidy to the Convention Center budget. Tourism Development Authority puts in \$271,000 on a \$1.3M budget.

### **Health**

Commissioner Jones stated that he does not receive a stipend for serving on the Health Board. He is in favor of lunch being served because the professionals who save on the Health Board leave work to attend meetings at lunch time. The County Manager recommended that \$100 per month be added back.

Hospice has met and exceeded benchmarks set during the last budgeting cycle.

Remaining Items for Discussion:

- Schools follow-up
- Water
- E-911
- CIP

The Chairman requested that any questions for staff to take to the school board next week, be forwarded to the County Manager.

### **Public Defender Program**

Local Attorney's will meet at noon today. It was agreed to wait and seek their input. The one-time start-up cost is approximately \$60,000.

Commissioner Dacey reported that Dr. Staats stated there is no hard deadline for expending bond funds, but there is a reasonable expectation that they will be utilized in the next few years.

At 12:00 p.m. the Board moved to recess until 8:30 a.m. on June 1.

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Chairman George S. Liner  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board