

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN SITTING AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE CRAVEN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2010 IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 7:55 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Perry Morris  
Vice Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.  
Commissioner Lee Kyle Allen  
Commissioner Jason R. Jones  
Commissioner Theron McCabe  
Commissioner M. Renée Sisk  
Commissioner Steve Tyson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Harold Blizzard, County Manager  
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer  
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board  
Jim Hicks, County Attorney

Following the roll call, Commissioner Jones moved to approve the minutes of March 15, 2010 regular session, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED WATER ORDINANCE**

In December 2009 the Water Board conducted a public hearing on a proposed Craven County Water Ordinance. Staff, taking into consideration input from the public hearing, made revisions which were presented to the Board on March 15, and another public hearing was scheduled. At 7:57 p.m. Commissioner Jones moved to go into public hearing, as advertised, seconded by Commissioner McCabe.

The following citizens spoke:

*Mr. John Thomas, 1994 Hoods Creek Dr.*, made comments concerning several sections of the proposed ordinance, as follows:

1. Section 40-23, separate metering may not be best for all types of commercial establishments
2. Section 40-26 mentions an irrigation capital reserve fee, which would possibly be a second capital reserve fee.
3. Section 40-28 – County service facilities not clearly defined
4. Page 6-Captial reserve fee could be forfeited as well as allocation
5. Appendix A – Board approval or disapproval could come **after** developer has already invested.
6. Appendix 5.B – Suggests 12 month warranty versus 18 month. Twelve months is standard practice and should be adequate.

*Ms. Raynor James, 305 Calico Dr.*, expressed concern about taxes, stating that fees are the same as taxes, aimed at the real estate industry or a small group of people are inherently unfair, as opposed to the burden being spread out evenly.

At 8:12 p.m., there being no more citizens from the public who wished to speak, Commissioner Sampson moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Morris stated that he agrees with the 12 month warranty versus the 18 month warranty that Mr. Thomas pointed out in Appendix 5.B, but this provision was applied as a result of the last public hearing.

Commissioner Jones thinks that more discussion is needed on the concerns expressed. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, stated that the biggest concerns expressed were with Appendix A, which is exactly what Mr. Thomas recommended for inclusion after the last public hearing. Commissioner Tyson moved to defer consideration of the ordinance for another look at the concerns expressed, seconded by Commissioner Sampson. Mr. Blizzard suggested that staff prepare a report, with justification for the elements under discussion for the Board. It was the consensus of the Board to accept Mr. Blizzard's suggestion, and the motion was withdrawn.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED WATER ALLOCATION PLAN**

In response to the Board's request for development of a short-term water allocation plan, staff presented a proposed plan at the March 15, 2010 meeting. An optional public hearing was scheduled to receive public input on the plan. At 8:35 p.m. Commissioner Sampson moved to go into public hearing, as advertised, seconded by Commissioner Tyson. There were no citizens from the public who wished to speak. County Attorney, Jim Hicks, stated that the proposed Water Allocation Plan could stand alone for adoption, but suggested passing it with the ordinance. At 8:36 p.m. Commissioner Sampson moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried. Although the Board is comfortable with the proposed water allocation plan, it was the consensus of the Board to wait for its adoption until the ordinance is refined to everyone's satisfaction.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CAPITAL RESERVE**

The Board previously discussed the need for a Capital Reserve Fee. Staff provided a financing and rate option spreadsheet based on an estimated cost to build a water treatment plant, including a rate comparison of other water systems in the area, and quotations for drilling wells. Commissioner Jones inquired if the State would be amendable to a request for an extension in the usage reduction schedule, thus prolonging the need to finance a water treatment plant.

Water Superintendent, Rusty Hayes, responded that all counties petitioned unsuccessfully for an extension of deadlines at the onset of the reduction mandate. Commissioner Allen moved to defer consideration of the proposed Capital Reserve Fee until the Board's next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Sampson.

At 9:00 Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McCabe and unanimously carried.

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Chairman Perry L. Morris  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Gwendolyn M. Bryan  
Clerk to the Board