

**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 TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2011
IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH
CAROLINA. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 8:52 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
Jack B. Veit, III., Assistant County Manager
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Director
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
Aaron Arnette, County Attorney Associate

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED WATER RATE CHANGES

At 8:52 p.m. the Water Board went into an optional public hearing, as advertised, for the purpose of providing information and hearing public comment on proposals to adjust water rates for high volume users of the system. Rusty Hayes, Water Superintendent, reviewed water usage and rate tables with the Board.

The following citizens spoke:

1. *Charlie Simmons, 2218 Tuscarora Rhems Road*, stated that water production is up in his area due to vegetable production and he is against any rate increase.
2. *Hal James, 305 Calico Drive*, expressed concern that some large consumers may be businesses. He was informed, however, that commercial rates are not affected by proposed changes.
3. *Raynor James, 305 Calico Drive*, expressed the opinion that it is the duty of the government to make plenty of water available for everyone to use as they wish.
4. *Tyker Gonzalez, 125 Turkery Quarter Creek Road*, suggested consolidating water bills for each water customer to save costs.

Commissioner Dacey stated that he contacted large volume water users who were identified by the Water Department and discovered there were one-time circumstances in most cases where there was abnormally high usage. He suggested limiting any increased fees to situations that are repetitive.

At 9:15 p.m. Commissioner Sampson moved to go out of public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Mark.

Commissioner McCabe reintroduced the Ferry Road Fire Station hydrant request. The report requested of the County Manager indicated that 15 other fire stations do not have hydrants on site. Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the request for location of a hydrant at the Ferry Road Fire Station. The motion failed with two (2) "ayes" from Commissioners McCabe and Sampson, there being five (5) "nays" from Commissioners Allen, Dacey, Mark, Taylor and Tyson.

Commissioner Sampson stated that training is needed for adults on water conservation and may be just as effective as the disincentive of higher rates.

Chairman Tyson stated that it is a fact that the County will need to raise its water rates, with the planned \$17 million borrowing for new treatment facilities. It is just a matter of when this will occur. County Finance Director, Rick Hemphill, stated that borrowing will need to occur in about one year.

At 9:27 p.m. Commissioner Sampson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sampson.

Chairman Steve Tyson
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board