

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CRAVEN COUNTY RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF MAY 17, 2021 ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021 AT 8:30 AM AT THE NEW BERN RIVERFRONT CONVENTION CENTER IN TRYON ROOMS A & B, 203 SOUTH FRONT STREET, NEW BERN, NC. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO CONDUCT A BUDGET WORK SESSION.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairman Jason Jones  
Vice Chairman Denny Bucher  
Commissioner George Liner  
Commissioner Thomas Mark  
Commissioner Theron McCabe  
Commissioner E.T. Mitchell  
Commissioner Beatrice Smith

**STAFF PRESENT:**

County Manager Jack Veit  
Assistant County Manager Gene Hodges  
Finance Director Craig Warren  
Human Resources Director Amber Parker  
Clerk to the Board Nan Holton  
Sarah Williams, Budget Analyst

County Manager, Jack Veit, informed the Board that the County Attorney would provide an update on the 160 D Ordinances, along with members of the Planning Department at 10:00 am on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Chairman Jones referred everyone back to the Special Appropriations to have further discussions and decisions about funding ACT (BRAC) and the Harlowe Ballfield.

Commissioner Mitchell provided the Board and Staff with the BRAC update provided by the lobbyist used by North Carolina. They are predicting that the 2021-2022 Congress is likely to authorize a BRAC. Mrs. Mitchell stated that given the stepped-up timeline, along with other factors, she requested allocating funds for BRAC preparation.

Commissioner Liner spoke against hiring a lobbyist and suggested the Board wait until June.

Commissioner Smith voiced the need to consider the surrounding counties, as they are going to be affected as well.

Commissioner Jones indicated the need for a committee from within the Board of Commissioners to research and report back. He stated if funds were allocated now, they do not have to be spent.

Commissioner Mark expressed the need to approach the Governor, as during the last BRAC the Governor was involved.

The Board was in consensus to give ACT \$25,000 in Special Appropriations; and to create a BRAC Committee with an allocation of \$100,000.

In regards to the Harlowe Ballfield, Commissioner McCabe requested funds for a new floor and stage carport. County Staff recommended sending someone from Maintenance to determine the feasibility, along with associated costs, and add this to the Be Back list to discuss later.

**SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET BOOK**

Mr. Veit referenced the Supplemental Budget Book and explained how to use it along with the budget discussions to see how funds are mandated and what revenues fund them. He recognized Finance Budget Analyst, Sarah Williams, for providing this document this year.

Mr. Veit referred the Board to the white board that highlighted that a one cent tax increase adds \$989,489 to the budget, which equates to a tax increase of 1.06 cents. This increase equates to a \$10.60 increase/year for a \$100,000 homes or \$15.90/year for a \$150,000 home.

As the Board progressed through the proposed FY21-22 Budget, County Manager, Jack Veit, Asst. County Manager, Gene Hodges, Finance Director, Craig Warren and Human Resources Director, Amber Parker provided highlights of revenues and expenditures, focusing on increased funding, new employees, maintenance items, and capital improvements.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

### **GIS MAPPING**

### **FINANCE**

### **ELECTIONS**

### **TAX ASSESSOR**

### **TAX APPRAISER**

### **TAX COLLECTIONS**

### **REGISTER OF DEEDS**

### **PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of owning a County fuel center versus buying from the City of New Bern.

A break was taken at 10:11 am.

### **COURT FACILITIES**

Mr. Hodges reported that \$52,500 was being pulled out of this budget and put into the Courthouse Renovations Capital Reserve Project, which adjusts the budget down from \$254,510 to \$202,010.

### **MAINTENANCE**

### **GARAGE**

Mr. Hodges reported that after talking with the County's engineer, he received some rough estimates of developing a County Fuel Facility. Based upon the County's fuel usage of 26,000 gallons/month, it was estimated in the \$315,000-\$400,000 range, with \$50,000 for permitting and engineering and the rest for two 15,000 gallon tanks. The Board was in consensus to fund \$50,000 for engineering purposes and to put it in the Maintenance 4220 Capital Outlay – Other Improvements line.

### **NON-DEPARTMENTAL**

A short break was taken at 11:45 am.

### **SHERIFF**

Commissioner Jones requested they come back mid-year to consider an additional investigator for sex crimes on children.

Lunch was taken from 12:37 until 1:13 pm.

Commissioner Mitchell was excused from 1:00 pm until 1:40 pm.

SHERIFF continued....

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

### **RESCUE SQUADS**

Mr. Veit reviewed the two tier system that was created for rescue squad special appropriations. He stated the high allotment is \$385,000 and the lower allotment is \$325,000. Allotments approved were:

- ❖ New Bern Rescue Squad \$385,000
- ❖ Ft. Barnwell Rescue Squad \$385,000
- ❖ Bridgeton Rescue Squad \$325,000
- ❖ Vanceboro Rescue Squad \$350,000 (upon a request by Commissioner Jones with justifications of good call volume, poor call insurance)
- ❖ Cove City Rescue Squad \$385,000
- ❖ Township #7 Rescue Squad \$325,000

Havelock Rescue was pulled and slated to be discussed in Closed Session at 3:00 pm.

### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

A break was taken at 2:51 pm.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 3:05 pm, Commissioner Smith motioned to go into Closed Session, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney Client privilege. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

At 3:49 pm, Commissioner Mitchell motioned to return to Open Session; seconded by Commissioner Bucher and approved unanimously.

### **INSPECTIONS**

#### **MEDICAL EXAMINER**

#### **CARTS**

There was discussion between the Commissioners and Staff regarding the existing CARTS facility and the need to consider other options. Mr. Hodges referenced the floorplan and the \$600,000 tag for the Parks and Recreation building, indicating that the price has escalated to something closer to \$800,000. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the initiation of a design process with Oakley Collier Architects for a new CARTS facility.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

#### **SOLID WASTE**

#### **SOIL CONSERVATION**

#### **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

#### **PLANNING**

At 5:05 pm, the Board recessed until Friday, May 21, 2021 at 8:30 am, to meet at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center in Tryon Rooms A & B to continue the Budget Work Session.

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Chairman Jason R. Jones  
Craven County Board of Commissioners

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Nan Holton  
Clerk to the Board