

Emergency Meeting – May 1, 2013

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Manager's office located at 12 North Main Street Robbinsville, NC for the purpose of an emergency meeting to approve resolutions. Commissioners present were: Robert M. Edwards, Billy Holder and Keith Eller. Commissioner Williams joined the meeting by phone conference. Commissioner Connie Orr was absent due to family illness. Commissioner Edwards called the meeting to order.

1. Commissioner Edwards stated the purpose for the emergency meeting was the time restraints the county has on opposing Alternative 2 of the NC Improvements of Highway 143 – Project R-2822B and seek Legislation to increase the Room Occupancy Tax to the maximum of 6% for the county. Commissioner Edwards asks Manager Cable to present the resolutions.
2. Manager Cable stated that he had received notice that the county's original resolution on opposing Alternative 2 of the NC Improvements of Highway 143 – Project R-2822B needed to be stronger stating the reasons why the county feels that Alternative 2 would not be feasible for the county. The board agreed to add language that would list in detail the impacts that would occur if Alternate 2 was approved and further stated that the loss of private property would take away revenues from our much needed tax base. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the new Resolution #5-1-2013-1: Opposition of Alternative 2 of the N.C. Improvement's on Highway 143 – Project R-2822B. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Edwards stated that the second resolution was to ask legislation to increase the room occupancy tax to the maximum of 6% for the county. Commissioner Edwards stated that for the record he nor any of the commissioners are trying to take away monies from the municipalities located in our county and he recognizes that the Town of Robbinsville and the Town of Fontana Dam have imposed their own room occupancy tax of 3% which means that the county will only collect 3% in those municipalities. Commissioner Edwards stated that the room occupancy tax cannot exceed 6% at any time. Commissioner Edwards stated that there have been some business owners that are not in favor of the increase but the commissioners feel that the revenue is needed for our local Travel and Tourism to better promote travel and tourism activities. Commissioner Edwards stated that this resolution is a request to seek legislation to increase the tax and further stated that public hearings will be held and all steps will be followed by law. Commissioner Edwards also stated that the Town of Santeetlah has the right to seek the room occupancy tax of 3% if they so choose. Commissioner Edwards reiterated that if the legislation passes then the county will collect 6% "only" in the areas that are not already governed by the municipalities room occupancy tax, in other words, the county will not collect more than 3% in the Town of Robbinsville and the Town of Fontana Dam but will collect 6% in all other areas of the county. Commissioner Holder made the motion to approve the resolution to seek legislation to increase the room occupancy tax to the maximum of 6%. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Commissioner Edwards asks for further comments. No further comments were given.
5. Commissioner Eller made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Robert M. (Mike) Edwards, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Billy Holder, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Raymond Williams. Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board