

Continued Meeting from March 17, 2009 Regular Meeting

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met today Friday, March 20, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. for a continuation from the March 17, 2009 regular meeting to interview one more applicant for the Assistant Finance Officer's position and to discuss unfinished business. All Board was present.

Commissioner Snyder reconvened the meeting. The Board discussed a few issues coming up on QZAB and Lottery funds as well as the PILT dollars set aside for three years due to the economy crisis and talked of asking Judge Snow to change the format on the grant requests.

Commissioner Snyder made the motion to do into closed session under G.S. 143.318A (6). Commissioner Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Cable made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Snyder seconded. Vote unanimous.

The Board spoke briefly on the pool situation and directed the county manager to check with the attorney to make sure he is following up on all the problems that have been associated with the construction of the pool.

The Board also discussed the Gladden Creek dumpster site and the need for the area to be paved or concreted. The Forest Service had recommended that the county wait one year to let the ground settle. Commissioner Odom stated that was normal procedure.

Commissioner Trull asked about the tires at the recycling center and he still felt the county would be liable if anyone unloading their own tires was injured. The board gave the county manager a directive to tell the sanitation workers to unload the tires themselves and to develop a day and time for the vendors to bring their tires to the site and how many tires that could be brought at one time.

Commissioner Smith made a motion that all county offices be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with staggered hours so that the offices are not closed through lunch and no overtime will be given. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Trull had a question on the leave time that is awarded the county employees. The Clerk explained the process of the accumulation of the time based on the number of hours worked in a day by departments.

Commissioner Smith discussed personnel financial ethics and felt that bad financial ethics of an employee reflected upon the county and if these employees have bad judgment against them they should pay up. Commissioner Cable stated that may be overstepping our boundary concerning the employee personal life. Commissioner Trull stated that if something happened before they were hired by the county it's nothing to us. Donna Cody stated that at one point in time the bad check list at Ingles had a lot of county employee's names and people were very angry about it. She stated you enforce the personnel manual when dealing with employees. Commissioner Odom stated that if an employee is making a good faith effort then that should play into this issue. Commissioner Trull stated that if a legal judgment is against an employee they need to take care of it and pay up.

Commissioner Smith asked the county manager on the purchase limit. There will be a \$1000.00 limit on all purchase orders and anything above this amount will have to be approved by the board.

Commissioner Smith talked about the tobacco and smoke free policy ordinance that needed to be adopted and she stated that the Health Department needed this passed to be accredited by the state. Commissioner Cable made the motion to accept the tobacco and smoke free policy with reference to option #1 and using option #1 enforcement and Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Smith discussed the letter from Judy Covert on the issue about the gas chamber being used. Ms. Covert stated that Swain and Clay counties are supporting the bill and would like for Graham County to support the bill into law. Commissioner Smith made the motion to use euthanasia instead of the gas chamber and support this law. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Commissioner Cable was in favor. Commissioners Snyder and Trull were against. Motion passed three to two.

Commissioner Smith wanted the agenda to have all the commissioners names listed on the comment session. The other board members disagreed since the list stated commissioners. Commissioner Smith stated that she didn't get enough time for her items. Commissioner Snyder stated that he would ask her to speak first at the meetings. Commissioner Smith also wanted a line item for old business to make sure that this was taken care of.

Commissioner Snyder made the motion to go back into closed session for the purpose of G.S.143-318A (6). Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Cable made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Bruce Snyder, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Sandra Smith, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Billy Cable, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Steve Odom, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Eugene Trull, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board