

Regular Meeting 1/16/2007

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the Community Building at 196 Knight Street, Robbinsville, NC. Present were Commissioners Lynn Cody, Billy Cable, Raymond Williams, Jerry Sherrill and Eugene Trull. Chairman Cody called the meeting to order and Terry Slaughter gave the invocation.

1. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Agenda with the changes of item #6 and item #8. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Cody opened the Public Comment session of the meeting. Dave Pitcox talked to the Board about his ambulance bill. The Board stated that they would discuss this later and he would be sent a letter of their decision.
4. Erma Orr presented the Releases to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Ms. Orr stated that she was protesting the last five names on the list of Releases as they are for the old age exemption but the Board can approve releasing them. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve all of the names to be released as these last five names have come up before and the previous Board had already released them. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. The Board asked Ms. Smith if she had the Resolution on when the Revaluation would be and Ms. Smith stated that she had not. Jan Millsaps, Clerk to the Board, stated that she would do the Resolution and have it at the February 6, 2006 meeting.
5. Andy Posey asked the Board if he could discuss the Recreation Board that had been formed. Mr. Posey stated that he did not go to the first meeting because he did not get the message. Mr. Posey stated that Mr. Nelms stated that the Board was just to take the heat off of him and that he had the final say. The Board tabled this to discuss later.
6. Commissioner Trull made the motion to appoint Lynn Cody to the Smoky Mountain Mental Health Board. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Dale Wiggins, Alicia Parham and Melody Adams met with the Board to discuss the Septage Receiving Station. Ms. Parham stated that AGRR Corporation, of Brevard submitted the low bid in the amount of \$139,700.00 as there were four bids submitted. AGRR has worked on similar projects for clients of McGill Associates, is licensed to perform the work, and is capable of satisfactorily completing this project. Ms. Parham stated that the Septage Receiving Station be

located at the Recycling center as it already has a cement slab and sewer line already in place to under take the removing trash form the waste stream from the waste stream. Mr. Wiggins told the Board that this was grant monies. The Town of Robbinsville and the County already has \$10,000.00 each invested into this project that was begun in the 90's. Mr. Wiggins stated that this was a health issue and this would help clean up lake water. Ms. Adams told the Board that Mr. Cody, who owns the land that the County leases for the recycling center, said the septage receiving station located at the transfer station site will not cause Graham County to incur any increased costs to the county's current and future lease agreements. Ms. Parham told the Board that this project needed to be awarded to AGRR prior to bid expiration on January 28, 2006 or the bid process would have to begin again. Commissioner Trull made the motion to table this until the Board could discuss this matter. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion Vote unanimous.

8. Naomi Edwards, EMS Billing, met with the Board to discuss Medicare's new rates as of January 2007. Ms. Edwards told the Board that if they choose not to change with these rates then the County will have to take a loss. Medicare does not look at non-transports, ALS treatment, non transport ALS2 treatments and out of County patients extra. Medicare did go up on mileage because Graham County is a small rural county. Last year EMS billing collected \$563,331.48. Ms. Edwards told the Board that they needed to accept the new Medicare rates or keep the current rates and the County will loose monies by not accepting the new rates from Medicare that would have been paid. Terry Slaughter stated that there probably needed to be some rates changes on non transports based on what the paramedics do to the person and make it fair. Terry stated that he would present some figures for the Board to look at when non transports have occurred. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the new Medicare rates and mileage (per mile). Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. The Board stated that they would set the rates on the non transport rates later. Terry Slaughter told the Board that when the bid went out for the new EMS facility there were some petition walls in the building and when the bid was accepted the petition walls were torn down and the contractor is now telling us that they are going to charge us to put the walls back up and when the building was built there was no treated lumber used and by code we have to use treated lumber and that is also an additional price. Commissioner Trull asked who tore down the walls. It was stated that an employee had torn down these walls. The Board told Mr. Slaughter to go back to the contractor that the Board was not going to pay for treated lumber plate on concrete.
9. Commissioner Williams stated that several people had approached him on the old Cheoah Ranger Station Office Building from the United States Forest Service to be used for a Graham County Heritage Museum and Travel & Tourism Office and send a letter to Congressman Heath Shuler. Commissioner Williams made the motion for this letter to be written and sent to Congressman Shuler. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

10. Commissioner Williams made the motion to hire Zeyland McKinney as the County Attorney. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Commissioner Sherrill voted yes and Commissioners Cody voted no. Commissioner Trull abstained and then voted no.
11. Commissioner Trull make the motion to eliminate the job title of Assistant County Manager/Budget Officer and based on the fact that several Counties our size do not have a County Manager. County Manager Smith stated that she was going to be out a while and Dale would be taking over while she was gone. Commissioner Trull stated it was his motion to eliminate that position. Ms. Smith stated that Dale was doing the Human Resource Officer does. Chairman Cody stated that Commissioner Trull had made the motion to eliminate Assistant County Manager, Human Resource Officer and Budget Officer and is there a second to the motion? Mr. Wiggins stated that the amount of work and responsibility in the Finance Office you can not run that office with one employee. Chairman Cody asked if there was a second to this motion. Motion dies lack of a second.
12. Commissioner Trull made the motion to remove televisions from all the County work places. It's hard to have someone working when they sitting watching television. There are televisions in 3 departments that I know of and they are at the Sanitation, Transportation and Health Department and I don't know how many more and the County is paying cable bills. Alicia Parham, Graham County Health Director, stated she would like to respond to the Health Department having a television there. Ms. Parham stated that this was to muffle the sound and it is in the lobby. Juanita Colvard, Transit Director, stated that yes they have a television and VCR at Transit to monitor the weather and it was bought with grant monies and it is a big help for people in the office waiting to go to their destinations. Commissioner Trull's motion died for a lack of a second. Commissioner Trull made the motion for the 2007 vehicle is donated to the Sheriff's Department for the Task Force and was not being used. Ms. Smith stated that the car was being used. Commissioner Trull's motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner Trull made the motion for county vehicles driven by county employees to be parked and not driven home. Ms. Smith stated that the former Commissioners stated that Donald Crisp and David Hyatt drove their vehicles home. Commissioner Williams stated that they needed to be told. Commissioner Trull again stated that he made the motion for all county employees from driving their vehicles home non emergency vehicles. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. David Hyatt can leave his car at Stecoah if he has an inspection at Stecoah in the afternoon. Commissioners Cable and Cody agreed. Commissioner Williams did not vote for approval of this motion.
13. Sandra Smith spoke to the Board requesting the Board approve a drain line at the Stanley Recreation ball field in the amount of \$575.00 for the youth league season. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve this request. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. A budget

request for Recreation for youth sports for the following season was presented by Ms. Smith for the Board's approval. Dale and Jacob had worked on the proposal as Recreation's departmental line item was over budget and this amendment will get them through the budget year of \$45,441.72 Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve this request. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Williams stated that he would like to be appointed to the Recreation Board. Commissioner Trull stated that they should check on this Board before appointing anyone to this Board.

14. The Election Board, John Carswell and Keith Rogers met with the Board to ask for a larger office space because of equipment needs. Susie Farley also stated that her department needed a budget amendment and more money to be placed in her budget because the budget was cut \$10,000.00. Ms. Smith stated that she has not had time to check on this budget amendment by the previous Board but that she would. The Board told Mr. Carswell and Mr. Rogers to look at the P&J building and see if an office over there would be big enough.
15. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go into close session under GS 143.318.11 (A) 6 & 3. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Commissioner Cable made the motion to come out of closed session and back into open session. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. In closed session the Board discussed personnel and Attorney/Client privilege.
18. In open session Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the following pay increases. Commissioner Cable seconded these motions. Vote unanimous.
  - a. Wanda Sellers - increase to \$8.09 an hour
  - b. Randy Lynn - increase to \$10.66 an hour
  - c. Mathew Shriver - increase to \$10.66 an hour
  - d. Anona Lambert - \$1.00 an hour raise
  - e. Kendall Williams - \$29,000.00

Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the hiring of Josh Lane

as Maintenance at \$10.50 an hour and Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to let Cheryl Mullinax borrow 8 weeks for sick leave. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Commissioner Cody also seconded this motion. Commissioners Trull and Sherrill voted no.

19. After discussion by the Board on the location of the septage receiving station, Commissioner Cable made the motion for the septage receiving station to be located at the recycling center. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

20. The Board agreed for the Ambulance bills for Mr. Pitcox and Andy Lewis to be waived by advice of County Attorney McKinney.

21. The Board agreed not to accept the bid for the Godfrey Street Property.

22. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Lynn Cody, Chairman

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Billy Cable, Vice-Chairman

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Jerry Sherrill, Member

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Eugene Trull, Member

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Raymond Williams, Member

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Jan Millsaps, Clerk