

Regular Meeting 4/3/2007

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, April 3, 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, Jerry Sherrill, Raymond Williams and Eugene Trull. Chairman Cody gave the invocation.

1. Commissioner Trull made the motion to approve the Agenda with the deletion of item number 10. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Williams. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Cody opened the Public Comment session of the meeting. Melody Adams, County Planner, spoke to the Board about Governor Easley announcing six new 21st Century Communities program, an initiative led by the NC Department of Commerce to foster long-term economic growth in the state's most distressed communities. This will include counties that are hit by the loss of manufacturing jobs, particularly in the textile and apparel industries, slow population growth and this is a 2 year designation. Graham County will be assigned a team from the Department of Commerce and they will come out and we will get assistance for Economic Development projects that we choose. Once we have specific goals the Department of Commerce will give us priority funding such as other Commerce programs like USDA and Goldenleaf. Ms. Adams stated that she would like to form an Economic Development Advisory Council and have the first meeting on April 20, 2007 and would like to have a Commissioner to be on the Board. Commissioner Trull told Ms. Adams this was not an item for public comment but she should have been on the Agenda. Ms. Adams asked if he would like for her to come back. Commissioner Trull stated that he really didn't care he just thought it should have been on the Agenda and that she was really here as an employee of Graham County with Graham County business and not really for the public comment. Ms. Adams stated that she understood and Commissioner Trull told her to go ahead. Commissioner Cody made the motion to appoint Eugene Trull to the Advisory Board. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Chairman Cody asked Ms. Adams if the Broad Band Internet access was going to come into Stecoah anytime soon. Ms. Adams stated that she was asking Duke-Net to swap two fiber strands for Stecoah. Assistant County Manager Wiggins stated if it did that would be a full loop. Chairman Cody stated that they have an after-school program at Stecoah. Mr. Wiggins also stated that Century 21 could help with this project. Chairman Cody closed the Public Comment session of the Meeting.
4. Chairman Cody opened the Public Hearing for the Graham County Board of Equalization & Review. Erma Orr, Tax Assessor, swore in the Board members to the Board of Equalization & Review for 2007. After the Board was sworn in, Ms. Orr stated that no one had filed an appeal with the Board of E&R. Chairman Cody closed the Public Hearing. Erma Orr presented the Releases to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Trull made the motion to approve the Releases as presented and Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached)
5. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve SouthWestern Commission as the lead agency for the HCCBG Grant and the following new members on the Graham County Council on Aging:
Wayne Carringer – Veterans slot
Angela Campbell – DSS Social Worker slot
Noah Crowe – Pastor/Minister slot
Donna Sawyer – Home Health slot
Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Curtis Griggs met with the Board to request the \$5,000.00 allocation made to the Robbinsville High School Band by the previous Board of Commissioners. The

- budget amendment for this allocation was not submitted by the previous Board. Mr. Griggs stated the School would match the \$5,000.00 that the County would give. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve this request for \$5,000. for uniforms for the Band when the County gets the receipt showing the School has given their \$5,000.00. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Commissioner Trull made the motion to approve the Resolution to amend the Graham County Employee's Personnel Policy. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached) (This amendment to the Personnel Policy identifies in Section 5 Leave with and without pay and in Section 2, Classification of Employment, sub paragraph Part Time Permanent Employees).
 8. Alicia Parham, Director Graham County Health Department, met with the Board to discuss the Well Permit Fees as adopted by the Graham County Health Board. Ms. Parham told the Board if the County did not approve the Well Permit Fees that the State would implement their own fees in 2008. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve these fees. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Commissioners Sherrill and Cody voted yes. Commissioner Trull voted no on this motion.
 9. Commissioner Williams told the Board that he had the estimates for fixing the pool so it could operate this summer with the exception of the electrician. The bill would be approximately \$2,682.70 without the electrical costs. Melody Adams, County Planner, told the Board if they opened the pool this year or even thinking of opening the pool that the pool bid package would have to be amended to change the construction start date of September 1, 2007. Ms. Adams stated if they did not amend the bid package and open the pool the bids on the pool construction may not be any good. The Board decided to discuss this at the next Board Meeting. Commissioner Williams also told the Board that Bobby Smith did a good job during the youth basketball season. Mr. Smith has opened the concession stands and is making money. The Snapper lawn mower was fine and it's fixed and works well. Mr. Williams also stated that the School wanted the Recreation employees to line the fields youth games and this would consist of 40 week ends. Mr. Williams stated that the School had hired new personnel to do this and the County employees should have to do this. Graham County Middle School is using our fields now. School personnel had told the Recreation Personnel that if they did not stripe the fields they could not use the gym or their fields for the youth programs.
 10. Assistant County Manager Dale Wiggins gave the Board copies of Cherokee County and Haywood County's General Pay Plans for Employees that they use. These Counties do not use the step plans but Annual performance step plans. The Board stated they would look over these and discuss at the next Board's meeting. Commissioner Trull stated that he believed that the system is the less popular employees are left out. Mr. Wiggins stated that the Commissioners or Department Heads could do an annual review of each employee. Mr. Wiggins told the Board they could review this and discuss it at the 4/17/2007 Board Meeting. Commissioner Trull made the motion to approve the Resolution to Amend the Graham County Employee's Personnel Policy. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached)
 11. Commissioner Trull made the motion to go into closed session under GS 143.318.11 A(6) for the purpose of discussing personnel. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 12. Commissioner Cable made the motion to come out of closed session and back into open session. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 13. In closed session the Board discussed personnel and to advertise job openings in the County.

14. Commissioner Williams made the motion to advertise for the Assistant Finance Office position, part time temporary position for Grounds and Maintenance and full time EMS billing clerk. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. The Board directed Mr. Wiggins to have Donald Crisp, Sanitation Director, to start collecting and storing metals on-site at the Recycling Center so that the County can sell the metals.
16. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Lynn Cody, Chairman

Billy Cable, Vice-Chairman

Jerry Sherrill, Member

Eugene Trull, Member

Raymond Williams, Member

Jan Millsaps, Clerk