

Regular Meeting 4-17-2007

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, April 17, 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 called the meeting to order and Commissioner Williams gave the invocation.

1. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Cody spoke to the Board and Public on the Public Comment Session of future meetings. Mr. Cody stated that the Public Comment session is open to the public to comment on anything that they wished to comment on directed to the Board. However, the Board may not act upon those comments and it is recommended if you have anything needing a decision from the Board it is better to call the County Manager's Office and speak to the Clerk to be put on the Agenda. This way we can discuss it. When you send in that request give a reason why you would like to be on the Board so the Board can be notified why you want on the Agenda and possibly give you an answer that night. If you come the night of the meeting and request something it's hard to give an answer without looking over the reasons and getting some information on the background of your request. The Board wishes that people come to the meetings and give public comments and would like for all public comments to be given as instructed at the time. During the meeting if you would like to ask questions or give comments during the meeting just ask to do so and the Board will have the option to grant the request. The deadline to get on the Agenda is on Thursday before the scheduled meeting on the first or third Tuesdays of each month. The numbers are 479-7960 or 479-7961. I encourage everyone to come to the meetings and I appreciate all comments and I take them seriously. I was sent information about the Fire Departments in Graham County that the State has a bill House Bill #262 and Senate Bill #238 that is requesting the support from all County Boards of Commissioners for the support and this is for the Fire Departments State Grant and is based on a 50/50 grant. The Grant now is \$20,000.00 matching. This bill will increase it to \$30,000.00 and gives an extra \$10,000.00 to give help to the Volunteer Fire Departments over the State. As of now there is over 1400 Volunteer Fire Departments. This is a well needed thing for the Voluntary Fire Departments. I am asking that the Board supports this Resolution to send to the State supporting this act. Commissioner Williams made the motion to support the Resolution in support of House Bill 262 and Senate Bill 238, Legislation that provided necessary, additional funds for and improves eligibility of Fire Departments for Statewide Grants. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached).

4. Chairman Cody opened the Public Comment session of the Meeting for the Public input. No one wished to speak. Chairman Cody closed the Public Comment Session.
5. Erma Orr, County Assessor, presented the Releases and Discoveries to the Board. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the R&D as presented by Ms. Orr. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached)
6. Lynn McCloud, Colonial Insurance, met with the Board to introduce herself. Ms. McCloud told the Board that Colonial Insurance started working with the County in 1972 and in 1989 the pre-taxes were available. Ms. McCloud stated that representatives from Colonial come and have the clients sign a form if they want to be pre-taxed or if they do not want to be pre-taxed. Commissioner Williams stated that there were at least 10 people at his office at one time (during working hours) to sign the forms and that each person had to wait and listen to the Representative and they could not just sign the forms on which they preferred. This should not be on County time. Commissioner Cable asked if they could not just leave the forms to be signed and Colonial could pick them up later. Ms. McCloud stated that this was electronic but they could go back to the papers. Chairman Cody stated to give the paperwork to the Department Heads and the employees can sign the forms and Colonial can pick them up.
7. Rick Davis met with the Board to discuss the JCPC Planning Process for 2007-2008. Totals for the DJJDP funding are \$57,820.00 and the County match of 10% amounting to \$5,582.00. The previous Board funded the 10% match. Mr. Davis stated that the DJJDP County Funding Plan has to be turned in by May 2007. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the County's 10% match of \$5,582.00. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached). Mr. Davis stated that the Graham County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) By-Laws needed to be approved as they were not last year. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the By-Laws. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached). Mr. Davis stated that the administration part of the JCPC Council did not need \$1,000.00 and that they would like to have approval to move these monies into Project Challenge. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve moving \$1,000.00 to Project Challenge. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Roger Shuler met with the Board to discuss the Road to No-Where. Mr. Shuler stated that if the road was built or not built that he would like, with the support of the Commissioners, to be the liaison for the County. Mr. Shuler stated that he had the time to do this. Mr. Shuler stated that the 1100 acres on Yellow Creek that belonged to Alcoa and that the County could get this. Mr. Shuler stated that this may be put in a wildlife refuge area. Mr. Shuler stated that he did not want Graham County to be left out. Commissioner Williams made the motion for Mr.

Shuler to be the liaison for the County on these matters. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

9. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #10. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached)
10. Relay for Life had asked for a donation from the Board for this year and the Board stated that it was already in Special Appropriations for this F/Y.
11. Janice Panther, an employee of the Nantahala Regional Library, asked the Board to consider a request from Kristina Holder and herself for a pay increase. Ms. Panther stated that they had not had an increase since 2004. Chairman Cody stated each year the Nantahala Regional Library received an allocation from the County and the Library Board should be able to give any raises out of this. Mr. Cody stated that Ms. Panther and Ms. Holder needed to request a pay increase from the Nantahala Regional Library Board. Commissioner Williams told Ms. Panther that Ms. Clontz should request a raise for both of you. Chairman Cody stated that if Ms. Clontz asks for a raise for you and if the Board agreed then it could be marked for your salaries. Mr. Williams stated for Ms. Clontz to write a letter requesting a raise for you two employees and it's up to her to give you a raise.
12. Billy Holder met with the Board to complain about the Building Inspector. Last Thursday he stated they dug footers and the Building Inspector was out of Town and I had to park my equipment and wait until Monday. I've talked to some of the contractors and they complain. Commissioner Williams stated that the Board needed to make arrangements with surrounding counties to work when David is out of Town. The Board told County Manager Smith to tell David if possible when he is going to be off to notify her so he or she can make arrangements for someone to cover the job from Swain County Inspections Department. Ms. Smith stated that she would.
13. Commissioner Williams stated that Bobby Smith, Sanitation Director, received an estimate from Grindstaff Fencing to fence in the Sanitation Department and the estimate was \$34,486.00 and the right of way is in the middle of the property. The Board stated that they would discuss this later and it would have to be bid out if they did this. Commissioner Williams stated that the Highway Patrol stopped someone and had the EMS to draw blood and the Highway Patrol was received a bill for \$300.00 from the EMS billing office. Commissioner Trull stated that the bill should have been billed to the person that the blood was drawn from and not the Highway Patrol. Commissioner Williams made the motion to dismiss the bill of \$300.00 sent to the Highway Patrol. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Trull told the Board that Harvey Seay had the pool up and running and the cost was a little over \$200.00. Melody Adams, County Planner, told the Board that the bid package for the Pool would need to be amended if the pool was opened this year and if we don't amend the

bid package they will come to us just as we speck them out and it will be up to the contractor on his own good will to extend the start construction date. Otherwise, if he says no, we have no contractor and we would have to re-bid the contract and it would cost between \$3 and \$4,000. To bid the package again. Commissioner Trull stated that he would like to have the bids opened on the 26th of April and see what the bids are and then we can see if it's affordable for the County. Ms. Adams stated that she had received 3 bid packages: AGRR, Alpine and P&J Construction. Commissioner Williams made the motion to amend the start of the construction of the pool September 1, 2007. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote was unanimous.

14. Commissioner Cable asked Melody Adams to explain the Fontana Water Project. Mr. Cable told Ms. Adams that he thought that she was doing a good job. Mr. Cable stated that he was told that Fontana was building a new water slide. Ms. Adams stated that there was nothing that was not above-board about the Fontana Water System. Randy Jordan will not vote on this project because he's part owner. Commissioner Cable stated that he did not want the County to loose any jobs. Ms. Adams stated that this was a good project for Federal tax dollars on this project and that there has to be a quality of water. Attorney McKinney stated that Mr. Jordan needed to abstain from anything that pertained to Fontana Village because that he was a part owner. Mr. McKinney stated that neither RDA nor Graham County would put any money into this project. Ms. Adams stated that RDA will own the water treatment plant. Commissioner Williams stated that Bill Gibson, South-Western Commission was going to redo the sewer lines from Stanley and help get the fiber in.
15. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go into closed 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 job vacancies.
18. Commissioner Williams made the motion for the Minute Books to be placed back in to the Register of Deeds Office. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Commissioner Williams made the motion to hire Michelle Crisp, Assistant Finance Officer. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
20. Commissioner Sherrill made the motion to hire Rita Corbin, Roaming Assistant to County Offices. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

21. Commissioner Sherrill made the motion to hire Marshall McClung to work temporarily at the Grounds Department for 6 months but no more than 7 months. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. Commissioner Williams made the motion to deny the request from Blue Waters to approve the request for a no-wake-zone. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Commissioners Cody/Sherrill voted yes. Commissioner Cable voted no.
23. The Board of Commissioners would like to remind all employees that the 5 member Board makes all decisions for the County and that the previous Board has no control of the County at this time. When the Commissioners give a directive to the County Manager she will inform the employee/s of the decision made by the Board. All decisions will be carried out as directed by the Board and any inappropriate actions will result in disciplinary action or dismissal.
24. Commissioner Trull made the motion to move all offices possible that the County is paying rent to the P&J Building. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Commissioner Cable made the motion to continue this meeting until Thursday, April 26, 2007 at 2:00pm in the Office of the County Manager at 12 North Main Street, Robbinsville, NC 28771. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.