

Regular Meeting 5/1/2007

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, May 1, 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 Rick Davis gave the invocation.

1. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Agenda with the deletion of items 6/14/12 and 14. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Cody opened the Public Comment session of the Meeting but no one wished to speak. Chairman Cody closes the Public Comment session.
4. Mary Barker, H.C.C.B.G., met with the Board to identify the concerns from the pole taken from the older adult population in the County on concerns that affected them. The Graham County Aging Leadership Team has been working on this since August 2006 for a livable and senior friendly community. Ms. Barker stated that the three major concerns were for an Urgent Care Center, Housing-Home repairs and job training needed by Seniors. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go ahead and work on this Plan. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Shellie Lackey, S.M. C., met with the Board to discuss the Smoky Mountain Center 3 year business Business Plan as submitted to the Division of MH/DD/SAS. Ms. Lackey spoke to the Board on the executive summary, the local business plan, a special addendum related to objectives to the expansion into the New River area, and a list of acronyms. The Smoky Mountain Center's Local Business Plan outlines the organization's commitment to continuously improve its operations in a manner that is responsive to state and community stakeholders, providers, and consumers and their families. This plan continues Smoky Mountain Center's evolution from a public agency that provided the majority of mental health and substance abuse services, to that of a local management entity charged with the implementation of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disability and Substance Abuse Services reform initiative defined in the State Plan for Reform: "Blueprint for Change" released in 2003, with subsequent yearly updates. SMC gets regional funding based on population of the 7 western counties. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the SMC Business Plan. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Commissioner Trull stated to the Board that the Election Board wanted to use a lot of the upstairs floor of the P&J Building for their offices. Mr. Trull stated that the Board needed to move as many offices as they could into that P&J Building and vacate rental properties that the County was now paying. The Board agreed that the County Manager would look into the schedule of the Election Board office hours.
7. Rick Davis, Superintendent Graham County Schools, met with the Board to discuss a funding opportunity for Graham County Schools capital needs. The QZAB (Qualified Zone Academy Bonds) program provides interest free funds to qualified school systems in high poverty areas. Mr. Davis stated that monies paid back would be around 14 years. The funds approved can only be used to renovate buildings. Mr. Davis stated that the elementary school needed some cosmetic work, the health department building needs major work and the high school needed an upgrade on the locker room and the auxiliary gym's floor was rubberized and he would like for that to be taken up and hardwood floors added. These projects would be a little over one million dollars. Mr. Davis stated that the

application deadline for the QZAB program was May 30<sup>th</sup> and with the Board's approval he would only need a signature as this is only an application being sent in and he did not know if the application would be approved. There is a 10% requirement match partners (in-kind match). Mr. Davis explained that students in High School can now enroll in the Learn & Earn and when they graduate they can accomplish a high school degree and a 2 year degree from college. Commissioner Williams stated that he would like to see the Old Rock Gym seating to utilize for games for the youth activities and one of the principles stated that we could not use the gyms anymore. Mr. Davis stated that Graham County Government and the Graham County School have a good working relation and there is no way the Board of Education would not let youth use these facilities. Mr. Davis stated that the payment on the QZAB payment they already have is paid by the ½ cent sales tax. Commissioner Cable stated that he could not commit to borrowing more monies until the audit is done this year and we see the condition of the County. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Mr. Davis submitting the application for QZAB with no more County monies involved. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

8. Marvin Mullinax met with the Board to discuss his request for support for the "Gifts of Kindness" in the amount of \$2,000.00. Mr. Mullinax stated that this was a giveaway program that gives needed household supplies to certain, needy, pre-qualified families in Graham County. The \$2,000. is to cover the fees for the semi, driver and materials. DSS will qualify and invite the recipients who will be selected from all areas of the County. The recipients will be sent an invitation and only they can participate in this program. Commissioner Trull asked how the people that get an invitation will be screened. Mr. Trull stated that his mother received an invitation and she could not qualify for public assistance. Mr. Trull stated that they left the names up to the pastor of the County and participants from DSS. The Gift of Kindness will be held May 24, 2007 at the Community Building. The Board stated to Mr. Mullinax that letters should be sent to all churches in the community and see how much of the \$2,000. can be generated by donations for this elderly program. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve this request and the County will pay the difference if the \$2,000.00 donations have not been generated from the local churches and donations. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Commissioner Williams spoke to the Board about EMS bills when the paramedics did no services. Terry Slaughter told the Board if they are called out other than an accident they give a judgment call if they need no medical services and no bill is sent. Commissioner Trull stated if the parents are not at the ball games that he agreed with Bobby because they did not call the ambulance and the coach makes the choice. Terry stated if the coach calls and checks a child and no services were provided we only valueate them and we do not charge. Commissioner Williams stated to solve this problem at games there should be a paramedic present and they can make the judgment. Commissioner Trull stated that it needs to be clear to the parents that they are responsible for the bills if services are provided. Commissioner Williams made the motion that no bill will be sent if EMS provides no services. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. The Board agreed to write off the bills sent to Haven Buckle, Emily Figueroa and Angela Grindstaff.
10. Chairman Cody told the Board that a request had been made to adopt a Resolution in Support of the North Shore Road. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Resolution to support the building of the North Shore Road. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Commissioner Cody voted yes. Commissioners Trull and Cable vote no.
11. Commissioner Sherrill made the motion to go into closed session under GS 143.318.11 A (6) for the purpose of discussing personnel. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

12. Commissioner Williams made the motion to come out of closed session and back into open session. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
13. In closed session the Board discussed personnel and a vacancy in the County Manager's office.
14. Commissioner Trull made the motion to accept Sandra Smith's resignation as County Manager. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Dale Wiggins as interim County Manager until they talk to him and see if he accepts the permanent position. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Commissioner Cable made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Williams 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