

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Friday, June 29, 2007 at 10:00am 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 Cable. This Meeting is continued from the June 19<sup>th</sup> Budget Meeting. Chairman Cody called the meeting to order and asked if there were any public comments from the audience.

1. Billy Holder told the Board that he was there to complain about the tax increase of 13.5 cents and he was speaking for the people that wouldn't stand up. Mr. Holder stated that the hand outs needed to stop. Randy Jordan next spoke to the Board about the removal of dumpsters from Welch Cove. Mr. Jordan stated that he felt the dumpsters should not have been removed and questioned why the Board made the decision to remove them. Mr. Jordan stated that there was no mandate where business had to put their garbage and most business take their garbage and put it in the green cans at dump sites and they do not pay a fee to dump. Mr. Jordan stated that Fontana will haul their garbage to Sawyers Creek and this will be a mess as it will pile up. Mr. Jordan stated that he did not understand the logic in removing those green cans. Next, Rick Davis, Superintendent of Graham County Schools, spoke to the Board requesting the Board not to reduce the schools current expense budget from the previous years. Mr. Davis gave a review of Graham County Appropriations for Education Current Expense Fund. Mr. Davis again requested that the Board reinstate the School budget to the \$521,000.00 that was requested. Commissioner Williams asked Mr. Davis how much money the School had in the bank. Mr. Davis stated that the school had over a million and half dollars in an account.
2. Commissioner Cable told the audience that no body wanted to raise taxes but we had no choice. Mr. Cable stated that they inherited this mess and he respected this Board and they had to do some things that we are forced to do. Commissioner Trull stated that he did not think that this Board has done its job to hold down taxes because too much is being spent on new projects that we can live without. Commissioner Williams stated that he's worried over the taxes going up but it's not because we want to but unexpected things have come up. We owe on two new buildings that's not paid for. The Sheriff's budget had to go up because of the drug problems and I can't justify cutting his budget because we do not want to hurt the people. Commissioner Trull asked County Manager Wiggins if any monies were put in the budget for the pool project and he said no. Commissioner Cable suggested to the Board that they leave the budget like it was last year and give employees a week's vacation because of no raises given. Chairman Cody stated that this time last year the county had over 4 million dollars. In December monies were borrowed to pay on the Health Department and the new EMS building. To keep the county operating we have no choice but to pay this budget and to see that these projects through. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the Budget as presented for F/Y2007-2008. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Commissioner Williams vote yes. Commissioner Cable and Trull voted no. (Attached)
3. Rick Davis, Superintendent of Graham County Schools, presented the Board a letter from the Board of Education stating that the appropriations for F/Y2007-2008 were not efficient to support a system of free public schools in Graham County. A joint meeting was requested to attempt to resolve the differences and a mediator to preside at the joint meeting. The letter stated that the requirements of mediation were specified in NCGS 115C-431. (Letter attached)
4. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the Town of Robbinsville constructing a playground at the corner of 129 Knight Street, across from the Community Building as they will pay all expenses. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

5. Erma Orr told the Board that several land owners had long term lease hold interest in- exempt on real property such as TVA, Peppertree, and Rock Quarry with communication towers and she wanted to pick this up now and do a discovery bill and 5 years back and not wait until the Revaluation. The Board told Ms. Orr they would check on this.
6. Commissioner Williams made the motion to sell the property on Tallulah that the County owns. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. The Board decided not to sell the plant building on Fort Hill.
7. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go into closed session under GS143.318.11 A (6) for the purpose of discussing personnel. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Commissioner Cable made the motion to come out of closed session and back into open session. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. In closed session the Board discussed personnel but no decisions were reached in close session.
10. Commissioner Cable made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cody 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