

Continued Meeting 7/23/2007

The Graham County Commissioners met Monday, July 23, 2007 at 5:00pm in the Conference Room of the Community Building at 196 Knight Street, Robbinsville, NC. Present were Commissioners Lynn Cody, Jerry Sherrill, Billy Cable, Raymond Williams, County Attorney David Sawyer and members of the Graham County Health Department. Commissioner Trull was absent. This meeting is continued from the Board Meeting of July 17, 2007. Chairman Cody called the meeting to order and Yvette Hooper called the Health Board meeting to order.

1. Attorney Zeyland McKinney introduced himself as the Attorney that the Graham County Health Board retained as legal council on the disruption outside the Graham County Health Department building last week involving Eugene Trull and Health Department employees. Mr. McKinney expressed to the Board that last week Commissioner Trull came to the Graham County Health Department and engaged in heated discussions with several employees of the Health Department using profanity and did this in a demeaning fashion. Mr. Trull was asked to leave several times by Alicia Parham, Director of the Graham County Health Department, and that kind of conduct will not be tolerated and the next time Mr. Trull or anyone else comes to the Health Department and causes a disturbance with employees we are going to secure a civil no-contact order from a District Court Judge to prohibit him being on the premises. The Health Board wants the Commissioners to know that the Health Board will meet anytime you want to meet to discuss any concerns with Health Department issues. One Commissioner going to one or two employees is not acceptable and Mr. Trull is not the departmental supervisor or is he a supervisor over the Health Department employees and that is no way to handle County Government. We delivered a letter to him today and we are also requesting that Mr. Trull recuse himself from any and all votes on matters pertaining to the Graham County Health Department, particularly Health Department funding. Mr. Trull has an axe to grind with the Health Department Director and the Department. Mr. McKinney asked if they had any questions but there was no response.
2. Commissioner Williams asked if any of the employees wanted to discuss this matter with the Board. Alicia Parham, Health Director, spoke to the Board explaining that she wanted to establish a professional relationship between the Board of Commissioners and the Health Board. Ms. Parham stated that the bias opinions from Mr. Trull and he attacked some of my employees in a fashion that was not acceptable to them and if he wants to come through the approval of the County Commissioners and County Manager and approach concerns of any Health Department employee and we are willing to hear that and will address any concerns in a professional manner. If any of you have a problem with me the Health Board will meet with you and we can meet professionally. Commissioner Williams stated that he thought that this was settled after the last meeting. The employees at the Health Department are doing a good job and they don't deserve to be treated the way they were.
3. County Wiggins stated the pay plan was not completed as of today but he would get the information together and put it each of the Board's mailbox. Mr. Wiggins stated that the DSS and Health Department had a pay plan.
4. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go into closed session under GS 143.318.11 A (6) (3). Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Commissioner Williams made the motion to come out of closed session and back into open session. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. In closed session the Board discussed office personnel.

7. Commissioner Cable stated that the dumpsters at Deals Gap (Swain County) that the owner did not want a fence around them and the Board stated that the site had to be kept clean. Mr. Wiggins stated that it needed to be in writing to keep it clean and to clean it up before we lease it to them.
8. 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