

Regular Meeting 11/20/2007

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at 5:00pm in the Conference Room of the Community Building at 196 Knight Street, Robbinsville, NC. Present were Commissioners Lynn Cody, Billy Cable, Jerry Sherrill, Eugene Trull, Raymond Williams and County Attorney Stewart. Chairman Cody called the meeting to order and Commissioner Cable gave the invocation.

1. Commissioner Sherrill made the motion to approve the Agenda with the deletion of Item 6 and the addition of Eugene Trull. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Cody opened the Public Comment session of the meeting. Lavina West told the Board that there would be a meeting next Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at the Graham County Library to discuss the Graham County Museum to be housed in the old Forest Service Building. Jennie Stewart, General Manager of Fontana Resort, next spoke to the Board about the condition of the water system at Fontana. The water system plant needs to be replaced. Ms. Stewart stated that they were to apply for a grant and it had to be administered through Graham County. Ms. Stewart stated that they had to have the Board's support on this grant. The grant will not cost Graham County any money. The Grant is a 50/50 match and the grant is for one million dollars. Bill Gibson spoke to the Board and he would do what the Board asked him to do. The cycle for this grant the deadline is December 17, 2007 and only a local government can apply for this grant and the money is there. Mr. Gibson stated that if the County did do this project that he believed that other grants could be worked on by the County. Only a local government can apply for this grant. This project will cost around 2 million dollars and some administrative funds will go through the Finance office. Jeff Bishop stated that the water plant was over 70 years old and needed to be replaced and would be located close to the plant location now. Commissioner Cable asked if this was legal to do this as it is privately owned. A former Commissioner told me that this was a gray area and I don't like gray areas. Mr. Gibson stated that the General Assembly at this session passed over 100 million dollars was approved for critical water needs. Fontana Village can not apply for this grant only a local government and Fontana Village has a lease on this property. The County would have a lease on the property-water project until the project is done. Commissioner Cable stated that he wanted to be satisfied and only the buildings are owned by Fontana. Mr. Gibson stated that there could be a provision for administration costs probably 2 1/2% which would be around \$25,000. put in the grant application. Commissioner Trull stated that he didn't think the Board could agree or deny on few minutes that it's been talked about tonight as we've not had enough time to look into this. I'm leery on spending tax payer's money on private property and the Board should have time to look into this. Commissioner Williams asked if Fontana gets this grant would it hurt the Town of Robbinsville or Santeetlah for asking for grants. Chairman Cody asked Ms. Stewart if she was asking the Board for support to apply for the grant. Mr. Gibson stated that on December 17<sup>th</sup> the County needs to approve the application for the grant. Commissioner Williams asked Mr. Gibson if Fontana applied and received this grant would it hurt the chances for the Town of Robbinsville and Santeetlah if they wanted to apply for a grant. Mr. Gibson stated no. Commissioner Williams asked if any thing else could be built with this money if Fontana received this grant besides the water plant and the answer was no. The Board agreed to table this request until they get all of the information from County Attorney Stewart and the Board will continue this meeting to next week. Chairman Cody closed the Public Comment of the meeting.
4. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the Releases and Discoveries as presented by County Assessor, Blair Hyder. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached)

5. Commissioner Trull asked the Board when was the money for paving the EMS facility approved because he did not remember it being discussed. Chairman Cody stated that the paving was in the package of the original agreement and we agreed to complete the EMS and Health Department facilities. Dale Wiggins presented this to the Board and we agreed to it. Commissioner Trull stated when we agreed on the salary for the County Manager. The Board told Mr. Trull that the County Manager was paid the same as the former County Manager and Mr. Cody had worked 2 months without receiving any pay.
6. Chairman Cody stated that he had a list of vehicles to be surplus by the County and auctioned off. Commissioner Trull stated that maybe it should be by sealed bids and not auctioned off and that way the County could decide if they accepted the bid or not. Commissioner Williams stated that you could get more monies if you did an auction. Commissioner Cable made the motion to surplus the items that were presented by Chairman Cody. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Cable made the motion to auction off this surplus property with 3 member of the Board present. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. The auction will be at the Recycling Center Saturday, December 8, 2007 at 9:00am.
7. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Garbage Collection Agreement between Graham County and Swain County to be signed by County Manager Cody. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #1. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached)
9. The Board discussed the collection box for the outside of the Courthouse for use for people to pay taxes after hours and weekends for the Tax Collectors and the Board did not agree this request.
10. County Attorney Sawyer told the Board that a Board member could be placed on boards as a Commissioner appointment and can sit on many boards.
11. Donna Cody spoke to the Board and the audience on the Flood Plain Ordinance. Ms. Cody stated that McDowell County had gotten an extension on this and asked the Board to request an extension. Several members of the audience spoke on their concerns and were against this ordinance. Commissioner Trull stated that at this point most people were against the Flood Plain Ordinance but there was pro's and con's on this matter. The Board told Ms. Cody that they would continue this meeting so the Board and interested people could express their opinions on this matter and discuss trying to get an extension.
12. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go into closed session under GS 143.318.11 A6/3. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
13. Commissioner Williams made the motion to come out of closed session and back into open session. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. In closed session the Board discussed personnel.
15. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Jerry Sherrill as a Board appointment to the Graham County Transit Board. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion Vote unanimous.
16. Commissioner Cody made the motion to appoint Eugene Trull as a Board appointment to the Travel & Tourism Board. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Commissioner Cable made the motion to appoint Raymond Williams as a Board appointment to the Graham County Health Board. Commissioner Williams

seconded this motion. Commissioner Trull made the motion to appoint Jerry Sherrill. Commissioner Cody voted for Raymond Williams to be on the Health Board. Commissioner Sherrill did not vote. Commissioner Williams will serve as a Commissioner Appointment for a 3-year term.

18. Commissioner Cable made the motion to continue this meeting to Monday, November 26, 2007 at 5: 00pm in the Conference Room of the Community Building. 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