

The Graham County Board of County Commissioners met today for a continued meeting from the November 16, 2009 regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the Graham County Community Center located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC 28771. Commissioners present were: Bruce Snyder, Sandra Smith, Billy Cable, Steve Odom and Gene Trull. Commissioner Snyder called the meeting to order.

1. Commissioner Cable gave the invocation.
2. Commissioner Snyder asks Tax Assessor Erma Phillips to speak. Ms. Phillips presented Graham County's 2010 Schedule of Values for property. This will remain open for four weeks for the public to review. She stated that if there were any appeals, they will be made directly to the State of North Carolina and would not come through the county.

Commissioner Snyder raised a hypothetical question. If you live next to someone whose property values have been in line with yours, and that person sells his property for a huge sum of money, will my valuation go up accordingly? Ms. Phillips explained that it would be based on an average of the sales in the proximity – not on one sale alone. She also stated that sales between family members, foreclosures or government properties were considered unqualified sales and that we use only qualified sales. The state will be here in January making comparisons with what is currently on the books and what the re-evaluation of properties are for commercial properties. This constitutes your ratio. This ratio governs how much of the value is taxable. Discussion followed on the millage rate which, should the budget remain the same, would be lowered to offset the increase in property values. The state mandates re-evaluation at least every 8 years, and this is Graham's 8th year. It was scheduled earlier but the commissioners at that time postponed it. Ms. Phillips was asked what if the county refused to do it. She told them that the state would come in and do it and charge the county. Commissioner Odom made a motion to accept the schedule of Values for 2010. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Smith asked what action was required to go to every four years. Ms. Phillips stated that it takes a resolution by the board. The sitting board at the time of the scheduled re-evaluation rescinded the prior resolution and moved it up to 2010.

3. The commissioners signed off on a variance to Doug Edwards.
4. The commissioners discussed a grant to provide meals for senior citizens. The total grant is \$5,193.00 with Graham County's match of \$493.00. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to allow the grant. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Manager Cody requested permission to apply for Recovery Bond Funds. He stated that two ways were available for application:
 - a. To improve structures, etc. and the amount is up to \$2,000,093.00.
 - b. Investment monies to help in getting a business to locate here with an amount of \$1,395,000.00.

Commissioner Cable made the motion to allow Manager Cody to apply for these Recovery Bond Funds. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. In further discussion Rebecca Garland explained that the Federal Government will subsidize the interest on this money. She stated for instance, say your loan is 6% they will subsidize up to 5% of that amount leaving you with only 1% interest. She went on to say that we were also asking for re-allocation of the investment money to the structures fund. Josh Carpenter, County Planner explained that we needed a letter of intent so stating:

- a. Approval to reimburse the county from bond funds for any monies already spent on this project.
- b. Re-allocation of the investment funds.
- c. That the county planned to use it on a county facilities building.

Commissioner Smith asks what the payments would be. Ms. Garland stated about \$150,000.00 a year. Ms. Garland went on to explain that there were a lot of hoops to jump through before we get there. It also has to go to the LGC (Local Government Commission). She also stated that we can always opt out if we decide against it. Josh Carpenter said that we had only until December 15, 2009 to request it and submit the letter. We have until May of 2010 to waive any allocation that might be awarded. Commissioner Smith asked what percentage DSS would pay of our payments. Ms. Garland stated 55%. Ms. Garland also stated that if another county did not plan to use their allocation, they could recommend it be given to a specific county – specifically- Graham. Commissioner Odom made the motion to adopt a resolution specifying that we be allowed to reimburse the county funds for expenditures on the project prior to the award; for the investment monies be reallocated to improve structures, etc., and that we were going to use it for a facilities building. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

6. Manager Cody stated that he needed to remind the commissioners of a couple of dates: Mr. Quick will be here December 3rd at 9:00 a.m. concerning the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant); a representative from Golden Leaf will be here to meet with the commissioners December 4th at 9:00 a.m. Both meetings will be at the Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC and these meetings will need to be continued meetings.
7. Commissioner Odom mentioned that he had been talking to Norma Hudson asking about the state-wide Mutual Aid Agreement, which some of us thought might cover what we do with Swain County, however is not the case. That state- wide mutual agreement is a factor only when a state of emergency has been declared.
8. Commissioner Snyder stated that he had something to say, and just to take it for what it's worth. Is there any chance of reconsideration on the T&T Board decision? In the matter of the board, maybe we should have set down and talked to those people. My biggest gripe when I was teaching is that legislators make all those decisions for teachers and never talk to the teachers. Commissioner Smith stated that often there was not a quorum at the board meetings and that she felt there was more avenues of marketing than the board pursued. She stated that one of the payers of the occupancy tax referred to the board as dysfunctional. There was more talk of board members not coming to the meetings. Commissioner Odom said he had talked to the School of Government about the rules about absentee board members. Some thought it was after two meetings, some three (and this applied to commissioners sitting on the boards as well. Odom has not received an answer to his inquiry at this point. Commissioner Cable indicated agreement with Commissioner Snyder about sitting down with folks, but said we should get rid of those board members who did not do their jobs.
9. Commissioner Snyder raised the question about selecting a new chairman for the upcoming year. He advised that was to be done the first regular meeting in December which will be the 7th.
10. Commissioner Odom made the motion to continue this meeting until Thursday December 3rd at 9:00 a.m. and Friday December 4th at 9:00 a.m. at the regular meeting place. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Bruce Snyder, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Sandra Smith, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Billy Cable, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Steve Odom, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Eugene Trull, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board