

Emergency Meeting 12/13/2006

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at 3:00pm at Tri-County Community College at 145 Moose Branch Road in Robbinsville, NC. The purpose of this meeting was to meet and discuss the situation of unemployment at Stanley Furniture with Representatives from Congressman-elect Heath Shuler's office, Stanley Furniture Representatives and Representatives of Tri-County Community College. Chairman Cody called the meeting to order.

1. Sandra Smith, County Manager, expressed concerns about the reducing of the workforce at Stanley manufacturing facility. Ms. Smith asked Johnny Henderson, Stanley Vice-President of Production if there was a plan to close the plant and Mr. Henderson stated that there were no plans to close the plant down but to reduce the workforce by some 200 employees. Mr. Henderson stated that they were filing a petition with the U.S. Department of Labor for Trade Act Assistance. If they are certified through this process, Stanley Robbinsville associates will be eligible for training programs, job search allowance, potential relocation allowances and income support. Re-employment services will include career counseling, job placement, skills assessment and job referrals. Stanley will also be using outplacement job services through the Employment Security Commission and the Rapid Response Team, holding onsite job fairs for interested employers and granting time off from work for associates to interview with other companies. Mr. Lovorn, Senior VP of Manufacturing and Jeff Scheffer, Chairman, President and CEO sent a letter of announcement to reduce the workforce of 200 associates, including both management and hourly associates. Mr. Henderson explained that the industry wide slowdown that has led to lower sales required them to balance production and staffing levels among their four plants. The layoff of 200 employees will not begin until February 12, 2006. Mr. Henderson stated that the lay offs were an issue of economics because there were not enough people to fill positions at Stanley with the labor force in Graham County. Donna T. Rogers, Tri-County Community College, said that Tri-County Community College would do everything possible to help these employees that would be laid off and they would provide more class rooms if needed. Hayden Rogers, Representative for Congressman Heath Shuler, also stated that they would do what they could to help in this situation.
2. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote was 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