

Recessed Meeting from March 3, 2009

The Graham County Board of Commissioners reconvened Monday, March 9, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room of the Town of Robbinsville's Mayor's office at 4 Court Street, Robbinsville, NC. Present were Commissioners Bruce Snyder, Billy Cable, Steve Odom, Gene Trull; County Manager, Lynn Cody and Clerk to the Board, Kim Crisp along with the Mayor and Alderman for the Town. Chairman Bruce Snyder gave the consent to reconvene after Mayor Bobby Cagle, Jr. called the meeting to order. Alderman Bobby Smith gave the invocation.

The meeting began with a representative for the Heritage Festival, John Shuler whom requested funds and help for the July Heritage Festival. In 2008 the Town had given the Festival \$5000.00 and the County had provided all labor for free. The County also has funds that go into the Travel and Tourism Budget that also pays for costs associated with the Heritage Festival. John Shuler gave a brief description of the activities that the festival would be hosting. The Board's expressed their concerns about the traffic and decided to allow Stanley traffic to go through town and all other traffic to be rerouted to Circle Street. The Board's agreed to have the festival uptown but to keep the parking below as much as possible. The Transit department will supply shuttle service for the festival also. The Board's also stated the need to contact the school and ask for permission to park in their parking areas. John Shuler asks for volunteers and stated that he was desperate for the help. Commissioner Snyder stated that he would try to get student help from the school. The Board's also agreed to use ID badges to identify the people who are involved with the festival. The Board's agreed to begin set up for the festival on Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> in the evening and to start on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 noon and end on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 p.m. John Shuler stated that he would try to make this festival the best. Jack Brooms asked the board's to extend the hours for music on the square until 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Trull stated that he felt midnight was to late but Jack Brooms thought that if you start later people will stay later. Jack Brooms also ask the boards for an extra \$1500.00 to help with the expenses. The Board's decided to put this request in the 2009 / 2010 budget that begins July 1, 2009 and vote on this at that time.

The Board's began their discussion on the stimulus monies with Alderman Smith stating that the Town was requesting help for the water and sewer projects and laying new pipes to the elementary school as well. The Board's discussed the need to be shovel ready. The County requests were for a new administrative building, wind power generation system and the need for an urgent care facility. Commissioner Trull stated his reservations on the care center due to public participation. He stated that the clinic had tried to stay open on weekends and nights but it was not feasible due to the non-participation. Commissioner Odom stated that he would like to see a road for our truckers to use that would go from US-129 at Knight Street up the back side of Long Creek to the Stanley Industrial Park to keep the truck traffic out of down town and to give the workers an alternate route in and out of Stanley. He thought that both boards should draw a resolution, sign it and send it in for approval since a plan for this road has already been planned at one time in the past. Both Boards were in agreement. Josh Carpenter, County Planner, discussed a possible grant for a parking deck that he had found while searching for other grants that could help Graham County. Commissioner Snyder stated that the town and the county should meet this way more often and he suggested that they meet each quarter. Both boards were in agreement and scheduled the next meeting for April 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon at the Health

Department Conference Room. The Board's will have a luncheon meal delivered. The Board's recessed for ten minutes and the county board reconvened at the County Manager's office to discuss budget cuts.

David Hyatt, Building Inspector for the county met with the Board to discuss the budget cuts and the impact that it would have on his department. He stated that the 22% cut would eliminate all of his operating monies. He asked for clarifications on the cuts that had been made and will be made with the upcoming budget. The board explained the cuts to him and stated that a memo would go out to all department heads to clarify any misunderstandings. Commissioner Smith stated that we needed to know what we can cut and what we can not and that by providing us with a bare budget we can see for ourselves where line items needed to be put back in or not. Commissioner Snyder stated that our county would be in a bad situation if cuts are not made. David Hyatt had also stated that the lease for his building would be up in August and he felt we could save money if we moved the offices to a county owned facility. The Board discussed the health department trailer that was vacated when the new health facility was built and stated that we needed to check the grant papers and see if we could use it for any offices. The Board instructed Lynn Cody, County Manager to call Chip Carringer and tell him to hold moving the trailer which is located on the school property. There had been a prior arrangement made with Alicia Parham and Chip Carringer for the use of the trailer. The Board also felt that the environmental health workers needed to be in the New Health Department facility. Commissioner Trull stated that there was room for them and the offices were laid out in the plans for their use from the beginning. The board stated that the county owns that building and they could decide who moved into it and that now was the time to use county owned property instead of renting other buildings. The trailer could be used for mapping or other county offices. All board was in agreement. Commissioner Odom made the motion to move the environmental health workers to the New Health Department facility. Commissioner Snyder stated that we needed to speak to Alicia first as a courtesy and Commissioner Cable stated that we needed to let both sides defend themselves. The motion failed due to a second.

Commissioner Trull stated that he had received a complaint about the utility trailer that was being used at the New Kerr Drug location blocking the San-Ran Motel. The owners of the motel wanted the trailer moved. The workers at the site evidently said no. David

Hyatt stated that this was not a county board issue that it was a civil matter between the motel and the Kerr Drug Company.

Tajuana Ledwell, Tax Collector for the county spoke with the board next. She presented her budget with the 22% cut and she stated that in order to comply with this she would have to cut out all supplies and her health insurance. The Board again explained the process that they were using and assured her that they would be fair to all departments whether large or small.

Josh Carpenter, County Planner, presented his budget next with an explanation of his salary and the six month performance evaluation that would be coming and if approved would allow him an upgrade on his salary.

Juanita Colvard, Transit Director, spoke next with the board and explained how her budget works. She stated that most times the county contributions were bare to none. Her office is mostly run through grants. While she was there the board asks her to provide transportation service for the Heritage Festival which will be in July. She stated that was no problem and would add this to her budget to reflect usage of her vehicles so she could stay in federal guidelines.

Teresa Garland, Extension Director, spoke next with the board and stated that her budget only needed 30% of the counties contributions. She gave a breakdown where the cost factors go in her department and stated that with the limited amount that she spends she would do her best to comply.

The board discussed the pool and talked about having it redone. The pool was done in poor quality and the cement was settling and not properly because is done in cold weather. The board wanted David Sawyer, our attorney to see if we can send a letter to P&J and McGill and Associates about the repairs on the pool. They also wanted an independent person to look at the pool and let the board know if there is anything else wrong with it and prove to us why the pool cracked. Commissioner Trull stated again that we will have a patched pool and that's not good enough.

Commissioner Odom asked about the amendment from Dixon & Hughes. They wanted to know if we had received it yet. County Manager, Lynn Cody stated that he requested that they enter the date the audit would be finished and then send it back and as of today he had not received any confirmations.

Commissioner Snyder made the motion to continue the meeting until Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Trull seconded. Vote unanimous.