

Regular Meeting 7/5/2006

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Wednesday, July 5, 2006 at 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the Community Building at 196 Knight Street, Robbinsville, NC. Present were Commissioners Randy Jordan, Dirk Cody and Mike Edwards. Chairman Jordan called the meeting to order.

1. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Edwards seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Jordan opened the Public Comment session of the Meeting. Larry Ted Williams told the Board that his vehicle was towed by the Sheriff's Department and that they had torn up things on his auto and that he had estimates on the damage and that he wanted it fixed. The Board told Mr. Williams to take the estimates to Sheriff DeBruhl. Several people came to the meeting in support of Bob Doyle and to speak in his defense of the Graham County Heritage Festival. Joan Gilliland, Dave Pitcox, Tabitha Mylar, John Shuler and Mrs. Doyle. Ms. Gilliland told the Board that Mr. Doyle had done a wonderful job and he did a wonderful job. Ms. Gilliland stated that she was a volunteer and that 70% of the people had been nasty to her and other volunteers. Ms. Gilliland stated that people were driving fast where kids were and that they did not receive any support from the EMS and Sheriff's Department. Ms. Gilliland stated that she would be willing to sit down with anyone to make it better. Chairman Jordan told the audience that the Board was supportive of Bob Doyle and the festival but the Sheriff was elected and they did not control his office and to his knowledge the Board had given Mr. Doyle everything he had requested in support of Bob and the festival. Mr. Doyle next spoke and told the Board that he knew that he was not accepted by some County residents and he was a resident of Graham County and paid his taxes. Mr. Doyle stated that he put in over 1000 hours a year putting on the County festival, festival of trees and Friday night music and that he had been treated like a dog and that he believed that he deserved respect from the EMS and Sheriff's department. Mr. Doyle stated that he had gotten the correct permits from the DOT for closing the street but that the street was open to Lynn's Place, Snider's and the Christian Store. Mr. Doyle stated that he needed more people behind him. Chairman Jordan stated that Mr. Doyle was acting like the Board had done something to him. Mr. Jordan stated that they had no control over the Sheriff's deputies and that Terry Slaughter was over the EMS. Mr. Jordan also stated that Mr. Doyle needed to sit down and talk about the situation and what can be done to help this situation. Mr. Pitcox stated that the Deputies had opened up the road down Main Street where the Soap Box Derby was being run and this endangered the children. Mr. Doyle stated that last year he was thanked for his work on the festival by receiving many nice things but this year he was not even given a thank you. John Shuler stated that they had to have some help with the festival and they needed to set up committees and each committee has a chairman. Commissioner Jordan stated that was what the Board had said. The businesses have to stay open during this time. Mr. Jordan stated that the Board supports the festival. Chairman Jordan closed the Public Comment Session of the meeting.
4. The NC Wildlife Commission, Mallory Martin, Regional Supervisor, Powell Wheeler, David Yow and Martin Lewis presented to the Board and audience a power point presentation in reference to the Lakes in Graham County. The Wildlife Commission has been doing research on Fontana Lake and Santeetlah on the reproducing of fish species in these lakes. Fontana Lake grows more fish than any other reservoir but Santeetlah is not reproducing nearly as fast. Mr. Mallory stated that the NC Wildlife Commission will be conducting Angler Interviews at Fontana Lake beginning in August and they will ask each fisherman what species they are catching. Raymond Williams spoke and asked why there was a decline in the last few years on Fontana Lake. Mr. Williams stated that he used to be able to catch his limit but now he could not. Mr. Williams stated that there were

worms in the large and smallmouth and the walleye will not reproduce. Mr. Williams stated to the Wildlife Commission that anything past Asheville they could care less. Mr. Williams stated that he had talked with Alcoa and they offered to help stock Cheoah Lake but the Wildlife Commission would not cooperate. Chairman Jordan stated that a letter would be drafted to the Wildlife Commission concerning a Resolution for continued support of fishermen in Graham County.

5. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the Releases and Discoveries as presented by Erma Orr, Tax Assessor. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached) Ms. Colvard stated that the County Attorney told her that he had about 10 foreclosures ready to file.
6. Carol Millsaps met with the Board to present an invitation for anyone to attend Western Carolina University in the Ramsey Center for a Biographical Sketch seminar Friday, August 25, 2006 and there is no cost. Ms. Millsaps stated that she hoped some of the Commissioners and interested personnel would attend.
7. Michelle Lane, Deputy Finance Officer, met with the Board to discuss changing the payroll for employees on a weekly basis. Ms. Lane stated that she had called 99 counties in North Carolina and not one paid weekly. Ms. Lane stated that she and Ms. Holloway preferred that the payroll stay as it is now.
8. Juanita Colvard, Assistant County Manager, told the Board that the Election Board had received a grant in the amount of \$3580. for list maintenance for the Election Board.
9. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the Easement for Relocation of Waterline (after Mr. Jordan researches this agreement). Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached)
10. The Board agreed to purchase two (2) vehicles Sheriff's Department but not approve the request of radar and mobile vision for the vehicles.
11. Commissioner Jordan made the motion to go into closed session under NCGS 143.318.11 A (6). Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Commissioner Cody made the motion to come out of closed session and back into open session. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
13. The Board discussed department personnel in closed session.
14. Commissioner Cody made the motion to pick up Senior Center employees Frances Jones and Myrtle Hill in October until the State of Franklin reallocates these funds. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. The Board directed Ms. Colvard for the Jail to be in compliance as per the letter from the Inspector of Jail facilities and do what needed to be done.
16. After discussion on the vacant position of Deputy Tax Collector, Commissioner Cody made the motion to hire Teresa Crisp beginning salary at \$8.50 an hour upon the recommendation of Tajuana Ledwell, Tax Collector. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. The Board gave Ms. Colvard the authority to hire part-time Transit drivers to be used as needed.
18. The Board directed Jacob Nelms to obtain quotes for a new lawn mower for the Recreation Department.
19. The Board agreed for Ms. Carol Millsaps to accrue annual leave based on rate of ten years employment.

20. Commissioner Jordan made the motion to purchase a new air conditioner for the Register of Deeds office. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

21. Commissioner Jordan made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Randy Jordan, Chairman

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Dirk Cody, Vice-Chairman

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Mike Edwards, Member

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Jan Millsaps, Clerk