

Regular Meeting January 6, 2009

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Community Building at 196 Knight Street, Robbinsville, NC. Present were Commissioners Bruce Snyder, Sandra Smith, Billy Cable, Lynn Cody. Chairman Bruce Snyder called the meeting to order and Commissioner Cable gave the invocation.

1. Commissioner Smith made the motion to approve the Agenda with Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Snyder opened the floor for Public Comment. Rick Davis, with the G.R.E.A.T program invited the Board to attend their annual meeting on January 15, 2009. He spoke briefly on the goals for 2009 and wanted the community to be involved.
4. Blair Hyder presented the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Cable asked about the bill to the Ford's and Blair told the Board that the bill was sent to the wrong brother and that the land was listed to both and needed to be split up. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded. Vote unanimous.
5. Alicia Parham, Director of Public Health spoke next about the board adopting a tobacco and smoke free ordinance for the county. Commissioner Cody had received some complaints by the employees about the tobacco use because some of them chewed or dipped tobacco products. Alicia stated that there was a 50 ft boundary for all products. Commissioner Snyder asked if this policy would affect any grants that the county receives. Commissioner Cable stated that we would have to designate areas for tobacco use. Alicia said that was correct. Commissioners Snyder and Cody both thought the no smoking signs in front of the courthouse were effective. Commissioner Cable made the motion to table this until the next meeting. Commissioner Snyder seconded. Vote unanimous.
6. Josh Carpenter spoke next on an update for the planning department. He stated that he had been in contact with the Golden leaf Foundation and two million dollars could be made available to the county. The Golden leaf only asked for us to involve the community and asked their opinions on what they would like to see in the county. He also attended a meeting in Sylva for the ENC Grant which would bring high-speed internet access to the county through Venison-Balsam West. The third subject was the pool grant and that we had sent in our last request for repayment and should be receiving that check any day. The completion date was set for December 20th and the pool is finished but the building and the sidewalks are still being worked on. McGill and Associates are checking to see if our sidewalks are handicapped accessible and will get the information back to us as soon as possible

7. Commissioner Snyder spoke next on hiring a new county manager as soon as possible and those we needed to set a time table for hiring. Commissioner Smith said she reviewed the applications and had picked out four possible applicants. Commissioner Smith thought that all the Board should pick out four applications and see if each commissioner chose the same ones. She felt this would make the decision easier. Commissioner Cable thought they should set a special meeting for discussion on whom to interview and he agreed that this should be done as quickly as possible but he felt that the entire Board should be present either in person or by telephone.
8. Commissioner Snyder addressed the Solid Waste Plan that needed to be updated and changed to include the new requirements for solid waste disposal. The Board gave Kim Crisp the approval to use the same company that we had in the past. Commissioner Cable made the motion to update our plan. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.
9. The next order of business was to appoint a liaison to represent the county at the state meeting. Commissioner Cable holds that position now. Commissioner Snyder made the motion for Commissioner Cable to stay as the county liaison. Commissioner Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. The sanitation department presented the Board with past due tipping fees and wanted to know how to pursue them. Attorney Sawyer stated he could draw up papers and send them to the county manager's office as a formal demand for payment. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to allow Clerk Kim Crisp to contact these individuals by letter first. Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous
11. The clerk presented the Board with three quotes on repairing the Deputy's car which was wrecked. Commissioner Snyder asked about the differences in the quotes and wondered about the reputations of all three places. The Board agreed that all three repair shops had good reputations on their work. Commissioner Cable made the motion to accept the lowest bid on the condition that if there were hidden damages the price couldn't be more than the other two bids. Attorney Sawyer stated that the repair shop chosen should be told of this condition. Commissioner Cody seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Commissioner Snyder presented the Board a request to support the funding of Southwestern NC RC&D through federal monies. The Board would need to adopt a resolution. Commissioner Cable made the motion to adopt a resolution supporting the federal funding of Southwester NC RC&D encouraging and supporting any and all efforts to secure adequate Federal funding to staff that organization. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.
13. Commissioner Snyder presented the Board two quotes on purchasing a new tractor lawnmower for grounds maintenance. Commissioner Snyder felt that we should go and look at the mowers first. Commissioner Cable made the motion to table this until

Commissioner Snyder could check the mowers out. Commissioner Snyder seconded. Vote unanimous.

14. Commissioner Snyder brought up the personnel policy and felt that Attorney Sawyer and himself should sit down together and form templates to go by. Commissioner Cody spoke briefly on this and thought getting input from the state would be a good idea. Clerk Kim Crisp stated that a group of employees would be willing to be on a committee to help also. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go with the committee and Commissioner Snyder. Attorney Sawyer spoke briefly on the process and obtaining copies from other counties would be a good idea. The Board instructed Clerk Kim Crisp to obtain copies of Cherokee, Swain, Macon and Jackson counties policies and then go to the committee planning. Commissioner Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Commissioner Snyder presented the list for the T&T Board to be reappointed and to appoint a commissioner to be on the Board. Commissioner Cody made the motion to appoint Commissioner Snyder to the T&T Board and to reappoint the existing Board. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Attorney Sawyer presented the Board with a draft on meeting rules addressing both open and closed minutes. Commissioner Smith stated that the board already made the motion to unseal the minutes and that the Clerk was the custodian of the minutes and she should be in charge of them. Attorney Sawyer stated that the minutes needed to be reviewed and that all personnel matters must stay in closed minutes. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to table this until Attorney Sawyer could revise the draft. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143.318.11A (6) (3). Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Snyder seconded. Vote unanimous.
19. Commissioner Smith made the motion to excuse Commissioner Cody from the process of hiring a County Manager due to the fact that he had applied for the position and that if he was chosen he would step down as County Commissioner. Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous.
20. Commissioner Cody spoke about the TVA meeting that he attended earlier in the day about the Fontana Water Project. TVA Representative, Burt Robinson said the consensus was to go ahead and let Fontana do the water system but no monies would be given by TVA due to a conflict between TVA and Fontana over ownership guidelines not being met. He stated that TVA would not contribute until these issues were resolved and conditions were put in place by TVA and met by Fontana. TVA was notified that Graham County had received the grant and the county agreed to charge an administration fee of \$25,000.00 to be paid up front. TVA strongly

suggested that the County get their monies up front for all expenses including all attorney fees from the beginning of the grant. The total project costs are around \$1.3 million dollars.

21. Commissioner Cable made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Snyder seconded.

22. Commissioner Cable rescinded his motion to close and made the motion to recess the meeting until Monday, January 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the County Manager's office for the purpose of reviewing the County Manager applications. Commissioner Snyder rescinded his second and seconded the motion to recess. Vote unanimous.