

Regular Meeting January 20, 2009

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, January 20, 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 and Lynn Cody. Chairman Bruce Snyder called the meeting to order and Commissioner Cable gave the invocation.

1. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the Agenda with the. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Commissioner Smith made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Snyder opened the floor for Public Comment. There were no public comments.
4. Commissioner Snyder presented the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous.
5. Terry Slaughter spoke next on the Flood Plain Ordinance that needed to be accepted or rejected by February 18, 2009. Terry Slaughter spoke briefly on the flooding in 1994 and the damage that was done to property and homes in our county. Commissioner Cable stated he was opposed to adopting this ordinance due to the fact that the federal government is taking away all of our rights and we needed to put a stop to it. He also asked, How can we justify charging these properties the same tax as other properties when this land is the most valuable right now and will not be able to be used if this ordinance comes into effect. Commissioner Smith asked Terry if we are still in the flood plain whether we agree to this ordinance or not. Terry Slaughter stated that yes that was correct. Commissioner Smith then asked what we can do. Can we contact Senators or Representatives? Commissioner Cody and Cable both spoke up to say that the county had already contacted them. Commissioner Snyder was curious about rejecting the ordinance causing problems for the businesses on By-Pass 129. Commissioner Cable thought that every citizen or business of our county should decide whether they want this or not. Commissioner Cody stated that FEMA can cut us off from further funds or grants if we refuse this ordinance. Commissioner Smith stated that we could not expand our economy without federal support. Commissioner Snyder asked about a work session and all were in agreement to Tuesday, February 3rd at 1:00 p.m. at the EMS Base meeting room, then go to the regular meeting at the Community Building on Knight Street. Commissioner Cody asked the Clerk to contact Macon County and get a copy of their ordinance. Notice of these meetings will be posted in the paper for the next two weeks so the public will know to attend.
6. Tajuana Ledwell, Tax Collector, spoke next on the computer software that was approved for purchase when Blair Hyder, Tax Assessor presented it to the commissioners, stating that the software would not do the DMV's and that she would

have to manually add these up each month to balance to her computer. Commissioner Cody stated that the tax office systems were very old and the system that Blair spoke about would take care of new equipment. Tajuana stated that this was correct and his system is nice but we would still have to run the old computer system to do the DMV's, pay for that software cost each month and pay for the new at the same time. She stated that she spoke with the software company that they use now and requested a time when their system could be put on-line. They stated maybe at the end of 2009. Commissioner Cody asked that Tajuana contact the software company that we have now and ask them to come and talk to the Commissioners. Commissioner Cable stated that we needed to keep up with the changes and to have Blair hold his order until we could get this reviewed.

7. Tajuana also mentioned the House Boat stickers being held until all taxes were paid for those individuals. Commissioner Smith asked how much did the stickers cost. The cost is .50 cents. Commissioner Cable made the motion to raise the fee to \$5.00 effective after July 1, 2009. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.
8. Tajuana also discussed her tax collection rate and stated that Alcoa, Fontana and Jose Rosado had not paid their taxes and if they would her tax rate would be up to almost the same as last year at this time. Commissioner Smith asked about the DMV office being moved into her office. Tajuana stated that yes, the state will be taking over the DMV and they will want that office to be with the county tax offices. Commissioner Smith also asked about the House Boat owners who were being sued for non compliance on the sewer tanks. Attorney Sawyer discussed in detail on the Houseboats and there were less than 10 who have not complied. Attorney Sawyer stated that hopefully TVA and the local boat docks would keep us informed if any houseboats fall out of compliance. He also stated that was the reason for the stickers, to make sure the boats are in compliance. Commissioner Snyder asked Tajuana if she thought Alcoa would pay. She stated no! The Board directed the Attorney to draft a letter to Alcoa for payment.
9. Commissioner Snyder asked the Clerk, Kim Crisp if she had anything to present to the Board. David L. Anderson had asked if he could get some salvage wood from our Bear Creek property for firewood. After discussion with the lawyer and the Board they decided to talk to Harold Phillips, who is the State Forest Service Manager, before we agree to anything.
10. The Town of Robbinsville had made a request for the \$30,000.00 that was promised them for help with the sewer project by the previous board. Commissioner Cody stated that was correct but that the Town owed us \$30,000.00 for a promise to help with the new pool. The Board instructed Kim to make arrangements with the Town on swapping monies at the same time.
11. The Board will be attending the Rural Development Center/ DOT meetings held on Monday, January, 26, 2009. Commissioner Sherrill will not be able to attend.

12. The Clerk also asked the Board if they wanted to attend the Blue Ridge Assembly Retreat which is set up to bring back Urgent Care to the Tier 1 counties. Commissioner Smith asked if this was the programs that we previously had with Smoky Mountain and Commissioner Cody replied that yes it was. Commissioner Cody will be attending.
13. The Clerk also presented the Board with the Transportation Grant that Juanita Colvard has worked diligently on. The grant allowed for her to ask for more monies to be used for a new facility which could include a vehicle maintenance shop and the equipment needed to repair and service the county vehicles. Commissioner Cody also commended Juanita's work on these grants.
14. The last item from the Clerk was the update on the Scenic Byway sign removal ordinance request to the State. Josh Carpenter, our County Planner, sent the final paperwork to them for review and the State will let us know their decision.
15. Commissioner Snyder spoke next on the Tobacco Ordinance. He asked the Board if they had made a decision on this. Commissioner Cable stated that he thought the state was going to mandate this anyway and we should wait for them. Commissioner Snyder said he was thinking way down the road that if we did not adopt this will affect our grants. Commissioner Cable stated that the state would adopt one and ban all tobacco from any county or state facility anyway. This was tabled for later discussion.
16. Commissioner Snyder also spoke to the Board about the School based Health Center funding being cut and he hoped that we could find a way to keep this program in the school. He felt this was a very valuable asset for the kids, parents and the teachers. Commissioner Cody stated that this may be the only chance for some kids to see a doctor.
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 Snyder made the motion to give Donnie Orr, our sanitation driver, a .75 cent raise. Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous.
20. Commissioner Cable made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Snyder seconded. Vote unanimous.