

Regular Meeting February 17, 2009

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, February 17, 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. Commissioner Sherrill was present with a teleconference all. 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 Commissioner Snyder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Snyder opened the floor for Public Comment. No public comments were given.
4. Releases and Discoveries were on the agenda next but Blair Hyder was not present at this time. Commissioner Snyder moved to continue the agenda until Blair Hyder showed up. All Board agreed.
5. Josh Carpenter spoke next on the grants that he is working on concerning the Sheriff's department. The grant would be \$22,700.00 with \$5,700.00 of that total coming from the sheriff's budget. This grant will pay for a security door (ordered by a Judge) that leads into the Jail and for equipment such as tazers and other items used by the deputies of the county. He spoke briefly on the playground grant that will be put beside the pool and also brought the Board up to date on the pool grant. He stated after the latest draw of \$114,870.00 the grant would have a total of \$55,000.00 more or less left. The handicap sidewalk that was left out of the original plans will be around \$7000.00 if we use a different contractor besides Phillips & Jordan whose bid was \$14,000.00. He also stated that some repairs were left to do concerning the old windows in the building and that some platforms had not been poured due to the fact that the Town of Robbinsville was installing a new sewer line. Once this is completed then the platform will be poured.
6. Juanita Colvard spoke next on scheduling a Public Hearing for a Transportation meeting on Friday, March 6, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. due to the CT2010 Grant requirements. Commissioner Cable made the motion to call a special meeting for this date. Commissioner Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. The Graham County Board of Elections met next for an informative discussion over the responsibilities that the Board of Commissioners had toward the Elections Office and personnel. Present from the Board of Elections were Juanita Colvard, Dirk Cody and Steve Odom. Juanita Colvard spoke briefly on why the office is hourly paid and not salary which was one main concern that had been brought to the Commission Board. She also stated that all budgeting authority was through the

Commissioners as well as all employees abiding by the County Personnel Policy. The State has input through guidelines concerning hours and how many staff could be hired. Steve Odom stated that the office was run very well and that their Board tries to stay on top of everything concerning any new laws. He stated that the last election was trouble free. Commissioner Cody asked if the Election Board had any repercussions on making a change in the polling place location. Juanita Colvard stated the only reason for this change was to make access easier to the voters and lessen the number of voters in the West Ward which is a large voting place.

8. Commissioner Cable spoke next on the letter that we received on the Resolution of Marriage. He stated that North Carolina is the only state in the south that has not adopted this. The resolution would express support for an amendment to the NC Constitution reading: "Marriage between a man and a woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in the State." Commissioner Cable made the motion to adopt this resolution. (See attached). Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.
9. Commissioner Smith asked about the NC Floodplain Fees and stated that Randy Mundt was supposed to get back to us on this. She asked the Interim County Manager to pursue this and have Mr. Mundt call her about this issue. She also asked about the NCACC offering life insurance policies for the County Commissioners. The Interim County Manager will schedule a meeting for the NCACC representatives to come and speak with our commission board not only on life insurance but for health insurance as well. She stated that the county needed to cut corners any which way that we could. Commissioner Smith also asked about the letter from the US Department of Agriculture accepting the counties proposal for the use of the old Cheoah Ranger District Office as a Museum and Heritage Center. The letter states that a maintenance plan would be part of the proposal. Lavina West spoke briefly on this also since she has been a part of this request from the beginning. She stated that the school and the county could hold trainings there as well as the welcome center. Commissioner Smith asked if the building could get donated to the county and Lavina stated that those were in the plans in the future.
10. Commissioner Snyder asked about the Audit and the Interim County Manager stated that at this time it was still in the preliminary stage and that the auditing firm had asked for further information. The firm was contacted and given the approval for the preliminary audit by the commission board. He also asked about the plaques for the Rescue Squads and agreed to order them with the following statement: "Presented to Stecoah and Robbinsville Rescue Squad with our sincere appreciation for your years of diligent service of search and rescue efforts with our citizens and non-citizens of Graham County." Thank You, Graham County Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Snyder also asked if the board could recognize Jeannie Trull for raising over \$8000.00 to assist our elderly with their heating bills. Commissioner Cody made the motion to get Jeannie Trull a plaque. Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous.

11. Commissioner Snyder also congratulated the Board on the hearing of the Flood Plain Ordinance. He thought the meeting was “rough” but the board held together and everyone did a great job regardless of how they voted.
12. Commissioner Smith also spoke on the federal stimulus monies and felt that we should attend all workshops. She also stated a workshop is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Rural Center and she would like to attend. A follow up with Josh Carpenter will be done to see dates, times and places of these meetings. There will be a meeting with G.R.E.A.T. on February 20<sup>th</sup> which will be attended by Billy Cable and Sandra Smith.
13. 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.
14. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.
15. Commissioner Cody was asked to step out of closed session due to the fact he was on of the applicants for the County Manager’s position. After Commissioner Cody returned, he was offered the job of county manager if he resigned as commissioner tonight giving notice to the Board and to the Republican Party Executive Committee. His salary will be \$42,000.00 with a 90 day probationary period, which is in the county personnel policy. He agreed to the conditions of the job and stated that: “I, Lynn Cody, resign my position of County Commissioner effective immediately.” Commissioner Cable made the motion to accept the resignation. Commissioner Snyder seconded. Commissioner Sherrill was in favor and Commissioner Smith was opposed. The motion carried three to one. Interim County Manager, Kim Crisp, resigned the interim county manager’s position with Commissioner Smith accepting the resignation. Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous. Kim Crisp will remain as County Clerk. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to appoint Lynn Cody as the County Manager. Commissioner Cable seconded. Commissioner Sherrill was in favor and Commissioner Smith was opposed. The motion carried three to one.
16. Commissioner Sherrill who was on teleconference, expressed his intent to resign as a County Commissioner tonight also. He stated that his health is bad and he felt he was not an asset to the county any longer. Commissioner Sherrill stated: “I tender my resignation as County Commissioner effective tonight.” He stated that he had enjoyed it and appreciated the opportunity to serve our county. Commissioner Cable stated that it had been a privilege to work with Jerry and that he was the most honest man that he knew of. Lynn Cody also stated that it had been a pleasure serving as Commissioner with him. Commissioner Smith made the motion to accept Commissioner Sherrill’s resignation. Commissioner Cable reluctantly seconded. Vote unanimous.

17. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous.