

Regular Meeting – Monday, May 4, 2009

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, May 4, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Graham County Community Building at 196 Knight Street, Robbinsville, N.C. Present were: Commissioners Bruce Snyder, Sandra Smith, Steve Odom and Gene Trull. Present by teleconference: Commissioner Billy Cable. Commissioner Bruce Snyder called the meeting to order.

1. Commissioner Odom gave the invocation.
2. Commissioner Snyder reiterated again that the public has three chances to speak. Those are to be on the agenda, to speak in public comment or if the commissioners ask you a question. The purpose is for the meetings to run more efficiently.
3. Commissioner Trull made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Commissioner Odom made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Commissioner Snyder opened the floor for public comment. Billy Holder, a Stecoah Resident wanted to know what the commissioners had decided on the taxes for the property in flood plain. He stated that he can not use his land that sits in the non-encroachment except for farming or pasture land. Commissioner Snyder stated that the board would be addressing this issue tonight. Michael Holder, a Stecoah Resident stated that the Flood Plain Ordinance shouldn't have been voted in and he felt the board should not charge taxes on the property that was in the flood plain. He stated that if the board would eliminate the taxes in these areas then everyone would be happy. He also stated he didn't like the part where the public couldn't talk until the next meeting. Commissioner Snyder stated that we will follow procedure so the meetings did not get out of control. Linda Huscusson, a Stecoah land owner stated that Macon County is having problems with their maps and they had hired McGill to restudy theirs and she doesn't agree with Graham County's maps and she stated that the board accepted the maps without looking at them and a study needs to be redone to make some lands correct. She stated that no two properties were treated the same. Loretta Moore, a Stecoah Resident stated that she didn't understand the maps.
6. Commissioner Snyder announced that the public comment was now closed.
7. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a public hearing on the Board of Equalization and Review. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Blair Hyder, Tax Assessor, swore the Board of Commissioners in for the Board of Equalization and Review for the purpose of hearing any tax appeals. All Board was sworn in along with Commissioner Cable by phone. Blair Hyder stated that at this time no one had appealed their taxes. Commissioner Odom asks if any responses had been made. The Board discussed the time frame for keeping the Board of E & R open with Attorney Sawyer and he stated that the board could remain open from the first Monday in May until July 1. The Board decided that if any appeals were made the Tax Assessor office would take all information and then bring to the Board of E & R for review. Commissioner Odom made the motion to adjourn this meeting until the 1st meeting in June to give Blair Hyder time for appeals if any were filed. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Commissioner Snyder called the regular meeting back into order.
10. Blair Hyder, Tax Assessor, presented the board with the Releases and Discoveries and gave the totals for all. See Attached! Commissioner Smith made the motion to accept the Releases and Discoveries. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Blair Hyder also presented the board with a request from a tax payer to release the prior taxes owed on a boat house that he had purchased. Blair stated that the tax payer was willing to compromise the bill. Commissioner Trull stated that the tax follows the property. Blair Hyder stated that this was correct. Commissioner Trull stated that this needed to be tabled until further review. All board was in agreement.

12. Blair Hyder also spoke on the TVA – PILF bill that is to go before the House and felt this bill would be beneficial to our county and requested a letter be sent to our Representatives. County Manager Cody stated that he had spoken with Rep. Snow last week on this issue. The Board instructed the county manager to follow up on this. Commissioner Smith thanked Blair for the information.
13. Commissioner Snyder asked for any old business. Commissioner Smith asked about an EMS bill where our county employees hauled a Cherokee County patient. County Manager Cody stated that he had talked to Cherokee County and this was supposed to be taken care of. Commissioner Smith asked the county manager to follow up on this issue.
14. Commissioner Odom ask about the audit advertisement deadline and made the motion to set May 11th as the deadline for receiving bids since our county needs this done quickly. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Commissioner Odom asks about the pool progress on the windows and sidewalks. County Manager Cody stated that the windows were ordered and the sidewalks would be delayed until the town finishes the new sewer pipes that are now being installed. Attorney Sawyer stated he had not received any information from McGill's on the ADA compliance of the sidewalks.
16. Commissioner Snyder stated his opinions on the Flood Plain discussion and stated that his position had not changed. Commissioner Odom stated that he couldn't have voted for it because he felt the process was not done fairly. Commissioner Trull stated that this is a lose-lose situation and he is against it. Commissioner Cable stated that he was against it because the state and federal governments are taking our land to use the way they want too. Commissioner Smith stated that we had no choice, the state is doing this.
17. County Manager Cody stated that he had attended a workshop in Boone, NC on the CDBG Grant and that our county will be receiving \$400, 00.00 dollars to help fix homes county wide for the low income families. The grant will open for applications on May 11th and close on June 30th and then the state will review the applications and return then to the county that have been approved. Cody stated that other monies could be available for small business loans. A hearing is set for May 18th to open up any questions for the Board of Commissioners. This will be one of two hearings that are required. All Board was in favor.
18. County Manager Cody also spoke on a possible After Care Program using Dr. Don Teeter from Haywood County. This would be a free clinic to low income families and those who do not have insurance. Cody has spoken with Tom Tyre about the need for this clinic in our county. All Board was in agreement.
19. Commissioner Smith made a request to charge off an ambulance bill. Attorney Sawyer stated this needed to be done in closed session.
20. Commissioner Smith also asks about the Red Flag Rule that came from the Federal Trade Commission. Attorney Sawyer stated that he would check into this and get back with the board.
21. Commissioner Smith made the motion to allow the Board of Elections to purchase a new printer. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. The Board asks the manager to reschedule the meeting with Bill Tunnell with NC Development Authority due to the county board having prior engagements. The county manager stated that he would have our planner, Josh Carpenter reschedule a meeting.
23. Commissioner Odom stated that he had received an email from Rick Davis with G.R.E.A.T. and wants to meet on May 18th to get the counties support on their vision of what they want G.R.E.A.T. to achieve. They wanted the county to adopt a resolution to endorse their strategic plan.
24. Commissioner Odom stated that he had received a letter from the USDA about their plans to survey upper Santeetlah project on harvesting timber which will entail timber sales and work for our county. This project is for select harvesting and not clear cutting. Commissioner Odom made the motion to adopt a resolution to allow this project. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Commissioner Snyder made a motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11A (3) (6). Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Trull seconded. Vote unanimous.

27. Commissioner Odom made the motion to do away with the base fee and only charge the mileage on the ambulance bill for Call number 4018233. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Commissioner Odom made the motion to write off the ambulance bill for Call number 1341301 due to the fact that the counties address had changed and Medicare had not been informed and the statute of limitations for billing had expired. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Commissioner Odom made the motion to hire Tracy Williams as the Assistant EMS Billing Clerk for a full time position at a salary beginning at \$10.00 per hour. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Commissioner Odom stated that we had failed to mention in open session the roofing contract and asked the other members if they had reviewed all the bids. The board all stated that yes they had. Commissioner Odom made the motion to go with Atoah Builders, the lowest bid price with 30 year architectural shingles at the cost of \$19,385.00. See Attached! Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Bruce Snyder, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Sandra Smith, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Billy Cable, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Steve Odom, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Eugene Trull, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board