

Regular Meeting – Monday, July 20, 2009

The Graham County Board of County Commissioners met Monday, July 20, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Graham County Community Building at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. Present were: Commissioners Bruce Snyder, Sandra Smith, Billy Cable, Gene Trull and Steve Odom. Commissioner Snyder called the meeting to order.

1. Commissioner Cable gave the invocation.
2. Commissioner Odom made a motion to amend the agenda to include a Resolution for Transportation. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Trull made the motion to approve the revised agenda. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Commissioner Snyder asks for public comment. No public comment was given.
6. Commissioner Snyder asks Rebecca Garland for a report from the finance office. Rebecca stated that she had closed out June 2009 and everything was looking good. She stated that the county had already been receiving taxes for the 2009-2010 tax years. She stated that we had enough money at this time to run for one month. Rebecca also discussed the possible renovation of the Fort Hill Building and gave amounts of possible interest rates and the savings that the county would have by being rent free. She also stated that by putting Social Services into the same building the county would receive reimbursements from the state that would off set the cost of the renovation. Rebecca also discussed the QZAB Bonds and stated that the LGC would not look at any bonds without current audits. Our county audit should be completed by January 31, 2010. Rebecca told the board about speaking with Chip Carringer and Rick Davis from the Graham County School Administration and that they assured her that the school would have the monies available to make the payments of the QZAB. Commissioner Odom stated his concerns on the county having an outside back up source for our electronic records. He stated that he uses a company that charges \$129.95 for a three year subscription per computer. Rebecca agreed with Commissioner Odom in stating that if the counties server went down we would be in a crisis. The board gave a directive to the county manager to look into this matter and go ahead and secure our files.
7. Commissioner Snyder asks Juanita Colvard to present the Resolution Exempting Graham County Government from G.S. 143-64.31. Juanita Colvard stated that the state has called and the facility grant is coming to Graham County. She stated that the purpose of this resolution was to exempt us from bidding out the hiring of an architect. Commissioner Odom asks if monies were to be used before the grant was awarded and Juanita stated, “No, it is just talk at this point”. Commissioner stated that there were no pocket expenses and Juanita stated that was correct. Commissioner Smith asks if the money was put aside for this cost and Juanita stated that it was. Commissioner Smith made the motion to pass the resolution to exempt Graham County from the bid process concerning the architect. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Commissioner Snyder adjourned the regular meeting and opened a Public Hearing for the Rural Operating Assistance Program FY 2010.

9. Commissioner Snyder announced that Juanita Colvard, Transit Director would present the information. Juanita gave a brief description of the program and the services these monies provided as well as the amount that Graham County would be requesting after approval from commissioners to enter into the agreement. Commissioner Snyder asks for any public comment. No public comment was given.
10. Commissioner Snyder announced that the Public Hearing is now closed and reopened the regular meeting.
11. Commissioner Snyder adjourned the regular meeting and opened a Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant.
12. Commissioner Snyder announced that Josh Carpenter, County Planner would present the information. Josh gave the board an update and asks for any questions on applying for the grant. Commissioner Cable asks Josh was the county stood on the grant. Josh stated that he had a few more sections to complete and then he would send the information for review. Commissioner Snyder asks if anyone had further comment. No further comment was given.
13. Commissioner Snyder announced that the Public Hearing is now closed and reopened the regular meeting.
14. Commissioner Snyder introduced Alicia Parham and Lorita Eller from the Health Department to discuss appointments for the Child Fatality Prevention Team. Lorita Eller presented the board with a pamphlet that explains the goals and purpose of the team. Lorita ask the board to appoint a law enforcement officer, an EMS provider or firefighter, a parent of a child who died before 18 years and 5 community members representing various agencies. Loretta stated that she would be glad to present a list of names if that would help the board in choosing. The commissioners will comprise a list of names and look for persons who are interested in serving. In closing, Lorita stated that this team is to help safeguard our children.
15. Commissioner Snyder asks Alicia Parham to speak next on the Resolution approving the application for grant funds for the Graham County Septic System Repair Replacement Project. Alicia stated that this is a reimbursement grant and they had fifteen sites ready to repair when the grant came through. Commissioner Cable asks if this is to repair and replace only or is it for new systems. Alicia stated that it is for systems that are failing or straight piped systems but no new systems were included. She stated that the county has already repaired over 100 sites in the county with a prior grant. Commissioner Odom asks if there was any cost to the county and Alicia stated that the county did not have to use any county monies. Commissioner Cable made the motion to proceed at no cost to the county. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Commissioner Snyder asks for Blair Hyder with Releases and Discoveries. Blair Hyder was not present.
17. Commissioner Snyder asks the board for any old business. A member of the audience asks if public comment was over and Commissioner Snyder stated that yes it was closed. Commissioner Odom asks the county manager if he had been contacted by McGill and Associates and the county manager replied that no contact had been received. County Manager Cody stated that the lawyer was drafting a request for a follow up meeting with McGill and Associates to discuss the warranty issues. Commissioner Trull stated that was a good idea. Commissioner Smith asks if McGill and Associates had paid for the sidewalk and the reply was yes they had, but no contact on the warranty issue.

18. Commissioner Odom asks when the roofing of the courthouse was to begin. The county manager stated that the shingles were to be delivered this week and Eric Phillips will begin as soon as the shingles were delivered.
19. Commissioner Cable asks the board about a resolution to adopt a policy on expenditures after the election. In the past former boards put the county in financial hardships. He stated that he had spoken to Senator Snow and Representative West on this issue and they thought this was a good idea. The Institute of Government will provide a template to allow representatives to put into law with Graham County sponsoring the bill. All board was in agreement to this resolution.
20. Commissioner Snyder asks the board for new business. Commissioner Snyder stated that he had a letter from Randy Jenkins requesting a proclamation to make the first Saturday in August Stecoah School Reunion Day. He asks that the board come to the reunion and publish this in the local papers. County Manager Cody stated that Stecoah Community does not want the Stecoah School (even though it is closed for school use) to die. They want to have a reunion for all workers and students every year. Cody stated that the school was a major part of the community. Commissioner Smith asks if a plaque of any kind had been placed there and Cody stated no. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go through with this due to the fact Randy Jenkins was the finest man in the county and was always willing to help anyone at anytime. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Commissioner Smith asks the board if anyone attended the Southwestern Commissioner Aging and Disability meeting on July 14th. The board replied no. Commissioner Smith thought that Wanda Hill needed to come to a meeting and inform them about this program. She also stated that it would be a good idea to put computers in the Senior Citizens Building to allow the seniors of our county to learn to use one.
22. Commissioner Smith asks about the Flood Mapping Fee. The County Manager stated that he had been in touch with FEMA and Randy Mundst and they did not have knowledge of these fees. Commissioner Smith stated that this is a mandate from the state. The county manager stated that he would get with the Finance office to get clarification on these fees. Commissioner Smith thought that the board needed to pass a resolution requesting our county be remapped for the Flood Plain. She stated that our mapping was incorrect and needed to be fixed. Commissioner Smith made the motion to pass a resolution. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Commissioner Smith asks the board if anyone wanted to attend the NCACC Conference in Hickory. Commissioner Snyder stated that he would attend. Commissioner Smith made the motion to name Commissioner Snyder as our counties delegate to represent us. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Commissioner Smith stated that we had received a letter from Four Square requesting the permit fees be waived for the homes that they are going to repair.
25. Commissioner Smith asks the board about a resolution on a health care reform by Ed Rosado. The board decided to set this aside until next meeting.
26. Commissioner Odom stated that he a letter from the Nantahala Regional Library asking for a reappointment of board member Marshall McClung. Commissioner Trull made the motion to reappoint Marshall McClung to the Library Board. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. See Attached!

27. Commissioner Odom stated his concerns on the driveway at the Health Department stating that a drain needed to be installed to prevent the water from going out into the road. He stated that in the winter the water freezes and becomes a liability to the county. Commissioner Odom thought that the county needed to revisit this with the Town of Robbinsville. Commissioner Trull stated that this problem was supposed to be fixed when the Streetscape Project was done. The board discussed changing the drain to the county parking area instead of toward Main Street.
28. Commissioner Odom discussed the problems that the county is having with Venison and made a motion to write a letter to the utilities commission with our complaints. All board was in agreement.
29. Commissioner Odom asks the board to meet to finalize our Personnel Policy. He suggested that the board meet one day a week to finish. The board all agreed and will meet on Monday's at 10:00 a.m. at the county manager's office.
30. Commissioner Odom also presented the board with a long range plan for the Fort Hill Building Renovation. See Attached!
31. Commissioner Odom made the motion to raise the price of copies to .25 cents from .10 cents that the county charges now. He stated that with the price of toners, paper, etc. our prices have gone up. Commissioner Odom stated that we could not charge for time just materials but it should be a fair price. Donna Cody, member of the audience requested to speak and stated she is the one making the requests for all the copies and stated that the county could download the information on disc to sell. She stated this would be the cheapest and easiest way to copy. She stated that .25 cents was too much at this time to charge people. Commissioner Odom stated that prices had gone up on everything. Commissioner Cable suggested that we delay this decision until the actual cost is added up. Commissioner Odom rescinded his motion until the actual cost is found.
32. Commissioner Snyder asks the board about the reappointment for the Graham County Nursing & Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee. The names submitted by Southwestern Commission were Allen Campbell-Stewart and Glenda Odom. Commissioner Cable made the motion to reappoint the two
33. names submitted. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Commissioner Snyder asks the board about the reappointment of the Aging Advisory Council. The names submitted were Alicia Parham, Christine Crisp and Martha Day. The board had one seat vacant for a commissioner appointment and a change for the DSS department needed to change from Angela Campbell to Kristy Smith, DSS Director. The board was unaware of the names submitted and tabled this until the next meeting.
35. Commissioner Snyder had one more item for discussion. A gentleman had approached him wanting Robert Moseley's name to be put on a bridge in recognition of all his work for Graham County in keeping Lake Santeetlah and top level all year. No comment was made by the board.
36. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143.318A (6) (3) for personnel and attorney-client privilege. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Snyder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. The board discussed personnel problems in several departments and discussed items that are in process of civil action with the Attorney David Sawyer.

39. Commissioner Snyder recognized Juanita Colvard, Transit Director to speak. Juanita asks the board for a motion on the ROAP 2010 Grant. Commissioner Snyder made the motion for the transit director to apply for the ROAP 2010 Grant. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
40. Commissioner Smith presented the board with an ambulance bill #371351 and #371883 on a deceased patient and that the family had paid some on the bills owed but was unable to pay anything further. The board needed to give the EMS Billing Clerk the permission to write the balance off of her books. There is no estate for this patient. Commissioner Snyder made the motion to write the balance off for this patient. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
41. Commissioner Odom made the motion to continue this meeting until Monday, July 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the county manager's office to begin finalizing the revisions to the counties personnel policy. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.