

Regular Meeting – Monday, August 3, 2009

The Graham County Board of County Commissioners met Monday, August 3, 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 Sandra Smith, Billy Cable, Gene Trull and Steve Odom. Commissioner Snyder joined the meeting by teleconference. Commissioner Smith called the meeting to order.

1. Commissioner Odom gave the invocation.
2. Commissioner Odom made the motion to amend the agenda to allow Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer to be listed at #5 and remove Josh Carpenter #10 and replace with Blair Hyder, Tax Assessor for Releases and Discoveries and then approve the agenda. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Odom made the motion to approve the minutes for the July 20th, 27th, 28th and 31st. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Commissioner Smith opened the floor for public comment. No public comment!
5. Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer gave an update on the audit preparations and stated that she had been in contact with the auditors and will begin field work within the next week. She stated that Josh Carpenter, County Planner would be working closely with her on the grants for the county. She stated that she and Josh would be involved from the beginning until the ending of all grants from this time forward. She stated that she had drafted a memo to all department heads informing them of this change. She stated that she had placed a spending freeze due to the uncertainty of the state budget. She also stated that she would like to have the purchase orders on automation to cut out the excessive paperwork. Commissioner Smith asks if the outstanding purchase orders had been found and Rebecca stated that yes they had.
6. Representatives from the State Transportation Department spoke to the board about the secondary roads in the county. Wesley Grindstaff and Brian Burch were the speakers and the other staff present was Steve Buchanan, Shane Edwards and Danny Shields. Mr. Burch presented the board with a spending plan for Graham County FY 2010. He also stated that due to the decline in revenues projects have been put on hold and the projects being completed are the ones that are high priority. Commissioner Smith asks if any new allocations would be available in the spring and the response was that the state was not allowing spending at this time. Commissioner Cable asks where does the county stand on secondary roads being turned over to county government. The reply was that the state was not in favor of that bill. See Attached!
7. Mary Barker with the HCCBG spoke to the board about her agency. She talked at length about the committees and advisory boards that are in the Home Community Care Block Grant. She thanked the board for the reappointments to the Nursing & Adult Care Home Community Advisory committee and asks the board to appoint and reappoint members for the Area Agency Aging Advisory Council. She gave a brief description on what the committees do and how important they are to the county. Commissioner Smith thanked Mary for coming and speaking with the board.
8. Commissioner Smith adjourned the regular meeting and opened the public hearing for the 911 Road Naming.

9. Commissioner Smith introduced Terry Slaughter as the speaker. Terry presented the board with the proposed names for the new roads. See Attached! Terry stated that the 911 Road Naming Board met last Wednesday and approved the names listed. Commissioner Cable made the motion to accept the names. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous
10. Commissioner Smith closed the public hearing and reopened the regular meeting.
11. Commissioner Smith asks Blair Hyder to speak on the Releases & Discoveries. See Attached! Commissioner Trull questioned a bill on one of the releases and Blair stated that this person could not be found. Commissioner Smith had a question about present use values and Blair explained the way those values are obtained. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Kristi Smith, Director of Social Services gave the board a power points presentation on the agency. See Attached! She gave a detailed report on the all the divisions of the agencies and their responsibilities. She gave the percentages that the state repays to the counties on various items including a proposed new facility. That percentage rate is 61.65%. The board thanked Kristi for the presentation. Kristi invited the board to come to the offices and visit any time.
13. Commissioner Smith asks the board for old business. Commissioner Smith asks the board if they had decided on the names for the Child Fatality Prevention Team. This was tabled until the next meeting.
14. Commissioner Smith asks if the NCACC had received the notice that Bruce was named the county delegate. The Clerk, Kim Crisp stated that the letter had been sent.
15. Commissioner Smith asks the board about the bat problem at the courthouse. The board discussed this issue but no decisions were made.
16. Commissioner Smith asks about the grant that was applied for concerning the new door for the entrance to the jail. County Manager Lynn Cody stated that the grant fell through and the sheriff had a keyless entry installed on the door at a much cheaper cost.
17. Commissioner Trull asks about the damage that was done to the courthouse due to the water leaks while the roof was being repaired. Commissioner Trull stated that the cleaning bill needed to be sent to the contractor who was awarded the bid.
18. Commissioner Smith asks the board for new business. Commissioner Odom spoke about the workshop that the county had concerning the personnel policy and stated that insubordination needed to be added to the new policy as well as address a complaint by some supervisors about offensive tattoo's and body piercing. Commissioner Cable felt that the lawyer needed to make sure no legal issues will arise if this is included in the policy. The board discussed this at length and gave a directive to the county manager to present our policy to our insurance company for advice concerning safety sensitive departments.
19. Commissioner Odom stated that possible funding from a recovery bond could be obtained for the county to use on a new administration building. The board would need to declare the county a recovery zone due to our county being a Tier 1 county. Commissioner Odom made the motion to pass a resolutions declaring Graham County a recovery zone and to send a letter to the state with our reasons for the resolution. The commissioners discussed the need to have the county shovel ready just in case we did obtain the money. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

20. Commissioner Smith made a motion to take down the old signs identifying the offices in the courthouse and install new plaques for each office that could be removed if and when the offices needed to be moved. The commissioners decided this could be a directive to the county manager. Commissioner Smith withdrew her motion.
21. Commissioner Cable stated that he had been receiving notes on his windshield from an anonymous person who stated that he was eating out of other commissioners hands and he wanted it known that he does not eat out of anyone's hands. He stated that he makes decisions on what he believes and votes his beliefs and he could not help if this county board makes the same decisions and he wanted the unknown person to be man enough to sign their name or stay away from his car.
22. Commissioner Smith asks the board for a ten minute recess before going into closed session. Commissioner Odom made the motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143.318A (1) (6) (3) for the purpose of contracts, attorney client privilege and personnel. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Commissioner Trull made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Commissioner Trull made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.