

Regular Meeting October 21, 2008

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Community Building at 196 Knight Street, Robbinsville, NC. Present were Commissioners Lynn Cody, Billy Cable, Gene Trull and Raymond Williams. Chairman Lynn Cody called the meeting to order and Vice-Chairman Billy Cable gave the invocation.

1. Commissioner Trull made the motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Commissioner Trull made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Cody opened the floor for public comment. Lynn Shields, Executive Director for the Stecoah Valley Center, requested help for the repairs on the roof and the replacement of the roof above the auditorium. She stated the cost to be around \$14,500.00 by Cox & Son's (the only bid received). She also stated the Center's building fund had \$2400.00 left and needed Special Appropriations to cover the remaining costs. She explained the centers economic impact for the county to be a great success by all the artisans at the center. They employed 29 jobs to the county. Commissioner Williams questioned the bid process. Commissioner Cable asked about profits made being used for these repairs. Shields stated that utilities cost around \$20,000.00 a year and paying all costs would deplete their funds. Commissioner Cable also spoke about the \$50,000.00 grant that was just rewarded. He also stated that persons who use the center for profits should help with these costs. Commissioner Trull made the motion to table this issue until they could investigate further. Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous.
4. Blair Hyder spoke next on the releases and discoveries, three cases were brought before the board. Commissioner Trull moved to approve the releases and Commissioner Williams seconded. Vote unanimous. Blair also spoke about the TVA dams monies and thought NC was being shortchanged. He felt we needed to talk to some representatives for help on this issue. The state of GA receives more monies at a smaller generating capacity. The board agreed to pursue this matter.
5. Commissioner Cody spoke next on the EMS budget that Terry Slaughter had turned in concerning the cot. The budget stated it was only a request and not an actual buy.
6. Commissioner Cody also presented the information on the Southwestern Commission Appointments being never ending as long as the Board appoints the same people every three years. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Bobbie Carpenter and James S. Brown as the appointees, Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous.

7. Commissioner Cody also presented the request from Brittany Chekelelee to waive the rental fees at the Community Center for training of cheerleaders. The Board instructed that we let her know she is responsible for the clean up of the building after each session. Commissioner Williams made the motion to waive the fees. Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous.
8. Commissioner Cody explained the economics report that will affect our county. Some funds may be affected by this decline. As of this time, our finances are in good shape.
9. Commissioner Cody talked about the mercury levels being retested in the lakes and that the tests show smaller amounts. Alicia Parham, Health Director, commented about a possible meeting in November by the Wildlife Commission. Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Cable thought that the TVA and the Wildlife Commission was using this issue as a way to take over control.
10. Commissioner Cody spoke about the Smokey Mtn. Mental Health Program 160-A being enacted. Shelley Lackey, Director of Communications for the Mental Health spoke about bringing services back to Graham County. A meeting is scheduled for October 29th at the EMS building to discuss this program. She also spoke about the crisis services at the Haywood Regional Center having 16 beds for Graham County use instead of sending our people to Broughton Hospital and another location in Avery County giving Western North Carolina two places to use now. She thanked Lynn Cody for his hard work and invited all to attend the open house. She also stated they were looking for a new director at this time.
11. A meeting is to be held October 22nd at the EMS building with the Department of Commerce concerning infrastructure and county impact concerns.
12. Commissioner Cody gave the request by Jennie Trull, an employee at the Health Department, to give a free day to an employee as a prize to help with a fundraiser that she is hosting. Commissioner Cable moved to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded. Vote unanimous.
13. A request was made by Alicia Parham for a 50 cents raise to one of her employees. Commissioner Cable made the motion to table until a check was made on the employees pay rate. Commissioner Williams seconded. Vote unanimous. Alicia also requested to hire another worker to replace an employee who quit. She stated to hire at full time instead of part time. She stated that the funds were available for least two years. Commissioner Trull made the motion to table. Commissioner Cable made the motion to hire under the conditions of working as long as funds were available. Commissioner Williams seconded. Vote unanimous.
14. Commissioner Williams spoke next about the Meadow Branch Fire Department waiting on the paperwork from Attorney Mack Tallant. Attorney David Sawyer stated we, as a county, have done all that we can do and he had talked at length with Mack

- about this issue. Commissioner Williams was concerned about the time running out for the department and that if things were not settled quickly the department would lose their land.
15. Commissioner Williams also urged the papers to help get the word out about the GCYAA basketball signups and participation. He felt we could recruit more kids with their help. Both papers were in agreement.
 16. Commissioner Trull spoke about complaints he had received on the Community Building renters. He said that the floors were filthy and the building was disgraceful. The board decided to get the building cleaned up and to hire a company in Murphy to wax the floors.
 17. Commissioner Cody made the motion to close open session and to go into closed session under GS 143.318.11A (6)(3). Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 18. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go back to open session. Commissioner Trull seconded. Vote unanimous.
 19. Commissioner Trull made the motion to hire Josh Carpenter as the new County Planner. Andy Cable resigned on October 17th. His salary will start at \$28000.00. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 20. Commissioner Trull made the motion to raise the Clerk Kim Crisp's pay to that of the previous clerk. Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous.
 21. The Board directed Attorney David Sawyer on the settlement of the Jeff Cabe lawsuit.
 22. The Board also changed the next Board meeting to Wednesday, November 5th due to Election Day. The West precinct is held in the Community Center on Knight Street.
 23. Commissioner Cable made the motion to continue this meeting until Wednesday, October 22nd at 9:00 a.m. at the Graham County School Administration Building. Commissioner Trull seconded. Vote unanimous.