

Regular Meeting December 16, 2008

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, December 16, 2008 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. Chairman Bruce Snyder called the meeting to order and Commissioner Smith gave the invocation.

1. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of Releases & Discoveries. Commissioner Snyder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Snyder opened the floor for Public Comment. Charles Hooper asked if the meeting times could be changed. He felt that more people could attend if the meetings were held later. He also asked about the Bear Creek property being used for the landfill and told the commissioners to talk to the Cody's about it. Commissioner Snyder commented that the Board of Commissioners hope to leave the landfill as it is now. He also stated that we were trying to arrange a meeting with the Cody's this week.
4. Blair Hyder presented the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Cable asked about the Hester's. He stated that Mr. Hester had lost his job and wanted to know if he could set up payments for the taxes due. Mr. Hyder said that payments could be arranged. Commissioner Smith wanted to know about the unlisted camper to Coffey. Mr. Hyder stated that the jeep didn't belong to him. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.
5. Alicia Parham, Director of Public Health spoke next about the board adopting a tobacco and smoke free ordinance for the county. Commissioner Smith asked if the county had to by law adopt this ordinance. Ms. Parham said no they did not but as of January 1, 2008 the NC General Statute 103A-498 gives authority to the boards of commissioners to pass no smoking or tobacco use within so many feet from county buildings. See attachment. Alicia asked the board to think about adopting this and let her know their decision later.
6. Alicia also asked the board to appoint a replacement board member for Raymond Williams's seat who is no longer a commissioner. The appointment would be to fill out his remaining term and then appoint the three year term when the seat was up. Commissioner Smith volunteered to serve on this board. Alicia also needs a reappointment for Donald Crisp seat which is up on December 19, 2008. This appointment would be for three years also. Commissioner Snyder questioned Alicia about recommending a board member. Alicia stated that Donald had been a great board member and he had attended all of the meetings. Commissioner Cable made the motion to table this until all the board was present. Commissioner Cable stated that it was okay with him for Commissioner Smith to be on the board. Commissioner Snyder also wanted the other board members to be there as well. Commissioner Snyder stated this could be reviewed again at another meeting.
7. Terry Slaughter, EMS Director had asked Kim Crisp to ask the board for a reappointment for a board member on his 911 Road Naming Board. Gene Trull was the previous commissioner who sat on this board. Commissioner Cable volunteered to sit on this board but he thought we should table this until the commissioners met again.

8. Commissioner Snyder spoke next but asked if any of the board members would like to speak first. Commissioner Smith asked if she could speak. She stated that an incident had occurred where the garbage truck wrecked and the driver was not drug tested. She stated that all department heads need to know the rules about the drug testing because this could lead to problems with the D.O.T. and insurance companies. She also said that she had been told about a mix up with the drug testing between the county departments and the transit department. She stated that Juanita needs to be in control of the transit drug testing by law. Commissioner Cable spoke about department heads being in control of their own department. Commissioner Smith spoke again on the importance of the department heads knowing to get their workers tested if they were in an accident. Commissioner Cable said the less hands the better and he thought the county records should be separate from the transit records because of confidentiality matters. He said two years ago someone came up to him on the street and told him about a county employee testing positive when in fact that employee was taking a prescription medication and that the employee was very upset about this information getting out. Juanita Colvard stated that the positive or negative is not her business and that incident happened when Graham County first started testing. She said any positive goes straight to medical review and they contact the employee. Commissioner Cable said that was the way it should be. After much discussion about where and who should do the testing the board decided that Kim and Juanita would back each other up on the drug testing. Commissioner Smith asked Juanita if she had problems with keeping the testing at transit, Juanita stated that she did not have a problem with that. Commissioner Cable stated that he was told county employees had fifteen minutes to take drug test. Juanita stated that was not true they had three hours. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve that Juanita and Kim would handle the drug testing. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.
9. Commissioner Snyder spoke about the school of government class that the board attended. He stated the board needed to discuss all items of business before they put a motion to it. Commissioner Smith and Cable thought this was a good idea. Commissioner Snyder asked about the audit that still not ready and wanted to know what the board needed to do to help speed up the process. Commissioner Cable stated that the audit was completely in the hands of the auditors. Commissioner Snyder said he had called twice to the accounting firm and still as of yet had not heard from them. Donna Cody spoke up and said she had talked to Mitch Crisp with Dixon and Hughes on Monday and last Friday concerning her business so she knew they were in the office and to try calling a different office.
10. Commissioner Smith talked about the minutes and she felt a time limit should be set on how soon the board could review them. She suggested the board make policy on the time and made the motion that the following Tuesday after the meeting the minutes be ready. Commissioner Snyder seconded. Vote unanimous.
11. 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.
12. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.
13. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go with the new EMS rates that were presented by Naomi Edwards, Billing Clerk. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote unanimous. See attached.
14. Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board made a request on behalf of the employees of the county that the board extend their Christmas Holidays to include Monday and Tuesday before Christmas and the Friday off after New Year's.

Commissioner Smith made the motion to stay open for business due to taxes coming in. Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous.

15. Attorney David Sawyer had informed the board of a junction being made against the county concerning the nativity scene in the front of the old county manager's office. He stated that a lawyer from Asheville was offended by this and the only way to keep this from court would be to take down the scene or add Santa Claus or snowmen or reindeer to the whole scene. The commissioners didn't like it but Commissioner Snyder made the move to add other holiday themes to the scene. Commissioner Cable seconded. Vote unanimous.

16. Commissioner Cable made the motion to continue the meeting till Friday at the county manager's office. Commissioner Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

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Bruce Snyder, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Sandra Smith, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Billy Cable, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Lynn Cody, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Jerry Sherrill, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board