

Regular Meeting 12/19/2006

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, December 19, 2006 at 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the Community Building at 196 Knight Street, Robbinsville, NC. Present were Commissioners Lynn Cody, Billy Cable, Jerry Sherrill, Raymond Williams and Eugene Trull. Chairman Cody called the meeting to order and Sheriff Moody gave the invocation.

1. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of 9-A Sandra Smith and G- Eugene Trull. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote was unanimous.
2. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote was unanimous.
3. Chairman Cody opened the Public Comment session of the meeting. Maury Stewart, Blue Waters Lodge, addressed the Board on approving the application requesting for a No Wake Zone from the Wildlife Commission. Ms. Stewart stated that this was for public safety, property damage and environmental issues. Chairman Cody stated that they had been talking to the Wildlife Commission and my personal opinion I have not made a decision and the distance from the dock would be left up to the Board is what I was told from Raleigh. Ms. Stewart stated that was not what they said to her. Commissioner Cable stated that he had spoken to the Wildlife and they said there were certain criteria that had to be followed. Chairman Cody stated that when you get a no-wake zone has to be public access. Ms. Stewart stated that was not true. Chairman Cody stated that the 300 feet access for a no-wake would isolate that area and it would be private. Ms. Stewart stated that she had to have the application in by December 31 to get a no wake by this spring. Chairman Cody stated that the Board had not discussed this because they did not have all of the information. Jacky Crisp asked the Board if they had come to any decision on the Godfrey Street Property. The Board stated that they had not made a decision on this yet.
4. Erma Orr, Tax Assessor, presented the Releases and Discoveries to the Board. Commissioner Williams told Ms. Orr that he had a question on the Discoveries that she had presented to them last meeting and if they had not been released by the previous Board and he did not think that it should have been brought back to us. Ms. Orr stated the reason it brought back because the property tax law states that the Commissioners are responsible for all of the other 3,000 home owners can come back on you and say we want \$94.00 a year refunded because and Commissioner Williams stated that this had already been dismissed and you brought it to us and the other Board had released it and it needed to stay that way. Ms. Orr stated that it was against the NC law and Commissioner Williams asked how it was against the law and Ms. Orr stated because they released it and it was against the law to release that tax bill. Mr. Williams stated the ones he had talked to had gone to the Tax Office and told them to take the OAE off and Ms. Orr stated that this was not true and she had the proof they did not come in and tell them. Commissioner Williams stated that he did not think these people should be charged and brought back up. Commissioner Trull stated that they should look into it more before you say it's a done deal and what about the ramifications she says about other people coming back and want theirs taken off and is it worth it and we need some discussion. Ms. Orr stated that the Waldroup's came in and changed the address but did not say anything about a death. Ms. Orr stated that she had talked to Charles Meeker about this and he said yes that I could go back and discover on these. Commissioner Williams stated that he did not know that the previous Board had released these. Ms. Orr stated yes that she had told this Board that the previous Board had released these and you didn't hear that. Commissioner Trull stated that he heard her say that. The Board agreed for Attorney McKinney to look into this matter and get back to them. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Release on Sauer, Shinall and Discovery on Farr. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached) Ms. Orr stated that she had a quote from South Data Inc. on post card

bills at \$8250.00 for 30,000. Chairman Cody stated that a lot of people didn't have enough information on the post cards. Ms. Orr had the quote for letter bills on 30,000 at \$11524.75. The Board asked Ms. Orr to see if she could have more information on the post cards.

5. Alicia Parham, Interim Health Director, met with the Board with a summary of the explanation of public health in the community. Ms. Parham stated that she tries to have open communication with any Board member. Ms. Parham told the Board that Western Builders of Sylva got the contract for building the new health facility and with this firm we have to have construction engineering and materials testing services on soil, concrete, asphaltic concrete and this will be through MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. The estimate for this project is around \$4,000.00 and this will carry us through all of the testing and Ms. Parham stated that she had brought this for approval by the Board. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the contract with MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. and Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached)
6. Gil Hargress met with the Board to discuss the JCPC program in Graham County. The North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention partners with Juvenile Crime Prevention Council in each county to galvanize community leaders, locally and statewide, to reduce and prevent juvenile crimes. The Board of Commissioners needs to appoint a member from the Board. Commissioner Sherrill made the motion to appoint Raymond Williams to the JCPC Board. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Alicia Parham, Interim Health Director, stated she needed to talk to the Board about some existing positions and one other at the Health Department: a nursing position (the nurse left), part-time position nursing (20 hours) and a new position of general statues we have to start a well program starting April -1, 2007 we have to hire an Environmental Specialist and I understand that now there is a freeze on hiring and expenditures and theses are budgeted positions excepting the Environmental Specialist position and the State of North Carolina has given us a contract agreement for \$20,000 for this year to help cover that expense. I have to have that person hired by January 2007 if they are not certified by the State of North Carolina I have to send them for training. I'm asking what my limitations are and when can I hire and I would like to advertise next week for the Environmental Specialist. Chairman Cody asked Ms. Parham the positions that she has opened were they funded by local programs or State programs except the Environmental Specialist. The position of the Environmental Specialist is mandated by the State of North Carolina Legislation and has to have a 4 year degree with a minimum of 35 hours of physical and biological science. Commissioner Trull asked how many wells Graham County drills a year and Ms. Parham stated over 200 a year. Commissioner Williams made the motion that they approve all 3 positions Ms. Parham is requesting. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Donna Cody deferred until next Board meeting.
9. Sandra Smith, County Manager, told the Board that the Veterans Office needs an office by himself and that she would like to place that office in the P&J Building that was given to the County. Commissioner Williams stated that he would like to see an office for all of our Representatives to use also. The Board stated that they could set up a schedule for this office for these people. Commissioner Trull made the motion to set up office space (2) on a temporary basis for the Veteran Officer and our local and State Representatives Offices. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Ms. Smith also stated that all of the Commissioners need to have a drug test at the Transit Office and there are two certified workers at the Transit Office. Random drug testing is done every 3 months. Ms. Smith stated that we needed to have a water main put in the basement where the new boiler was place and also a 3 inch water steam line and the pipe in the janitor's closet needs to be fixed. The steam lines are not insulated

and thermostats need to be placed with control valves. Commissioner Trull made the motion to replace two valves and do the repairs. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

10. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go into closed session under GS143.318.11 A (6) and GS143.318.11 A (3). Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

11. Commissioner Williams made the motion to come out of closed session and back into open session. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous with Commissioners present. Commissioner Cable had to leave early. Commissioner Trull left during closed session. In close session the Board discussed personnel and spoke with their Attorney.

12. Commissioner Williams made the motion to join the drug task force with Cherokee County and Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous with Commissioners present.

13. Commissioner Williams made the motion to give Chief Jailor Louie Sellers a \$1.00 raise on the hour and Tammy Hayes a \$1.00 an hour raise. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote carried with Commissioners present.

14. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sherrill seconded this motion. Vote unanimous with members present.

Lynn Cody, Chairman

Billy Cable, Vice-Chairman

Jerry Sherrill, Member

Eugene Trull, Member

Raymond Williams, Member

Jan Millsaps, Clerk