

Regular Meeting Monday, December 21, 2009

The Graham County Board of County Commissioners met Monday, December 21, 2009 at 5:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight St., Robbinsville, NC for their monthly meeting. Commissioners present were Sandra Smith, Bruce Snyder, Billy Cable, Steve Odom and Gene Trull. Commissioner Smith called the meeting to order.

1. Commissioner Odom gave the invocation.
2. Commissioner Cable made the motion to amend the agenda to add Zack Pennington to #6 and to add Larry Hembree to #8A and then approve. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of December 7, 2009 and for the continued meeting's of December 3rd, 4th and 8th 2009. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Commissioner Smith asks the Clerk if anyone was signed up for public comment. Clerk Crisp stated that no one had signed the sheet for public comment. No public comment was taken.
5. Commissioner Snyder gave recognition to Zack Pennington and John Hicks, Eagle Scouts in Graham County. Commissioner Snyder presented the young men with a certificate for their accomplishments and a Graham County flag. He stated that he had known both boys for several years and they were fine young men and it was a tremendous honor to know them. He stated that they were hard-working young men and they represent our county well. Commissioner Snyder stated that he was proud of both boys. Zack Pennington thanked everyone for recognizing them. Everyone present gave the boys a standing ovation.
6. Commissioner Smith introduces Matt Weaver with ADP Payroll. Mr. Weaver presented the board with a proposal on time clocks for the county employees. He stated that this is a more efficient and more effective way to keep payroll records. See attached! He gave a summary and proposal for the county to be cost savings in preparing payroll. He stated that his company is triple rated and serves 3800 others. He stated that Graham County's payroll is done by the manual process and goes by the honor system is sometimes inaccurate and very time-consuming. He also stated that the Labor Department could at any time request an audit which would require lots of manual labor hours. The board asks several questions concerning how the time clocks worked. Commissioner Cable asks the County Finance Officer Rebecca Garland what she thought. Rebecca stated that there was a lot of prep time where the payroll was concerned. She stated that this system would save the county money and would give correct reporting with payroll as well as workers comp reporting. Commissioner Trull was concerned about employees taking lunch hour and not clocking in and out. Commissioner Smith asks about the cost to the county. Matt Weaver stated that his proposal was based on 160 employees at a rate of \$4.80 per employee with a total of around \$8000 per year. He also stated that when the number of employees changed, the cost would change. The board thanked Matt Weaver for his presentation and stated they would get back to him with her decision after they have had a chance to review his proposal.
7. Commissioner Smith asks Erma Phillips to present the Releases and Discoveries. See attached! Commissioner Trull made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Commissioner Smith asks Larry Hembree to present a mutual aid agreement. Larry Hembree stated that he and his staff thanked the board for the Christmas Gift that was given to all employees. He presented the board with a mutual aid agreement that was between Swain County and the Cherokee Reservation to use as a guide in developing one for Graham County. He discussed the reimbursements that Swain County would give Graham County in the event that the monies owed could not be collected. The board asks several questions. Larry Hembree also stated that he was trying to receive funds from the state to help reimburse the county monies for the winter storm that we just experienced. He stated that he had made rounds to all of the elderly retirement homes and offered to open a shelter to the homes that had no power. He stated that only one family offered to come to the shelter. The board thanked Larry for coming.
9. Commissioner Smith asks for the financial report. Rebecca Garland stated that her reporting was short and sweet. She stated that the county was deep into the audit process and so far no problems have been noted. She stated that Edith Jones at the Social Services had done a terrific job in preparing for her audit and she was very thankful to them. She also thanked the staff at social services for stepping in and helping with the audit when Edith's mother passed away. She stated that she would begin retagging all inventory once the audit was over and the county would know exactly what they're fixed assets were. She stated that after the audit the financial reports would be done on a timely manner. She also stated that she was having the same problems that Juanita Colvard had concerning the gas sheets. She stated that she would get a better control and find out if the gas keys were being swapped out. She stated that she would meet with the department heads to brief them on how to complete the gas sheets. She also stated that Cherokee Reservation is now using our gas pumps and as yet no money had been received. She also stated that JR Rodgers had informed her that the e-mail the county currently uses will go up astronomically after December 31. She stated that she is working with him to find a better solution. She also stated that a budget amendment will be needed for the cost increase.

10. Juanita Colvard gave the board an update on the new transit facility that was awarded to Graham County with stimulus money. See attached! She stated that a couple of forms had to be completed before the federal government would sign off and she has provided this information. She stated that she was very hopeful. She also stated that Nancy Painter from the state had informed her that we do have the money. Commissioner Smith stated that she was glad to know that. Juanita Colvard stated that when she received the money she would shout it to the world. She stated that the federal government had to approve the grant and the state government would award the money and that everything had to be in compliance.

11. Commissioner Smith asks for old business. Commissioner Cable stated that he had spoken to Gail Blackney with the JCPC on the board members. She stated that we needed to pick one more member. Commissioner Smith asks if we had anyone in my mind. Commissioner Snyder was going to go talk to one board member to encourage their attendance to the meetings.

12. Commissioner Trull asks about the furlough days and if every department was adhering. Clerk Crisp stated that all departments were on the same schedule except for the health department and prior approval had been given to Alicia Parham concerning her schedule. Commissioner Smith suggests that in the next fiscal year all county employees will be required to take off one furlough day per month instead of closing the county offices completely.

13. Commissioner Odom stated that there was a vacancy on the T&T Advisory Board. Commissioner Smith made a motion to nominate Marsha Davies for this position. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Cable voices his concerns on the number of board members and if a vacancy occurs should we limit the amount. Commissioner Snyder stated that the board voted to make the advisory board a seven member board.

14. Commissioner Odom asks the County Manager if we had received any updates on the Main Street drainage problem. Manager Cody stated that he would arrange a meeting with the Town of Robbinsville and the North Carolina Department of Transportation to settle this issue. The board all agreed that this was a very important issue and needed to be taken care of immediately. Manager Cody stated that he would get a date set as soon as possible.

15. Commissioner Odom asks about the Tahoe for the Sheriff's department. Clerk Crisp stated that the Sheriff would be using this car for his investigators only and Sheriff had check with highway patrol and their cars have excessive mileage and would not be safe. Sheriff Moody stated that he would wait if you could not get the Tahoe. The board felt that a car would be a better investment due to the high gas prices Commissioner Odom stated that we needed to hold off and Commissioner Trull agreed we should wait if the sheriff did not need a car immediately.

16. Commissioner Snyder asks Manager Cody if he had received the consent agenda for Macon County. Manager Cody stated Jack Horton forgot to send him the agenda and would get the information to him immediately.

17. Commissioner Smith asks how the departments were doing about barging in to the County Manager's offices. Commissioner Trull stated that the new lock on the door fixed the problem. Commissioner Snyder asks if we had received any complaints. Finance Officer Garland stated there were a few comments and grumbles but that Lavina was holding her own.

18. Commissioner Smith asks for new business. Commissioner Trull asks if the current phone system could not accommodate the time clocks for the payroll. Manager Cody stated that yes it could but a new program would have to be installed and ADP was cheaper. Manager Cody stated that the ADP system would automatically integrate with our payment system. Commissioner Smith stated that the county needed to look this over and talk about it at our next meeting and possibly have a work session. Commissioner Cable asks Rebecca Garland if this was needed. Rebecca stated that certain standards needed to be set concerning employee time. Commissioner Odom asks if it would be cheaper to install time clocks in every department. Commissioner Trull stated that the county needed to definitely look this over.

19. Manager Cody discussed the new requirements for the 911 funds that the county receives. He stated that a 911 board is responsible for distributing the money and all counties are asking for the funds to be relaxed or use of a broader range. Manager Cody discussed what the funds could be used for. Commissioner Trull asks if those funds could be used for signs. Manager Cody stated that the funds could not be used to pay for signs. Manager Cody stated that the County needed to pass a resolution to give to the house community to ask for the relaxation of the 911 funds. See attached! Commissioner Cable made the motion to pass a resolution that strongly endorses the use of 911 funds for all operational components of the 911 system including incoming and outgoing calls and repairs and maintenance to the system. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

20. Manager Cody stated that the retirement would be increasing by 1.55% on the counties part. He stated that next year's budget would see an increase of approximately \$69,750. Commissioner Odom stated that this is just another way that the state is passing the buck. Rebecca Garland stated that the employee match stays the same only the county match has been increased and this was due to two factors one of which is the underfunding of the past years. The state had a loss of \$700 million because of the economic downturn and they lost invested money. Commissioner Trull stated that the county has no choice and Commissioner Snyder stated that it was already done before the county even knows about

it.

21. Manager Cody stated that Article 42 Sales Tax would be in effect and the school will receive 70% to pay for the school bonds which will drastically reduce the amount that Graham County receives. Once this begins Graham County will only receive point of sales that are made in Graham County. We need to strongly encourage everyone to buy locally. Commissioner Snyder stated his concerns on what would happen if the school bonds were not paid back. Rebecca Garland stated that our stats are showing a small increase for April and May of sales revenue that the overall picture is that the smaller counties are being robbed again.

22. Manager Cody discusses the long-distance for our phone systems in the county and stated that he will be talking to Randy Williamson about switching back to Verizon. He stated that we will receive a reduction in cost.

23. Commissioner Odom made the motion to accept the proposal from Grant Administrators Inc. in Sylva to administer the CDBG grant. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

24. Commissioner Smith stated that we had received the proposals for the hauling of scrap metal, tires and paper and asks if we could extend the contract two years. All board was in agreement that a one year contract is all that the proposals called for and next year we could state that the proposals will be for two years. Commissioners Smith opens the proposals. See attached! Commissioner Cable made the motion to accept the proposal from Mark Ammons Trucking with the effective date beginning January 1, 2010. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

25. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go into closed session under GS 143 -- 318. 11(A) (1) (2) (6) for privileged or confidential information, attorney client privilege, and personnel. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

26. Commissioner Cable made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

27. No decisions were made in closed session. The board discussed several personnel issues.

28. Commissioner Cable made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Sandra Smith, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Bruce Snyder, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Billy Cable, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Steve Odom, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Eugene Trull, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board