

Regular Meeting 8/7/2006

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, August 7, 2006 at 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the Community Building at 196 Knight Street, Robbinsville, NC. Present were Commissioners Randy Jordan, Dirk Cody and Mike Edwards. Chairman Jordan called the meeting to order.

1. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the Agenda with the deletion of item #6. Commissioner Edwards seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Jordan opened the Public Comment session of the meeting. Billy Cable met with the Board on his concern of older residents paying such high fuel bills and someone had told him of a lady that was buying cat and dog food and they knew that she had neither. Mr. Cable stated that he would like to see a program set up for older residents for help with their fuel bills as the Board had set up a Grant to help on their taxes. The Board asked Mr. Cable to stay and talk to them in closed session. Bob Doyle gave the Board an invitation from the Heritage Festival & Street Fair for an aftermath meeting for suggestions, complain or help with next years Heritage Festival & Street Fair. Commissioner Cody next spoke in response to a statement in the paper from Lynn Cody. Lynn Cody expressed his concerns about some employees getting hugh raises, while others did not and the excessive spending by the county government. Dirk Cody stated that he would like for Lynn Cody to give specifics on these topics. Marion Hill announced that the County was awarded the CDBG Grant in the amount of \$400,000.00 for the scattered housing and asked again for the fees to be waived for the septic tank fees, register of deeds recording fees and building permits. Commissioner Jordan made the motion to waive these fees. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Commissioner Jordan made the motion to approve the Releases as presented by Erma Orr, Tax Assessor and to table the Discoveries until next Board Meeting. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the Releases for the Old Age Exemptions (4) only. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (attached) Ms. Orr told the Board that James Kalamaz appealed his property valuation on eight acres that Ms. Orr had discovered as view property. Robert Moseley, appearing for Mr. Kalamaz, stated that Ms. Orr had seen the property on the internet as Mr. Kalamaz was advertising to sell the property. Mr. Moseley stated that this was not fair to get this off the internet. The Board tabled this matter until they get a chance to look at the property.
5. The Board tabled the Budget Amendment #1 for the Graham County Health Department until the next Board Meeting.

6. The Board received one bid on the 1989 Chevrolet Suburban. Raymond Williams submitted a bid of \$222.00. Commissioner Jordan made the motion to accept this bid. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the Resolution for establishment that the Fourth of November will be known officially as Graham County Veterans Appreciation Day. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached)
8. Commissioner Cody made the motion to accept the Depot Street Property bid of \$35,000.00. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the Standard Status for the Work First Program and naming Kevin Shelley as the contact person. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. (Attached)
10. Bids for the new EMS facility were opened. Low bid for remodeling of the administration building was \$671,597. by the Aldridge Brothers, Inc. The low bid for the construction of the metal building was \$208,000.00 submitted by Phillips & Jordan. \$36,200.00 was the only bid submitted by Midnight Electric for electrical. The only bid of \$21,600.00 was submitted for the HVAC package was submitted by Mountain Plumbing & mechanical. The Board agreed not to award any contracts and to try to get the architect to find where they could cut costs and reduce. Terry Slaughter, EMS Director asked the Board not to scrap the plans for the EMS facility and start all over. The Board stated that they were committed to this project and would discuss this at the Board meeting of the 21st hoping that they would have lower cost for this facility. Terry also spoke to the Board about the high mileage on two of the ambulances being over 100,000 miles each and one of them was now giving them trouble. The newest ambulance has 40,000 miles already and he asked the Board to be thinking about purchasing a new ambulance in the future.
11. Commissioner Jordan made the motion to go into closed session under GS 143.318.11 A (6). Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. The Board discussed the hiring and departmental personnel in closed session.
13. Commissioner Cody made the motion to come out of closed session and back into open session. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Jacob Nelms asked the Board to give t-shirts and trophies to the youth playing sports. Commissioner Cody made the motion to the request and Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Jacob Nelms also asked the Board if he could purchase two lawnmowers from Orr's Small Engines instead of just the one. (the large and small one) Commissioner Cody made the motion to

approve this request. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Mr. Nelms also requested funding for the Art Camp at Stecoah Valley Center in the amount of \$1,000.00. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve this request. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

15. Juanita Colvard, Interim County Manager, spoke to the Board on several items. Ms. Colvard asked the Board for permission to purchase matching chairs for the lower level of the Courthouse for outside the Veteran's Office and the Board agreed to this request. Ms. Colvard also told the Board that Chief Jailer Sellers wanted 16 cameras or the Jail. The Board tabled this request. The Board also tabled the Vehicle Maintenance and Maintenance Departments until next Board meeting. Ms. Colvard told the Board that she did not put the dues into the Soil & Water Budget as they requested and told the Board that it would have to be amended to add \$3,000.00 in that line item. The Board agreed to this request.
16. After looking over the applications for Interim County Manager, Commissioner Cody made the motion to hire Sandra Smith at a salary of \$38,000.00 and after 60 day probations will address the salary. Commissioner Edwards seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Commissioner Cody made the motion for Jeff Cabe to be the Human Resource & Budget Officer, with his office in the Finance Office, if and when he returns to work. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Commissioner Edwards vote no on this motion as he had not had enough time for this new position.
18. Commissioner Cody made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jordan seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Randy Jordan, Chairman

Dirk Cody, Vice-Chairman

Mike Edwards, Member

Jan Millsaps, Clerk