

Special Meeting – Tuesday, September 29, 2009

The Graham County Board of County Commissioners met Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Stecoah Valley Center located at 114 School House Road Robbinsville NC 28771 for the purpose of allowing all county residents the opportunity to meet with the board in their own community. This meeting was the first of a series of meetings to be held in different communities of the county. Present were: Commissioners Bruce Snyder, Sandra Smith, Billy Cable, Steve Odom and Gene Trull. Commissioner Snyder called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Snyder thanked the Center for allowing the board the opportunity to meet in their facility.

1. Commissioner Cable gave the invocation. Commissioner Snyder requests everyone to remember Dale Orr Jr.'s family. Dale was a student of Commissioner Snyder's and passed away on Sunday, September 27, 2009.
2. Commissioner Odom made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Cable seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Snyder announced Public Comment open and stated that the comments needed to be limited to five (5) minutes each and requests that everyone turn off their cell phones. Lowell Crisp commended the board for hosting these series of meetings and stated that more people could attend with the meetings being held in their own community. He stated his one concern was on the dumpster location in the Stecoah area. He stated that the speed limit needed to be decreased and lighting installed for the public to recognize this intersection. He feels that this intersection into the dumpsters is very dangerous and something needed to be done before a severe accident happened. No further comments were given.
4. Commissioner Snyder calls for old business. Clerk Crisp presented the board with a statement of fact letter (See Attached) to address any misunderstandings with the Board of Elections concerning their employees. Clerk Crisp attested to Manager Cody's signature of the letter and needed the approval of the board to ratify this statement. Commissioner Odom explained to the public on the misunderstanding of an employee of the Board of Elections. He stated that the urgency for staff occurred when the Tax Assessor, Blair Hyder walked off the job with no notice leaving the Tax Office without proper personnel. He stated that he regretted any misunderstandings and he fully supported the Board of Elections having one part time worker during election years. Commissioner Smith stated that main reason for the move was to transfer the employee and not to hire someone else to fill the vacancy. She stated that the employee had an accounting degree and had already learned the tax computer system with minimum training. Commissioner Trull stated that the Board of Elections was only approved for a part time worker and the employee was given full time without consent of the commission board. He stated that a part time worker had been approved in the past and that position needed to remain part time. Commissioner Cable stated that he had talked to the employee and she stated that she was very happy about the move. He stated that she has computer skills as well as a degree and the main purpose of the move was to fill the vacancy in a timely manner with little training and that has been done. Commissioner Odom made the motion to ratify the prepared statement to be given to the Election Board. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Clerk Crisp presented a budget amendment prepared by the Finance Officer, Rebecca Garland to be approved for expenditure changes to the Election Board 2009 / 2010 budget. Commissioner Snyder asks Manager Cody to explain the reason for the amendment. Manager Cody stated that to reduce expenditures from a department the county had to recoup the money back to the general fund so that the budget stays in balance at all times. See Attached! Commissioner Snyder asks questions about the part time pay. Commissioner Cable made the motion to approve the Budget Amendment #2 – General Fund. Commissioner Odom seconded this motion. Commissioner Trull stated that the monies will be for one full time worker and one part time worker through elections. Manager Cody

stated that the amendments affect this budget year only. Commissioner Snyder calls for a vote. Vote unanimous.

6. Commissioner Snyder calls for new business. Commissioner Odom stated that he had two items for discussion. He stated that he had met with the Southwest Commission last night at Cherokee, NC and stated that monies are being given to Canton, NC for a Livestock Market. The market will be located where the landfill used to be. They have \$2.1 million dollars to build a facility to host weekly cattle sales. This should help our local livestock traders. The second item he discussed was a meeting with the Transportation Advisory Committee on road projects for North Carolina. This includes the Corridor K beginning on the Robbinsville side as well as other projects. Commissioner Cable stated that the project in the Stecoah area wouldn't begin for another ten years. Commissioner Odom discussed the possible bridge that would be built on the Stecoah side. Commissioner Odom stated that the Corridor K project was second on the transportation list.
7. Commissioner Snyder made a motion to recess the meeting for a tour of the Stecoah Valley Center and will reconvene at the Stecoah Township Fire and Rescue Squad.
8. The commissioners toured the center facilities with guide Lynn Shields and were shown future goals that the center wished to accomplish.
9. Commissioner Snyder reconvened the meeting at the Stecoah Township Fire and Rescue Squad building and called the meeting back to order. Commissioner Snyder gave the floor to Manager Cody who also serves as the Stecoah Township Chief Administrative Officer. Mr. Cody introduced members of the squad. Those present were: Randy Jenkins, Connie Smith, Tom Smith, Andrew Sampson, Joyce Cody, Jake Williams, Deb Williams and Skip Myers. Mr. Cody gave a brief description of the squad duties from start to present commending all the volunteers who make the squad possible. Commissioner Odom presented a plaque to Lynn Cody thanking him for his dedication and accomplishments in the squad as well as thanking all the volunteers for their dedication. Commissioner Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Odom made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Trull seconded this motion. 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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Steve Odom, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Eugene Trull, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board