

Commissioners Pass resolutions on Travel & Tourism Advisory Board, Illegal Aliens Attending Community Colleges, Lame Duck Spending

In their regular meeting on December 7, Graham County Commissioners passed a resolution requesting that Senator John Snow and Representative Roger West introduce legislation in their respective houses of the NC General Assembly, which, if passed, would prohibit County Boards of Commissioners from considering the approval of financial transactions which are out of the ordinary course of business during the period of time between the date of the General Election in November and the date which newly elected commissioners are sworn in early December.

Graham County Board of Commissioners opposes admittance of illegal aliens to the state's community colleges, although the State Board of Community Colleges supports this move. Although the policy must still make its way through the administrative rules process and could be allowed or disallowed by the North Carolina General Assembly, the county commissioners went on record opposing this recommendation by the community colleges of NC, and passed a resolution to that effect at their regular meeting on November 16.

Their resolution requests "the North Carolina General Assembly to fully dismiss and with due finality prohibit illegal aliens from enrolling in the North Carolina Community College System. The resolution also respectfully requests "all other ninety-nine counties in North Carolina" to do likewise, and forward "to the North Carolina General Assembly with all due haste."

The third resolution of the meeting was the establishment of an advisory board for the Department of Travel and Tourism. Each of the five commissioners selected one member to serve on the five-member board for a one-year term. Members were selected by the respective commissioners as follows:

Billy Cable - Jenny Stewart (Fontana Village)
Eugene Trull - Lynn Shields (Stecoah Valley Center)
Bruce Snyder - Randall Phillips (San-Ran Motel)
Steve Odom - Linda Ditmore (Microtel Inn)
Sandra Smith - Dirk Cody (Robbinsville Texaco)

All five of the recommended members were unanimously appointed to one year terms by way of a resolution creating the board.

The function of the board is to offer advice and/or recommendations to the Board of Commissioners who may or may not act upon the recommendations.

The resolution went on to provide that Director of Travel & Tourism will conduct all meetings of the Board and keep the minutes, and is to report all recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

The Travel and Tourism advisory board shall meet once every two months, and should a member miss two consecutive meetings, they will be replaced at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

At the continued meeting on December 8, held primarily for the purpose of interviewing applicants for the position as Travel and Tourism Director, the Board amended their resolution to provide for seven members rather than five, and unanimously approved the addition of Marshall McClung and Nina Yeargin to this board.