

Workshop Session – August 15, 2017

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular workshop session. All board was present.

1. Chairman Eller asks Sara Thompson, Executive Director of Southwestern Commission to speak.
2. Ms. Thompson stated that she was here to give an annual report to the board and she thanked the board for their time. Ms. Thompson stated that they are our regional council of government and they serve as a technical, economic, and planning resource to local towns and counties in our western region .Officially known as the Southwestern North Carolina Planning and Economic Development Commission, we cover the counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain and the 17 municipalities therein.
3. Ms. Thompson stated that the COG was created in the 1960's finding that passing funds through the COG was the easiest way to obtain funding for our much needed area. Ms. Thompson stated that Graham County is a member and they pay dues of \$6,200.00 per year and this money is leverage for a \$6 million dollar budget. Ms. Thompson stated that we are currently trying to improve broadband but as many know there are legal barriers that prohibit us from having the same access as the private sector. Ms. Thompson stated that the NC Rural Center will be visiting with Graham County and this is a good advocate for our rural areas. Ms. Thompson stated that she is here to be of assistance to our county. The board thanked Ms. Thompson for coming.
4. Chairman Eller asks Butch Sanders, DSS Director to speak.
5. Ms. Sanders stated that he was here to correct an inaccurate reporting by the Graham Star on the Department of Social Services. Ms. Sanders stated that a retraction letter will be printed by the CPS Supervisor and it will appear in next week's paper. Mr. Sanders stated that he is pleased with the Board of Commissioners becoming the DSS Board and feels that this will save the county time and solve issues in a timelier manner. Mr. Sanders stated that he is still short staffed but will continue to be successful by keeping open communication with the public and the board. Commissioner Orr thanked Mr. Sanders for caring about the department in the manner that he does. The board all thanked Mr. Sanders for his work as DSS Director.
6. Chairman Eller asks for further comment. No further comment was given.
7. Chairman Eller adjourned the workshop session.

Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Dale E. Wiggins, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board