

Special Meeting – Public Hearing April 3, 2014

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the Graham County Senior Citizens Building located at 185 West Fort Hill Robbinsville NC for the purpose of holding a public hearing for the 2010 Contingency Grant for Community Development Block Grant for the Senior Center. All board was present.

1. Commissioner Holder called the meeting to order.
2. Commissioner Holder asks for a motion to recess the special meeting and opened the public hearing for the close out of the Community Development Block Grant, 2010 Contingency Grant for Senior Center. Commissioner Williams made the motion to recess and open the public hearing. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Holder asks Joan Stillwell, Grants Administrator to speak. Ms. Stillwell stated that the purpose of the hearing was to close out the CDBG 2010 Contingency Grant for the new Senior Center Facility. Ms. Stillwell stated that the county had expended \$540,000.00 for construction and architecture and \$60,000.00 for administration fees for a total of \$600,000.00. Ms. Stillwell stated that all the funds were used and the county did not have to de-obligate any of those funds. Ms. Stillwell stated that the county was allowed to use the Town of Robbinsville's LMI numbers to get the grant with a population of 620 according to the 2010 Census. Ms. Stillwell further stated that there are 122 Senior Citizens over the age of 65 in this population. Ms. Stillwell stated that the county has a very nice facility and we were very fortunate to receive this funding. Ms. Stillwell asks for public comment. No public comment was given.
4. Chairman Edwards closed the public hearing and reopened the special meeting.
5. Chairman Edwards asks for approval to accept the close out of the CDBG 2010 Contingency Grant for the new Senior Center Facility. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the close out. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Edwards asks what the close out deadline is. Ms. Stillwell stated that all paperwork must be in Raleigh no later than May 22, 2014. Commissioner Orr asks how much did Ms. Stillwell like to finish. Ms. Stillwell stated that she had just started on the paperwork. Ms. Stillwell stated that after the paperwork was received in Raleigh they would come and view the building. Chairman Edwards thanked Ms. Stillwell for her hard work.
7. Chairman Edwards asks the board to discuss the potential closing of our local manufacturing plant, Stanley Furniture. Chairman Edwards wanted to have a statement printed by the board letting the citizens of this county know what the Board of Commissioners is doing. Chairman Edwards stated that this board is taking controlled steps in working with our state and federal government officials to get help with our situation. Manager Cable stated that he has met with Stanley Representatives to try and figure out a plan of action. Manager Cable stated that Stanley Furniture was not selling enough furniture through their Young America product to remain open. Commissioner Williams stated that they needed to cater to a lower market stream instead of high end due to the poor economy. Commissioner Orr stated that other companies are building replicas out of the country and selling for half the cost of this furniture. Commissioner Holder stated that this started when they shut the cotton mills down and sent all the work overseas. Chairman Edwards stated that the Young America line was one of the last holdouts on a product being made in America. Chairman Edwards stated that it was his understanding that there is a 60-day window of time to try and find a buyer for this facility. Chairman Edwards stated that Secretary Sharon Decker with the NC Department of Commerce is aware of our situation and is working with us to try and find a solution. Chairman Edwards stated that our other delegates are also working to help us including Senator Kay Hagan's office, the Rural Center, Advantage West, Goldenleaf and the Employment Security Commission. Chairman Edwards stated that meetings are being planned for the associates of Stanley to help them with their unemployment benefits. Chairman Edwards stated that he believes that Graham County can pull through this. Commissioner Orr stated that this is a State of the Art Facility. Commissioner Williams stated that one great selling point is the vast amount of storage that is available at this site. Chairman Edwards stated that our biggest issue is transportation.
8. Chairman Edwards asks for further comment. Jerry Williams, Contractor for the Senior Center Facility stated that he had been told some things and that was told he couldn't close out because the punch list items had not been completed. Mr. Williams stated that he has went far and above in doing the right thing on this project. Mr. Williams stated that he was not responsible for the change orders and the county did not have that much money in this project as it has been told. Mr. Williams stated that he had been told that people said he wouldn't finish the punch list and this is not true. Mr. Williams stated that he felt that someone had an axe to grind with him and wanted to assure this board that he would complete the punch list. Commissioner Orr stated that she was not worried about him finishing. Mr. Williams stated that

most of the list contained aesthetic issues and not construction issues and he has gone way beyond trying to fix everything. Mr. Williams stated that he wanted to be treated right and not feel that he has knife in his back. Chairman Edwards thanked Mr. Williams for his hard work. Commissioner Williams thanked Mr. Williams for his fine work.

9. Chairman Edwards asks for further business. No further business was discussed.
10. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Robert M. (Mike) Edwards, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Billy Holder, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board