

Workshop Session – June 16, 2014

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, June 16, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular workshop session. Commissioners present were: Billy Holder, Connie Orr, Keith Eller and Raymond Williams. Commissioner Robert M. Edwards was absent.

1. Commissioner Holder called the meeting to order.
2. Commissioner Holder asks Johnny Long to speak. Manager Cable stated that Mr. Long was not present.
3. Commissioner Holder asks Andy Cable to speak on the ARC Broadband Grant. Andy Cable, Economic Development Director stated that we need a non-profit to administer the ARC Broadband Grant due to some constraints of the grant and he had spoken with the G.R.E.A.T. Organization and they are willing to administer the grant for 7%. Mr. Cable stated that the goal of the Graham County broadband deployment effort is to establish a network backbone off ramp (last mile infrastructure) for the deployment of high speed, high bandwidth, and reliable telecommunications applications within the communities of Graham County with an emphasis on the Robbinsville central business district. Mr. Cable stated that the funding source is: ARC - \$180,000.00 and a private source of \$36,000.00 for a total of \$216,000.00. Mr. Cable stated that we will have control of the grant but we need a non-profit for the flow through funds. Mr. Cable stated that we will be sending requests for proposals to the private market and the goal is to supply black areas of the county with internet access. Mr. Cable stated that the grant is a great thing for the county because it will provide an on and off ramp for the deployment of the wireless delivery infrastructure and position Robbinsville to recruit small businesses and professionals with competitive access to world class telecommunications infrastructure.
4. Mr. Cable stated that he received information today of a \$64,000.00 grant that will be used toward the health care needs of the county. Mr. Cable stated that the Town of Fontana Dam had received funding for their water project; the Town of Santeetlah had received funding for their sewer project and the Stecoah Valley Center had received funding for an Incubator that will provide potential business growth for the county. The board had discussion on the many ways that Stecoah Valley Center could assist in supporting a new business. The board thanked Mr. Cable for his hard work.
5. Manager Greg Cable gave a brief review of the Comp Plan and the Transportation Plan that is being written for our county and wanted the board to be aware of some language in the plan that he doesn't agree with. The board asks that Manager Cable send the documents for their review with the question areas marked. The board all discussed the issue of Corridor K and the need to keep pressing for this road. The board discussed the many obstacles that the county has faced concerning the building of this road and felt that our county deserves to see this road built.
6. Commissioner Holder asks for public comment. No public comment was given.
7. Commissioner Holder adjourned the meeting.

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

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Billy Holder, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board