

Workshop Session – July 21, 2014

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, July 21, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. for their regular workshop session in the Graham County Community Center located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC. All commissioners were present.

1. Chairman Eller called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Eller asks for comments. Clerk Crisp stated that Deb Shook would like to speak to the board.

Chairman Eller welcomed Ms. Shook to speak.

3. Ms. Shook stated that she was here to talk about the four lane road that has been discussed for many years and the fact that Jutts' Creek may be an optional route for the road. Ms. Shook stated that the county did not need a four lane but we did need an upgrade. Ms. Shook stated that this will affect our tourism. Ms. Shook stated that it was not right for people to be put out of their homes to build a road that was not needed and the board needed to deal with the reality that we do not need a road. Ms. Shook stated that the people who would lose their homes on Jutts' Creek are those who lost their job at Stanley including her sister and they shouldn't have to worry about losing their homes. Ms. Shook further stated that the federal government did not have the money to build the four lane road and she had talked to people in Raleigh who stated that this road will never be built. Ms. Shook stated that North Carolina can't fund this because there are too many people in other areas of the state that the money will go to. Ms. Shook stated the property that she lives on was her mom and dad's and it would not be for sale because this is her heritage. Ms. Shook stated that the environmentalist will stop the road as well as the Cherokee Indians because that property is part of the "Wild South". Ms. Shook stated that it is election year and people will vote the commissioners out if they vote for this road and if you do vote for the road then, "shame on you". The board thanked Ms. Shook for her comments.

4. Commissioner Orr stated that Brandon Wilson, our Veterans Representative apologized for the office being closed on July 3rd and stated that someone will be in our county office on the dates scheduled. Ms. Orr stated that Mr. Wilson had taken a new position with the Veterans but wanted to continue serving Graham and Swain Counties. Bill Flannigan, a member in the audience stated that was good news because he had some business that needed a follow up.

5. Ms. Shook asks the board if they drive through Andrews and Bryson City and see what the difference is due to a four lane road. Chairman Eller stated that there is a big difference due to where the roads lead to and gave the example that the four lane passing Bryson City goes to Asheville and Highway 40 and the road by Andrews ends in Murphy. Chairman Eller stated that he was for the road due to the need for more businesses in our county and felt that the state should build until they run out of money. Commissioner Holder stated that the money might build four miles but it would be hard pressed to do so. Commissioner Orr stated that the money is dedicated to Corridor K and the county needed to use this money. Ms. Shook questioned the board on their transportation plan. Manager Cable stated that the transportation plan that he sent her was only a guide for the state to use in determining the need for roads in our county. Manager Cable stated that the board of commissioners did not dedicate the plans for the roads but only expressed the needs. Manager Cable stated that the NCDOT demanded that the county develop a transportation plan and the board did not have a choice and it would be unfair to say that the commissioners were taking anyone's homes. Manager Cable stated that the board of commissioners would adopt the plan not the options of where the road would go or what direction the state felt they needed to go concerning transportation issues in the county. Commissioner Orr asks if a final draft was ready. Manager Cable stated no, we are awaiting comments from NCDOT. Manager Cable stated that the State of North Carolina would determine if an upgrade is done or if a new road is built. Commissioner Williams stated that he has dealt with this issue for forty years and we will never see this road built. Commissioner Williams stated that he is for the road but not for it going anywhere near Jutts' Creek. Ms. Shook stated that we needed to maintain what we have.

6. Commissioner Williams asks that everyone remember Steve and Patsy Monroe. Steve is one of the men burned in the Stanley fire and is still in Intensive Care in Winston Salem.

7. Commissioner Williams asks that everyone remember Stephanie Nichols, the sheriff's daughter who is battling cancer and did not receive a good report.

8. Manager Cable gave a quick update on the cars for the sheriff's department and stated that the money will be sent in the morning for the vehicles which was purchased in Texas instead of Utah at a better price.

9. Commissioner Williams stated that he was going to mow the dumpster site at Sweetwater and wanted it to be maintained exactly the way he has it in the future. Commissioner Williams stated that someone should have time to mow these sites and keep them neat and asks

Manager Cable to talk with the Inmate Work Program and with the Cemetery Crew about helping keep these sites mowed.

10. Commissioner Williams stated that he had received a complaint about our lifeguards using their cell phones while they should be watching the kids in the pool. Manager Cable stated that this is the first he has heard of this and he would address this issue in the morning.

11. Chairman Eller adjourned the workshop session.

---

Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

---

Billy Holder, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

---

Lynn Cody, Member, Graham County Commissioner

---

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

---

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

---

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board