

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. for a workshop session in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC 28771. All board was present.

1. Chairman Eller called the workshop session to order.
2. Manager Cable led the discussion on the Graham County Comprehensive Plan for the county and asks Ryan Sherby, Director of the Southwestern Commission in Sylva, North Carolina to speak. Mr. Sherby stated that by North Carolina General Statute 136-66.2 a county is required to adopt a local development plan, or Comprehensive Plan, prior to conducting a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). This is to ensure that the transportation system is planned and developed in conjunction and harmony with the land development of the county. Mr. Sherby stated that a Comprehensive Plan, among other things, identifies growth areas in the county that will require an improved or expanded transportation system in the future. Additionally, a Comprehensive Plan identifies and formally documents the goals of the community, pertaining to growth and development. This level of documentation is required by all funding agencies, who must be assured that a project has been well-planned and vetted locally before committing funds to it. Mr. Sherby stated that our county is the last in the region to complete the study due to this plan also being integrated with the regional plan which will assist with Corridor K and other transportation issues. Mr. Sherby stated that the regional plan was never meant to be adopted by our county thus the reasons for the OPT-IN meetings. Mr. Sherby stated that the analysis of the plan was made up with community input and this is not a working plan but a wish list due to the fact that our county could not afford to implement the entire plan. Mr. Sherby stated that our county did not own all that is in the plan and this plan is designed to be a high level blue print. Mr. Sherby stated that this commissioner board has the authority to make the final decisions and they are required to adopt and affirm the long range document but keep in mind that it would be a monumental task to implement the entire plan. Mr. Sherby stated that some areas have errors and these will be corrected. Manager Cable stated that he also had found some errors that needed to be corrected as well. Mr. Sherby stated that the investment guide is not a mandate, but simply a guide for future policy consideration and the county could not spearhead all of the recommendations. Mr. Sherby stated that others such as GREAT, the Towns and other entities such as Southwestern Commission can assist local governments with strategies to carry forward. Mr. Sherby stated that the county needed to ensure consistency with the CTP which has been adopted by the county and towns throughout the State. Mr. Sherby stated some changes will include the DCA ( Division of Community Assistance, is now called Economic Advancement & Planning – NC Department of Commerce); Advantage West is closing its doors and the CEC (Certified Entrepreneurial Program) was now done. Mr. Sherby stated that the strategies to move the document toward adoption would include implementing the changes discussed today; aligning the Transportation particularly the Corridor K pieces with the recently adopted CTP; bringing the above changes back to the Graham County Board of Commissioners for final review; meeting with the Comprehensive Planning Committee for final review and presenting to the Graham County Board of Commissioners for adoption by September 1, 2015.
3. The board questions where and when the data came from that was used in the plan. Mr. Sherby stated that those numbers are from the 2010 census data. The board reviewed the plan with discussion on areas of concern including the removal of some data which is outdated. Manager Cable stated that he had made a list of some changes that he felt needed to be made. Commissioner Orr stated that it would be a good idea to sit down with the committee and see what changes needed to be made and then present these changes to the board for final review. The board was in agreement to this suggestion. Mr. Sherby asks that the board members read the plan and send any change requests to him via email to expedite the process. Mr. Sherby stated that he should have the draft by the end of next week for review with the changes discussed today.
4. Chairman Eller recessed the workshop session.

Signature page for the Workshop Session – August 4, 2015

---

Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

---

Jacob Nelms, 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