

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. for their regular workshop session held in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. Board present was: Jacob Nelms, Keith Eller, Lynn Cody and Connie Orr. Commissioner Williams was absent.

1. Chairman Nelms called the workshop session to order.
2. Chairman Nelms asks Tammy Holloway, Clerk of Court, to speak.
3. Ms. Holloway thanked the board for their time and stated that she was here tonight to discuss the issue of security of the courthouse. Ms. Holloway stated that she appreciated the steps that have already been taken by the County Commissioners and the Sheriff but feels that all doors needed to be locked except for one main entrance. Ms. Holloway stated that she is trying to be proactive and showed the board a video from Anson County where a man with an assault rifle opens the front doors to their courthouse, steps inside the building even though the courthouse has a security guard, and enters with an assault rifle. Ms. Holloway stated that she understands about the cost but the issue is keeping staff and county residents safe. Chairman Nelms stated that the board has had discussion on one entrance with exit doors only and they will discuss this issue again with the Sheriff. Chairman Nelms stated that this is definitely something that needed to be done. Ms. Holloway stated that everyone needed to be checked each time before they entered the building with the exception of staff that can wear badges to be identified. Ms. Holloway stated that last year Judge Coward, Judge Walker and Ashely Welch had spoken to the board on this issue and they are still very interested in what is being done to keep Graham County staff safe. Ms. Holloway stated that Judge Walker was very pleased in the manner that Jackson County is securing their courthouse and asks the board to consider the one entrance into the building.
4. Ms. Holloway stated that the other issue is that it has been awhile since the grounds committee met and she realizes that the staff is small but our rose bushes needs trimmed and the trash needs to be taken up regularly and other things needed to be done. Ms. Holloway thanked the board for allowing her to speak with them.
5. Chairman Nelms asks Ron Lewis to speak. Ms. Lewis thanked the board for their time and stated that he was here tonight to discuss Charters of Freedom. Mr. Lewis stated that he was in Bertie County last night which is 453 miles away from Graham County to discuss the same issue. Mr. Lewis stated that our mission is to display The Declaration of Independence, The United States Constitution, and The Bill of Rights. Mr. Lewis stated that our founding fathers penned these documents and they needed to be shown and the Charters of Freedom provide the documents as well as the displays. Mr. Lewis gave some examples of other counties who have installed the monuments with a slide presentation. Mr. Lewis stated that they are a non-profit 501-C-3 and they are trying to place as many monuments as they can throughout the state. Mr. Lewis stated the Charters of Freedom want to offer this gift to Graham County at no cost and further stated that no state or federal dollars are used. Mr. Lewis stated that we have funds in hand to install brick monuments to display the documents. Mr. Lewis stated that they will send a letter to offer the gift and the county needs to send the letter back and find a place to set the monument and the project will begin. Mr. Lewis stated that it takes about four to six weeks to construct the monument and hopes that we will have an opening celebration in the spring for Graham County. Mr. Lewis stated that they are targeted to do ten (10) gifts to Tier 1 counties and that he was very excited to be in our beautiful county. Manager Edwards asks if the documents are an exact replica of the ones in Washington. Mr. Lewis stated that they are exact replicas except for font changes as the ones in Washington.
6. Chairman Nelms thanked Mr. Lewis for the presentation and stated that the decision to accept the gift will be done in regular session.
7. Chairman Nelms adjourned the meeting.

Signature page attached!

Signature page for Workshop Session October 18, 2016

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Jacob Nelms, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Keith Eller, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Lynn Cody, 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