

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, April 22, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. for their regular workshop session in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC 28771. Commissioners present were: Robert M. Edwards, Billy Holder, Keith Eller and Connie Orr. Commissioner Williams was absent.

1. Commissioner Edwards called the workshop session to order and welcomed everyone.
2. Commissioner Edwards asks Andy Cable to speak. Manager Cable stated that Andy Cable was absent due to a meeting in Raleigh and he would be presenting the information. Manager Cable stated that Andy Cable was in Raleigh to meet with the state on the PARTIF Grant that the county could be awarded. Manager Cable stated that the Stanley Recreation Plan would move quickly once the PARTIF Grant was received.
3. Manager Cable also stated that Andy Cable did receive approval from GoldenLeaf for training at Stanley which includes (10) local business owners or county employees to attend. Manager Cable stated that GoldenLeaf did not approve the fiber optic connection to Stanley Furniture through the EDC funds. Manager Cable stated that Andy Cable was reviewing the conditions of the repayment on the monies given for the Stanley and was made aware that the money did not need to go below \$200,000.00 at any time.
4. Commissioner Edwards asks Alicia Parham, Health Director to speak. Ms. Parham stated that she was here with Melissa McKnight to discuss the possibility of making all our parks and recreational areas tobacco free. Ms. Parham stated that she was requesting that the board consider adopting an ordinance prohibiting tobacco use which would include all types of tobacco products. Ms. Parham stated that the enforcement would fall on the recreation department and the local law enforcement to enact. Ms. Parham stated that the main concern was the children who play at these parks. Ms. McKnight stated that tobacco free was better than smoke free and stated that she did have money to purchase signs which run around \$80.00 each and should have these funds until the end of May. Commissioner Edwards stated that there will be a time when grants will be declined if these areas are not tobacco free. Ms. McKnight urged the board to consider the ordinance. Ms. Parham stated that she would be glad to do the legwork in moving forward with this request.
5. Ms. Parham also presented the board with a need for Electronic Medical Records in the health department and asks the board to consider the Patagonia Health system for a cost breakdown with incentives. See attached! Ms. Parham stated that other counties that are using this system are very pleased and the intake of revenue was doubled due to the system allowing staff to bill more frequently. Ms. Parham stated that the staff has 65 steps to file one record with the state system and the new system would cut down massively on having paperwork to file. Ms. Parham stated that in one instance it took the staff pressing the print key 6 times to print one label and this is not efficient. Ms. Parham stated that the system cannot be used for dental and they could discuss that office at a later date. Chairman Edwards asks Ms. Rebecca Garland her opinion of the system concerning the costs. Ms. Garland stated that if the county was considering the purchase then they should take full advantage of the incentives. Ms. Garland stated that this would require a quick turnaround to get implanted and asks the board to consider the request tonight.
6. Commissioner Edwards asks Pat Holland and Lorita Eller to speak. Ms. Holland stated that Ms. Eller couldn't attend so she would present the report. Ms. Holland stated that they are required to do a yearly report of the Child Fatality Prevention Team. Ms. Holland stated that local CFPT's review medical examiner reports, death transcripts, police reports and other records for deceased county residents under age 18 whose fatalities are not due to abuse and neglect. Ms. Holland stated that the members discuss outcomes of services and circumstances surrounding the child's death and that local CFPT's and state agencies review the findings to determine trends, target prevention strategies, identify family and community needs and support community agencies in their services to children and families. The local team recommendations are forwarded to the state team in order to make recommendations to the task force. Ms. Holland stated that the state printouts of these deaths run one year. Ms. Holland asks for any questions. Commissioner Edwards thanked Ms. Holland for their work and stated that no one likes to talk about mental health and service is critical. Mr. Edwards also stated that the big counties are absorbing all of the smaller counties resources toward mental health and this will cause issues later on down the road for citizens that need the services.
7. Commissioner Edwards asks Rebecca Garland to speak. Clerk Crisp asks that Ms. Garland allow two other people to speak who came in late. Ms. Garland stated that she could present in the regular meeting. Commissioner Edwards asks Steve Jordan to speak. Mr. Jordan stated that he wanted to play music at the Heritage Festival for free and was told that there was not room for

him to play. Mr. Jordan stated that Graham County was his home town and he wanted to give back when he could and wants to help on July 4th with the entertainment. The board thanked Mr. Jordan for his offer and told him to speak with Teresa Garland who is over the Heritage Festival.

8. Commissioner Edwards asks Tabitha Myler to speak. Ms. Myler stated that she a her board member Revonda Williams were here to ask permission to use the property that the county owns to build a new travel and tourism welcome center. Ms. Williams stated that the property owned by the county would be used for parking and picnic tables and the actual building would sit on the property owned by United Community Bank who was going to give a long term lease to the travel and tourism authority. Ms. Williams stated that they needed a letter of support from the county stating that travel and tourism could use the property. The board discussed concerns of building on leased property. Ms. Williams stated that before any loans could be applied for it would have to be endorsed by the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Garland stated that technically the T&T Board are their own entity and are subject to their own audit. Commissioner Orr stated that this would be a joint venture with the T&T providing the money which would require an ordinance to ensure that future boards do not try and dissolve the T&T Authority. Commissioner Edwards stated that the Board of Commissioners would not have anything to do with the repayment of funds for loans and they board would also consider transferring ownership of the property to be used as collateral on the loan at a later date.
9. Ms. Myler stated that it was also the desire to increase the occupancy tax from 3% to 6% and her understanding was that there would be public hearings required before this can be finalized. Ms. Myler also presented the board with a request to put a 1% sales tax on the food that is sold in Graham County as another way to increase revenue in Graham County. Commissioner Edwards stated his concerns moving forward and stated that the municipalities can charge 3% and if they choose to do that then the county will get only the original 3%. The board wanted further clarity on this issue before moving forward. The board also asks if the bank would be willing to sell the property to the T&T. Ms. Williams stated that they might consider if there guarantees that the property would not be sold and would be used for T&T. The bank wanted to preserve the integrity of the land which adjoins their bank building.
10. Commissioner Edwards adjourned the workshop.

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

Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Billy Holder, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams. Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board