

Public Hearing – Thursday, July 11, 2013

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Thursday, July 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. for a public hearing to discuss the USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC 28771. Commissioners present were: Robert M. Edwards; Keith Eller and Raymond Williams. Commissioner Billy Holder and Connie Orr were absent and excused.

1. Commissioner Edwards called the public hearing to order.
2. Commissioner Edwards asks Joan Stillwell, Grants Administrator to speak on the Housing Preservation Grant. Ms. Stillwell stated that the grant is approximately \$126,955.49 and if the county is awarded the grant it will be used to repair (8) eight houses for very low income residents. Ms. Stillwell stated that the grants are 100% used for very low income resident home rehabilitations. Ms. Stillwell stated that these homes are not pre-selected and will be selected after the grant is awarded to the county. Ms. Stillwell stated that these monies can go along with the Scattered Site Housing Grant monies. Ms. Stillwell stated that only \$15,000.00 of these funds could be used toward reconstruction of two houses along with the Scattered Site Housing Grant monies. Ms. Stillwell stated that she was very pleased with the proposed amount and hopes that the county will be awarded the grant. Commissioner Edwards asks clarification on how many homes will be rehabilitated. Ms. Stillwell stated that (8) eight homes will be rehabilitated. Commissioner Edwards asks about the timeline on the award date. Ms. Stillwell stated that the award date is October 1, 2013 and the pre-application had to be submitted by August 2, 2013.
3. Commissioner Edwards asks for public comment. Commissioner Edwards asks Betty Carver to speak. Ms. Carver stated that she lived in a 1971 singlewide and was it was leaking very badly and she was in desperate need of help. Ms. Carver stated that some men from her church had put up a new tarp to help with the leaking and the mold was getting worse every day. Ms. Carver stated that she hoped the county could help her because her home would not make it through another winter. Ms. Stillwell stated that Ms. Carver's home was severe.
4. Commissioner Edwards asks Lewis Jordan to speak. Mr. Jordan stated that his mother was 99 years old and her home is not livable. Mr. Jordan stated that he had moved her into his home but her wheelchair will not fit through the doors and this was very difficult. Mr. Jordan asks the board for any assistance.
5. Commissioner Edwards asks Rheta Etters to speak. Ms. Etters stated that she lived in a trailer and it was leaking and she did not have water. Ms. Etters stated that she had to get her water from the neighbors and some of the renters had denied her water. Ms. Etters stated that it was very difficult to live without water. Ms. Etters stated that her roof was leaking badly and her front steps were rotting out. Ms. Stillwell asks for her contact information and stated that she would make a home visit to see the property.
6. Commissioner Edwards thanked everyone for their comments and asks for further comment. No further comment was given.
7. Commissioner Edwards asks for a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Williams made the motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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