

Workshop Session – July 15, 2013

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, July 15, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. for their regular workshop session in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC. Commissioners present were: Robert M. Edwards; Billy Holder; Keith Eller and Connie Orr. Commissioner Raymond Williams was absent.

1. Commissioner Holder called the workshop session to order.
2. Commissioner Holder asks Tammy Holloway to speak. Clerk Crisp stated that Ms. Holloway could not attend the meeting due to court but she would reschedule for the next Worksession.
3. Commissioner Holder asks Venice Lance to speak. Mr. Derek Lance, grandson of Venice Lance stated that he would speak on behalf of Ms. Lance. Commissioner Holder asks him to proceed. Mr. Lance stated that his family received a discovery bill of \$19,000.00 for non-compliance of the Present Use Value plan on the property owned by his grandmother. Mr. Lance stated that the property was clear cut in 1994 by his Uncle's advice and to his knowledge no one knew that a plan existed until the family received the letter from the Tax Assessor, Erma Phillips. Mr. Lance stated that the family was in the process of updating the plan with State Forester Jonathan McCall but they did not get the application into the tax office by January. Mr. Lance stated that his family didn't feel responsible for the bill due to their lack of knowledge on the conditions of the plan. Mr. Lance stated that trees are marked for harvest now. Commissioner Edwards asks when the application was due. Ms. Phillips stated that the application is due by January 31st of each year. Mr. Lance stated that he had requested an update through Harold Phillips six months before the deadline but he was unable to write the plan. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board would review and discuss this issue and a letter will be sent to Mr. Lance with their decision. Mr. Lance thanked the board for their time and consideration.
4. Commissioner Edwards asks for further public comment. Lisa Russo, a member in the audience asks for an explanation on how the releases and discoveries are made. Clerk Crisp stated that releases are properties that the tax office finds that have been sold to another individual or the value in the property changed due to a number of reasons. Clerk Crisp stated that discoveries are made during reval most of the time on properties that are not listed on the tax books or for properties that have the wrong acreage or properties that have built decks, porches or additions that was not permitted through the building inspections office.
5. Manager Cable stated that the new senior center facility was coming along nicely. Manager Cable stated that a couple of requests had been made about installing a pipe at the back of the center instead of having a swell and further stated that this would help in the landscaping of the property. Commissioner Holder stated that an 8" pipe would be feasible for this area and this was needed. Commissioner Edwards wanted the contractor informed to see if this is possible. Manager Cable stated that the other request was to lessen the sidewalk from eight foot to six foot which would give more turning room at the entrance ramp. The board was favorable to this suggestion.
6. Commissioner Edwards asks Manager Cable if three alternates had been chosen the Region A board. Manager Cable stated that he did have three alternates and those names are: Alicia Parham, Kimberly Tipton and Kim Crisp. Commissioner Edwards thanked Manager Cable for the names.
7. Commissioner Edwards asks for further comment. No further comment was given.
8. Commissioner Edwards adjourned the workshop session.

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