

Workshop Session – February 21, 2017

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. for their regular monthly workshop session in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All board was present.

1. Chairman Eller called the workshop session to order.
2. Chairman Eller asks Recreation Director Ronnie Williams to speak. Manager Garland stated that she has asked the department heads to come to the workshop sessions and give the board a reporting of the activities that they do in their departments and Ronnie volunteered to go first. Mr. Williams stated that he has been here one year and he has been involved in several organizations. One is getting to know the youth and their parents, being a part of the JCPC, attending GREAT meetings and he is involved in a steering committee in Cherokee County. Mr. Williams stated that he coordinates all sports events, see that the kids always have people who will care and help them. Mr. Williams stated that sports had made a huge difference in his life and he has a love for football and his greatest memories are of his coaches and further stated that he learned how to win at life and to work as a team. Mr. Williams stated that is what he wants to do with the youth here. Mr. Williams stated that he is not wasteful of the counties money and he wants to be looked at in a positive manner. Mr. Williams stated that he had 89 football players and 40 cheerleaders this past season and they won three Cracker Bowl Championships. Mr. Williams stated that one of his challenges has been to get enough volunteers to help with the concession stand and gate entrance and was very careful in making sure that they can be trusted with the county money. Mr. Williams stated that we had 15 volleyball players and they came in 2nd in the conference. Mr. Williams stated that our Termite basketball players came in at 2nd place and we were able to host the games here which help generate revenue. Mr. Williams stated that he found jerseys in the equipment room that was purchased in 2007 and he used these instead of purchasing new ones. Mr. Williams stated that we had 72 kids that played basketball. Mr. Williams stated that he is now accepting sign-ups for baseball, softball and t-ball. Mr. Williams stated that he has asked other counties about generating more revenue and they charge for \$3.00 for parking and asks the board to consider this request as a way to help with the costs. Mr. Williams stated that the pool was the pool and we do not make money but he is looking at different ways to generate more revenue. Mr. Williams stated that he and Tim Ledwell had painted the pool offices and floors and had put up signs to try and stop the bicycles and skateboards from being on the tennis courts. Mr. Williams stated that he did receive a tongue lashing about the gate at Stanley Ballfields being locked but due to the vandalism he felt that the gate needed to stay locked when his department wasn't using it for practice or games. Mr. Williams stated that he would be looking for a vehicle replacement in the near future and needed a place to store his equipment when the administration offices were moved. Mr. Williams asks the board to consider part-time help during the busy season. Commissioner Orr stated that at the high school the parents volunteer. Mr. Williams stated that he has tried that but the parents will not commit or they will change their minds at the last minute. Mr. Williams stated that it was hard sometimes to get the cash register to balance when so many different people used it. Mr. Williams thanked the board for their time.
3. Chairman Eller asks Rick Davis to speak. Mr. Davis stated that he was pleased to present the branding project that has been done with the funding by the Appalachian Regional Commission. Mr. Davis stated that this project began in 2014 and several people was involved in the process with Beth Fields spearheaded this project. Mr. Davis stated that they had developed a Brand Statement, one of which states, welcome to Graham County, North Carolina. The land personifies Graham County. It is the source of our beauty and it embodies the heart and soul of the people. Its spirit is alive in our Appalachian and Cherokee Cultures, giving us our fierce independence, but also teaching us about stewardship of land and strength of community. A natural energy draws people here, and quickly makes them fall in love with Graham County and its amazing places. Our history is the cornerstone of our Nation's heritage and patriotism. We are a frontier, and remain one of the few wild and unspoiled places in North Carolina. We are a peaceful place, where our passive nature allows visitors to unplug, disconnecting from the stress and pace of life while reconnecting with the outdoors, family, and self. We are a place for adventure and we invite you to come discover Graham County, a place beyond time where our land and water will renew your spirit and our natural adventures will exhilarate you. Welcome

to Graham County Your Natural Destination. Mr. Davis also discussed the logo's that are being used and the statement calls out our must see sights such as our dams, the Cherohala Skyway, the Dragon, Joyce Kilmer, and more. Mr. Davis stated that the Town of Robbinsville is very excited with the logos and plan to install signage on the posts throughout the town. Mr. Davis stated that this statement will be used to market Graham County. The board thanked Mr. Davis for his time and dedication to our county.

Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Dale E. Wiggins, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board