

Workshop Session – July 18, 2017

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street for their regular workshop session. Commissioners present was: Keith Eller, Jacob Nelms, Dale Wiggins and Raymond Williams. Commissioner Connie Orr was absent.

1. Chairman Eller called the workshop session to order.
2. Chairman Eller asks Carolyn Stewart to speak on the Historical Society. Ms. Stewart stated that Terri Phillips would make the presentation. Ms. Phillips stated that a group of people have come together to form a historical society in hopes to form a Graham County Museum in the old Snider's Department Store. Ms. Phillips stated that they have raised \$60,000.00 in the last five to six months and have a pledge of \$30,000.00 per year. Ms. Phillips stated that she has met with the Travel and Tourism Board; GREAT and the Eastern Band in hopes to get their support. Ms. Phillips stated that she was here to receive input from the county commissioners and further stated that this will be for the whole community that will teach our kids the history of our county and will also be a tourist destination. The board all agreed that they were in complete support of this project. Commissioner Wiggins asks if they have a mission statement and a goals plan. Ms. Phillips stated that they do have a mission statement and they are reaching goals at this time by passing the inspections of the building. Ms. Phillips stated that a small amount of asbestos had been found and this will be removed but overall the structure is solid and they have been offered the building for \$200,000.00 by Tom Ward. Ms. Phillips stated that Mr. Ward is willing to do owner financing and they hope to receive grants to help renovate the building. Ms. Phillips stated that they want to have a museum as well as space for community use. Commissioner Wiggins stated that they could use the River Arts District in Asheville as a model to go by and was very supportive of the renovation of the building. Carolyn Stewart asks the board if they can give financial help. The board asks that Manager Garland study the budget to see if funds are available.
3. Chairman Eller asks Jan Holder to speak. Ms. Holder stated that she and Charlie Millsaps are here on behalf of the people of the county who would like to see the roads paved at the Old Mother Cemetery. Ms. Holder stated that it is very hard for the elderly community to get up and down the hills and further asks if benches could be installed. Ms. Holder presented a petition with 229 signed names of county residents that would like to see the cemetery paved. Commissioner Williams stated that there are (5) pine trees that needed to be cut down as well because they are destroying several tombstones and they have become an eyesore. The board discussed who owns the cemetery. The board would speak with NCDOT to see if they can help us out. The board thanked Jan Holder and Charlie Millsaps for their work in this issue.
4. Chairman Eller adjourned the workshop session.

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Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Dale E. Wiggins, 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

