

Special Meeting – June 1, 2018

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Friday, June 1, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. for a special meeting in the County Manager's Office located at 12 North Main Street Robbinsville. The board will be discussing the courthouse assessment by Heery Associates from Orlando, Florida.

1. Chairman Eller called the meeting to order and asks for a motion to recess so that the meeting can be moved to the Transit Facility Conference Room located at 201 West Fort Hill Robbinsville, NC. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to recess the meeting and move the location to the Transit Facility. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Manager Garland introduced Lisa Wilson with Heery Associates. Ms. Wilson introduced Barbara Vallella and Bob Egelston who will assist in the courthouse assessment. Manager Garland stated that they are here today to give a preliminary finding on the assessment. Ms. Wilson stated that she met with all of the departments that are located in the courthouse facility. Ms. Wilson stated that they did a physical review of the building to determine systems that were functioning and systems that were not functioning or nearing the end of life. Ms. Wilson stated that this will determine repair or replacement. Commissioner Williams stated that the plans for the occupancy of the courthouse is the Clerk of Court, the Jail and Magistrate and everyone else would be moved to a new location. Ms. Wilson stated that she was not aware of this information and would add this to the findings. Commissioner Nelms stated that this arrangement of the offices is not set in stone at this time. Commissioner Nelms stated that if the building is not going to be cost efficient for a judicial center then we will occupy the offices with county administration. Commissioner Orr stated that we are open to all possibilities and we are looking at the optimal solution. Commissioner Williams stated that he cannot see putting \$10 million in a justice facility and he feels that it would be best to remodel. Commissioner Wiggins stated that there are other issues in the county to consider such as the administration building which is falling down and poses health issues. Commissioner Nelms stated that we need to revitalize the courthouse but we cannot fit everyone in the community building and he doesn't want to begin remodel on any buildings until we know the cost of this assessment for the court facilities. Ms. Johnson stated that the structure was sound according to the team but the overall problems are the storage spaces and the multiple entrances to the building. Ms. Johnson stated that the electrical and plumbing will also be an issue. Commissioner Wiggins stated that the boiler is the original heating system and it was redone in 2008. Commissioner Williams stated that he understood the issues in the past with the large trucks coming to town more regularly but now we only have a few large trucks that go by. Manager Garland stated that the security issues are the main issues with the courts. Commissioner Orr stated that we also needed a new jail and suggested jail pods in the vacant lot beside the courthouse. The board discussed the size of a new jail and a suggestion of a 25 to 30 bed jail was mentioned. The board discussed the courthouse being on the historic registry and the restrictions that would be in place concerning the courthouse remodel. Ms. Wilson stated that an asbestos assessment would need to be done as well as lead paint. Commissioner Orr stated that the county can sustain a \$10 million dollar remodel and asks if this would cover everything. There was discussion on installing ramps to the front of the building. The board discussed moving offices around into the buildings that the county currently owns. Commissioner Williams stated that he would never agree to a \$10 million dollar facility when our schools need our financial help. The board also discussed the installation of more cameras at all exterior doors and on the sides of the building. Ms. Wilson stated that the lower level poses problems during court days due to the number of people using the restroom facilities and this causes a problem for the traffic flow to the tax office. Commissioner Williams suggests that we install two deputies to the building instead of one. Ms. Wilson stated that this does not solve the issues that are being faced with the building. The board discussed metal detectors and evacuation plans. Ms. Wilson stated that she would like to have floor plans if at all possible. Manager Garland stated that she would follow up to see if floor plans exist for the building. Ms. Wilson stated that that they would begin the assessment and report back to the board as soon as possible.

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Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

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Connie Orr, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

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Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

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Dale Wiggins, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

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Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board