

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular workshop session. All board was present.

1. Chairman Wiggins called the workshop session to order.
2. Chairman Wiggins asks SERCAP to speak on the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project. Manager Garland stated that they must have been a miscommunication on the date because they are not here. Manager Garland asks that the board allow Agustin Velasquez from the United States Census 2020 to give his reporting. Mr. Velasquez thanked the board for their time and stated that the goal of Census 2020 is to count everyone once, only once and in the right place. Mr. Velasquez gave a presentation for the board to review. Mr. Velasquez stated that the Census is conducted every (10) years and has since 1790 as required by the US Constitution Article 1, Section 2. Mr. Velasquez stated that the Census helps each State to gain seats in the House. Mr. Velasquez stated that the impact to our community is not only a political representation but also a money/economic impact as well and over \$675 billion a year is distributed to state and local governments using Census numbers (over \$4 million over the decade). Mr. Velasquez stated that the George Washington University would be doing the counting for 2020. Mr. Velasquez stated that in 2000, Graham County had 50% participation in the census and in 2010, Graham County had 70% participation, which was just below the NC State participation of 76%.
3. Mr. Velasquez asks that the commissioners help motivate people to respond and help identify the areas of where to count. Mr. Velasquez stated that under Title 13, U.S. Code, all Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect respondent data and it is a felony for any employee to disclose any confidential information during or after employment and the penalty for wrongful disclosure is up to (5) years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$250,000.00. Mr. Velasquez stated that we protect information by taking precautions in how we collect, analyze and disseminate information. The Census Bureau has strong programs to protect information as they collect process and store it in secure IT systems and they encrypt information, limit access and actively monitor systems to make sure information stays secure. Mr. Velasquez stated that it was important to get the word out to the citizens that the Census Bureau never asks for your full Social Security number; never asks for money or a donation; never sends requests on behalf of a political party and never requests PIN codes, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts. Mr. Velasquez stated that the Bureau collects a wide variety of data surveys by demographics, business and industry data, import/exports, employment, government data and data at a variety of geographic levels: National, State, County, City, Place, Tract, Block and Congressional Districts. Mr. Velasquez stated that the data is used in many ways such as forecasting of future transportation needs, determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans and they assist tribal, federal, state and local governments and implementing programs and services in Education, Healthcare, Transportation, Social Services and Emergency Response.
4. Mr. Velasquez stated that the census is allowing people to respond anytime, anywhere, via phone or internet. The bureau is eliminating paper and incorporating the use of handheld data collection devices.
5. Mr. Velasquez stated that people could self-respond through the internet as well.
6. Mr. Velasquez stated that the target populations are: Children 5 years and under, Veterans, People with disabilities, Homeless, People living in rural America, Low income and underserved, Senior Citizens, Migrant farm workers, Foreign Born – Immigrants, Persons with limited English proficiency and Renters.
7. Mr. Velasquez stated that accurate census data comes from accurate geographic data, including addresses and boundaries. Local governments are the best sources for address and boundary data and by working with the Census to ensure the best and most useful results possible.
8. Mr. Velasquez stated that Governor Roy Cooper who appointed Secretary of the NC Department of Administration, Mabelle Sanders to be the chairperson, created the 2020 Complete Count Commission. The commission is comprised of citizens, elected officials, and business leaders across all racial, ethnic and social spectrums. Mr. Velasquez stated that they meet on a monthly

basis and the main goal is to coordinate resources and advocate efforts to accurately count those who have been historically undercounted.

9. Mr. Velazquez stated that the success of the 2020 Census depends on everyone's participation. One way to ensure success is by forming a Complete Count Committee in Graham County to encourage participation in their community. They will develop an outreach plan tailored to the unique characteristics of their community. Their focus is to encourage individuals in their community to self-respond online, on the phone or by mail. Complete Count Committees conduct a wide range of possible activities. For example, they host promotional events, display census information in government buildings, include census messages on customer billing statements or other correspondence and they network with community leaders to ensure everyone is involved. The committee will involve all constituent groups, and use trusted voices of community leaders to encourage self-response. Local governments should include members with experience in the following areas: Government, Education, Media, Minority Organizations, Community organizations, Workforce developments, Faith-based institutions and Businesses.
10. The committee needs to focus on the hard-to-count areas, which have children 5 years old, and under, hidden or overcrowded housing, populations that speak little or no English, off-campus apartments, new immigrant populations, high poverty areas, and people displaced by natural disasters such as floods, fires and hurricanes.
11. Mr. Velazquez stated that households would begin to experience, by the summer of 2019, some type of census operation such as address listing. Mr. Velazquez stated that the more informed households are about the 2020 Census operation, the better their understanding of the census process becomes, thus increasing their willingness to be a part of the successful enumeration in 2020.
12. Mr. Velazquez stated that the Census Bureau would support the committee by providing staff to work directly with them. They will provide information, assist in forming committees and subcommittees and participate in local events and activities. They will also provide a guide for 2020 Census Complete Count Committees and you can refer to other information available online from the 2010 Census.
13. Attorney Coward stated that there is also another element being requested to add to the Census and that is if they have citizenship. Attorney Coward stated that at this time there is no response. Chairman Wiggins stated that this was going to the Supreme Court.
14. The board thanked Mr. Velazquez for the information. Manager Garland stated that she has put the information for forming the count committee in the board's packets. Commissioner Orr stated that this is not a nine to five job and we needed to work with our high school students for workers. The board all agreed. Chairman Wiggins stated that we needed to check with the library and Tri-County to see if they can set up a computer to be used for reporting.
15. Chairman Wiggins asks for further business. Commissioner Orr stated that the PILT has been funded for 2019 and the same bill included funding for the opioid crisis, homelessness assistance, economic development and funding for CDBG. Chairman Wiggins asks if the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) was being funded. Commissioner Orr felt that this funding would be included with the PILT funding.
16. Manager Garland stated that she had also received information from Sheriff Jones that if we can build a big enough jail to house some misdemeanants we would bring in revenue that can be used to help pay for the new jail. Manager Garland stated that if we had five beds for this use we could possibly bring in over \$75,000.00 yearly and further stated that we would probably never worry about the beds being empty. Manager Garland stated our property plat for the Fort Hill area is being reviewed and they will be ready to talk to us within the month and then we can put out RFQ's and RFP's.
17. Chairman Wiggins asks for further comment. No further comment was given.
18. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Signature page attached!

Signature page for Workshop Session – March 19, 2019

Dale Wiggins, Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board