

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. for their regular workshop session in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC 28771. All board members was present.

1. Chairman Eller called the workshop session in order.
2. Chairman Eller asks Tammy Holloway to speak. Ms. Holloway thanked the board for their time and stated that she was not here to complain but to give the board an update on the courthouse facilities. Ms. Holloway stated that superior court was held for a trial and it lasted over two weeks causing her to have to use the community building as a second courtroom. Ms. Holloway stated that one of the jurors fell in the courtroom by accident but her concerns are that we do not have accessibility for handicap jurors and the only way into the building for handicap persons is through the back entry of the courthouse. Ms. Holloway commended Clerk Kim Crisp for looking out for her office and staff and getting the community building ready for court. Ms. Holloway stated that they had over seventy criminal cases that were discussed during this session. Ms. Holloway stated that one of the inmates was hugged by the general public and this is not allowed anywhere else in the state and shouldn't have happened here. Ms. Holloway stated that while using the community building, the Judge is not safe nor her staff and she did not have access to a metal detector but does extend her gratitude to Sheriff Millsaps for searching everyone prior to their entry into the courtroom. Ms. Holloway stated that the recordings are not handled properly at the community center and this could create a problem down the road with cases that needed to be reviewed. Ms. Holloway stated that we need a new Justice Center and she does understand that the county doesn't have the money but urges the board to continue looking for ways to build the center. Ms. Holloway also commended Graham County Schools for their "Give Back" program on September 11, 2015 and stated that the students and teachers did an excellent job.
3. Chairman Eller asks Ryan Sherby to speak. Mr. Sherby stated that he had made the changes to the Comp Plan that the board had requested from the previous meeting but he did have some suggestions from the comp committee that he would like to share with the board. Those changes are:
 - a. Page 12. Facilities – should the planned EBCI rehab facility be mentioned and the services that Smoky Mountain Mental Health provides through the school system. Mr. Sherby felt that these suggestions were getting too deep in the weeds and did not recommend any changes.
 - b. Page 17. The section concerning the wording "Significant Natural Heritage Areas" needed to be removed due to that map being removed. The board agreed that the wording Significant Natural Heritage Areas needed to be removed.
 - c. Page 18. The majority of the committee feels that the county should be upfront about the acidic rock and steep slope issues in the county, rather than completely removing that section perhaps clarifying the issue by adding language about how the data was collected, how the samples were collected needed to be added. The board was agreeable to this suggestion.
 - d. Page 38. The road capacity paragraph that was edited seems to have a typo and it should have read the presence of steep grades and truck traffic without passing lanes will "increase" travel times and not "decrease".
 - e. Page 73. #45. The committee feels that studying the feasibility of the roundabout would be wise, rather than taking it out of consideration completely, leaving it as a possible future project to consider at a later date. Mr. Sherby suggested leaving verbiage that stated NCDOT could study this intersection and update when they saw the need. The board was agreeable to this suggestion.
 - f. Page 86. The travel time will include both the Stantec Report and the NCDOT numbers and explanations are to be given where the source of data came from and how they were compiled.
 - g. Ryan Sherby stated that the word Tallulah is spelled incorrectly throughout the document and asks the board which spelling preference they wanted. The board wanted it spelled Tallulah.
4. Mr. Sherby thanked the board and stated that he would send a final draft back to the board and to the comp committee and asks for further comment. No further comment was given. Mr.

Sherby stated that this plan will be used throughout the region and will be used in conjunction with the Transportation Plan that was previously adopted. Mr. Sherby stated that this document will allow us to make a fresh start and urges the board to keep the plan handy and to use the plan. The board thanked Mr. Sherby for his time and assistance.

5. Chairman Eller asks Jack Gross to speak. Mr. Gross stated that he was a resident of the Town of Santeetlah and he had been doing some research with the building inspector and found a contract that the county entered into with the Town that allows the building inspector to collect all fees associated with his office. Mr. Gross stated that the county is not receiving the funds that the Town is charging for related building inspection fees. Mr. Gross stated that once you obtain a building permit from the building inspector you then have to go to the Town of Santeetlah and pay for a building application and those are the fees that he is referring too. Mr. Gross stated that he wanted to make the county aware that there are possible fees owed to the county that the Town is collecting and keeping. The board stated that they would review the paperwork. Mr. Gross thanked the board for their time.

Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Jacob Nelms, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Lynn Cody, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board