

Workshop Session – September 19, 2017

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, September 19, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. for their regular workshop session in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. Board present was: Keith Eller, Connie Orr, Jacob Nelms and Dale Wiggins. Board absent was: Raymond Williams.

1. Chairman Eller called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Eller asks Larry Reeves, Ombudsman with Southwest Commission to speak. Mr. Reeves stated that he was here to discuss the change to the way board members are appointed by House Bill 248 which was passed last July and will become law October 1st. The bill states AN ACT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE ADULT CARE HOME AND NURSING HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO CONFORM TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING RULES AND RECENT CHANGES TO THE STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM AND TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO STUDY THE HOPE ACT AND RELATED FEDERAL REGULATIONS AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. Mr. Reeves stated that in the past the county commissioners appoint members as the seats became vacant. With the current law the initial appointment will be for one year and if the person is reappointed then they may be appointed for a second term for a two or three year term. Mr. Reeves stated that county commissioners can no longer serve as a board member but are welcome to attend the meetings. Commissioner Orr stated that it will be difficult to find (5) people to serve on this board without compensation. Commissioner Orr asks if Jimmie Holder had been approved. Mr. Reeves stated that he has not vested her but will once the new law has passed in October. Commissioner Orr stated that Jimmie Holder will be a tremendous board member. The board suggested Raymond Norton or Jack Brooms as possible board members. Mr. Reeves stated that the recommendation comes to him by the board of commissioners and he vets them and sends this recommendation to the state and then the state returns the approval or disapproval back to him. Mr. Reeves stated that there will be an application process for all board members. Mr. Reeves suggested that the county advertise for people who may be interested in serving on this board. Commissioner Orr stated that she was honored to work with this group and this program is essential for our people. Mr. Reeves stated that the main obstacle in all the care centers or group homes is personnel. The need in this field is great. Mr. Reeves stated that there are a lot issues and meaningful discussions for this board.
3. The board thanked Mr. Reeves for the information and Graham County looks forward to working with him.
4. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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

