

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular monthly workshop session. Board present was Dale Wiggins, Jacob Nelms, Connie Orr and Keith Eller. Board absent was Lynn Cody. In addition, present from the Election Board was Juanita Colvard, Lowell Crisp, Keith Rogers, Billy Ditmore, Teresa Ghormley and Election Director Teresa Garland.

1. Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Wiggins stated that the boards were here to discuss the area in which the Election Board can move when the county vacates the P&J Office Building. Chairman Wiggins asks for a spokesperson to speak for the Election Board.
3. Juanita Colvard, Chairman of the Election Board stated that they wanted to talk to the board about making this a permanent location for the election board and not a temporary move. Ms. Colvard presented the board a packet with information concerning the space required for the election board. Ms. Colvard stated that we do not need to cause unnecessary costs to the taxpayers and they would like to request that this be a permanent move to the community building for the election board. Chairman Wiggins asks that the boards go and look at the proposed area where the election board would like their office to be. Ms. Colvard stated that they must stay in compliance with all NC Election Laws and with the ADA Laws. Member Ditmore stated that the election board offices are out of compliance at this time. Director Garland stated that Homeland Security is coming to our offices to do a review and they will make us get in compliance. The election board is requesting a new entrance door for the election board and seal off a wall where the current door is located going into the offices. The boards discussed the 50-foot requirement on Election Day, which would affect the county offices that would be located in the back of the building. Member Teresa Eller stated that you cannot stop people from visiting county offices but you make sure that no one loiters within the 50-foot requirement to the polling place. Chairman Wiggins stated that the letter in the packets is dated 2010 and asks if a more current letter could be given. Director Garland stated that the new board of elections would not put anything in writing. The boards had more discussion on the possible move.
4. Chairman Wiggins stated that the contention is for the board to provide space here in the community building for the election board to be here forever because it is not good to continually move offices. Ms. Colvard stated that they prefer a permanent fix so that they do not have to pay rent and requests the separate entrance to prevent interruption in the county commissioner meetings during voting times. Manager Garland stated that we could not leave the election board in the P&J Offices because it is not safe and we needed to figure out something on whether to build or renovate. Manager Garland stated that she could use the rest of the building for other departments if the board decides to move the election board somewhere else. Member Rogers stated that this is the cheapest way to go and they have to stay in compliance. Member Colvard stated that over one-half of the county now vote one-stop and this is huge.
5. Manager Garland stated that it is nearing mowing season and we need to finalize plans now. The board discussed the options of a new door and discussed the expense. Chairman Wiggins asks that Manager Garland obtain a quote on the cost of a new entrance door. Chairman Wiggins asks that she also get a reputable contractor to give us a price on an ADA Compliance bathroom. Commissioner Eller asks that Manager Garland reach out to the state and ask the State Election Board exactly what the office requirements are.
6. Chairman Wiggins adjourned the workshop session.

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