

Special Meeting – February 26, 2021

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Friday, February 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. for a special meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC 28771. Board present: Connie Orr, Keith Eller, Jacob Nelms and Dale Wiggins. Board absent Lynn Cody. Also, present Manager Becky Garland, Clerk Kim Crisp and public members Susan Kirkpatrick and Debra (Hank) Dinschel.

1. Chair Orr called the meeting to order.
2. Chair Orr asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. The board attended the Ethics Class hosted by UNC School of Government.
4. Chair Orr asks for discussion on the ballfield lights. Commissioner Nelms stated that the estimate for the football field is \$291,308.00 which does not include excavation if hot rock is present. Commissioner Nelms stated that for the lights to be remote controlled another \$8K to \$9K would be needed. Commissioner Eller asks is this a state mandate. Commissioner Nelms stated that he did not receive a timeline but for our team to host play off games the lights would need to be updated prior to season. The board had discussion. Commissioner Wiggins stated that he would like to see this mandate in writing and asks how much the cost would be if they found hot rock. Commissioner Nelms stated that the cost would be approximately \$10K. The board discussed possible ways to fund this project. Chair Orr stated that the NCACC is working hard to stop unfunded mandates from the State and here is another example. Chair Orr asks that the discussion be tabled to explore possible donations because she felt that the board could get public support. Manager Garland stated that she could post on social media to see if the county did receive a response concerning possible donations. Commissioner Wiggins stated that the donation would be tax deductible. Manager Garland stated that she would like to see the mandate to view the wording because if it says "shall" instead of "may" then the board is obligated to follow the recommendation by the state. The board agreed to table the discussion for further information.
5. Chair Orr asks for a motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(3)(5)(6) for privileged or confidential information, attorney client privilege, contracts, and personnel. Commissioner Eller made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chair Orr asks for a motion to remove the property located at 241 Stecoah Road Robbinsville from the CDBG Grant due to a conflict of interest. Commissioner Eller made the motion to remove the property as stated from the CDBG Grant. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Chair Orr asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Connie Orr, Chair

Keith Eller, Vice-Chairman

Lynn Cody, Member

Jacob Nelms, Member

Dale Wiggins, Member

ATTEST: _____
Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board