

Workshop Session – June 18, 2024

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 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. Also, present Project Manager Jason Marino and Interim County Manager/Clerk to the Board Kim Crisp.

1. Chairman Nelms called the workshop session to order.
2. Chairman Nelms asks PM Marino to speak. PM Marino thanked the board for their time and stated that the board had requested that three additional sites be reviewed for a potential Justice Center. PM Marino asks that Chad Simmons present the findings.
3. Mr. Simmons thanked the board and presented the board with pictures of the sites. The first site is the Collins Property on Old Tallulah Road, and the site development costs could be the highest of all sites evaluated due to severe slopes and highly likely presence of rock. Mr. Simmons stated that retaining walls would have to be put in place at the back of the site that would exceed eighty feet.
4. Mr. Simmons stated that the second site is the Cody Property located on Old Tallulah Road and the site development costs are up to three million. The limited opportunities for expansion due to floodplain are present and there would have to be offsite improvements including right-of-way acquisition to Old Tallulah Road.
5. Mr. Simmons stated that the third site located off P and J Road has the most potential cost savings in site development and is the most preferred site. Mr. Simmons stated that this site has good access to major roads and the water/sewer is nearby. Mr. Simmons stated that some expansion capacity is across the P and J Road adjacent to the Health Department due to too little to no expansion capacity on-site.
6. Chairman Nelms stated that the P and J properties were purchased for recreation expansion.
7. Commissioner Williams stated that the public would not be happy with the P and J site being so close to the recreation activities and she is not in favor of this site.
8. Commissioner Orr thanked the staff for doing a good job showing the pros and cons of each site, but we needed to account for the cost of the property. Commissioner Orr stated that the public needed to be educated the public and she cannot speak for the citizens of the county and asks that the citizens choose the site.
9. Chairman Nelms asks if NCDOT would fix the road on Old Tallulah to eliminate some of the costs.
10. Mr. Todd Davis stated that foliage can be added to block the view of the center from the ball grounds. Commissioner Cody stated that the foliage would help eliminate the sound of traffic as well. Commissioner Cody asks that we publish a poll asking the citizens to vote on the site.
11. Chairman Nelms stated that this board needed to move on the site and thanked the staff for presenting the other sites. Mr. Simmons stated that the board did need to consider what is best for the next fifty to one hundred years and he commended this board for doing their due diligence.
12. Chairman Nelms stated that the board has a lot to consider and thanked the staff for the information. Chairman Nelms stated that this board needed to narrow the sites down as quickly as possible. Commissioner Orr asks that a public hearing be held.
13. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Jacob Nelms, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Natasha Williams, Vice-Chair, Graham County Commissioner

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Lynn Cody, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Keith Eller Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board