

Workshop Session – September 16, 2013

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, September 16, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC for their regular workshop session. Commissioners present were: Robert M. Edwards; Billy Holder and Keith Holder. Commissioner Connie Orr was absent due to the loss of her beloved sister, Martha Menard. Commissioner Williams was absent due to illness.

1. Commissioner Edwards called the workshop session to order and welcomed the public.
2. Commissioner Edwards asks Josh Carpenter, Economic Development Director with Cherokee County to introduce everyone with the presentation on the Casino for Cherokee County.
3. Mr. Carpenter thanked Mr. Edwards and began introductions with Vice Chief Larry Blythe; Paula Wojtkowski; Eddie Huskey; Missy Crowe; Richie Sneed; Lynn Harlan and Ray Rose with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Paul Worley and Katherine Jenkins with Tri-County Community College.
4. Commissioner Edwards asks Missy Crowe and Paula Wojtkowski with the EBCI to speak on the Casino for Cherokee County and asks Ms. Wojtkowski to speak. Ms. Wojtkowski thanked the board for their time and presented them with a slide presentation of the proposed site of the new Cherokee County NC Casino which will bring 900 new jobs to the county with an estimated \$40 million dollar payroll. The Casino is estimated to take two years to construct. Commissioner Edwards asks why Caesar's name was on the presentation along with Harrah's. Ms. Wojtkowski stated that Harrah's purchased Caesar's so it's the same company. Commissioner Edwards asks if Corridor K was in the conversation at the beginning of the negotiations. Mr. Rose stated that it was not part of the conversation on deciding the location of the Casino. Mr. Rose stated that the Department of Transportation is working closely with them on the entrance into the Casino which will require an entrance ramp off the four-lane and a bridge and they have been very cooperative. Commissioner Eller thanked the tribe and felt that securing 900 new jobs was very good for this area. Manager Cable stated that our office is always willing to help in any way that we can and to please call on us if needed.
5. Commissioner Edwards asks Paul Worley if the training can be held on the Tri-County Campus here in Graham County. Mr. Worley stated that he would be trying to secure classes for this campus and some classes would be free.
6. Commissioner Edwards thanked everyone for their time and information and was very excited with the new job creation.
7. Commissioner Edwards asks for further comment. No further comment was given.
8. Commissioner Edwards adjourned the workshop session.

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Robert M. (Mike) Edwards, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Billy Holder, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Raymond Williams. Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board