

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, January 7, 2020 for a workshop session in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. Board present was Dale Wiggins, Lynn Cody, Connie Orr and Jacob Nelms. Board absent was Keith Eller.

1. Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Wiggins welcomed Bucky Brown, Chris Greene and Kim Deas with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to the meeting. Chairman Wiggins asks who will speak on their behalf. Mr. Greene stated that he would be speaking with the board. Chairman Wiggins asks Mr. Greene to speak.
3. Mr. Greene stated that he is the Project Manager for EBCI and he gave the board a review of projects that the Tribe will be doing. Mr. Greene stated that they will be replacing the Cornsilk Complex and are seeking a location to move the Medical and Dental Clinic during this renovation. Mr. Greene stated that they met with Angela Knight, Graham County School Superintendent to discuss the property next door to Ned Long’s classroom located on Moose Branch Road. Mr. Greene stated that Ms. Knight had told him that this property actually belongs to the county. Mr. Greene stated that they would like to place a 35 x 54 Modular, which has 1800 square feet to house the Dental and Medical Clinic with two exam rooms per clinic. Mr. Greene stated that he would like to begin with a 24-month timeframe lease and possibly a month-to-month lease after that. Mr. Greene stated that they would like to have access to Town sewer and water. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board will consider this request and asks if the tribe needs 18 or 24 months. Commissioner Orr asks if the county is using the property currently. Manager Garland stated that Keith Eller uses this space to park vehicles that he is working on at the garage. Manager Garland stated that Attorney Coward was unable to attend tonight’s meeting but she will call him in the morning to get with the EBCI Attorney Jay Gallagher on a possible lease. Chairman Wiggins asks how soon they will need the property. Mr. Greene stated that they would like to be moving around March or April. Chairman Wiggins asks if the Tribe has contracts currently with Graham County. Manager Garland stated that we do with the POP. Commissioner Orr stated that if the Tribe is replacing the whole Cornsilk Complex as a service to the people then she suggested that they be allowed to use the property without a lease. Commissioner Orr stated that the Tribe are people of Graham County and she serves the people. Commissioner Nelms asks if every building will be replaced at the complex and Mr. Greene stated yes. Commissioner Orr asks if the gym would be replaced as well. Mr. Greene stated that they would be replaced with a State of the Art Gymnasium with a walking track above. Commissioner Orr stated that many of our counties small children use the gym at the complex. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board would be in touch after discussion.
4. Bucky Brown thanked the board for their time and consideration.
5. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Dale Wiggins, Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

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Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

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Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

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Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

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Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board