

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, December 15, 2020 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.

1. Chair Orr called the meeting to order.
2. Chair Orr asks for discussion on the Ronnie Milsap Highway designation road signs. Chair Orr stated that Ronnie Milsap will be on the Huckabee Show on TBN and Commissioner Cody had spoken with Billy Clark, Ronnie's Manager and requested that the Ronnie Milsap have the signs with him when he appears at the show. Chair Orr stated that she spoke with NCDOT (North Carolina Department of Transportation) Commissioner Dirk Cody and they did not have the actual sign prepared but they would send an actual road sign to be delivered to Manager Garland's office. Commissioner Cody stated that he had spoken with Billy Clark and the show was pre-taped, so we do not have time for the signs to appear on the show, but they did read the resolution passed by the Graham County Commissioners regarding the road naming. Chair Orr stated that when we receive the signs, we will see that Ronnie Milsap gets them as soon as possible. Commissioner Cody stated that he would get the information of where to send the signs.
3. Clerk Crisp stated that DSS Director Cris Weatherford presented the letter that he had written which will accompany the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) Agreement to the State and asks that the board review and sign the letter. Commissioner Wiggins stated that it was overly concerning that we have 444 children in custody with an average court day of 1.89 per month. Commissioner Wiggins stated that it takes that long to deal with one child, and we have 444 that need attention. Director Weatherford stated that the courts cram cases in and some may or may not receive the proper attention and they work a lot of consent orders. Director Weatherford stated that the district needs more help, and the Judges to be compensated better. Commissioner Wiggins asks that a letter be sent from the board to Senator Kevin Corbin requesting help. Director Weatherford stated that he would work on this. Commissioner Wiggins stated that Graham County kids must wait up to two years for placement and this is not acceptable. Director Weatherford stated that some have waited longer than two years. Commissioner Wiggins asks that Director Weatherford find out the wait periods in the other counties of our region. Chair Orr asks that the information be sent to all the board. Commissioner Wiggins stated that the entire judicial district needed to be split because the cost to these kids is worth more than money. Chair Orr stated that the courts are backlogged due to COVID19. Director Weatherford stated that we have four to five attorneys in our district and quite often DSS must wait hours for the attorney to arrive from another county on court days. Commissioner Wiggins stated that this is a problem across the entire state and it needs changed. Commissioner Wiggins stated that we, the taxpayers deserve better than this and especially our children.
4. Chair Orr asks for further business. No further business.
5. Chair Orr asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eller made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody 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