

# Grayson could use Wildwood revenue for schools

## Supervisors to discuss Thursday

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 2:17 pm (Updated: May 10, 2:18 pm)

By TINA E. VAUGHN

Staff

INDEPENDENCE — The Grayson County Board of Supervisors on Thursday will consider a resolution that would establish a public education grant fund through income generated from the regional Wildwood Commerce Park project.

If approved, the board would earmark 50 percent of the county's annual dividends from the project (up to \$250,000) to be used for grant funding match requirements for the school system within the same fiscal year.

Wildwood Commerce Park is a joint venture between Carroll, Grayson and the City of Galax, to create an industrial site at Exit 19, near Hillsville.

The resolution states that “the Grayson County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of public education and values the Grayson County Public School System for their delivery of these vital services.”

The resolution notes that the board has identified “the need to further support our Public School System with additional funding dedicated to the advancement of educating the youth and preparing the future workforce of this county.”

The board “has worked diligently to identify creative and resourceful means of providing such funding without overburdening the citizens of the county by way of additional increases in taxes or fees for services,” according to the resolution.

The Wildwood project “possesses tremendous potential to provide job opportunities for Grayson County citizens, as well as [providing] a new diversified revenue stream,” states the resolution.

“The intent of the Grayson County Board of Supervisors is to leverage greater benefits from the Wildwood Commerce Park Project revenue stream, to encourage resourceful and creative pursuits of outside funding solutions and to insure that additional monies are readily available to the Grayson County Public School System for such purposes,” according to the resolution.

Any unused money would be returned to the county's general fund.