

Regular Meeting – March 17, 2014

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, March 17, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All Commissioners was present.

1. Chairman Edwards called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Edwards gave the Invocation.
3. Chairman Edwards asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Edwards asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Holder made the motion to approve. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Edwards asks for approval of the Regular and Workshop Minutes of February 17th and the Continued Meeting of February 18th. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Edwards asks for the finance report. Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer stated that the county finished the month of February with a \$6M million dollar cash balance which she is very pleased with. Ms. Garland stated that the tax collections was tracking ahead and the county is receiving more money on the DMV system since the state switch with a balance of \$81,000.00 more than this time last year. Ms. Garland stated that the back collections was very tedious and praised the tax office for the work that they are doing. Ms. Garland stated that she and Manager Cable were beginning the preparations for the budget and they would get back to the board for possible workshop sessions. Ms. Garland stated that the sales tax is still climbing and she was very pleased with that. Ms. Garland stated that the departmental budgets are doing well and the departments that were running hot had a reason that could be explained. Ms. Garland stated that the Jail was one department that was suffering due to the high medical costs but was aware that the manager was looking into a program that would help with the medical reimbursements.
7. Ms. Garland stated that she has three budget amendments to present to the board. Those amendments are:
 - A. Budget Amendment #11 – to amend for additional general purpose funds approved for Senior Center.
 - B. Budget Amendment #12 – to recognize pass through of funds from DNET to pay for tower usage at Wachacha Bald per lease agreement.
 - C. Budget Amendment #13 – to increase revenues collected for 2014 elections and cover expenses incurred related to elections.

Chairman Edwards asks for approval of the budget amendments as presented. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the budget amendments. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

8. Ms. Garland stated that she would need to do a spend down of the 911 Funds which are approximately \$283,000.00 and stated that she would be presenting some new equipment for 911/ Communications at the next meeting.
9. Ms. Garland stated that she currently sits on the Four Square Board and is concerned that she is missing those meetings due to a conflict of schedules with the Board of Commissioners meeting and asks the board to consider reappointing someone else to the Board. No action was taken.
10. Chairman Edwards asks Deputy Joseph Jones to speak. Clerk Crisp stated that he was still in court but she could present the paperwork for him. Clerk Crisp stated that Deputy Joe Jones and Tyler Carpenter had just returned from a Clan Lab Certification class and they learned of the exposure danger by the chemical spills from clan labs. Clerk Crisp stated that two officers had already been exposed at the last cleanup and stated that the men needed to have the proper equipment to prevent this from happening again. Clerk Crisp stated that the items listed come to a total of \$6094.00 and further stated that Deputy Jones was trying to see if the SBI could help us obtain an Air Quality Monitor at a cheaper price. Clerk Crisp stated that the MSA Firehawk M7 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus cost around \$6,000.00 each and Deputy Jones was checking prices before submitting this request to the board at this time. Chairman Edwards asks where the money would come from to fund the equipment needed for our deputies. Ms. Garland stated that the money would come from contingency. Commissioner Orr made the motion to purchase the equipment as presented with a cost of \$6100.00. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Chairman Edwards asks Claudie Burchfield to speak. Ms. Burchfield stated that she was here to present the names for the DSS Building Committee Members as proposed by the Social Services Board. Ms. Burchfield stated that she had contacted each one of the names submitted and they had all agreed to serve. The names submitted for approval are: Claudie Burchfield, DSS Director; Machelle Crisp, DSS Board Member; Keith Eller, DSS Board Member; David Hyatt, Building Inspector; Becky Garland, Finance Officer; Mike Edwards, Graham County Commissioner; Juanita

Colvard, Transportation Director and Jacob Nelms, Public Health. Chairman Edwards asks for approval of the names submitted. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

12. Chairman Edwards asks Greg Cable, County Manager to speak on the Graham County Oversight Board Member Recommendations. Manager Cable submitted a flow chart of the proposed board and the flow of how the individual committees will work with the oversight board. Manager Cable stated that the board would consist of the Board of Commissioner Chairman or Vice-Chairman; County Manager; Finance Officer and the Economic Development Director. Manager Cable stated that he would like to get approval of the names with the flow chart which will establish the structure of the board flow from various committees. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
13. Chairman Edwards asks for public comment. Clerk Crisp presented the list with one name. Chairman Edwards asks Hubert Merchant to speak. Mr. Merchant stated that he had signed in for the workshop session and did not need to speak at this time.
14. Chairman Edwards asks Manager Cable to present the discussion items. Manager Cable thanked the administration office staff for helping him while he has been away on business meetings. Manager Cable stated that they had covered things for him and he appreciated them.
15. Manager Cable gave the Senior Center Monthly Performance Status Report for CDBG 10-C-2231 and 12-C-2417. Manager Cable stated that the board would need to set a date for a public hearing to close out the senior center grant. Manager Cable stated that there are items that are being addressed with the contractor for completion. The board discussed the public hearing to be held on April 3rd at 5:00 p.m. Manager Cable stated that the scattered site housing grant was moving along smoothly and the houses had been awarded to Better Built Contracting. Chairman Edwards asks for a motion to approve the reporting. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Manager Cable presented the Releases and Discoveries. Commissioner Holder made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Manager Cable asks Clerk Crisp to present the next item. Clerk Crisp stated that the Ford Explorer had been dented by an employee and she had asked Alicia Parham, Health Director to get quotes to fix the vehicle. Ms. Parham had also requested that the vehicle be painted since the paint was chipping off badly on one side. Commissioner Williams stated that the Health Board had agreed to ask for a new vehicle in the upcoming budget and did not feel that the county needed to put money into this vehicle. Commissioner Williams made the motion to not fix or paint but allow Commissioner Eller to look at the vehicle to make sure repairs are not needed from the dent. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Chairman Edwards recognized Deputy Joe Jones and asks him to speak. Chairman Edwards stated that the board had approved the items listed with pricing and asks about the other items. Deputy Jones stated that he was checking into various places to get the cheapest pricing and would let the board know these figures as soon as possible. Deputy Jones stated that exposure to these chemicals was causing lung cancer 15 years after the exposure so this is very important. The board discussed the kinds of labs and all agreed that the deputies would be protected. Deputy Jones stated that he would get the pricing to the board as soon as possible on the remaining equipment that would be needed.
19. Manager Cable stated that Duke Energy had cut the trees at DSS because a Phase III line was running in the trees. Manager Cable stated that there would not be a cost to the county.
20. Manager Cable gave the quote for new awning at the county manager's building for a price of \$1,997.76. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve new awning for this building. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Juanita Colvard, Election Board Member asks that the board lower or move the signs to the county offices because no one can see the signs underneath the awning.
21. Manager Cable asks the board to review the recommendations from the safety and grounds committee. Commissioner Williams stated that he had made a motion to allow David Hyatt, Building Inspector to decide on emergency items and they are to be fixed without consulting the board of commissioners. Manager Cable stated that the items tonight were quotes and the projects will be bid out with the exception of emergency repairs. Commissioner Orr stated that it is policy that the work is bid out for anything over \$100.00 and this needed to be done before anyone is given the work. Clerk Crisp stated that this is quotes only for the board to review. Ms. Garland stated that the board needed to dedicate money to a line item for these emergency repairs and when the money runs out the board will address items to be fixed as needed. Manager Cable stated that any big expenditure would be addressed with the board at all times. Ms. Garland stated that we have about half of our budget left in repairs which is \$17,500.00. Chairman Edwards asks that jobs are advertised for one week in the local paper. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow for the advertisement of the proposed work to be done. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

22. Manager Cable stated that the next item is the approval of the polls that was taken. The polls are:

- a. Letter of intent to purchase Transfer Station and Sheriff's Department.
- b. Purchase of a mower and two weed eaters for the cemetery department at a cost of \$3018.89.
- c. Repair Lights at the Helipad with a cost of \$1285.00.

Clerk Crisp stated that the poll for the Helipad needed to be amended to include the cost of installing a new helipad. Commissioner Williams stated that the pad needed to be moved to the front of the building. Commissioner Eller disagreed due to the fact that family members would not be allowed to pull into the base and this would cause a major disturbance if the second ambulance or fire trucks were called out to another call. Commissioner Williams stated that something needed to be done to keep the salt from eroding the new pad. Clerk Crisp stated that Maintenance Director Gavin Colvard had discussed installing a drain pipe with plastic piping to prevent this erosion. Commissioner Williams requested that the pad be a flush mount with the pavement. Manager Cable stated that it would be. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve polls A. & B. as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

23. Commissioner Williams made the motion to amend poll C. to reflect the pricing of the new quote to replace the helipad completely including the lights and drain with the county supplying the materials needed with the exception of the forms and the county personnel removing the original pad and installing the drain and to put the notice of bids in the paper for one week. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

24. Manager Cable stated that the next item for discussion is the request from the Town of Robbinsville to reopen the Septage Receiving Station at the Sanitation Department. Manager Cable stated that he needed direction from the board on how to proceed. Manager Cable stated that the Town gave a verbal agreement to make concession of no charge for the water bill at this station. Manager Cable stated that the entire department is on this meter and it runs about \$1000.00 per year. Commissioner Williams stated that he is being told that one person is being allowed to dump. Commissioner Holder stated that he is not in favor of ever opening our station back up due to their building a seven million dollar facility. Commissioner Williams stated that he was not in favor either and the county did not make money on this station and if the Town wants to run it then they can. Commissioner Edwards stated that the Town has the facility to do this and he cannot understand how they can ask us to reopen our site when we continually lose money. Commissioner Orr stated that this is taxpayer money that is being spent. Manager Cable stated that we were asked to close our station when the Town had the sewage problem with their old system and the county had never been asked to reopen their system after this time. Commissioner Edwards stated that the county has an agreement that they have already signed and he cannot in good faith reopen this station without advice from council. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board has used a significant amount of grant funding for this station and realizes that our Travel and Tourism may be affected concerning the campers but the county cannot continue at a loss for this station. Commissioner Holder made the motion to keep the Septage Receiving Station closed. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

25. Manager Cable stated the next item was for information only and that was our share of the \$15 million Highway Fund Allocation is \$42,842.00. Commissioner Edwards stated that this is just another example of regionalization where the county has no say in how the funds are divided.

26. Manager Cable stated that the county had a request from the Town of Santeetlah to collect their taxes both current and back taxes. Commissioner Williams asks what percentage was the county receiving for the collections. Manager Cable stated that the Town has not given us a figure to date what they would be willing to pay. Manager Cable stated that the county needed to recommend to the Town the amount we would need to collect those taxes. The board tabled this for further discussion.

27. Manager Cable stated that he needed the board to set the dates for the Board of Equalization & Review to meet. Clerk Crisp stated that Erma Phillips, Tax Assessor stated that the third week in April would be good with her and at this time she has only one appeal. Clerk Crisp also stated that the board needed to appoint themselves as the Board of Equalization and Review. Commissioner Holder made the motion to appoint the Board of Commissioners as the Board of Equalization & Review and to have the meetings the third week in April beginning on Monday, April 21st at 10:00 a.m. in the Graham County Community Building. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Clerk Crisp stated that the board can close the meetings on Monday if the county did not receive any more appeals.

28. Manager Cable stated that he would call off the Southwest Commission board appointees and then the board could vote.

- a. The Southwestern Child Development Board needed to replace the prior DSS Director with the new Director Claudie Burchfield and reappoint Angela Knight and Commissioner Connie Orr to the board.
- b. The Southwestern LTC Advisory Board needed to reappoint James Brown; Commissioner Robert M. Edwards; Bobby Carpenter; Glenda Odom; Kristin Shuler and Wendy Thomas.
- c. The Southwestern Regional Advisory Council needed to replace the previous DSS Administration Assistant with the current DSS Administration Assistant who is Peggy Hyde that will serve as an alternate on this board.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the names as submitted for the Southwestern Boards. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

29. Manager Cable stated that he needed the reappointment of the Travel and Tourism Board (two year term) members of John Powell and Harold Rogers. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reappoint the members. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Manager Cable stated that Wanda Hill, Senior Center Director needed permission to apply for her HCCBG Block Grant. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Manager Cable stated that Carolyn Snider had given notice to the county of available building space for lease or the possibility of selling of the building located on Tallulah Road. Commissioner Williams asks how much space is available. Manger Cable stated that there is 4000 square feet.
32. Manager Cable stated that the board needed to set a date for the Public Hearing to close out the CDBG Grant for the Senior Center. Clerk Crisp stated that the date needed to be either April 3rd, 4th, or 5th. The board all agreed to have the public hearing on Wednesday, April 3rd, at 5:00 p.m. in the Graham County Senior Center Building located at 185 Fort Hill Rd. Robbinsville.
33. Manager Cable stated that he needed to know which commissioners wanted to attend the NCACC District Meeting held on April 2, 2014 at Haywood County. Commissioner Orr stated that she would attend and to RSVP for her.
34. Manager Cable stated that he needed to know which commissioners wanted to attend the NCACC Assembly Day on May 28, 2014 in Raleigh. Manager Cable asks permission to attend this meeting. Commissioner Orr stated that she would like to attend. The board was in full agreement for Manager Cable and Commissioner Orr attending the meeting.
35. Manger Cable stated that the Jail needed a new door but he didn't have any prices to date. The board all agreed that a poll would be taken when the quotes come in for a new door due to safety issues.
36. Manager Cable stated that he has a request to allow the NC Sheriff's Association to take over our Inmate Medical Cost Management Plan so that the county would not be overcharged as we have been done in the past. Manager Cable stated that the association would charge 19% of what they save us on the bills. Manger Cable stated that he will have cards that the deputies will present to the doctors, dentists and/or hospitals when the inmate is taken for treatment. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow the NC Sheriff's Association to take over our Inmate Medical Cost Management Plan. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Commissioner Williams stated that he had received a complaint about the way one of our inmates was being treated in Clay County and wanted Manager Cable to check into this matter.
38. Manager Cable stated that he had met with NC Department of Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker last Monday and the meeting was very productive. Manager Cable stated that Ms. Decker was very aware of the challenges that our county is facing and he was very pleased to establish a relationship with the Secretary. Manager Cable stated that he had addressed Corridor K with her as well as our Broadband Project and felt that the visit was very positive for Graham County. Commissioner Edwards stated that he was glad that she came to visit.
39. Manager Cable stated that he had attended the TVA Board Meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee and encouraged the board to always keep a representative on this board. Manager Cable stated that they heard from us at that meeting and there are upcoming opportunities coming to our county which will be very positive. Commissioner Edwards asks that Manager Cable get with Larry Blythe, Vice-Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokees to help on these opportunities.
40. Commissioner Orr stated that she wanted to get a certificate made naming Governor McCrory as an Honorary County Commissioner and further stated that Commissioner Holder would fix us a wormy chestnut frame to present to him.
41. Commissioner Eller asks about the Forest Service meeting. Manager Cable stated that he did attend the partnership meeting and most of the people represented were from the Horseback, Biking, Conservancy and Environmental Clubs and Committees. Manager Cable stated that they would like to see NC Mountain Treasures be made into Wilderness. Manager Cable stated that the purpose of the partnership was to present to the Forest Service a plan that everyone could

live with. Manager Cable stated that there were a lot of ideas presented but the biggest obstacle is that the USFS owns more land than they can or will provide stewardship to or maintenance to the roads and timber.

42. Commissioner Williams wanted the dumpster sites fixed before the grass starts growing. Manager Cable stated that he would reach out to Larry Queen to see where this is at.
43. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (3) (6) for privileged or confidential information, attorney-client privilege, personnel and contracts. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
44. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
45. Commissioner Williams made the motion to continue the meeting to Tuesday, March 25th at 10:00 a.m. in the regular meeting place. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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

Billy Holder, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board