

Budget Meeting – May 20, 2014

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. for their annual budget meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC. Commissioners present were: Billy Holder, Keith Eller, Connie Orr and Raymond Williams. Commissioner Robert M. Edwards was absent and excused by the board due to sickness.

1. Commissioner Holder called the meeting to order.
2. Commissioner Holder asks Sport Teasdale to speak. Mr. Teasdale stated that he had paperwork that needed the county manager's signature but first needed board approval. The request is for the county to enter into a memorandum of agreement with North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) that will allow the county to obtain audio video devices that will allow the magistrates of the courts to issue warrants from their homes. The request also contained two options of software either the MCNC Cisco Jabber Software Client or the free Cisco Jabber Client. The Cisco Jabber is offered by Cisco at no cost and the MCNC Jabber is a monthly fee of \$15.00 per month. Deputy Teasdale stated that the sheriff would go with the software offered at no cost. Deputy Teasdale stated that the county would have to buy three WEB CAMS at an approximate cost of \$22.00 each. Deputy Teasdale stated this would help the sheriff's department tremendously and would expedite the officer's bond activity. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the memorandum of agreement. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Holder asks Manager Cable to speak. Manager Cable asks the board to review the contract to collect ad valorem taxes for the Town of Santeetlah and see if this was acceptable. The board reviewed the documents and asks if the county will make money for this extra work. Manager Cable stated that the county would make money on this collection due to these taxes being attached to the current tax bill that the Town residents receive from the county. The board asks if the Town of Robbinsville or the Town of Fontana Dam had requested this as well. Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer stated that the Town of Robbinsville did approach the county with an oral agreement of 3% of their collections. Ms. Garland stated that the county could not collect the prior years due to the accountability but they could collect current and then begin back collections after the first year going forward. The board stated that if the county takes on this responsibility it should be for the same price as the Town of Santeetlah which is 5% of the current collections. Commissioner Eller made the motion to accept the contract from the Town of Santeetlah. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Commissioner Holder asks Rebecca Garland to continue. Ms. Garland gave the board a wage analysis that includes benefits, FICA and retirement costs for each employee. Ms. Garland stated that the Transit Department is paid 95% by state and federal dollars; the Health Department is paid 40% by state and federal dollars; the DSS is paid 55% by state and federal dollars and the Senior Center is paid 85% by state dollars. Ms. Garland stated that county government has a higher payroll due to the higher service base that the county supplies and it shouldn't be compared to the private sectors payroll percentage.
5. Ms. Garland stated that she needed guidance on the Communications request for a full time 911 addresser. Ms. Garland stated at present we have someone who works part time in this office. Ms. Garland stated that Misty Hembree, Communications Director had asked for this individual to make between \$11.00 to \$12.00 per hour and work full time to bring the 911 addressing system up to where it needs to be. Ms. Garland stated that Ms. Hembree did not request raises for her department. The board had discussion and did not agree to hire another person at this time for 911 addressing. The board had discussion on looking at this issue in six months but did not feel that the county needed this position at this time. The board discussed contacting Duke Energy to see if their addressing system lines up with ours and if it would be possible to obtain updated lists to be added to our system. Commissioner Williams stated that if a renter moves the county may not have a current updated address and this has been a problem in the past.
6. Ms. Garland stated that the next discussion would be the Emergency Management Department. Ms. Garland

stated that Larry Hembree, Director of EM had requested a raise of \$2.00 per hour and further stated that the EMG funds can be used toward his salary. The board tabled this request and asks if raises were requested for the EMS Employees. Ms. Garland stated that Mr. Hembree did ask for raises based on years of service. The board tabled this request as well. The board discussed the need for a new ambulance and all agreed that the county can wait a year before purchasing another ambulance. The board gave a directive for Manager Cable to tell Mr. Hembree he will be responsible to take all third call "emergency calls" if no one responds while on duty. The board also discussed the rescue squad being able to do the transports. Commissioner Eller stated that someone would have to be over the program in order for the rescue squad to be qualified for transport. The board tabled this for further discussion.

7. Commissioner Holder asks Deputy Teasdale to speak. Deputy Teasdale stated that the impound yard had been broken into and he was unsure of the cost for the damages at this time but would like to request the county allow a camera be installed to monitor the impound yard to prevent these thefts. Clerk Crisp suggested that the impound yard be moved to the sheriff's department location. Manager Cable stated that there are land encroachments in question at the back of the office that need to be addressed before this move could occur. Deputy Teasdale also asks if the county could install flood lights as well. The board was in agreement to the camera and the flood lights and further agreed that the fencing needed to be repaired by maintenance.

8. The board also wanted the fencing straightened up at the dumpster sites or removed. Commissioner Williams stated that he has been asking for a year to have these repaired and was getting tired of asking. The board wanted this taken care of by county staff.

9. Ms. Garland stated that she needed to discuss the IT problems within the county. Ms. Garland stated that the county would be looking at replacing twenty computers each year or they can convert to a VDI System that would allow us more longevity of our systems. Manager Cable stated that the upfront cost was high but the county would see a cost savings within four years of the installation. Manager Cable stated that the county would be using thin clients instead of the computer systems that we have now. Manager Cable stated that we are constantly being threatened with viruses that would greatly impact the county's ability to run daily functions. Commissioner Williams stated that he would accept advice from administration. Commissioner Eller stated that he was in favor of progress and saving money in the long run. The board gave a directive for Manager Cable and Ms. Garland to proceed with the possible purchase of this system. Manager Cable stated that he and Ms. Garland would present the prices to the board prior to the purchase.

10. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams 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