

Budget Meeting – May 21, 2014

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Wednesday, May 21, 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 Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer to continue with the budget discussion. Ms. Garland stated that the board needed to discuss the IT Department and the need to consider a VDI Computer System versus buying stand alone computers. Ms. Garland stated that the county has to buy (20) stand alone computers each year due to the systems becoming outdated and the risk of viruses. Ms. Garland stated that the new VDI System would have its own server and the workers would be using thin clients which are more efficient in her opinion. Manager Cable stated that this system would be more secure and our IT Director could work on these computers from his office instead of being required to go to every county building to work on the equipment. Manager Cable stated that in the long run the county would receive payback from this system. The board was in agreement to the VDI System and asks Ms. Garland and Manager Cable to get the paperwork in place for the system.
3. The board had discussion on the request for a new 911 Addressee and asks if GPS units could not be installed in the vehicles. Commissioner Eller stated that Jacob Nelms was updating this system and traveling to these locations to get the proper addresses.
4. The board discussed the Election Board Budget and the request for new voting machines. The board asks if the machines could hold until the state mandates new equipment. Ms. Garland stated that the county could finance these machines and hopefully get a trade difference price for the old machines. The board wanted to hold on the new equipment at this time.
5. The board discussed the need for county vehicles and realizes that a fleet plan is vital for our county but wanted an inventory taken of the condition of our current fleet. Commissioner Eller stated that some vehicles did need to be surplus. Commissioner Williams asks that Manager Cable begin checking with the State Highway Patrol to see if any of their vehicles are available for surplus.
6. The board asks Beth Fields to speak with the Stecoah Valley Center. Ms. Fields gave the board a handout of the request from the center for \$20,000.00. Ms. Fields gave a brief description of the fund raisers and private donations that are given to the center and told of the programs that the center provides. Ms. Fields also encouraged the board members to come by and see the new playground equipment and tour the facilities. The board had given the center \$10,000.00 last year and requested that they receive the same amount this year.
7. The board was presented with a request from the Sheriff's Department for four new radios at a price of \$2498.80 and Ms. Garland stated that the money was requested through contracted services. The board discussed the FCC turning our tower volume down and this has affected our radios. The board asks why there is a need for the radios and would like to have that answer before approving the purchase.
8. The board spoke with Billy Corbin and Cathy Shuler concerning the Soil and Water Conservation budget which will not make it till the end of this fiscal year. Mr. Corbin stated that they needed \$4421.92 to make it till the end but the RC&D had given \$1355.00 which leaves a balance of \$3166.92. Manager Cable requests that going forward the budget be controlled by the finance office due to the Soil and Water Conservation managing their books which does not give the county fiscal control. Mr. Corbin and Ms. Shuler were in agreement to this request. Commissioner Orr stated that we would serve as a pass through for their funding and Ms. Garland stated that was correct. Mr. Corbin stated that the office did receive grant funding for other sources for their field work and that the funds are spent on the local farmers of the county. Commissioner Williams stated that all departments needed auditing and the Soil and Water Board needed to agree to allow the county to oversee this budget.

9. The board discussed the request from the Town of Robbinsville to collect their taxes. The board discussed the resolution that was made by the Town of Robbinsville and was concerned with the wording that the county was reluctant to enter into the collections without a contract. The board all agreed that they will not do collections for any Town without a contractual agreement. Ms. Garland stated that the Town of Robbinsville's books would not allow the county to collect any back taxes prior to the year that the county actually assumes control due to their computer system not holding readable data. The board wanted to discuss this request further. Clerk Crisp stated that the board did accept the request to collect the Town's taxes beginning in 2011 and again in 2012 but no paperwork was ever given to the county to finalize the agreement.

10. The board discussed the request by 4-H to mow the field beside Papa's Pizza for the shooting team. Clerk Crisp stated that she would need a letter from the land owner allowing for the

mowing. Commissioner Williams stated that this would need to be done with a weed eater only due to amount of rocks on this property. The board asks if we could ask Chuck Stewart, Chief Jailer if it was possible for the inmate program to take over this request. Clerk Crisp stated that she would ask Mr. Stewart.

11. The board discussed the Sanitation Budget and was concerned with the amount of money the county is losing on the recycling program. The board discussed the need to have the sites consolidated to one location instead of three and felt that this would save the expense of fuel going to the sites just for recycling materials. Commissioner Holder stated that Swain County has one site for the entire county. The board discussed the Town of Robbinsville's high cost as well to furnish curbside pick up. Commissioner Holder stated that the county has tried for one year and we are losing money and this cannot continue. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow for one site at the Sanitation Department and to reduce the number of workers to three and allow Donnie Orr, Sanitation Director to choose who he prefers to keep. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. The board also gave a directive to Manager Cable to tell Mr. Orr that the sanitation driver will no longer drive to Fontana to pick up their recyclables. The Town of Fontana Dam would be required to drive their material to the consolidated site. Commissioner Eller stated that we needed to continue as is until the new budget and to advertise the intent of the board concerning recycling so that the residents will be aware of the changes.

12. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the \$3166.92 for the Soil and Water Conservation budget. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

13. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eller 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