

Regular Meeting – June 16, 2014

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, June 16, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC for their regular monthly meeting. All board was present.

1. Chairman Edwards called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Edwards asks Commissioner Williams to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Edwards asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Edwards asks that the agenda be amended to add him as #9A. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the agenda with the requested change. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Edwards asks for approval of the minutes for the Regular and Workshop Session of May 19th; Budget Meetings – May 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd; Continued Meeting – May 27th, 30th, June 9th; Special Meeting – June 9th. Commissioner Holder made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Edwards closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing for the 2010 Contingency Grant for the Senior Center.
7. Chairman Edwards asks Joan Stillwell to speak. Ms. Stillwell stated that the county had closed out the 2010 Contingency Grant for the Senior Center and no funds were de-obligated. Ms. Stillwell stated that the county received \$600,000.00 with \$540,000.00 going to construction and architecture and \$60,000.00 to administration. Ms. Stillwell stated that we were able to use the Town of Robbinsville's low to moderate income numbers from the 2010 Census which shows 620 Senior Citizens living in the city limits with 122 of those aged 65 years or older. Ms. Stillwell stated that the county had a very nice facility and hoped that everyone enjoyed it.
8. Chairman Edwards asks for public comment. No public comment was given.
9. Chairman Edwards closed the public hearing and reopened the regular meeting.
10. Chairman Edwards asks Vice-Chairman Billy Holder to Chair so that he may address the board and the public. Commissioner Edwards stated that his announcement was not a shock to the board or the administration staff but effective today he tenders his resignation. Commissioner Edwards stated that he would not answer any questions and told the press not to ask him any. Commissioner Edwards stated that he has five months left on his four year term and the years had been great but not easy and this decision is very personal. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board's that he has worked with has been tremendous and thanked them for their efforts through the tough times. Commissioner Edwards stated that he would not be running for a second term and would be withdrawing his name from the November ballot. Commissioner Edwards stated that there are General Statutes that govern the rest of his term and it will up to the Republican Executive Board whom they decide to put on the ballot. Commissioner Edwards thanked everyone and the staff above all. Commissioner Edwards thanked Ms. Rebecca Garland for her diligence in the finance office and Manager Cable for staying the course and further stated that he had the best Clerk in the State of North Carolina who kept him out of trouble. Commissioner Edwards thanked the entire county staff for sticking through what we called a recession and asks that we stay the course. Commissioner Edwards wished everyone the best and further stated that he did the best that he could and tried to be a good citizen by being non-partisan within our functions of county government. Commissioner Edwards stated that if our nation had tried to be more non-partisan then maybe we would be in a better world today. Commissioner Edwards stated that he would come by the office to sign off on any paperwork that needed to be finalized. Commissioner Edwards thanked the board again and excused himself from the meeting.
11. The board discussed the chairmanship and Vice-Chairman Billy Holder did not want to fill this vacancy. Commissioner Orr nominated Commissioner Keith Eller to serve as Chairman through Commissioner Edwards's remaining term. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Chairman Eller asks Rebecca Garland for the finance report. Chairman Eller asks that the meeting be

recessed for fifteen minutes. All board was in favor of the recess.

13. Chairman Eller asks Rebecca Garland for the finance report. Ms. Garland stated that the county ended the month with a \$4.9 million dollar cash balance which is up \$1.2 million from last year. Ms. Garland stated that the tax collections were still coming in and the DMV collections were higher due to the new state conversion. Ms. Garland stated that our sales tax was behind a little and was hopeful that this would pick up. Ms. Garland stated that our overall budget was doing well and hoped that our surplus would stay at the level we anticipated. Ms. Garland stated that Deputy Joe Jones had found some cars for the sheriff's department and asks that he be allowed to speak. Deputy Jones stated that he found some Dodge Chargers with less than 25,000 miles fully equipped for around \$20,000.00 each. Deputy Jones stated that Trooper Brad Hoxit would

attest that the Chargers are a better vehicle for the department. Deputy Jones stated that the vehicles are in Utah and felt that the county would save money by having the cars shipped to us. Commissioner Orr asks about the warranty. Deputy Jones stated that the cars were still under warranty. Trooper Brad Hoxit spoke to the board and stated that the Chargers are the best all around vehicle for the troopers in his opinion. Trooper Brad Hoxit stated that his Charger has the least garage time of any vehicles that he has driven. The board thanked Trooper Hoxit for coming to the meeting.

14. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. No public comment was given.

15. Chairman Eller asks Alicia Parham to speak. Ms. Parham presented the board with a new proposed fee schedule which was approved and recommended by the Board of Health. Ms. Parham stated that one change was for Bacteria Water Analysis fee which will be increased from \$20.00 to \$30.00 based on the expense of processing the analysis; another request is to add Vision Screening with a rate of \$10.00 per screen based on new insurance requirements and to add a TB Screening Form completion at a rate of \$5.00 per form and a rate of \$3.00 per box of 50 True Track Test Strips. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the fee request. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

16. Ms. Parham gave a brief review of the success on the Appalachian Care Medical Mission through the Department of Defense and stated that 25,678 persons had been served with a value of \$1,744,057.02 which is incredible. Commissioner Eller asks if this service will be available again. Ms. Parham stated that she was hopeful that they would.

17. Chairman Eller asks Claudie Burchfield to speak. Ms. Burchfield stated that she had requested to be put on the agenda through Manager Cable in reference to the county policy on the grievance procedure. Manager Cable stated that Ms. Burchfield needed to know that according to Article 1 the DSS Director does not appeal to the Board of Commissioners but are subject to the Office of Administrative Hearing which is noted in Article 11. Ms. Burchfield stated that was true to a certain extent and presented the board with a six page letter in which she read to the board. In Ms. Burchfield's closing comments she requested the Board of Commissioner do what's right without having to go the extreme of lawsuits which have been done in the past and respectfully requested that they right this wrong that was done to her. Ms. Burchfield stated that this board has the authority to change things in Graham County and they needed to demand answers from the DSS Board on their poor job performance.

18. Chairman Eller asks Manager Cable to present the discussion items. Manager Cable gave the Senior Center Monthly Performance Status Report for the CDBG 10-C-2231 and 12-C-2417. Manager Cable stated that the Senior Center Grant is now closed out and no money was de-obligated. Manager Cable stated that the Scattered Site Housing Grant was on schedule with no problems to report. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the reporting. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

19. Manager Cable asks for approval on the Releases and Discoveries. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

20. Manager Cable stated that the board needed to appoint a DSS Board Member to replace Mabelle Crisp. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Dale Wiggins. Commissioner Orr asks that they table this until she could give it some thought. Chairman Eller calls for a second. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

21. Manager Cable stated that the T&T Board recommended the reappointment of Beth Fields for a one year term. Commissioner Orr made the motion to reappoint Beth Fields to the Travel and Tourism Board. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

22. Manager Cable stated that a commissioner needed to be appointed to the Smoky Mountain Center – County Commissioner Advisory Council. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Commissioner Orr to this board. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

23. Manager Cable stated that it was time to reappoint the Tax Collector and the board can determine the years of appointment. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reappoint Tajuana Ledwell for (4) years as the Tax Collector. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

24. Manager Cable stated that it was time to reappoint the Tax Assessor and the board can choose a two year term or a four year term. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reappoint Erma Phillips for (4) years

as the Tax Assessor. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

25. Manager Cable stated that he needed approval for Amendment #7 of the Personnel Policy which relates to random drug testing of safety sensitive employees only. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Amendment #7 of the Personnel Policy. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

26. Manager Cable stated that the NCACC Annual Conference would be held in Asheville this year on August 14th through August 17th and needed to know which commissioners want to attend and asks that he be allowed to attend. Commissioner Orr stated that she would attend. Chairman Eller stated that he would let the Clerk know if he could attend later. The board was in agreement to Manager Cable attending with Commissioner Orr.

27. Manager Cable stated that he had a request to have the awning at the courthouse redone and the price is \$1144.55. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve this expenditure. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

28. Manager Cable asks the board to consider paying for the Helipad at Tsali with Swain County instead of applying for the grant that is being held up. Manager Cable stated that Swain County could ask for an easement and the pad could be built much cheaper. Manager Cable stated that the price would be around \$6,000.00 for Graham County. Commissioner Williams made the motion to proceed at the lowest cost. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

29. Manager Cable stated that the Forest Service proposal was for the board's information only and pertained to a raw water transmission line to Lone Oak Cemetery and if the board had any comments we would need to submit those. The board had no comment.

30. Manager Cable asks for approval to allow G.R.E.A.T. to administer the \$180,000.00 Broadband Grant. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow G.R.E.A.T. to administer the grant. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

31. Manager Cable asks permission to change the office hours for the Tax Collector and Assessor's Office to allow for a lunch hour and to allow the office to be put on 40 hours per week versus the 37.5 hours per week they work now due to the number of overtime hours they have to accrue. Manager Cable suggested that the lunch hour be from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. the same hours as the DMV Tag Office. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow the change to the office hours beginning July 1, 2014. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

32. Manager Cable asks the board's pleasure on the cars for the sheriff's department. Commissioner Williams made the motion to have Commissioner Eller and Deputy Joseph Jones work with Manager Cable on establishing the need of the vehicles and pursue the four cars that Deputy Jones has found in Utah with the understanding that the vehicles are to be financed after the new budget begins. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

33. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6) for personnel. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

34. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

35. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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

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Billy Holder, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board