

Special Meeting – June 23, 2014

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, June 23, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC for a special meeting and public hearing. All board was present.

1. Chairman Eller called the meeting to order
2. Manager Cable asks to amend the agenda to include the approval of the Workshop and Regular Minutes of June 16, 2014 so that the CDBG Senior Center Grant could be finalized and further stated that the amendment would be 2A. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda with the amendment. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Commissioner Williams made the motion to accept the nomination from the Republican Executive Committee for Lynn Cody to fill the vacant seat of Robert M. Edwards's remaining term on the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Chairman Eller gave the oath of office to Lynn Cody and the board welcomed him.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval to close the special meeting and open the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Presentation. Commissioner Orr made the motion as stated. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer to speak. Ms. Garland stated that she has five budget amendments for approval to close out the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget and those are:
 - A. Budget Amendment #16 – To record year end budget amendments for additional revenues and expenditures.
 - B. Budget Amendment #17 – To amend to record final transfer from school building fund bank account for bond payments as part of the general fund activity.
 - C. Budget Amendment #18 – To amend to increase for estimated expenditures for revaluation.
 - D. Budget Amendment #19 – To amend to spend down fund balance of 911 funds to maintain 2014-2015 funding levels.
 - E. Budget Amendment #20 – To amend to transfer additional expenditures as appropriated from the general fund to the Senior Center Capital Project.
7. Ms. Garland stated that in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 159-11, the Graham County Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget was submitted to the Board of Commissioners on June 9th and was laid out for ten days for public inspection. Ms. Garland stated that the budget was balanced in accordance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act with the total revenue and expenditures for \$14,168,166.00. Ms. Garland gave a summary of the budget with appropriations at the department level which also shows sources of revenues to fund the expenditures and does meet the requirements of the Fiscal Control Act. Ms. Garland stated that the Ad Valorem Tax Rate of \$.46 per \$100.00 at full valuation was the same tax rate as last fiscal year budget so there is no increase in the mil rate. Ms. Garland stated that the revenue neutral rate is \$.405 per \$100.00 at full valuation of the last revaluation and the full \$.46 per \$100.00 tax rate will be used to fund general fund appropriations.
8. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. Manger Cable stated that Lisa Russo had signed in for public comment. Ms. Russo stated that her questions were mainly to Manager Cable and those are:
 - A. Didn't the county shut down the #3 manned recycling centers due to budget constraints and the amount we spent on recycling instead of what you stated in the paper, that it "will allow for more access to the community to bring their recyclables to a location...." that might be better asked, Can you explain?
 - B. Will the board ever consider the recommendation the sanitation / recycling advisory board continuously suggested, which is to consolidate the (9) convenience centers into a much more reduced number? This was to avoid the monthly fee on one of them and to avoid the extra costs associated with the excessive mess and illegal dumping that occurs at several of the dump sites. (Understandably does not save as much money as cutting out the #3 salaries.)

C. What will happen to the equipment purchased by the recycling grants? What will you do with the cameras already purchased and can they be used to monitor some of these other "problem" sites?

D. Why was the Chair of the County's recycling / advisory board not notified of this decision? (I knew back about a month ago when I went to get rid of my recyclables and spoke with Donnie) What was the State's response to his complaints?

E. What will happen with Lake Santeetlah and Fontana's recyclables?

F. What effect do you think this will have on the county's recycling efforts? Do you feel like you gave it enough time or is it that the budget is just too close to risk it?

Commissioner Williams stated that the county tried to keep the recycling program going but we had a loss of \$53,000.00 and this is not sensible to the taxpayers. Manager Cable stated that we will continue to operate the recycling program at the main site which will require fewer personnel and give the program a better chance to achieve its goals. Manager Cable stated that the county had collected 122 tons of recyclables for the year and he had spoken with the state officials who have offered their support and help. Ms. Russo stated that she was not against the move but felt that there should have been a better explanation given prior to the program ending.

1. Chairman Eller asks for further comment. Mr. Steve Odom thanked the board for keeping the dumpster sites clean especially on weekends and further asks that the board continue with Corridor K. Mr. Odom stated that our county needed this road and further stated that this is the first question that new business asks for: accessibility to roads, natural gas, etc. and these are vital components to attract new business to our county.

2. Chairman Eller asks for further comment. No further comment was given. Commissioner Orr made the motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

3. Chairman Eller stated that he needed approval for the poll on the VDI Financing. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

4. Chairman Eller asks Erma Phillips, Tax Assessor to speak. Ms. Phillips presented the board the schedule of values and stated that the values did go down. Ms. Phillips asks Ron McCarthy to speak on the businesses. Mr. McCarthy stated that the businesses stayed neutral and the values very seldom change. Ms. Phillips asks for any questions. No questions were asked. Ms. Phillips gave the board a list of upcoming meeting dates concerning the schedule of values. Ms. Phillips stated that a public hearing would be held at the July 21st regular meeting; consideration for adoption on August 18th; submission to the Property Tax Commission by September 15th. The board thanked Ms. Phillips and Mr. McCarthy for the completion of the revaluation.

5. Chairman Eller asks for the nomination of a DSS Board Member. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Dale Wiggins to the DSS Board. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

6. Chairman Eller asks for the nomination of a Trustee for Tri-County Community College. Manager Cable stated that the nomination is a four year term. Manager Cable stated that two names had been submitted to the county for consideration and those are: Linda Ditmore and Andy Cable. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reappoint Linda Ditmore. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Chairman Eller calls for a vote. Commissioners Eller, Cody, Orr and Williams voted yes. Commissioner Holder voted no. Motion carried four to one.

7. Manager Cable stated that the Soil and Water Conservation Board was here to discuss looking into Graham County handling the finances of the Soil and Water Office. Manager Cable asks Allen Dehart to speak. Mr. Dehart gave a brief review of the benefits from the Soil and Water Conservation Program and stated that this program was implemented 60 years ago. Mr. Dehart stated that their office has held a dark shadow due to a long time court case but was open for discussion on the county taking over our finances. Member Jimmy Orr stated that the office brought in a lot of money to the county. Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer recommended that a separate checkbook be maintained to give the assurance that no monies went into the general fund. Ms. Garland stated that the board and Billy Corbin would know exactly where every dollar is spent in the budget. Mr. Dehart asks about a time frame. Ms. Garland stated that she could begin July 1st when she gets the checking account opened. Commissioner Cody asks if a resolution needed to be typed to transfer the funds into the county control. The board all agreed to meet with the finance officer at their regular meeting date on the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. Manager Cable stated that Clerk Kim Crisp could assist with the resolution.

8. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

9. Manager Cable stated that Deputy Joe Jones had found four vehicles in Kansas for the Sheriff's Department

but has learned that the Sheriff is requesting six vehicles at this time. Ms. Garland stated that she could obtain financing at the United Community Bank at 1.99% interest. The board wanted four vehicles purchased and the sheriff's department could shop for a four wheel drive. Commissioner Orr made the motion to finance four cars with United Community Bank at 1.99% interest. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

10. Commissioner Williams gave a directive to allow Joe Jones to look for two four wheel drives. Commissioner Cody asks that the county compare the cost of going after the vehicles or would it be best to have them shipped. Manager Cable stated that he would compare the costs.

11. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow our finance officer to take control of the finances and open a separate bank account for Soil and Water Conservation once the resolution is written and accepted by the Soil and Water Conservation Board. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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

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

14. Commissioner Orr made the motion to hire Julia Grant as the full-time cook and Juanita Jordan as the part-time cook for the Senior Center. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

15. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow Debbie Waldroup to use her sick leave reserve after all other leave is exhausted. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

16. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept the NCFS Contract for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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

Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Billy Holder, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Lynn Cody, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board