

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, October 20, 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 commissioners were present.

1. Chairman Eller called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Eller asks Commissioner Cody to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Eller asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for the approval of the Regular and Workshop Meeting Minutes of September 15<sup>th</sup> and the Continued Meeting Minutes of September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Holder made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks Jacky Ayers, Town Alderman for the Town of Robbinsville to speak. Alderman Ayers stated that he was not here on official business but to discuss the upcoming planned events the Town is planning and the possible partnering with the county on some help with the funding. Alderman Ayers stated that the Town has been hosting several events such as the fishing derby, the outdoor sportsman day and will be doing a Halloween Event at the High School. Alderman Ayers stated that he did not like to wait till the last minute to ask for funding and wanted to give an explanation to the requests. Alderman Ayers stated that the estimated income from the 2013 Heritage Festival was \$200,000.00 and the attendance was over 3000 people and the 2014 Heritage Festival was \$350,000.00 and the attendance was over 5000 people. The Town was requesting help from the county for \$10,000.00 to help with the fireworks. Alderman Ayers stated that the festival is bringing in revenue to our county and boosting our Travel and Tourism each year. Chairman Keith Eller stated that some of our local families relied on this festival for their vacations each year and felt that this should continue for our community. Alderman Ayers stated that the other events they would like to partner with the county on are the Music on the Square and the Christmas Parade with a combined total of \$15,000.00. Alderman Ayers stated that the Town fronts the majority of the costs but needs a little help this year. Alderman Ayers stated that the Travel and Tourism Board gave to the Heritage Festival and they were very appreciative but needed the extra support. Alderman Ayers also stated that any volunteers would be greatly appreciated. The board thanked the Town for their commitments and would consider the requests.
7. Chairman Eller asks Joan Stillwell to speak. Ms. Stillwell stated that she was here to discuss the USDA and Scattered Site Housing Selections and asks the County Board and the Town Board if they had reviewed the list that she had put together. The board's had reviewed the lists and chose the following applicants:
  - a. 5479 Snowbird Road would receive a roof repair and a well which would eliminate the Scattered Site Housing Funds of \$5,000.00;
  - b. 157 John Drive would receive a well with USDA funds;
  - c. 1636 East Buffalo Circle would receive a well with USDA funds;
  - d. 883 Ryefield Road would receive a well with USDA funds if the home site still qualified.Commissioner Orr asks questions about the applications that go to USDA. Ms. Stillwell stated that 504 and 502 applications go directly to Jody Lovelace or to Betty Thompson. Ms. Stillwell stated that these applications are USDA House Replacement Loans and not grants.
8. Chairman Eller asks for the finance report. Ms. Rebecca Garland stated that the county closed the month of September with the highest balance since she came in 2009 at \$6,043,175.72 which is a big difference from the 2011 balance of \$2,523,309.33. Ms. Garland stated that the finance is now paying bills on a daily basis thanks to the added staff and she is very thankful to the board for this decision. Ms. Garland stated that the tax collections were staying healthy and our year to date was \$2.3 million for real property and our DMV is \$109,000.00. Ms. Garland stated that the tax office is still working very hard on the back tax collections and we are up to \$240,000.00 on those collections. Ms. Garland stated that our revenues for the month of September were \$1.084 million and our expenditures were \$953 thousand which left us with a surplus and she was very pleased with that figure. Ms. Garland stated that she was pleased with the overall budget and all departments were doing well at this point. Ms. Garland stated that our sales tax had rebounded and this is always good news considering the shutdown of Stanley Furniture.
9. Ms. Garland stated that she had three budget amendments. Budget Amendment #4 – amend to recognize the refinancing of the 2004 School Bond as approved in August 2014 by Board of Commissioners for \$2,323,000.00; Budget Amendment #5 – amend to recognize special purpose equipment grant from TVA for 10,925.00; Budget Amendment #6 – amend to recognize state share of soil and water office expense for \$19,434.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the budget amendments as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

10. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. No public comment was given.
11. Chairman Eller asks Manager Cable to precede with the discussion items. Manager Cable gave the CDBG Status Report for the Third Quarter of July to September for the 12-C-2416 Grant. Manager Cable stated that everything was going smoothly and the funds were winding down to final expenditure. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the reporting. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Manager Cable gave the board an update on the Stanley Furniture Employee sign-ups. Manager Cable stated that he had reached out to Pam Dickey and Roy Spellman at the Division of Workforce Solutions and they had contacted the employees who had trouble with their unemployment and everyone had been taken care of. Manager Cable stated that if the board learns of anyone who is still having problems please get their names and phone numbers and he will get someone in touch with them.
13. Manager Cable asks for approval on the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Manager Cable stated that he had a request that our board approve a resolution to recognize the week of October 26<sup>th</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup> as Childhood Cancer Awareness Week in Graham County. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Manager Cable stated that he would like to attend the NCACC January Conference and asks if the Board would like him to book the extra rooms now since the conference is to be held in Pinehurst. The board recommended that we book three rooms.
16. Manager Cable needed to get approval for Misty Hembree, 911 Director to travel to Raleigh for a PSAP Manager's Meeting November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow for the travel. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Manager Cable stated that he had an item of new business. Manager Cable stated that the county had received a \$25,000.00 NCDENR Recycling Grant and he had been talking with Donnie Orr our Sanitation Director and with Rob Taylor at NCDENR and we feel that we could better utilize this money by using a small portion of the money in advertising our recycling and giving the giving the rest of the money to the Town of Fontana Dam so that they can purchase a vehicle to haul their own recyclables to our facility instead of our staff being responsible in picking their materials up. These funds are restricted to recycling purposes only and the Town of Fontana Dam has funds they can use to buy a trailer to haul their materials in they just didn't have a vehicle to bring them to us. Commissioner Orr made the motion to give the money to the Town of Fontana Dam for this purpose. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Manager Cable stated that the second item of new business was the community building needed some repairs both on the inside of the community room and the roof of the building. The building had been put on hold for several years due to the cost of repair but was now becoming a danger. Manager Cable stated that the community room would need to remain open for the election but may need to close after that date which would mean moving the commissioners meeting and the organizational meeting to a different meeting place and Clerk Crisp would make sure this would be legal. Commissioner Williams made the motion to have the necessary repairs made to the building including a roof. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Commissioner Williams asks that while we are getting prices for the repairs we check about installing a small kitchen off to the side of the community center room or at least a place to keep food warm for events that are held in this building. The board gave a directive to get prices for a small kitchen.
20. Manager Cable asks permission to allow EDC Director Andy Cable to stay for closed session to discuss one item in closed session. The board allowed this request.
21. Commissioner Williams stated that he did have a couple more items for new business and this is to petition the NC Wildlife Commission with an ordinance to put Graham County's name in their books about people removing tracking collars from dogs in this county. This needs to be against the law in this county and we need to petition the Wildlife Commission to make this happen. The board was in full agreement to this request.
22. Commissioner Williams stated that he wanted to know if we have an agreement with the Tribal Police. Commissioner Williams wants to make sure that our boys are safe when they go on Tribal lands and he wanted to see this in writing.
23. Commissioner Williams also stated that he wanted a letter written to the magistrate in Bryson City thanking him for taking a stand in his beliefs. Commissioner Williams stated that he respected him for that.
24. Commissioner Orr 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 Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go into open session. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

26. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the poll from Item #1 for the Economic Development Package with NC Commerce. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Commissioner Orr made the motion to enter into an Indemnity Agreement with Stanley Furniture and to proceed with the Gift Deed. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow Manager Cable and EDC Director Andy Cable to travel to Raleigh to meet with Mr. Safran. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow for the travel. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Commissioner Orr made the motion to purchase Office 365 for \$21,600.00 per year and if we need extra users it will be \$18.00 per user. Ms. Garland stated that the county would not be required to purchase blocks but would pay per user as needed. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Billy Holder, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Lynn Cody, 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