

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 5: 30 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC 28771. All commissioners was present.

1. Chairman Eller called the meeting to order.
 2. Chairman Eller asks Commissioner Williams 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 Cody made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the October 6th Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 6. Chairman Eller asks Andy Cable, EDC Director to speak. Andy Cable gave the board a handout which stated that the EDC Board was in favor of creating a Revolving Loan Fund. Mr. Cable stated that the loan fund would be funded by money from Golden Leaf that are currently in the county's possession and will be used to move the needle forward for economic growth in Graham County. Mr. Cable stated that the EDC Board is requesting that the commissioners set aside and request from Golden Leaf \$250,000.00 dollars to be used as a revolving loan fund. This fund will be used to help small businesses in Graham County. Mr. Cable stated he would also request the use of \$15,000.00 to hire a consultant to help create the revolving loan fund and a non-profit will manage the funds for the EDC. Mr. Cable stated that the total amount requested would be \$265,000.00. Mr. Cable also discussed other ways to utilize the money which included a Community Based Grants Making Initiative and a Workforce Education Center. Mr. Cable stated that the board needed to prioritize the projects with Health Care being first; then the Revolving Loan Fund and the third is the Workforce Education program through the school. Commissioner Nelms stated that he was under the impression that the money was dedicated fully to a health care facility. Mr. Cable stated that he has spoken with members of Golden Leaf and they stated that the funds are to be used at the discretion of the commissioner board. Chairman Eller stated that he needed more information on the revolving loan fund and asks that this issue is tabled until the board received further information. Andy Cable stated that the window of opportunity for the \$1.5 million dollars has passed on the Golden LEAF Funds for this cycle but he did get his project submitted prior to the deadline. Commissioner Orr stated that we would have to get a non-profit to do the loan process on the revolving loan fund. Commissioner Nelms asks if this will increase the finance office load. Rebecca Garland stated that this would require its own audit and internal controls would need to be put in place. Andy Cable stated that someone was recommended by Mark Sorrels and further stated that he has been very successful with this type of loan and he would do a good job for us. Chairman Eller asks about collateral. Andy Cable stated that yes collateral would be held and further stated that these type loans are meant to fit the clients that the banks could not help. Commissioner Nelms stated that the priorities have already been established and Golden LEAF needed a letter from us ranking those priorities. Andy Cable stated that the county did need to prioritize the projects and asks that they are 1) Healthcare; 2) Economic Development and 3) Workforce Education. Andy Cable stated that the ultimate decision is left up to Golden LEAF. Chairman Eller stated that he needed more discussion.
 7. Chairman Eller asks for the finance report. Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer stated that we ended the month of September with a cash balance of \$5,041,882.39 and she was very pleased to see that number. Ms. Garland stated that the tax collections are coming along but we are still awaiting Brookfield's payment and once we receive this our tax collection rate will increase. Ms. Garland stated that the county has a surplus on our sales tax collections by \$18,000.00. Ms. Garland stated that our budget is running well and all departments are within budget. Ms. Garland stated that she did have budget amendments for the board's approval. Those amendments are:
 - a. Budget Amendment #4: Amend budget where board elected to purchase KIP outright instead of financing as originally budgeted since the KIP will last longer than a financing term for \$10,745.00.
 - b. Budget Amendment #5: Amend to recognize grant pass through from Duke Energy to Oak Valley Hardwoods for \$40,000.00.
 - c. Budget Amendment #6: Amend to recognize additional revenues per State for 2015-2016 budget for \$1,999.00.
 - d. Budget Amendment #7: Amend to recognize surplus sales proceeds of vehicles and additions to unrestricted fund balance and restricted fund balance for transit and impound for \$10,225.00.
- Ms. Garland stated that she had two Capital Projects Ordinance which include:

- e. Proceeds from the PARTIF Grant and the Engineering and Construction totaling \$3,401,528.00.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the budget amendments and the capital project ordinance as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

8. Ms. Garland stated that she has an update from the Town of Robbinsville's proposed pavilion in which they asked our financial assistance. Ms. Garland stated that she did have the funds available to support the Town with \$100,000.00. Ms. Garland stated that the proceeds came from the Surplus Auction for our County Vehicles in the amount of \$8,375.00; our Workers Comp Audit Surplus of \$40,000.00; our Sales Tax Refund of \$49,239.00 with a balance of around \$1,900.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to give the Town \$100,000.00. Commissioner Nelms asks that we approve pending board approval of adequate plans of the building. Commissioner Orr amended her motion to include prior approval of the building plan. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Ms. Garland stated that the audit was completed and will be submitted to the LGC this week. Ms. Garland stated that we will have a modified report at DSS and she has spoken with the DSS Board and with Carolyn Blevins help they are writing a plan of correction. Ms. Garland stated that her hopes were that DSS was now on a correct path and moving forward.
10. Ms. Garland stated that Jason Sawyer had requested that he be allowed to use a couple of the lifeguards to help with the Cracker Bowl. Ms. Garland stated that he did have the money in the budget. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow the extra help. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Chairman Eller asks Juanita Colvard to speak. Ms. Colvard stated that Ann Braswell will be coming to the county on the 9th and 10th of November to work on the RFQ for Urgent Care. Ms. Colvard stated that the money Andy Cable had referred to earlier in the meeting is the money that is needed for Urgent Care and asks that the County set aside this money for Urgent Care specifically.
12. Chairman Eller asks Earl Sellers to speak. Mr. Sellers stated that he did not come to this meeting to get anyone in trouble or fired but a week ago his neighbor was contacted by the tax office that their property was being foreclosed on due to my not paying my taxes. Mr. Sellers stated that the deed covered 53 acres at one time but the property had been divided and my brothers in law now believe that I am trying to take their property. Mr. Sellers stated that his deceased wife was their sister and he wants an apology given to the brothers and notification sent to them for this misunderstanding. Mr. Sellers thanked the board for their time.
13. Chairman Eller asks Alicia Parham to speak. Ms. Parham stated that her and her staff will be doing a full scale exercise on Bio-Terrorism on Monday, October 26, 2015 and the Health Department would be closed until 1:00 p.m. on this day. Ms. Parham stated that this is a mandated exercise and they have been working on this project for six months. Ms. Parham stated that DSS, US Forest Service, Graham County Schools, Appalachian Community Services and the Sheriff's department will be assisting on this day as well. Ms. Parham discussed the exercise which is on a possible ANTHRAX outbreak. Ms. Parham stated that they will do a full-scale exercise of what would take place in the event this truly happened in our county. Ms. Parham invited the board members to assist in the exercise.
14. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. Clerk Crisp stated that two people had signed in for public comment. Chairman Eller asks Tajuana Ledwell to speak. Ms. Ledwell stated that she is the county's tax collector and she was told to do foreclosures on bills that are unpaid. Ms. Ledwell stated that she did not send notices to anyone concerning the Sellers property but she did call Annette Carver to try and get the correct division of property. Ms. Ledwell stated that she goes back 30 years to generate the tax base then she notifies the land owner and this is done by certified mail only and these homeowners did not receive any type of notification this was only an inquiry only. Ms. Ledwell stated that the taxes are delinquent after January 6th of every year and for those who do not pay their taxes she will go after their taxes by foreclosure if this is the last resort. Ms. Ledwell stated that she was directed by the board of commissioner to work aggressively on collection of all taxes and she was only doing her job and extends a welcome to the board and to the public to review her records at any time.
15. Chairman Eller asks Jack Gross to speak. Mr. Gross stated that he was here on the Town of Santeetlah and the fees that they collected which should be the county's and not the Town's and he had contacted the State to get their opinion and they said it was all right and they didn't want to get involved. The Town collects five times what the county does and he felt a new contract needed to be written with the Town so all the money would go to the county and not the Town.
16. Chairman Eller asks for the discussion items. Clerk Crisp stated that she needed approval for the Releases in the amount of \$5884.55. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

17. Clerk Crisp stated that she needed a motion to authorize the Collector to direct executions to the Sheriff of Graham County. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve this authorization. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Clerk Crisp stated that Jeannie Stewart was no longer eligible to sit on the Travel and Tourism Board and the board would like to appoint Greg Corvelle. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Greg Corvelle to the Travel and Tourism Board. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Clerk Crisp stated that Marshall McClung was up for reappointment on the library board but he did not want to serve any longer. The Board discussed tabling this for the time being. Commissioner Lynn Cody made the motion to appoint Commissioner Williams to this seat. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
20. Clerk Crisp stated that the roofing job at the library had been bid on and asks Chairman Eller if he would open the bids. Chairman Eller stated that Betterbuilt's bid was \$123,654.83 for metal roofing and \$64,101.44 for shingled roofing. Chairman Eller stated that Custom Moulding's bid was \$102,390.00 for metal roofing and \$64,670.00 for shingled roofing. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go with the lowest price for the shingled roof. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Clerk Crisp stated that the asbestos had been removed and taken to a proper facility and the county did have confirmation.
22. Clerk Crisp reminded the board of a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Helipad at Tsali on Friday, October 30, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.
23. Clerk Crisp stated that Rick Parham had started on the roofing job at the P&J Ballfields and had asked for the log in the tree that had to be removed. The board was in agreement to this request. Clerk Crisp stated that any remaining logs would be picked up by the Inmate Work Program.
24. Clerk Crisp stated that she did not have any new or old business. Commissioner Williams stated that he had been approached by JJ Odom about the possible purchase of his bucket truck and the price is \$15,000.00. The board tabled this discussion.
25. Chairman Eller stated that the board would now go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (6) for privileged or confidential information and personnel. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow Becky Garland and Taylor Carringer to handle the computer situation to the best of their ability with a possible cost of \$26,000.00. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow Larry Hembree, EMS Director to start the bid process for a possible remount or a new ambulance with the specifications being approved by Chairman Keith Eller. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go with G&K Services for a one year contract. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. The board gave Clerk Crisp and Rebecca Garland a directive to write a letter to Dan Gerlach stating the board's intentions of the Golden LEAF monies. The board wanted the priority to be health care.
31. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Jacob Nelms, 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