

Regular Meeting – June 9, 2016

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 5:50 p.m. in the Graham County Community Center located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular monthly meeting. All board was present.

1. Chairman Nelms called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Nelms asks Commissioner Williams to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Nelms asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the agenda. Manager Edwards stated that we needed to amend the agenda to add Juanita Colvard to closed session under personnel. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the agenda with the amendment. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the minutes for Workshop and Regular Meeting – May 17th; Budget Meeting – May 24th and Budget Meeting – June 3rd. Commissioner Eller had a question about item #10 in the Budget Meeting of June 3rd concerning the seasonal workers and stated that the intent of the board would include the workers at sanitation as well. The board all agreed that everyone in Grade 50 would receive the minimum pay for that grade. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Nelms asks for the finance report. Ms. Garland stated that she would not be giving a regular finance report but would be presenting the 2016/2017 Budget to the Board for review. Ms. Garland presented a General Fund Budget of \$15,169,056.00 which is a \$50,000.000 reduction from the 2015/2016 budget year. This budget will be sitting for ten days, pending the public hearing. The board will have its public hearing on June 28, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. and plans to adopt the budget that evening.

Our tax base is not growing significantly and we need to maintain a budget that remains roughly the same at the current tax rate of 58.5 cents. Just as a household has to adjust its spending, so does the County. For that reason, the tax rate is staying level at 58.5 cents on the mil. This tax rate maintains our operation programs and will help us to accomplish our goals for maintaining a steady workforce and complete a fleet plan and a capital improvement plan.

Budget allows for a 3% Cost of living adjustment based on the current pay rate per hour and completion of Phase II of the pay raise started this fiscal year based on longevity with the County. This will bring our pay rates closer to our proposed pay plan, which is based on 85% of the 2014 State pay plan wage, which we hope will be approved sometime in the next fiscal year.

The budget includes a 13.9% increase in Employee Health costs, which represents about \$1,250.00 in insurance costs borne by the County. The County was able to maintain the same health plan without any reductions in benefits to the employee.

The County received a 38% decrease in retirement costs for all departments except DSS and Health Departments.

Ms. Garland stated that she was pleased to present the budget to the board and citizens of the County. Ms. Garland asks for any questions. No questions was asked.

7. Ms. Garland stated that JCPC had received an additional \$757.00 with no match from the county and needed the board chairman's signature to accept. The board was in agreement to accepting the additional revenue.
8. Ms. Garland stated that she has an invoice from Pageant and Freeman for the 911 Center for \$8800.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to pay the invoice to Pageant and Freeman. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Ms. Garland stated that we needed to renew our network licenses which are Barracuda for \$2194.00 and Citrix for \$4908.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve payment of the network licenses. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

10. Ms. Garland stated that the Health Department needed to purchase supplies with their remaining grant monies in the amount of \$1239.00. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Chairman Nelms asks for public comment. No public comment was given.
12. Chairman Nelms asks Manager Edwards to go into the discussion items. Manager Edwards stated that he needed approval of the Releases in the amount of \$1099.36 and the Discoveries in the amount of \$3762.44. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
13. Manager Edwards stated that the board needed to reappoint Bobbie Carpenter to the Region A Advisory Council. Commissioner Orr made the motion to reappoint Bobbie Carpenter. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Manager Edwards stated that two alternates needed to be appointed to the Region A Advisory Council as well. Commissioner Eller made the motion to appoint Connie Orr and Mike Edwards. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Manager Edwards asks the chairman to open the bids for the 2005 Dutchmen Lite Camper. Chairman Nelms stated that bids are:
 - a. JR Rodgers - \$3,486.66
 - b. Tim Creasman - \$3,750.00
 - c. Alisa Eller - \$4,111.00
 - d. William Self - \$3,626.00Commissioner Williams made the motion to award the camper to the highest bidder, Alisa Eller. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Manager Edwards stated that a NCDOT meeting would be held in our region in the upcoming months for discussion on Corridor K.
17. Manager Edwards stated that House Bill 2 Resolution was tabled and he needed to know the board's intent with this resolution. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept the resolution which pertains to restrooms. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Doug Cable, a member in the audience, voiced his concerns. Vote unanimous.
18. Manager Edwards stated that he needed approval for the Resolution requesting a referendum to increase sales and use tax by $\frac{1}{4}\%$. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Manager Edwards asks that the board review the quotes on the vehicle to be purchased for the health department. Those quotes were: Nissan Pathfinder - \$25,839.55; Taylor Ford Explorer - \$27,200.00; Mountain Ford Explorer - \$28,600.00 and Jones Ford for \$28,955.10. Commissioner Eller made the motion to purchase the Nissan Pathfinder with the condition that the 2002 Ford Explorer and the 2000 Taurus be surplus for sale. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote was called. Commissioners Nelms, Eller, Cody and Orr voted yes. Commissioner Williams voted no. Motion carried four to one.
20. Manager Edwards stated that he had received a request from TVA to renew the annual membership to Association of TVA for \$400.00 and wanted to know the board's pleasure. Commissioner Orr made the motion to maintain this membership. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote was called. Commissioners Orr, Eller and Nelms voted yes. Commissioner Cody and Williams voted no. Motion carried three to two.
21. Manager Edwards asks that the board read the letter to Tri-County thanking them for the parking lot at the pool. The board was in agreement to the letter being sent to Ms. Donna Tipton-Rogers.
22. Manager Edwards asks that the board reschedule the June 21st meeting due to his and Chairman Nelms absence. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reschedule the meeting to June 28th. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Manager Edwards stated that he had put a letter in their packets from Congressman Mark Meadows disapproving of the decision from TVA concerning the boat houses on Lake Fontana.
24. Clerk Crisp stated that she was out of lines on the Verizon Cellphones and needed permission to extend the number of lines to 60. Clerk Crisp stated that 10 of our lines are dedicated to the hotspots which the deputies have in their cars. Commissioner Orr made the motion to extend the number of lines to 60. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Clerk Crisp stated that this is the month for Paint the Town Purple and stated that bows are being sold for \$10.00 each if anyone would like to purchase one.
26. Chairman Nelms stated that we would now go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (5) (6) for privileged or confidential information, personnel and contracts and ask for a motion

- to do so. Commissioner Eller made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 28. Commissioner Orr made the motion to recuse Commissioner Jacob Nelms. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 29. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6) for personnel. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 30. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams second this motion. Vote unanimous.
 31. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow Juanita Colvard to hire a mobility manager that will work in our county and Swain County. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 32. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow Juanita Colvard to hire Danny and Sal Key for the HUB. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 33. Commissioner Orr made the motion to pass the Resolution to back finance the purchase of the P&J Building and the renovations and the plan is to finance \$2.5 million dollars. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 34. Commissioner Williams made the motion to dissolve the Health Board. Commissioner Eller asks that the board have discussion on this issue concerning House Bill 438 and seconded this motion. Commissioner Orr made the motion to postpone the motion on House Bill 438 for further research to be determined within 100 days. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 35. Commissioner Cody made the motion to hire a Project Coordinator after July 1st to oversee all the projects that the county has coming up in the future. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 36. Chairman Nelms stated that he had received complaints of certain spray booths in the county not having the mandated filter systems. The board discussed the county's legal requirements concerning this issue. The board wanted Attorney Coward notified to see what the liability is to the county after we have received knowledge of the complaint.
 37. Manager Edwards asks for clarification if the board wanted the Project Coordinator position advertised. The board agreed to hold this until after July 1, 2016.
 38. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Jacob Nelms, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Keith Eller, 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