

Regular Meeting – December 20, 2016

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 5:30 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 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. Clerk Crisp stated that we needed to add Attorney Coward, Tajuana Ledwell and Erma Phillips to closed session under Item #9. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the agenda with the change. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the Organizational Meeting – December 5th and the Regular Meeting – December 6th. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks for the finance report. Rebecca Garland stated that we ended the month of November with a cash balance of \$6,434,088.13 which is \$891,742.61 higher than this time last year. Ms. Garland stated that the taxes collected for the month was \$772,516.16 for real property and \$16,999.32 for prior years for a total of \$789,507.48. Ms. Garland stated that our DMV collection is \$33,223.40 which is a little ahead from this time last year. Ms. Garland stated that our largest tax payer paid \$1.2 million this week and this will reflect in the December reporting. Ms. Garland stated that our tax collection is at 39.67% which is a little ahead from this time last year. Commissioner Williams asks if we have seen a difference since the state began collecting the DMV taxes. Ms. Garland stated that we struggled to collect the tax with the old system and with the new collection system we have tracked ahead. Ms. Garland stated that our revenues for the month of November were \$1,471,153.03 and the expenditures was \$1,219,445.81 giving us a surplus of \$251,707.22. Ms. Garland stated that our total surplus to December is \$539,098.00 which is a little behind from this time last year but we purchased two new vans for Transit and are awaiting the funds from the state for these costs. Ms. Garland stated that our sales tax is \$146,777.75 and she is very pleased. Ms. Garland stated that the 524 Expansion that was passed by legislature will benefit us and the schools which is always good news. Ms. Garland stated that we are well within budget at 63% and the departments that are running hot have an explanation of the payouts. Ms. Garland stated that she did some budget amendments for the board's approval.
7. Budget Amendment #2 to amend to recognize van delivery from NCDOT Capital Grants, the vans should have been delivered in the 2015/2016 budget however, the State delayed the delivery and extended the grants to the 2016/2017 budget. The amount of the budget amendment is \$171,000.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #2. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Budget Amendment #3 to recognize increase in gate fees over budgeted estimates and contracted services due to change in methods of accounting for gate receipts and referee fees and the amount of this budget amendment is \$3,500.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #3. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Budget Amendment #4 to amend to recognize the insurance reimbursement for the flood at Building Inspection Office and wrecked Sheriff vehicle and the amount of this amendment is a net increase of \$15,633.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #4. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. Budget Amendment #5 to amend to recognize contracted services for new a website for Economic Development and County and this amendment is \$10,600.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #5. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Ms. Garland stated that Sharon Edmundson from the Local Government Commission stated that the county needed to track our revenues and they are at 39% due to the purchase of the vans but this number will increase next month with the incoming payment for the vans from the State.

12. Ms. Garland stated that our service renewal is due for Smart Fusion and the board will notice an increase due to ACA Accounting Software which we need to upload and track the information for the ACA Reporting. Ms. Garland stated that the total amount is \$5,266.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to renew Smart Fusion with the ACA Module. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
13. Ms. Garland stated that she needed the board to hold a workshop session to discuss the financing of the P&J building with Davenport LLC. Ms. Garland stated that a member from Davenport would like to discuss the financing with the board and this would take up to (2) hours. The board discussed the date and decided that Wednesday, January 4th at 1:00 p.m. would work. Commissioner Wiggins stated that the board could continue the regular meeting of Tuesday, January 3rd and the board was agreeable to this suggestion.
14. Clerk Crisp stated that no one had signed in for public comment.
15. Chairman Eller stated that we would now go into the discussion items. Clerk Crisp stated that we have Releases in the amount of \$43.09. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Clerk Crisp stated that we needed to replace outgoing Commissioner Lynn Cody on the SW Region A Aging Advisory Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Commissioner Wiggins to this seat. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Clerk Crisp stated that we needed to replace Rhonda Anderson, Randy Collins and Paul Worley from the EDC Board due to their terms being fulfilled. The board will have discussion with members of the public for replacements.
18. Clerk Crisp stated that we needed to reappoint Commissioner Connie Orr to the EDC Board. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to reappoint Commissioner Orr to the EDC Board. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. The board tabled the discussion on the Meadow Branch Fire Department Fiber costs.
20. Clerk Crisp stated that she and Commissioners Eller and Orr had met with Steve Heatherly and Lucretia Stargil with Swain County Hospital and asks Commissioner Orr if she would give a brief update. Commissioner Orr stated that contrary to the rumors that are going around the ER will not be closing. Commissioner Orr stated that there will be staff changes between the hours of midnight and 8:00 a.m. but the ER will be staffed and opened for care and stabilization. Commissioner Orr also stated that a Heart Cath Center is going to be opened at the Sylva Hospital and this is very good news for our residents that have to travel so far for services. Chairman Eller stated that our EMS Director Larry Hembree will be meeting with Mr. Heatherly within the next week to discuss the proposed changes to the ER. The board was glad to learn that the ER would remain open.
21. Clerk Crisp stated that the board needed to review the 911 Call Center bids and asks Misty Hembree, 911 Director to speak. Ms. Hembree stated that the bid opening was held at the Graham County EMS Base and the lowest bid came in at \$1,597,200.00. Commissioner Williams asks that name of the lowest bid. Ms. Hembree stated that Western Builders of Sylva, Inc. was the lowest bid. Ms. Hembree asks the board if they would review the bids and make a decision at the next upcoming board meeting. Commissioner Williams stated that we always go with the lowest bid. Commissioner Nelms stated that we did go over budget a little and needed to have conversation with the contractor. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go with the lowest bid which is Western Builders of Sylva, Inc. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Commissioner Wiggins asks how much money was allocated for the building. Misty Hembree stated that \$1.6 million was allocated and we will trim some things in order to stay under this amount. Chairman Eller calls for a vote. Vote was unanimous.
22. Clerk Crisp stated that she needed permission to advertise for repairs at the EMS Base. Clerk Crisp stated that this work was budgeted. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow the repairs at this time. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Clerk Crisp stated that she would run the ad for three weeks.
23. Clerk Crisp asks the board if they wanted to schedule a date to auction the surplus vehicles or did they want to have sealed bids. Commissioner Williams stated that we needed to sell the vehicles by auction at the Graham County Rescue Squad Building. The board was in agreement. Clerk Crisp asks for a date. The board discussed possible dates and Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to have the auction on Saturday, January 14th at 1:00 p.m. (in the event of snow, Saturday, January 21st at 1:00 p.m.). Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Clerk Crisp stated that she did have a couple of new items for discussion. Clerk Crisp stated that the Iron Gate electric opener at the P&J Building is torn up and she asks if the board wanted this

repair to be included in the renovations that are planned for this building. The board tabled this discussion.

25. Clerk Crisp stated that a resident from Shuler's Lake had asked if Graham County could install (27) twenty seven 911 signs since the services such as fire and rescue are given by Graham County. Commissioner Williams made the motion to deny this request due to this area being located in Swain County. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Commissioner Williams stated that he wanted the fences around the dumpsters fixed and the dumpster sites are not being cleaned. Commissioner Williams stated that the board agreed to fix three dumpster sites and those were East Buffalo, Sweetwater and Bear Creek and he wanted this done.
27. Chairman Eller asks for further business. No further business was discussed.
28. Chairman Eller asks for a motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (3) (5) (6) for privileged or confidential information, attorney-client privilege, personnel and contracts. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. The board gave a directive to Attorney Coward to negotiate a deal concerning the money to be held in an Escrow Account.
31. Commissioner Williams made the motion to send a letter to the Cherokee Tribe EMS Billing and inform them that if payment is not received garnishments will begin in two weeks after the posting of the letter. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Commissioner Orr made the motion to hire TP Technology to be on the ground IT support for a (3) month trial basis and renew the contract with Katalyst for another year. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the formal plan for the P&J building with Commissioner Nelms making changes to Item #7 on the list. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Dale E. Wiggins, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board