

Regular Meeting – November 15, 2016

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, November 15, 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 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. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the November 1st Regular Meeting Minutes and the November 3rd Emergency Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Nelms stated that the board would like to recognize Commissioner Lynn Cody for his 12 ½ years as a Commissioner and presented him with a plaque. Commissioner Williams stated that he appreciated him and had worked with him for most of the 12 years and thanked him for serving. Commissioner Eller stated that it had been a pleasure working with Commissioner Cody. Commissioner Orr stated that she enjoyed working with Commissioner Cody and she regretted that he would not be continuing and asks that he keep in touch. Commissioner Nelms stated that he appreciated Commissioner Cody.
7. Chairman Nelms asks for the finance report. Ms. Garland stated that she also appreciated working with Commissioner Cody and had enjoyed every minute of it and appreciated his guidance especially during budget time.
8. Ms. Garland stated that we ended the month of October with a \$6,148,814.96 cash balance and this is up over one million from this time last year. Ms. Garland stated that our fund balance is \$6,000,000.00 which is at 35% of our expenditures and this makes the LGC very happy. Ms. Garland stated that we collected \$363,687.00 in real taxes and \$21,554.00 in back taxes and this is up \$60,000.00 from this time last year and commended the tax office. Ms. Garland stated that we have collected \$39,373.35 in DMV and this is up \$5,000.00. Ms. Garland stated that our total tax collections is up this year by \$77,577.89 and our tax collection rate is 21.62% which is higher than this time last year. Ms. Garland stated that our revenues was \$1,513,343.60 and our expenditures was \$1,033,420.27 giving us a surplus of \$479,923.39 for the month. Ms. Garland stated that our sales tax collections was \$157,779.97 which is up \$81,499.32 from this time last year. Ms. Garland stated that our budget was good and we are at 73% which is ahead of the recommended 67% at this time and she further stated that she was proud of our directors and supervisors.
9. Ms. Garland stated that the school had asked for their capital outlay of \$16,500.00 and she needed board approval to pay this. Commissioner Eller made the motion to pay the school their capital outlay appropriation. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. Ms. Garland stated that she had met with Davenport LLC and the meeting was very encouraging. Ms. Garland stated that our audit report was almost complete and she would bring the findings to the board for reporting as soon as she received them.
11. Chairman Nelms asks Sophia Paulos, EDC Director to speak. Ms. Paulos thanked Commissioner Cody for his service to Graham County. Ms. Paulos stated that the staff has been doing a terrific job since the resignation of the county manager and we are holding down the fort. Ms. Paulos stated that she has been involved in the meetings with the firefighters and she thanked all of our local firefighters and volunteers for their efforts on the fire.
12. Chairman Nelms asks for public comment. Clerk Crisp stated that Lynn Cody was signed in for public comment. Commissioner Cody thanked the board for the plaque and thanked them for their unity in working for the betterment of the county. Commissioner Cody asks that the board keep their vision and that he will miss working with them and the employees of the county. Commissioner Cody thanked Claudine Gibson and Juanita Colvard for their efforts with the Urgent Care and Dialysis Center and praised the board for working toward this worthwhile goal. Commissioner Cody stated that as a member of the fire department he has worked thousands of hours over the years and has seen the cost for outfitting a firefighter go from \$1500.00 to \$3000.00 and will probably increase as time continues. Commissioner Cody stated that the fire departments have dealt with increased prices in fuel and with aging equipment. Commissioner

Cody stated that the county has not given an increase to the fire departments in several years and hopes that they will consider this at the next budget. Commissioner Cody spoke on the cardiac monitors and the cost of these as well. Commissioner Cody stated that when he first became county commissioner in 1994 the county had \$250,000.00 in the bank and they worried how they would make payroll. Commissioner Cody stated that while he was county manager, he had begged Rebecca Garland to come to work for the county and we see the results in her doing so and he thanked Ms. Garland for her hard work. Commissioner Cody asks that this board stay the path.

13. Chairman Nelms asks for the discussion items. Clerk Crisp stated that we have no discoveries but we do have Releases in the amount of \$1,289.16. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Clerk Crisp stated that Chairman Nelms had signed a Proclamation of County State of Emergency on November 9, 2016 due to the fires in the county. Commissioner Eller stated that we still have areas that are on fire but the NC Forest Service should be released to go home today. Commissioner Williams felt that the county should proclaim a burn ban until further notice due to the drought. Commissioner Orr made the motion to proclaim a burn ban until further notice. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Clerk Crisp stated that Chairman Nelms had met with the Bear Creek Homeowner's Association concerning the proposed shooting range and asks him to speak on the issue. Chairman Nelms stated that the Bear Creek Homeowner's Association was against a shooting range but the board decided to allow the shooting team to use the property. Chairman Nelms stated that NCDOT had given us a permit to construct a new entrance to the property and we will be moving forward.
16. Clerk Crisp stated she needed approval on the poll allowing the US Forest Service to rent the P&J Building for a command center due to the fires. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the poll. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Clerk Crisp stated that she needed approval of the poll allowing recovery wells to be dug behind the sheriff's department due to the fuel leakage from the Crown. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Clerk Crisp stated that we had received a bid for the Stecoah Valley Center roof. Chairman Nelms opened the bid which was from Cox Roofing for \$60,417.00 for the base price; an alternate shingle with a 40 year warranty for an additional \$4,428.00; and if any plywood had to be replaced the cost is \$2.25 per square foot; 1"x6" board's replacement @ \$2.00 per square foot and other wood replacement @ L&M plus 10%. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go with the base price. Beth Fields, Stecoah Valley Center Director asks if the board would consider allowing the center to pay for the extra \$4,428.00. Commissioner Williams amended his motion to add the \$4,428.00 with Stecoah Valley Center being responsible for the cost. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Clerk Crisp gave an E911 Project Update and stated that the building was on schedule.
20. Clerk Crisp stated that the board of commissioners had previously approved a resolution pending changes concerning Elk relocation to Graham County but asks if they will approve the final edited resolution. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Clerk Crisp stated that she has an amendment to the county personnel policy for approval. Clerk Crisp stated that the attorney had suggested that we change a couple of the definitions and present them as one. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Amendment 4 to the Graham County Personnel Policy. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. Clerk Crisp stated that the board needed to reappoint or replace the Senior Center Advisory Board. Commissioner Eller made the motion to reappoint Juanita Colvard, Kim Crisp, Myrtle Hill, Nettie Jenkins, Michelle Jones, Jacob Nelms and Raymond Williams. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Clerk Crisp stated that the board needed to reappoint or replace Billy Brown with the Travel and Tourism Board. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reappoint Billy Brown to the Travel and Tourism Board. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Clerk Crisp asks the board for their decision on the Robin Turner PUV. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go back to our first agreement that he has until 2017 to start the logging. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. The board had discussion on the logging that has begun and Mr. Turner's plan. Vote was unanimous.

25. Clerk Crisp stated that the board had received three quotes for the concession stand reroofing at Stanley Ballfield and further stated that this is for labor only. Chairman Nelms opened the quotes and they were: Noah Williams for \$3000.25; Robbinsville Custom Molding for \$2,975.00; Betterbuilt for \$3,600.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go with the lowest quote which is Robbinsville Custom Molding. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Clerk Crisp asks the board for the location for Your Charters of Freedom Monuments that are to be installed. Commissioner Williams made the motion to locate the monuments at the library. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Clerk Crisp stated that the board had a request to add a name to the monument at the courthouse but after further research we have learned that this monument is for veterans killed in service or killed in action. The board all agreed that someone needed to be named in charge of this monument since no one seems to know who was responsible for its existence.
28. Clerk Crisp reminded the board of the Oath to Office and the Organizational Meeting on December 5, 2016 beginning at 9:00 a.m.
29. Chairman Nelms asks for new or old business. Clerk Crisp stated that Colton Overcash with Thom Tillis office would be attending the Mountain West Partnership meeting at WCI on Thursday, November 17th at 5:30 p.m. and asks if the commissioners would like to attend. Clerk Crisp stated that Sophia Paulos would be attending. Commissioner Orr stated that she would attend as well.
30. Clerk Crisp stated that Congressman Meadows had called today concerning the fires throughout the county and stated that if he could be of assistance to please let him know. Commissioner Orr stated that Senator Davis had phoned as well.
31. Commissioner Williams 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 Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Commissioner Orr made the motion to pay Larry Hembree 59.25 hours of his comp time he had accumulated due to the fires in the county. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Commissioner Orr made the motion to raise Rebecca Garland's rate of pay to \$90,000.00. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. The board asks that the Clerk set up interviews for the IT position and begin taking applications for the county manager position.
36. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody 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