

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, October 4, 2016

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, October 4, 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 stated that we needed to amend the agenda to add Juanita Colvard to closed session for personnel and delete the reappointment of Karen Anderson to the Health Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the Workshop and Regular Minutes of September 20, 2016. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Nelms asks Bernice Lloyd to speak. Ms. Lloyd was not in attendance. Commissioner Orr stated that she wanted to speak with the board concerning the property on the Old Mother Church Cemetery that the cemetery commission uses. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow Chairman Jacob Nelms to handle this issue. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chairman Nelms asks Sophia Paulos, EDC Director to speak. Ms. Paulos stated that she had gone to Washington D.C. and made contacts with Rick Hudson and Mack McIntyre. Ms. Paulos stated that these gentlemen love WNC and want to work with Graham County to get business into our county and they have grant resources. Ms. Paulos stated that she met the director of ARC and they have unique information concerning our county but one statement had been made by a resident of the county that Graham County would always be a Tier 1 County and she disagrees and further stated that this was a big part of her job to entice and secure business to locate to Graham County which will remove us from the Tier 1 status.
8. Ms. Paulos stated that she had met with the WCU Director of Health and Human Services and the Dean and they are very interested in providing health and human services here in our county. Ms. Paulos stated that they are very aware of our needs and one service that can be offered is Specialized EMS Training.
9. Ms. Paulos stated that some of the kilns are down at Oak Valley Hardwoods and they can't get parts because they are outdated but WCU has the ability to make models of the parts and make brand new parts for them. Ms. Paulos stated that she had spoken with Jimmy Lee and he was very excited with this news.
10. Ms. Paulos stated that she had met with Mickey Duvall, EBCI Economic Development and stated that there are a lot of needs in Snowbird and they hope to locate some business to our county in the future.
11. Ms. Paulos stated that Ed Satterfield and others have developed a Historical Society and they are working on saving the buildings on Main Street and are in the process of redoing the old Sniders Store.
12. Ms. Paulos stated that she had met with Avis Phillips to discuss the broadband needs of the county and she believes that this will begin a collaboration regionally to provide better broadband.
13. Ms. Paulos stated that the Forest Service is redoing their plan and one of the things that they will not be allowed to do is declare areas as wilderness without the consent of the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Paulos stated that she is very involved and aware of them taking our lands and denying us access to our roads and during these conversations she met with Sam Evans, an attorney with Environmental Law and he has become our champion in the regard of promoting tourism to our county with the main focus of getting people outside to play and he has sent me an article where the forest service is streamlining their permit process to become more fair and open.
14. Ms. Paulos stated that she received a letter concerning a grant from commerce for \$225,000.00 of which she did not have record of but after speaking with Melody Adams this money can be given to Oak Valley Hardwoods to put a new roof on the old Stanley Building. Ms. Paulos also

stated that a Duke Energy grant had not been expended and this can be used as well toward fixing the kilns.

15. Ms. Paulos stated that a bill had been submitted by Congressman Meadows and Senator Tillis to prohibit the removal of houseboats on our lakes in North Carolina that TVA controls. Ms. Paulos stated that this bill is now waiting for the President's signature and it will become law.
16. Ms. Paulos stated that SWC has created a Mountain West Partnership and they are promoting the western counties of NC. Ms. Paulos showed a video that they had done of our county promoting tourism which allows people to view our counties through our websites. Ms. Paulos is not happy with the EDC Website and would like to redo the site and the cost is \$2,500.00 with a \$400.00 yearly maintenance fee. Ms. Paulos stated that she will be able to access this website and enter the announcements or remove them which is needed. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow Ms. Paulos to redo the website for EDC. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Ms. Paulos stated that our website is very vital to our tourism and will aid in promoting business to come here. Chairman Nelms asks how much it would be to do the county website. Ms. Paulos stated that the cost would be \$5000.00 with a cap of \$7500.00 and a \$600.00 yearly maintenance fee. Ms. Paulos and Manager Edwards stated that our website is outdated and we need access to our site. Ms. Paulos stated the county would have the ability to access their website as well. Juanita Colvard, Transit Director stated that she wanted one as well so that she can update the site when law changes occur concerning Transit. Ms. Colvard stated that she is required to have certain information on the website and in the past it has been difficult to get this done timely. Commissioner Orr made the motion to update our webpage as we have discussed with a cost of approximately \$5000.00 with a cap of \$7500.00 and a \$600.00 yearly maintenance fee. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Chairman Nelms asks for the finance report. Manager Edwards stated that he would be presenting for Ms. Garland due to her absence. Manager Edwards stated that the Election Board is requesting three laptops to be used in the upcoming election with a total price of \$1697.97 and this is in the budget. Commissioner Cody made the motion to allow the purchase of the laptops. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Chairman Nelms asks for public comment. Manager Edwards stated that no one was signed in for public comment.
19. Chairman Nelms asks for the manager's report. Manager Edwards asks if the board had agreed upon a location for the maintenance building which was budgeted for. Manager Edwards stated that several locations had been discussed. Manager Edwards stated that we needed a place to store items from the P&J Building when renovations begin and stated that the maintenance facility would be able to store this property. Commissioner Eller asks that Manager Edwards reach out to the Cody Family on the land that was promised to the county when we purchased the transfer station and see when the county will receive this property. Commissioner Williams stated that in the event that they do not go through with the agreement he suggests that we put the building on the Fort Hill site. The board gave a directive to Manager Edwards to reach out to the Cody Family and explain the need that the county has for the property. The board asks that this be revisited at the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
20. Manager Edwards stated that the county had received the 2016 Jail Inspection Report and one item was addressed and this concerned the meals which has been resolved and a letter of action will be sent in on time.
21. Manager Edwards stated that the next meeting with Brookfield on the High Flow Events would be held on October 18<sup>th</sup> but he did not have the location of the meeting at this time. Commissioner Eller stated that this is another example of why we need access to our website so that these events can be posted.
22. Manager Edwards stated that insulation was needing to be installed at the pool building. Manager Edwards stated that we spent one million dollars on this project and it is still not safe in the winter months to prevent the pipes from freezing. Manager Edwards stated that every year the county must pay a sum of money to get the pool reopened due to no insulation. Manager Edwards stated that when the administration offices move we will have to relocate the election board and the recreation department as well and the recreation department has an office at the pool building if they had access to water and bathrooms in the winter months. Manager Edwards stated that the cost for the foam insulation is \$3,869.75 and the purchase of three gas heaters is \$1615.00 with a total of \$5484.75. Manager Edwards stated that the insulation and the heaters would protect our pumps and waterlines. Commissioner Orr asks if the money is in the budget. Manager Edwards stated that it is in the budget. Commissioner Eller

made the motion to insulate the building and purchase the three heaters. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

23. Manager Edwards stated that the county had received a request from Foundation Forward Inc. to speak with the commissioners on the Charters of Freedom. Manager Edwards stated that they will build a monuments display for The Declaration of Independence; The United States Constitution and The Bill of Rights. Manager Edwards stated that the county would be responsible for the site prep. The board discussed possible locations for the monuments. Commissioner Cody suggested the library. The board was in agreement to this site.
24. Manager Edwards stated that we needed to get the internet connected at the P&J building as quickly as possible because our heat and air and security is controlled by computer. Manager Edwards stated that Zito Media owns the fiber that goes to the building but they want a monthly fee of \$1700.00 per month and the county only pays \$680.00 to Balsam West for the entire county. Manager Edwards stated that he would get with Zito Media and Balsam West and try to find a solution as quickly as possible.
25. Manager Edwards stated that we would now go to the discussion items and asks for approval of the Discovery for \$695.11. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the discovery. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Manager Edwards asks for reappointment of Greg Corvelle to the Travel and Tourism Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to reappoint Greg Corvelle to the T&T Board. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Manager Edwards stated that he needed the reappointment of Jacky Ayers, Connie Orr and Dale Wiggins to the RDA Board. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reappoint Jacky Ayers, Connie Orr and Dale Wiggins to the RDA Board. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Manager Edwards stated that Donna Orr had resigned from the Four Square Community Action Board and her recommendation for replacement is Danielle Tipton. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Danielle Tipton to the Four Square Community Action Board. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Manager Edwards stated that the county needed to install cameras at the playground and tennis courts area of the pool due to vandalism. Manager Edwards stated that the quote is for 6 cameras that are stand alone with a high definition for a cost of \$1524.00. Commissioner Eller asks that one of the cameras be installed at the pool area as well. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the cameras. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Manager Edwards stated that the board needed to approve the land purchase that the Travel and Tourism Board had made. Manager Edwards stated that Travel and Tourism is not allowed to own property. Commissioner Williams who is the chair of the Travel and Tourism Board stated that the board did have the funds for the purchase. Commissioner Eller made the motion to purchase the property to be used exclusively for Travel and Tourism and in the event the Travel and Tourism board is dissolved the land would remain with the county. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Manager Edwards stated that we have three large pine trees on the property at P&J that need to be removed and he had received two quotes. The first quote was from Conley Tree Service for \$3500.00 and the second quote was from Burchfield Lawn Service for \$2400.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go with the lowest quote. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Chairman Nelms asks for any new or old business. Commissioner Orr asks if the county was in the process of receiving the USDA Grant for the roof at the Stecoah Valley Center. Manager Edwards stated that he needed more clarification on the roof prior to advertising but the county has not pursued the USDA grant at this time. The board had discussion on what the advertising needed to state. The board all agreed that they would bid the roof and substructures; the fascia and the soffit. Manager Edwards asks if the report could be given to the contractors on the condition of the roof and the board wanted this given out to them.
33. Commissioner Orr asks if we had received any more information concerning the ER closing at Swain County Hospital. Manager Edwards stated that he would reach out to Kevin King, Manager with Swain County and give a reporting at the next meeting.
34. Commissioner Orr asks for updates on the shooting range. Manager Edwards stated that he had spoken with Andy Lynn and he has been informed that they can no longer use Papas Pizza for their shooting practices. Manager Edwards stated that 4H also has a shooting team and they are a 501C3 which is good news. Manager Edwards stated that Andy Lynn had informed them that

- Joe Bonnette would not have a problem with a private shooting range at Bear Creek. Manager Edwards stated that he and Chairman Nelms would continue to work on this project.
35. Chairman Nelms asks for a motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (3) (6) for privileged or confidential information, personnel and contracts. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
  36. Commissioner Eller made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
  37. The board gave a directive to Manager Edwards concerning the dialysis center.
  38. Commissioner Orr made the motion to sign the engagement letter with Davenport and Company per FCC guidelines. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
  39. Commissioner Orr made the motion to pay Chris Adams (30) hours of his comp time due to his inability to take the time off. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
  40. Commissioner Eller made the motion to pay Patsy Cable (24) hours of her comp time due to her inability to take the time off. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
  41. Commissioner Orr made the motion to hire a Dental Hygienist I with a Grade 68 and a starting salary of \$23.00 per hour. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
  42. Commissioner Orr asks if the minutes had been found concerning the property that Keith and Shirley Crisp want to purchase. Clerk Crisp stated that she has not found the minutes but Commissioner Cody remembers the conversation. Clerk Crisp stated that the county is waiting on an appraisal from the Crisp family. The board directed Manager Edwards to speak with Attorney Coward on the proper steps of selling this property.
  43. Manager Edwards stated that the gas at the P&J Building is from AmeriGas and our gas is currently with Freeman Gas and asks the board if they want him to bid this out. The board all agreed to allow Freeman Gas to continue to supply our gas and at next budget we would rebid the contract out. Commissioner Williams made the motion to stay with Freeman Gas. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
  44. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Jacob Nelms, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Keith Eller, 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