

Regular Meeting - January 22, 2013

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. The meeting date was changed due to the holiday closing on Monday, January 21, 2013. Commissioners present were: Robert M. Edwards; Billy Holder; Keith Eller and Connie Orr. Commissioner Williams was absent due to illness and will be joining the meeting by teleconference if needed.

1. Commissioner Edwards called the meeting to order.
2. Commissioner Edwards gave the Invocation.
3. Commissioner Edwards asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the agenda. Manager Cable stated that the agenda needed to be amended to include #6 – Budget Amendment #8 that was tabled; #11 add possible acceptance of a storage building; #13 under new or old business: Panther Creek Bridge project, Hauling of recyclables, Amendments to the personnel policy, Storage building for Transit, Jail / Magistrate office move and move any discussion items for action as needed. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the minutes for 12/17/2012 Workshop Session and Regular Meeting and 1/2/2013 Emergency Meeting. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Commissioner Edwards asks for the finance report. Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer requested that Chip Carringer and Lester Green be allowed to speak on Budget Amendment #8. Mr. Carringer thanked the board for their time and stated the various projects that the school is doing at this time and how they are using their fund balance. Mr. Carringer stated that he was here asking permission to use the lottery funds on the YDC project of \$239,000.00 which was needed to complete the project. Mr. Greene stated that the school was using fund balance for all the other projects totaling \$975,000.00. The board thanked the gentlemen for their time and information.
7. Commissioner Edwards asks Ms. Garland to continue the finance report. Ms. Garland stated that the county ended the year with a 25% fund balance and further stated that the county had come a long way from an 8% fund balance just a few years ago. Ms. Garland stated that some changes will be forthcoming in the DMV collections and she hoped that this would raise the revenues to 100%. Ms. Garland stated that the county was doing better than last year in our tax collections and thanked the taxpayers of the county for doing their due diligence.
8. Ms. Garland highlighted some budget analysis and further stated that she did need Budget Amendment #15 approved to recognize the penalty reversion from Stanley Furniture for failure to meet job requirements which was paid to Golden Leaf from Graham County as per the grant agreement.
9. Ms. Garland stated that she had new bank signature cards for the board to sign since our new commissioner came on board.
10. Ms. Garland stated that the DSS department needed a new shredder and she had two prices but recommended the cross cut at \$2267.99 for confidentiality.
11. Ms. Garland stated that she had two requests for travel for Larry Hembree and Brian Johnson to attend the EM Conference in Hickory and 911 training for five dispatchers in Wilkes County, NC. The 911 training is paid through 911 monies and not general fund.
12. Commissioner Edwards asks David Dodson to speak. Mr. Dodson was concerned about the recycling program and wanted to see if the board could eliminate the tipping fee on large bulky items such as mattresses and broken furniture to prevent people from dumping these items in the green cans. Mr. Dodson stated that the county would save money on the pickups if this charge was eliminated and people could dump these items for free at the transfer station. The board stated that they would look into this and see what is legal. Mr. Dodson also requested that the board entertain the idea of enforcing the illegal dumping of demolition materials. Mr. Dodson also asks Manager Cable for an update on the recycling buildings. Manager Cable stated that the Forest Service was in the process of doing an environmental study so that the county could install power poles to supply light and heat to the buildings. Mr. Dodson stated that time was critical to get this program going or the county could lose the grant funding that was received.
13. Commissioner Edwards asks Glenn Muehlhausen with the Chamber of Commerce to speak. Clerk Crisp stated that Mr. Muehlhausen was unable to attend.
14. Commissioner Edwards asks Jason Sawyer and Andy Cable to speak on the Recreation Plan. Mr. Sawyer stated that he was here to get approval for the recreation plan that he had submitted to the previous board and stated that this plan was needed to be eligible for the PARTIF Grant that

Mr. Cable has been working on. Mr. Cable stated that he would be getting the paperwork together and will be delivering to Ms. Bryan in Asheville this next week. Mr. Cable stated that there was a short turnaround time period for this grant and the acceptance of the recreation plan was needed. The board asks questions about the grant and congratulated everyone on their hard work for this grant.

15. Commissioner Edwards asks Andy Cable for an update on the Stanley property paperwork. Mr. Cable stated that project was coming along and going really well. The board thanked Mr. Cable for his hard work.
16. Commissioner Edwards asks Alicia Parham to present the Private Vaccine and Dental Fees. Ms. Parham stated the State of NC has changed the availability for vaccines and only those eligible will be given free. Ms. Parham stated that all persons who have insurance will have to pay full price for the vaccine. Ms. Parham stated that she had spoken with the Health Board and they had agreed to cost plus 20% which is the expense of administration of vaccine, needles, disposal cost, alcohol and input of information. Ms. Parham stated that it requires about thirty minutes to do a full immunization on a child. Ms. Parham stated that the charges range from \$35.00 to \$105.00 per shot. Commissioner Edwards asks if private insurance will cover. Ms. Parham stated that the individual will have to file their insurance but pay the county up front. The board was concerned on these changes and worried about the children who would need the vaccine and couldn't afford it. Ms. Parham stated that she was not ready to present the Dental fees at this time.
17. Commissioner Edwards asks for public comment. Clerk Crisp stated that Marlon Rogers had left. Commissioner Edwards asks Rick Davis to speak. Mr. Davis stated that things were looking up for the county and he is very impressed with the work that is being done. Mr. Davis gave a thank you to Alicia Parham, Jason Sawyer and Andy Cable for their hard work. Mr. Davis invited the board to attend the GREAT meeting on Thursday to work on the strategic plan for 129 Bypass Streetscape Plan. Mr. Davis stated that he was very pleased to see the efforts in the trails and greenways and stated that this would set good trends toward our counties overall public health. Mr. Davis encouraged the board to consider tobacco free parks as another health incentive. The board all agreed that the county needed to continue moving forward.
18. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board would now go into discussion items and asks Manager Cable to present these items. Manager Cable stated that Bill Gibson recommended that he be added to the Region A Partnership for Children Board through the Smart Start program.
19. Manager Cable stated that he needed the board to appoint him as the voting delegate for the 2013 NCACC meeting due to Commissioner Edwards not being able to attend the meeting.
20. Manager Cable stated that he needed approval of the Emergency Medical Services Ordinance that was presented at the December 2012 meeting. Manager Cable stated that Attorney Cody had looked at the ordinance and everything was fine. Attorney Cody stated that this ordinance gives the county control over who they will allow to franchise EMS services in the county.
21. Manager Cable stated that it was requested by Commissioner Eller to have further discussion on the Clean Water Management Trust Fund Ordinance and needed to clarify any misunderstandings. This fund is not connected to DENR but it provides money to help supply clean water management in the counties. Manager Cable stated that Graham County had received funding for septic tanks, wells and houseboats in the past.
22. Manager Cable stated that he has an update to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2013 which needed to be approved. Clerk Crisp stated that this is a standard plan that needed to be updated once a year.
23. Manager Cable stated that Andy Cable needed to attend the Community Development Academy to get him started on his certification for county planning. Manager Cable stated that it is a six day course and he recommended that the county send Mr. Cable to this class.
24. Manager Cable stated that the board needed to approve the performance evaluation policy so that the evaluation can be put into place prior to the budget. Manager Cable stated that a separate policy was required in connection with the county personnel policy.
25. Manager Cable stated that he had received a request from the NC Extension Office to provide funding to the new director Randy Collins of 30% instead of the 28% that the county now provides. Manager Cable stated that he had helped in the interview process and was very glad that Mr. Collins had received the position.
26. Manager Cable stated that the county had a request from Joe Bonnette to help pay for water testing of the Santeetlah Lake and needed to know the board's pleasure. Commissioner Edwards stated that it was presented to the board to pay \$1600.00 per year for a period of five years. The board felt that this should be tabled until further information had been gathered.
27. Manager Cable stated that he had a request to lower the RV dumping fees due to most vehicles only having a 30 gallon tank on their campers. The board all agreed to reconsider these fees.

28. Manager Cable asks if the board had any comments for the Four Square Community Service Block Grant. Clerk Crisp stated that this grant is standard and it does provide help to our county residents. Clerk Crisp stated that the board did not need to approve the grant but they were asked for comments.
29. Manager Cable stated that the hauling of the recyclables was due up for bid and he suggested that the county do their own hauling since we now have two trucks. Manager Cable stated that the current hauler had offered use of his trailer until the county could purchase their own.
30. Manager Cable stated that he had an amendment to the county personnel policy concerning vehicles. Manager Cable stated that in some instances non-county personnel would need to ride in a county vehicle and in those cases the county manager needed to be informed of these instances. The board wanted to table this amendment until the insurance company was contacted to check coverage.
31. Manager Cable stated that the second amendment to the county personnel policy dealt with military leave and he had received a request that the two employees be paid for their 10 days of military duty instead of requiring them to use annual leave time. The board wanted to table this amendment for now.
32. Manager Cable stated that he needed approval for a storage facility to be built at the Transit Facility to store tires and vehicle supplies at a cost of approximately \$3000.00 using county personnel. Manager Cable stated that three yards of cement would have to be poured at a cost of \$1000.00.
33. Manager Cable asks the board if they have any comments on the new proposed Panther Creek Bridge project.
34. Manager Cable stated that the Bear Creek project was moving forward and he would be meeting with McGill and Associates to review the original documents that were proposed in 2002. The board wanted the information on the wet lands that was located on this property.
35. Manager Cable discussed the vehicles that have been proposed to purchase; (1) ambulance; (3) sheriff cars; (1) sheriff truck and (1) EM truck. Manager Cable stated that he had received quotes from the various dealerships and felt that King Ford in Murphy NC was the lowest quote. The board discussed the financing of the vehicles and felt that the EM truck needed to be paid out right and not financed. The board discussed the interest rates and felt that the county needed to use our local bank which was just a small amount higher than the vendor from out of town. The board discussed the need for the vehicles to be started on a fleet program.
36. Manager Cable stated that the board would now go into action items. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the DSS shredder at a cost of \$2267.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the purchase of the shredder. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of Budget Amendments #8 and #15. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #8 and #15. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. Commissioner Edwards reminded the board to sign the new bank signature cards.
39. Commissioner Edwards asks the board about the size of the DMV ad to notify the county taxpayers of the DMV tax changes. The board all agreed to be bold and use large print in telling the county citizens of the changes that will take place with the DMV tax bills.
40. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of travel for the 911 staff, Larry Hembree and Brian Johnson. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the travel. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
41. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the Releases and Discoveries. Commissioner Holder made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
42. Commissioner Edwards asks approval of the recreation plan. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the recreation plan. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
43. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Greg Cable as the voting delegate for the 2013 NCACC meeting. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
44. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the Emergency Medical Services Ordinance. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
45. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the Clean Water Management Trust Fund Ordinance. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
46. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2013. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
47. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the Community Development Academy training for Andy Cable. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
48. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Greg Cable to the Region A Partnership for Children Board. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

49. Commissioner Edwards stated that the county needed to approve the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance Amendment. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Commissioner Edwards calls for a vote. Commissioner Edwards, Eller and Orr voted yes. Commissioner Holder voted no. Motion carried three to one.
50. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board needed to adopt the Resolution of Intent of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the Resolution of Intent of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Commissioner Edwards calls for a vote. Commissioner Edwards, Eller and Orr voted yes. Commissioner Holder voted no. Motion carried three to one.
51. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the performance policy. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the performance policy as presented. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
52. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board needed to approve the poll that was taken for the purchase of the new camera system at the jail. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the poll for the new camera system. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
53. Commissioner Edwards asks the board for their decision to fund 30% instead of 28% of the salary for the new NC Extension Office Director Randy Collins. Commissioner Orr made the motion to fund the 30%. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
54. Commissioner Edwards tabled the decision on the water testing on Lake Santeetlah.
55. Commissioner Edwards tabled the decision to reduce the RV dumping fees.
56. Commissioner Edwards stated that the Travel and Tourism had recommended Revonda Williams be placed on the Travel and Tourism Board. Commissioner Holder made the motion to appoint Revonda Williams to the Travel and Tourism Board to fill the vacant seat. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
57. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow the magistrates and chief jailer to switch office locations. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
58. Commissioner Orr made a motion contingent on confirmation of price quotes to allow a storage building be built at the new Transit Facility using county personnel for labor and to allow for the purchase of the concrete slab. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
59. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow Alicia Parham, Health Director to purchase a storage building from the school for approximately \$2600.00. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
60. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept the vaccine fees as presented by Alicia Parham on recommendation by the Health Board. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
61. Commissioner Eller made the motion to haul the recyclables with county staff instead of bidding this work out. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
62. Commissioner Edwards gave a directive to Manager Cable to type a letter of support asking that the Cherohala Skyway be opened as quickly as possible.
63. Commissioner Edwards tabled the amendments on the personnel policy until further information is received.
64. Commissioner Orr made the motion to buy EM Director Larry Hembree's new truck outright with his recommended specifications. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
65. Commissioner Orr made the motion to purchase (3) cars and (1) truck for the Sheriff's department and (1) ambulance for EMS with financing through First Citizens Bank of Robbinsville. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
66. Commissioner Orr 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.
67. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
68. Commissioner Eller made the motion to give raises to the following deputies: Brandon Lawrence \$11.50; Andrew Sampson \$10.50 and to leave Jamal Odom at his current rate of pay. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
69. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Approval of the January 22, 2013 Regular Minutes

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Robert M. (Mike) Edwards, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Billy Holder, 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