

Regular Meeting – June 17, 2013

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, June 17, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC. Commissioners present were: Robert M. Edwards, Billy Holder, Keith Eller and Raymond Williams. Commissioner Connie Orr was absent due to family illness.

1. Commissioner Edwards called the meeting to order.
2. Commissioner Edwards asks Commissioner Williams to give the Invocation.
3. Commissioner Edwards led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of Workshop and Regular Meeting of May 20<sup>th</sup> ; Budget Meetings of May 6<sup>th</sup>;8<sup>th</sup>;9<sup>th</sup>;13<sup>th</sup>;15<sup>th</sup>;16<sup>th</sup>;17<sup>th</sup>; Special Meeting – May 28<sup>th</sup>; and the Public Hearing – June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Commissioner Holder made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Commissioner Edwards asks for the finance report. Finance Officer Rebecca Garland stated that the county had \$3.75 million in cash balance which is a little lower than last year at this time partly due to the county making the school bond payment and the loan for the vehicles. Ms. Garland stated that we should be holding steady at \$4.2 million. Ms. Garland stated that the taxes were still coming in and the collection rate is 97.77%. Ms. Garland stated that the board would begin to see the final year spend down but she felt good about the surplus. Ms. Garland stated that the department budgets are holding and she was very pleased with the department heads. Ms. Garland stated that the finance office would be doing the conversion to the new software system and she and Machelle Crisp would be very busy getting their office online July 1, 2013. Commissioner Williams asks about the PILT payments by the US Forest Service and stated that the county lost money because of the timber receipts being withheld from payment. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board would not approve a budget tonight due to the late notice of funds being reduced on the PILT. Commissioner Williams asks that David Hyatt, Building Inspector go to the Massey Branch Boat Dock and take pictures of the wasted money by our federal government and further stated that one man has already drowned because of this boat ramp and he wants letters written with pictures showing how dangerous this boat ramp is. Commissioner Williams wanted letters sent to all of our state and federal representatives. The board all agreed with this request. The board discussed the small amount of money that is given to the county by the Forest Service for sheriff patrol and garbage cleanup.
7. Commissioner Edwards asks Jeff Carringer to speak. Mr. Carringer asks the board if they would allow tax payers time to pay for their back taxes. Commissioner Edwards stated that all taxpayers needed to pay their taxes and if anyone had received a foreclosure letter then they needed to pay their taxes before their names come up on the list. Mr. Carringer asks if the taxes had to be paid in one lump sum. Commissioner Edwards stated that people needed to pay their taxes to avoid foreclosure.
8. Commissioner Edwards asks Pam Pavelka to speak. Ms. Pavelka asks how much time a tax payer has to pay their back taxes. Commissioner Edwards stated soon. Ms. Pavelka stated that she was a single mother with a handicapped child who has a medical trust that is refusing to reimburse her for her expenses. Ms. Pavelka stated that she was trying to get into a program that will pay her to care for her son. Ms. Pavelka stated that she had to take care of her son first before the taxes are paid.
9. Commissioner Edwards asks Raymond Branham to speak. Clerk Crisp stated that Mr. Branham was not present.
10. Commissioner Edwards asks for public comment. Clerk Crisp stated that Sue Bullock had signed up for public comment. Commissioner Edwards asks Ms. Bullock to speak. Ms. Bullock stated that she has been with the Stecoah Valley Center since 2000 and she asks that the board consider appointing Beth Fields to the Travel and Tourism Board. Ms. Bullock stated that Ms. Fields would be a great asset to the board.
11. Commissioner Edwards stated that Clerk Crisp had prepared the agenda a little different to speed up the process and asks if the board would entertain having the discussion and action items at the same time. All board members agreed that this would be the best way to proceed. Commissioner Edwards asks Manager Cable to precede with the discussion items.
12. Manager Cable stated that he and Andy Cable had scored the proposals for a CDBG Administrator for the Scattered Site Housing Grant 2012/2013 and they had two applicants. The two applicants were Joan Stillwell and HPMC Consulting. Mr. Cable stated that Joan Stillwell had scored higher and he recommended hiring her for the administrator. Commissioner Williams made the motion to hire Joan Stillwell as the CDBG Scattered Site Housing Administrator. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

13. Manager Cable stated that he needed approval on the poll for the transmission repair on a 2007 Crown Victoria. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the poll. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Manager Cable stated that he needed approval for the Design and Photometric for lighting at the Senior Center. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the poll for the Senior Center. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Manager Cable stated that he needed approval for the Resolution for Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Manager Cable stated that he had received a request to do a letter of support for Advantage West so that their funding would continue and not be cut by the Governor's budget. Commissioner Williams made the motion to write a letter of support. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Manager Cable stated that tags are now available for any commissioners who wanted to be recognized as a Graham County commissioner on their license plates.
18. Manager Cable asks for approval of the Releases and Discoveries. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Manager Cable stated that he needed a board appointment for the Region A Advisory Council and Bobbie Carpenter had been nominated by Region A. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Bobbie Carpenter to the Region A Advisory Council. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
20. Manager Cable stated that the board needed to appoint three alternates to the Region A Council as well. Clerk Crisp stated that Region A wanted the board to appoint three alternate names to serve in the absence of the board members currently serving which are Commissioner Edwards, Commissioner Williams and now Bobbie Carpenter. Commissioner Edwards stated that they would table this request to the next meeting.
21. Manager Cable stated that the pool was now open and needed approval on the pool fees. Manager Cable stated that the fees stayed the same as last year. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the pool fees. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. Manager Cable asks for approval of the Building Inspection Fees that the board had agreed upon in the budget meetings. Commissioner Holder made a motion to approve the building inspection fees. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Manager Cable stated that the board had tabled the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2013-3014 Budget due to unforeseen revenue cuts that the county received from PILT.
24. Manager Cable stated that he needed an appointment for the Travel and Tourism Authority Board. Manager Cable stated that he had received three recommendations: Beth Fields, Billy Ditmore and Lalia Mortimer. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Beth Fields to a one year term. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Cable stated that he had a request for an appointment to the IOI Board and recommended Andy Cable. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Andy Cable to the IOI Board. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Manager Cable gave the monthly performance report for Grant 12-C-2417 and Grant 10-C-2231. Manager Cable stated that Grant 12-C-2417 was on schedule and everything was going smoothly. Manager Cable stated that Grant 10-C-2231 was slightly off due to the winter weather but construction is progressing and should get back on schedule. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the two performance reports. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Manager Cable stated that the board needed to amend the Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance due to the fee schedule change. The change will be listed an Appendix B and pertained to the schools and churches. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the change to the ordinance fee schedule. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Commissioner Edwards calls for a vote. Commissioner Eller, Holder and Edwards voted yes. Commissioner Williams voted no. Motion carried three to one.
28. Manager Cable stated that he had a recommendation from the Safety Committee to have the Travel and Tourism meetings at a different location than the EMS Base. Manager Cable stated that this was a safety issue and that cars were moved to allow room for our ambulances to get out at the last meeting. Commissioner Williams made a motion to move the Travel and Tourism meetings to the Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Manager Cable stated that some of the board members on the Graham County Steering Committee were not attending the meetings and he wanted to elect people who would serve and to add three new members. Manager Cables recommendations are:
  - a. TJ Holland to replace Diamond Brown
  - b. Melissa Duckworth to replace Joanne Knight

- c. Jacky Ayers to replace Marty Maxwell
- d. Add Manager Cable as a board member for Graham County
- e. Add Andy Cable as a board member for Graham County Economic Development
- f. Add a representative from Corridor K. Commissioner Williams wanted Edd Satterfield.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the recommendations as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

30. Manager Cable stated that he needed to get the Pay Plan Approved and stated that this plan would always be a moving document. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the Pay Plan as written by Manager Cable. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Manager Cable asks permission to allow Andy Cable to go to the PARTF Grant Meeting in Raleigh on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow Andy Cable to go to the meeting. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Manager Cable asks the board's decision on the tax appeal for Conley Shope property. Commissioner Williams made the motion to deny the appeal and leave the value as is. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Manager Cable stated that he had three proposals for the Gutter and Curb installation at the new Senior Center site facility. The proposals were: Better Built Construction for \$5500.00; Tim Creasman for \$6472.50 and Williams Construction for \$6500.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to give the job to the lowest bidder, Better Built Construction. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Manager Cable stated that Commissioner Keith Eller needed to be reappointed to the DSS Board. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Keith Eller to the DSS Board for a three year term. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Manager Cable stated that only one jail bid had come in and asks that the board open the bid. Commissioner Edwards stated that the bid was from Lynn's Place Restaurant for \$5.65 per meal. Commissioner Williams made the motion to award the jail bid to Lynn's Place Restaurant. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Manager Cable stated that he had an ARC Grant that needed approval and signature in the amount of \$180,000.00 for the expansion of fiber optics in the county. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the ARC Grant. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Commissioner Edwards asks for further new or old business. Commissioner Williams made a motion to have David Hyatt go to Massey Branch Boat Dock, take pictures and send a complaint to our senators and congressman on the waste of county taxpayer monies. Commissioner Williams stated that the county lost a good man and in his opinion would still be alive today if the boat ramp had been installed correctly. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. Commissioner Edwards asks for a 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 Williams made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
39. Commissioner Eller made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
40. Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the Balsam West Lease Agreement. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
41. Commissioner Williams made a motion to aloe Turner, Hatchett and Turner to do our 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Audit for \$45,000.00. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
42. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the Maximus Contract for \$1875.00. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
43. Commissioner Edwards and the board gave a directive to search the budget to find revenues for the amount lost due to the PILT cuts. Commissioner Holder stated that the funds needed to be found inside the budget that is prepared and he would not agree to raise taxes.
44. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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

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Billy Holder, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Keith Eller, 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