

Regular Meeting – July 15, 2013

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, July 15, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC. All commissioners were present.

1. Commissioner Edwards called the meeting to order.
2. Commissioner Edwards asks Commissioner Williams to give the Invocation.
3. Commissioner Edwards asks Commissioner Holder to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the agenda. Clerk Crisp stated that she needed to add discussion of doors to Item #8; Change Item #9 to Greg Cable as presenter instead of Wanda Hill and change the word bid to proposal; and add Changer Order #6 to Item #12. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the Workshop and Regular Meeting of June 17th; Special Meeting of June 26th; and the Public Hearing on July 11th. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Commissioner Edwards asks for the Finance Report. Ms. Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer stated that the county will end June30, 2013 with \$3.475 million dollars which is up from last year. Ms. Garland stated that the county has doubled our cash balance since the 2009/2010 budget year and this was done by hard work by all county employees and she was very pleased. Ms. Garland stated that the tax collections are up and the collection rate is 96.75% which is way up from last year and this is good news. Ms. Garland stated that the county had collected \$162,000.00 since the board decided to go through with the foreclosures and she commended the tax office for their hard work. Ms. Garland stated that the sales tax was very good for the month of June as it was the highest collection rate of all year. Ms. Garland stated that her prediction of fund balance is \$4.1 million dollar which will meet our 28% that the Local Government Commission wants to see. Ms. Garland stated that our Medicaid reimbursement for EMS was \$77,000.00 and she was very pleased with this number as well. Ms. Garland stated that one piece of bad news was the restricting of the DMV taxes that the state is proposing which will give the DMV Offices more money and the county less money and strongly recommends that the county contact our local representatives to fight against this proposal. Commissioner Edwards stated that the county will see a lot more cuts coming from the state if the newly proposed budget passes. Ms. Garland stated that her new software was up and running and she was very pleased with the system.
7. Commissioner Edwards asks Jeri Dorr to speak. Ms. Dorr stated that she was here with concerns on an animal shelter for the county and her concerns of no one in the county offering solutions for stray animals. Ms. Dorr stated that lives in an area where dogs are left and she ends up with them. Ms. Dorr stated that the county needed to try and develop a policy that will help pay for these animals. Ms. Dorr stated that she currently has 18 dogs and Logan's Run is helping her pay for feeding these animals until a home could be found. Ms. Dorr stated that the surrounding counties would not help take in these stray animals because Graham County doesn't help support their shelters. Commissioner Edwards asks what she would like the county to do. Ms. Dorr stated that if the commissioners could look at case by case basis and help fund for these animals to be spayed or neutered. Ms. Dorr stated that our county encourages tourism but with stray dogs coming into people's camps they will not come here. Commissioner Williams explained why the county stopped contributing to the animal shelter and further stated that the county did take dangerous animals. Ms. Dorr thanked the board for their time and asks that the county look into this situation before it gets worse. The board gave a directive to Manager Cable to look into this issue with the surrounding counties and see what could be done.
8. Commissioner Edwards asks Alicia Parham to speak. Ms. Parham presented a schedule of fees for their approval and stated that the Board of Health had approved the proposed fees. Commissioner Edwards spoke on the immunizations costs just for the medicine. Ms. Parham stated that her cost began at \$189.00 per vial. Ms. Parham stated that there is a change on the well permits and the waste water expansion systems. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the fees. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the changes as presented. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Commissioner Edwards calls for a vote. Commissioner Edwards, Orr, Eller and Williams voted yes. Commissioner Holder voted no. Motion carried four to one.
9. Ms. Parham stated that she needed to get the electronic record system for the Dental Clinic and can lock into a price of \$5185.50 by July 28, 2013. Ms. Rebecca Garland stated that this was in the budget. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the purchase of the electronic

medical record system for the Dental Clinic. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

10. Ms. Parham stated that the last item was a request to install handicapped accessible door openers on her doors at the health department. Ms. Parham stated that more senior citizens are coming to the health department because of the CAPS program and her staff had to go to the doors and open them for the seniors. Ms. Parham stated that she was asking for this due to safety issues. David Hyatt, Building Inspector stated that this will be the same system as installed at DSS with the push button entry. Commissioner Williams stated that this is a need and he made a motion to get two proposals and go with the lowest price and to have this done as quickly as possible. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Commissioner Edwards asks Manager Cable to speak. Manager Cable stated that he needed approval on the revisions of the 2012-2013 HCCBG grants which was reduced and to approve the 2013-2014 HCCBG Fiscal Year funding request. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the funding and revisions of the HCCBG. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Commissioner Edwards asks Joan Stillwell, Grants Administrator to speak. Ms. Stillwell stated that she needed approval from the board to allow her to submit the USDA Housing Preservation Grant in the amount of \$126,955.49 as presented at the public hearing on July 11, 2013. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow the grant to be submitted. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
13. Ms. Stillwell stated that she was also here to get approval on the 2012 Scattered Site Housing Grant Project Ordinance Rehabilitation: \$197,500.00; Emergency Repair: \$5,000.00; Administration: \$22,500.00 for a total project amount of \$225,000.00, and to approve the Updated Equal Employment and Procurement Plan; Fair Housing Plan; Section 3 Plan and Performance Based Contract; Citizen Participation Plan; Section 504 Self-Evaluation Survey completed by Clerk Crisp and the Environmental Review. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the above as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Ms. Stillwell stated that the Senior Center was coming along nicely and she was very pleased that Graham County had received this gift of \$600,000.00 with a zero match.
15. Commissioner Edwards asks Juanita Colvard to speak. Ms. Colvard stated that she was here to get approval on Change Order #5 and #6 on the new Transit Facility ARRA Funds bringing the total of ARRA Funds received to \$760,000.00. Ms. Colvard stated that this should be the last changes. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Change Order #5 and #6 on the new transit facility. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Commissioner Edwards asks for public comment. Clerk Crisp stated that Lisa Russo had signed in for public comment. Ms. Russo stated that she was here to speak on the animal control in the county and asks that the board try and find a reasonable solution. Ms. Russo stated that she highly supported this issue and hoped that the county could find help.
17. Commissioner Edwards asks for further public comment. Mr. Hubert Merchant asks what the laws are on killing animals that are not dangerous. Commissioner Williams stated that killing any animal that is not dangerous is a felony.
18. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board would now go into discussion and action items and asks Manager Cable to proceed. Manager Cable presented the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Manager Cable stated that the three alternates chosen for the Region A - Advisory Council were: Alicia Parham, Kimberly Tipton and Kim Crisp. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the three alternates. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
20. Manager Cable stated that he needed a board appointed for the Nantahala Regional Library and they had requested that Diane Kaskey be reappointed. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Lisa Russo as the board member for the Nantahala Regional Library. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Manager Cable stated that he needed the reappointment of the road naming board members Debbie Beasley and Marshall McClung. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reappoint Debbie Beasley and Marshall McClung to the Road Naming Board. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. Manager Cable stated that Velda McGuire needed to be reappointed to the Jury Commission as recommended by Clerk of Court Tammy Holloway. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reappoint Velda McGuire to the Jury Commission. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Manager Cable gave the monthly status report on the CDBG (12-C-2417) and stated that the performance schedule was on schedule and all was going well and CDBG (10-C-2231) performance schedule was off slightly off due to the winter weather and now flooding but the remedy to get back on schedule is progression of construction and all should get back on

schedule even though the continuous rains has hampered the construction but the contractor was still making progress between rains. Commissioner Eller made the motion to accept the two monthly status reports. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

24. Manager Cable stated that the board was polled for a change order on filling in a drainage ditch with an 8" pipe at the new Senior Center Facility so that the landscaping would be easily accessible and there would not be a hazard caused by a drainage ditch. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the installation of the 8" pipe at the new Senior Center Facility. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Cable asks if the board wanted to table the tax appeal for the Venice Lance property. Commissioner Edwards stated that this issue is tabled until the board could review the paperwork.
26. Manager Cable stated that the board needed to adopt a resolution on THE HUB which is a creation of a new business in the county. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adopt the resolution on the THE HUB. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Manager Cable stated that the board needed to adopt a resolution regarding the lease of property for Balsam West LLC to install a telecommunications center. Manager Cable stated that the lease had to be handled like a sale and would be advertised for upset bid for 10 days, and after the 10 days the project can commence if no bids are given. Manager Cable stated that he would need permission to handle the bid process with the resolution in order to get the project moving forward. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adopt the resolution and allow Manager Cable to oversee the bid process and proceed as required by law. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Manager Cable gave an update on the Massey Branch Boat Ramp and informed the board that he had sent letters and pictures to all our Federal Representatives. Manager Cable stated that Lauren Stull, District Ranger was very concerned about resolving this issue. Commissioner Williams stated that he in no way was talking about the men who built the ramp but about the person who designed the ramp. Commissioner Edwards stated that he has had many complaints about the damage being done to vehicles and boats due to the construction of this ramp. Commissioner Holder stated that this is what you get when "smart" people design ramps that are not even needed because the original one was working just fine.
29. Manager Cable stated that it was very nice to have Commissioner Orr back with the board. All board members agreed.
30. Commissioner Edwards asks for new or old business. No further business was discussed.
31. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board would now go into closed session under G.S. 143-319.11(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. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Commissioner Eller made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow Mitch Colvard to be paid for 20 days of his annual leave. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Commissioner Williams made the motion to hire Tony Williams as the Maintenance Department Director. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Commissioner Eller made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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

Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Billy Holder, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams. Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board