

Regular Meeting – April 19, 2016

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. 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. Manager Edwards stated that we needed to amend the agenda to add: Item 5A – Wanda Hill, Senior Center Director and Item 8A EDC Board Members. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda with the amendments as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the minutes for: Budget Meeting – April 1st; Special Meeting – April 4th; Regular Meeting - April 5th; and Special Meeting – April 13th. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Nelms asks Alicia Parham and Martha Day to speak. Ms. Day stated that Ms. Parham was unable to attend but she was here to discuss the laptop and projector for Smart Start and the health flags for Child Health. Ms. Day stated that the Smart Start Program did allow and approve the purchase of the laptop and projector. Rebecca Garland stated that she had reviewed their budget and they were in good shape. Commissioner Orr made the motion to purchase the laptop and projector for \$1,770.06. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Ms. Day stated that the health flags would be given to each school and all child care centers to let them know what the air quality for the day was. The estimated cost for the flags is \$1400.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve this purchase. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Chairman Nelms asks for Wanda Hill to speak. Ms. Hill was not present at this time so they moved on to the next item.
9. Chairman Nelms asks for the Finance Report. Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer stated that we ended the month with a cash balance of \$7,283,167.00 which is up from \$6.1 million last year at this time. Ms. Garland stated that we have collected \$87,705.00 in current year property taxes, \$13,401.00 prior year property taxes for a total of \$101,106.00. Ms. Garland stated that the DMV collections is \$34,044.00. Ms. Garland stated that the total for real property collected to date is \$5,941,426.00 which is up from this time last year. Ms. Garland stated that our tax collection rate is 94.56%. Ms. Garland stated that our expenditures for the month out-numbered our revenues by \$200,526.00 but our year to date surplus is \$2,371,002.40. Ms. Garland stated that our sales tax collection's was \$115,080.43 and she was very pleased to see this amount. Ms. Garland stated that we still have surplus on sales tax of \$95,457.45. Ms. Garland stated that our budget is doing well and we are holding at 38% which is more than the ideal percentage of 25%. Ms. Garland stated that she and Manager Edwards will be having a team leadership meeting and they will stress to all departments to hold steady and not try to do a spend down so that we can maintain a healthy surplus.
10. Ms. Garland stated that she did have one budget amendment for the board's approval. Budget Amendment #17 – Amend to recognize ARC grant and additional recreation revenues and also recognize post year end collection of SRS funding for 2014-2015 that was distributed to fire departments after 2014-2015 year end. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #17. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Ms. Garland stated that she received a request from JCPC that the board approve their county match for the 2016-2017 budget so that they can prepare their next budget. Ms. Garland stated that the county match is \$5,382.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the match. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Ms. Garland stated that the Special Olympics games has been rescheduled for Friday, April 29th due to the rain that is expected this weekend and just as a reminder she will be helping at the awards table on this date.
13. Chairman Nelms asks Wanda Hill to speak. Ms. Hill stated that she had received more money for her block grants and the county match is \$1,475.00 which will require board approval. Ms. Hill also stated that she would like the board's approval to apply for a scholarship to attend a Meals

on Wheels convention. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow Ms. Hill to apply for the scholarship to attend the Meals on Wheels Convention. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

14. Chairman Nelms asks for public comment. Manager Edwards stated that Jay Kelly had signed in for public comment. Chairman Nelms asks Jay Kelly to speak. Mr. Kelly stated that Raymond Williams handled the Travel and Tourism Board meeting with professionalism and managed to cool things down when it could have been bad and in his opinion that board is un-functional and the board was welcome to speak to him about it. Mr. Kelly stated that he understands that the Pavilion that the Town is supposed to build has been put on hold due to a property dispute and asks that the board use the \$150,000.00 that they planned to donate to purchase a new ambulance that will provide services for all of the county residents instead of just a few. Mr. Kelly stated that this is the season for the Relay for Life and stated that the ladies that oversee this raise the money every year and hopes that the board will remember this during budget when other organizations come wanting money. Mr. Kelly stated that these organizations needed to get out and work for their money the way that the Relay of Life does. Mr. Kelly stated that over a year ago he had asked the county for a future plan of 5 years; 10 years and 20 years and was told that we would have a plan in a year and he will anticipate seeing this plan in the next six months. Mr. Kelly stated that a county that didn't have a plan is like a sailboat without sails. Manager Edwards stated that the donation to the pavilion by the county is \$100,000.00.
15. Chairman Nelms asks about the EDC Board. Commissioner Orr stated that the EDC Board had met and is giving a recommendation for two new board members. Commissioner Orr stated that the board would like to seat Carla Icenhower and Brandon Jones. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Carla Icenhower and Brandon Jones as EDC Board Members. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Chairman Nelms asks Manager Edwards to present the discussion items. Manager Edwards stated that the HCCBG program had received an increase in allocation as stated by Wanda Hill and the county match is \$1,475.00 which will require board approval. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the match. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Manager Edwards stated that he needed approval of the poll to hire part time dispatcher Heath Woodard. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the poll. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Manager Edwards stated that he needed approval for the poll for the clean-up and tow of the wrecked sanitation truck. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the poll. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Manager Edwards gave an update on the truck. Manager Edwards stated that we are still awaiting the appraisal from the insurance and this is the truck that already had a salvage title. Commissioner Eller stated that three cabs has been found for around \$4200.00 and further stated that the motor is a caterpillar that several people are interested in buying. Commissioner Eller stated that the trailer was in good shape in his opinion.
20. Manager Edwards stated that the school summer program had asked if they could use the pool for a total price of \$250.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to accept the offer for the use of the pool for the summer school program. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Manager Edwards stated that Governor McCrory will be in Cullowhee on May 3rd and he is asking all seven far west counties to attend.
22. Manager Edwards stated that the ad had gone in the paper for an Assistant Recreation Director and the deadline is May 2nd.
23. Manager Edwards asks the board if they wanted to bid out the shelving unit for the senior center. Clerk Crisp stated that the funds needed to be expended prior to June 30, 2016. The board gave a directive to take sealed bids on this unit.
24. Manager Edwards stated that Tri-County will be having open house for their new facility on April 26th at 2:00 p.m. and the commissioners are invited to attend.
25. Manager Edwards showed the board a map of the newly proposed road that will go to the middle/high school and the area that will be affected.
26. Manager Edwards stated that he had some new business. Manager Edwards stated that he had attended a meeting at the Qualla Boundary and had learned of House Bill 912 which is an act to exempt real and personal property located on tribal lands from property tax regardless of ownership and to authorize the Department of Revenue to enter into an agreement with the

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians regarding the taxation of tobacco products, and to amend the requirements for distillery permit holders to sell spirituous liquor distilled on premises to visitors of the distillery. Manager Edwards stated that the counties would need to have a signed agreement with the Tribe to provide any type of service to them. The board would have discussion on this issue. Manager Edwards stated that the agreements that are now in place will go dead in September of this year.

27. Manager Edwards stated that the school had requested that the county send a letter of support to the school concerning the chrome books and further stated that the funding will provide chrome books to every student in high school. Commissioner Orr made the motion to send a letter of support. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Manager Edwards stated that he needed approval for the contract with PFA Architects concerning the new 911 Center and further stated that Attorney Coward had pointed out four points to be rectified and this was done. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept the contract with PFA Architects. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Manager Edwards stated that an antenna needed to be purchased for the new 911 Center and the cost is \$2,813.67. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the purchase of the antenna. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Chairman Nelms asks for motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11A (1) (5) (6) for privileged or confidential information, personnel and contracts. Commissioner Eller made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow the purchase of eight jetpacks for the sheriff's department. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Commissioner Williams made the motion to hire the pool workers as recommended by the department head. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow the two summer workers, Arlus Orr and Rex Allen Sellers to begin work immediately. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Commissioner Orr made the motion to give a three month FMLA extension to Employee 7579. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Commissioner Eller made the motion to give Butch Sanders \$65,000.00. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Commissioner Williams made the motion to hire Ronnie Williams as the fulltime recreation director. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr 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