

Regular Meeting – January 17, 2017

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, January 17, 2017 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 Eller called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Eller asks Commissioner Williams to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Eller asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the agenda. Clerk Crisp stated that we needed to add Commissioner Nelms to closed session under contracts and add Attorney Coward to closed session under attorney-client privilege. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the agenda with the changes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the January 3rd Regular Meeting Minutes and the January 4th Continued Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks Aaron Stewart and Edd Satterfield to speak. Mr. Satterfield stated that they were here to request a variance on property owned by W.T. Phillips on Big Snowbird. Mr. Satterfield stated that there was around 40 acres of land that is inaccessible due to the old bridge rotting out. Mr. Satterfield stated that they wanted to develop this land and this would add to our tax base. Mr. Satterfield stated that they hired an engineer and had the okay from the Army Corp of Engineers and the bridge would be built high ground to high ground. Mr. Satterfield stated that the elevation that was used to design the bridge did not match the elevation shown on the Flood Plain Ordinance Maps and this is why they are asking for a variance. Mr. Satterfield stated that this would be a well-designed bridge. Commissioner Eller asks how soon they needed an answer. Mr. Satterfield stated pretty quick if possible. Commissioner Williams asks Attorney Coward if this is legal. Attorney Coward stated that this is legal but the board must follow the ordinance and advises that Mr. Satterfield resubmit the application with all the questions answered and further stated that the questions can be easily answered. Mr. Satterfield stated that the closet property to this bridge is 2900 feet downstream and 900 feet upstream. Commissioner Williams made the motion to proceed with the variance once the paperwork is completed. Chairman Eller asks that we table this until the paperwork is resubmitted. Commissioner Williams withdrew his motion. Commissioner Orr stated that the questions should easily answered and then the board would proceed further. All board was in agreement to table this issue.
7. Chairman Eller asks for the finance report. Ms. Garland stated that the county ended the month of December with an \$8,308,561.90 cash balance which is up due to a large taxpayer paying their taxes early. Ms. Garland stated that our tax collections was \$2,403,454.52; Prior year taxes \$8442.78 and the DMV was \$26, 275.60 which is very healthy. Ms. Garland stated that we are ahead one million dollars in taxes and \$54,000.00 in DMV and our tax collection rate is 78.21%.
8. Ms. Garland stated that our revenues was \$3,187,932.05 and our expenditures was \$1,248,330.67 giving us a surplus of \$1,939,601.38. Ms. Garland stated that we had also paid the school bond payment in December and we still have a year to date surplus of \$2,462,318.15. Ms. Garland stated that we would see a decline once the 911 building begins because the county will front the money and then be reimbursed by the 911 Funds.
9. Ms. Garland stated that our sales tax had increased and the total collected was \$163,000.00. Ms. Garland reminded the board of the sales tax expansion and the school receives the largest majority of that money. Ms. Garland stated that the county has not seen any timber monies but they did not anticipate any either.
10. Ms. Garland stated that our year to date back tax collections is \$568,000.00 and commends the tax collector for their hard work on collecting these back taxes.
11. Ms. Garland stated that our budget should be at 50% but we are holding at 56% and the departments that appear hot have a reason. Ms. Garland stated that it would be getting time to schedule our budget workshops and she would begin meeting with the staff as well.
12. Ms. Garland stated that she had received the guidelines on the financing timelines from Davenport and gave the board a copy to review so they have an idea of where we are.
13. Ms. Garland stated that Kristi Cable, Special Olympics was requesting the \$10,000.00 for the Olympics that the county had allocated. Commissioner Williams made the motion to give the

- allocation to Kristi Cable. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Ms. Garland stated that the games would be held in Graham County again this year.
14. Ms. Garland stated that Gavin Colvard had gotten a price for a bucket to go on the Kubota Tractor and the price was \$3800.00 and the county had also gotten a price for a salt spreader for \$650.00. The board tabled this until we make sure that all quotes had been received.
 15. Ms. Garland stated that the quotes had been received from Asheville Fencing for three dumpster sites and the price was \$23,394.12. The board had discussion on these sites and decided to hold on the Sweetwater site and to fix the Bear Creek and East Buffalo sites now. Commissioner Orr made the motion to proceed with the Bear Creek and East Buffalo sites. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 16. Ms. Garland stated that she did have new signature cards for the board to sign.
 17. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. Clerk Crisp stated that no one was signed in for public comment.
 18. Chairman Eller stated that we would now go into the discussion items. Clerk Crisp stated that she needed approval for the Releases in the amount of \$342.52. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 19. Clerk Crisp stated that the board needed to appoint Shannon Carpenter as the Chairman to the Community Child Protection Team. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Shannon Carpenter as Chairman to this board. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 20. Clerk Crisp stated that the board needed to approve the members of the Community Child Protection Team. Clerk Crisp stated that the names are: Shawndee Barlow, Juvenile Detention; Glenda Bradley, Local Health Care Provider; Gabe Hooper, Appalachian; Angela Knight, School; Connie Orr, Commissioner; Alicia Parham, Public Health; Butch Sanders, DSS; Tonya Stewart, GAL's Program; Joe Jones and Steven Smith, Law Enforcement; Vickie Teem, DA and Karen Underwood, Mental Health. Commissioner Williams made the motion to accept the names as presented. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 21. Clerk Crisp stated that she needed approval of the Amendment to the Ordinance Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 22. Clerk Crisp stated that no one had bid on the EMS Base Building Repairs for the metal siding. Commissioner Eller made the motion to have Gavin Colvard find someone to do the work. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Wiggins stated that whomever did the work they needed to make sure that the metal cap extended over the block wall.
 23. Clerk Crisp gave an update on the E911 Progress and stated that all was on schedule. Ms. Garland stated that she would be speaking with Mission Critical on the budget to try and coordinate the use of the 911 funds instead of the grant funding.
 24. Clerk Crisp stated that EMS had an unannounced spot inspection on Ambulances 510 and 511 and there were no deficiencies. Clerk Crisp congratulated Larry Hembree for this inspection.
 25. Clerk Crisp stated that she had two old business items. The first item is the appointment of a DSS Board Member and the recommendation from the DSS Board was Amber Davis. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Amber Davis as the DSS Board Member. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Chairman Eller calls for a vote. Commissioners Eller, Orr, Nelms and Wiggins voted yes. Commissioner Williams voted no. Motion carried four to one.
 26. Clerk Crisp stated that Sophia Paulos had volunteered for the RDA Board member seat. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Sophia Paulos to the RDA Board. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 27. Chairman Eller asks for a motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (3) (5) (6) for privileged or confidential information, attorney-client privilege, personnel and contracts. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 28. Chairman Eller stated that he needed a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

29. Clerk Crisp stated that a motion needed to be made to provide a vehicle and pay for the books for Barry Adams to go to the Advanced Intermediate Training for the EMS. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Clerk Crisp stated that a motion needed to be made to allow Cindy Waldroup to take January 27th off without pay. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Clerk Crisp stated that a motion needed to be made to allow the payment of Sophia Paulos comp time. Commissioner Orr made the motion to pay Sophia Paulos her comp time. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Clerk Crisp stated that a motion needed to be made to allow Four Square to submit the application for a Block Grant. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the submission of the application. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Clerk Crisp stated that a motion needed to be made to appoint Suzanne Wiggins to the EDC Board in the place of Paul Worley. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Suzanne Wiggins to the EDC Board. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Rebecca Garland as the new County Manager. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. The board gave a directive to Attorney Coward to attend both meetings of the month unless he felt that he was not needed.
36. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Dale E. Wiggins, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board