

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, April 17, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for a budget meeting. All board was present.

1. Chairman Eller called the meeting to order.
2. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to open the meeting. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Eller asks Rebecca Garland, County Manger / County Finance Officer to proceed.
4. Manager Garland stated that she would be reviewing some of the large issues and the first discussion was on the sanitation / recycling department. Manager Garland stated that she needed guidance on these topics:
 - a. Dump site management? Manned, gated, recycling.
 - b. Enforcement of ordinance. Directive to research.
 - c. Brush – what to do with it? We have no place to take it – Ballground will not take it – Chipper to create mulch?
 - d. Convert the knuckle-boom truck to put a bed on it with a container so it can be used more effectively to pick up sites; large items and brush.
 - e. Recycling education program is needed.
 - f. Work hours for part time staff – they currently work 24 hours per week but if we man sites or work more diligently to maintain them we need more man hours because they are now staying busy all their hours.
 - g. Survey the public about the sites – Facebook, newspaper, paper surveys left at businesses.
5. Tri-County Community College requested \$4000.00 more than last year.
6. Library request for \$80,000.00 which is a \$10,000.00 increase.
7. Schools – Gary Corsair emailed Manager Garland and told her the schools will be requesting an increase of \$60,000.00, which is not unexpected for the fact we have lost our SRS funds.
8. Fire Departments also lost SRS so???? We allocate \$26,850.00 and then SRS usually ran between \$6500.00 to \$8000.00. What are our next steps?
9. Budgeted property taxes \$5,791,693 for 2016. We will be able to budget for \$5,811,699, which is a gain of approximately \$20,000. However, because we have done a better job of collecting back taxes, there will be less taxes from older years coming in. We are waiting on DSS budget, but projecting revenue flat with last year overall.
10. Compensation – we are still waiting on health insurance and retirement rates.
11. Other items:
 - a. P&J Building – where to store items to save from demolition.
 - b. Animal Control – contract with Valley River Humane Society. We need to rebuild our relationship now that they are operating better.
 - c. Travel and Tourism – Occupancy Tax – increase to 6%? We will need to petition the General Assembly and put forth a bill to the House.
12. Staffing of jail and sheriff. A request for more positions will be coming forward. The board wants the ratio of employees per population in Cherokee County, Clay County and Swain County.
13. Summer Workers. We used two workers last year but only need one worker this year. Will also be seeking interns to open fields of talent. A great resource.
14. Schedule more budget workshops. The Board agreed to Monday, May 8th; Thursday, May 11th and Friday, May 12th all meetings will commence at 10:00 a.m.
15. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr 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