

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, August 7, 2017 for a continued meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All board was present.

1. Chairman Eller called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Eller stated that the board would need a motion to close the continued meeting and open the public hearing for the Health and Human Services Consolidation. Commissioner Orr made the motion to close the continued meeting and open the public hearing. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Chairman Eller asks County Manager Becky Garland to proceed with the discussion. Manager Garland presented a power point to the board and public. Manager Garland stated that in 2012 the General Assembly passed Session Law 2012-126 “An act to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the Administration of Human Services and it created options for organizing and governing county human services agencies. This act was opened to Wake and Mecklenburg counties since the 1990’s. Manager Garland stated that this allows the County Board of Commissioners to assume powers and duties of certain boards and under the law the County Board has three options. Manager Garland stated that 29 counties to date have opted into the process. Manager Garland stated that the options were as follows:
 - a. Option 1: Assume Direct Control of Local Boards
 - i. Board of County Commissioners becomes the Health Board and the DSS Board.
 - ii. Under Statute the County Commissioners appoints a health advisory board with the same composition as the current Health Board.
 - iii. Board of County Commissioners assumes powers and duties of the Health Board which are policy making, rule making and adjudicatory board; appoints department directors and employees remain subject to State Human Resources Act.
 - b. Option 2: Board of Commissioners creates Consolidated Human Services Board
 - i. 25 members board
 - ii. Manager appoints the CHS Director with advice and consent of the CHS Board
 - iii. CHS Director appoints a health director
 - iv. May opt out of State Human Resources Act
 - c. Option 3: Board of Commissioners becomes the Consolidated Human Services Board
 - i. Board of Commissioners acts as the Consolidated Human Services Board
 - ii. Creates one less layer of governance

Manager Garland listed the reasons why they are making a change and they are:

- a. Counties are charged with responsibility to provide for the public health and welfare of its citizens. Board of Commissioners bears ultimate responsibility and liability.
- b. Facilitate better communication between Board of Commissioners and all essential services of the local government.
- c. Consolidation of both roles under one roof provides for efficiencies in service delivery with interdisciplinary support for clients.
- d. Create better policy alignment with all county departments.

Manager Garland stated that there will have no major changes to the roles and responsibilities of staff and no changes in personnel management and that all employees in the DSS and Health Department will remain under the State Personnel Act. Manager Garland stated that the current Health Board would be dissolved and an advisory committee would be formed and they oversee public health concerns with policy and will advise the Board of County Commissioners on these matters and the committee members may be paid a stipend as set by the Board of County Commissioners. Manager Garland stated that the Directors would now be appointed by the Board of Commissioners instead of their former governing boards and they will report to and be governed by the Board of County Commissioners.

5. Manager Garland asks for public comment. Jacky Ayers asks if they will have the same salary plan. Manager Garland stated that the county has a salary plan that is approved by the state each year. Karen Anderson asks how many other counties have gone to consolidation. Manager Garland stated that (5) Western counties have consolidated.
6. Chairman Eller asks Jim Hager to speak. Mr. Hager asks how will anyone know what is accurate when you are dealing with an advisory board only and this does not seem like a good idea to him if you don’t have oversight especially with the DSS Board. Mr. Hager stated that they are setting themselves up for trouble. Manager Garland stated that the statutes are plain and the

health advisory board will be held accountable as well and further stated that there is nothing in the statutes concerning a DSS Board.

7. Chairman Eller asks Ann Hager to speak. Ms. Hager stated that she is on the DSS Board and she had to read the newspaper to find out about the dissolving of the board and she stated that the current DSS board is working on several issues. Ms. Hager stated that there are 205 reports of abuse and 49 active cases and the county board will have a big job on their hands. Ms. Hager stated that she hoped that the county did not neglect the DSS Board. Chairman Eller stated that the boards had not been dissolved yet and she would have been notified if and when they were. Commissioner Williams stated that the board of commissioners wanted a say in how the departments are run and we are responsible to the people of this county.
8. Chairman Eller asks for a motion to close the public hearing and reopen the continued meeting. Commissioner Williams made the motion to close the public hearing and reopen the continued meeting. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Chairman Eller asks for new or old business. Manager Garland stated that the roof at the pool needed repairs to some areas that are rotting away. The board gave a directive to Manager Garland to bid the work out.
10. Manager Garland stated that the local contractor who bush hogs our EMS base has asked if he could trade out some work for the green truck that was salvaged at sanitation. Commissioner Williams made the motion to remove the tires and crush the green truck. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Chairman Eller asks Butch Sanders to speak. Mr. Sanders stated that he would like to bring up one point concerning salaries. Mr. Sanders stated that he was asked to do salary comparisons with other neighboring counties and requests that the board formulate a panel to have discussion on the pay plan. Mr. Sanders suggests that Manager Garland, Kim Crisp and Juanita Colvard and any commissioner who would like to sit down with them and go over the information that he has collected. Chairman Eller stated that our personnel committee was trying to finish changes to the personnel manual now and then a wage study can be done. Mr. Sanders thanked the board for their time.
12. Commissioner Williams stated that the Miata's Club had donated \$2,615.00 to the Graham County Rescue Squad and he wanted to acknowledge their gift.
13. Chairman Eller stated that we would now go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (3) (6) for privileged or confidential information; attorney client privilege and personnel. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to extend Christie Edwards FMLA for three (3) months. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to continue this meeting to Tuesday, August 8th at the Transit Facility located on West Fort Hill, Robbinsville to meet with Raleigh NCDOT by skype. 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 to the Board