

Regular Meeting – August 15, 2017

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building 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. Manager Garland stated that we needed to add Juanita Colvard, Transit Director as Item 6A for the approval of the ADA Policy revision. Commissioner Wiggins asks that the Sanitation Enforcement Officer be moved from discussion items to closed session. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the changes as stated and approve the agenda. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the August 1st Regular Minutes; August 7th Continued Meeting and August 8th Continued Meeting. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks Juanita Colvard, Transit Director to speak. Ms. Colvard stated that she was here to present a revision to the Graham County Transit System Safety Program Plan. Ms. Colvard stated that verbiage was changed to the emergency evacuation plan and the fire prevention plan for Transit. Ms. Colvard stated that this is the only change that was made to the policy. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept and approve the changes as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Juanita Colvard, Transit Director also requested that the board grant permission for the 1999 bus to be taken out of her budget and put into the administration budget to be used to haul people to the Hooper Bald to view the Eclipse. Commissioner Orr made the motion to move the surplus 1999 Transit Bus to the administration budget. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Ms. Colvard also requested that the bus be allowed to transfer people to the Hooper Bald and she did have a CDL Driver who works for the county that will drive the bus. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow the bus to be used for the solar eclipse and the expense to come from the administration budget. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Ms. Colvard discussed the plans for the use of transit on the day of the eclipse with the commissioners.
8. Juanita Colvard, Transit Director stated that she needed approval for one change to the Graham County Transit ADA Policy. Ms. Colvard stated that this change concerns common wheelchairs language being changed to wheelchairs and other mobility devices. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve this change. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Chairman Eller asks for the Finance and Manager's Report. Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer stated that the county ended the month of July with a cash balance of \$5,619,733.47 which is up \$1,117,000.00 from this time last year and she was very pleased with this amount. Manager Garland stated that we are still owed \$390,000.00 on the 911 Call Center and this will replenish the account as well. Manager Garland stated that we have collected \$667,559.84 in current year taxes; \$22,280.77 in back taxes and \$43,710.30 in DMV taxes. Manager Garland stated that we are ahead in real taxes of \$79,000.00 and our tax collection rate is 10.93% which is a little ahead from this time last year. Manager Garland stated that we will have a surplus for year end of around \$194,000.00. Manager Garland stated that our revenues were \$1,069,344.03 and the expenditures were \$836,675.33 leaving us a surplus of \$232,668.70. Manager Garland stated that our sales tax was \$207,588.94 the highest she has ever seen since working for Graham County and was very pleased to see this. Manager Garland stated that she will be cutting a check to the Graham County Schools in the amount of approximately \$60,000.00 from the sales tax expansion. Manager Garland stated that to date we have collected \$573,243.07 in past due taxes and she gives credit to the tax office for their hard work. Manager Garland stated that our ideal budget percentage at this time should be 92% and we are holding at 94% and was very pleased with the employees for their diligence in saving money.
10. Manager Garland stated that she would like to establish a capital reserve account and she has been approved to move the \$1.5 million reimbursement for the purchase of the P&J out of the loan proceeds account with a motion to establish a capital reserve fund account by the commissioners. Commissioner Orr made the motion to establish a capital reserve fund account

with the \$1.5 million reimbursement monies. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

11. Manager Garland stated that the P&J project and the 911 Call Center are coming along well and they picked out colors for the P&J building this week. Manager Garland stated that a change order would be coming concerning some of the tile that was not HIPPA compliant.
12. Manager Garland stated that the Life Force helicopter is now at the Andrews Airport and the aircraft is part of the AirMed Network. Manager Garland stated that they are (4) minutes away from us by air. Manager Garland stated that the representative for AirMed would be hosting a BBQ to allow county citizens to sign up for this program as well.
13. Manager Garland asks Clerk Crisp to discuss the deal with BCBS and Mission Hospital. Clerk Crisp stated that as of now Mission Hospital will only honor BCBS for those that have coverage through the federal exchange and we are not included. Clerk Crisp stated that she attended a meeting with BCBS and they ask that we remain patient and hopefully a compromise will be worked out. Clerk Crisp stated that over 260,000 BCBS members are affected by this change.
14. Manager Garland stated that she has the Children in the Workplace Policy and asks if the board had reviewed the two policies and further stated that she likes the shorter version better. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go with the shorter version of the Children in the Workplace Policy. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Manager Garland stated that she will be giving a Leadership Seminar on Thursday, September 7th at the community building for the department managers and any commissioner who would like to attend. Manager Garland stated that there will be two sessions that day, one in the morning and an afternoon session and they could choose which session to attend. The session will be concerned with Visioning and Customer Service and we will have a follow up session in October. Manager Garland stated that this is part of the staff development.
16. Manager Garland stated that we have received informal word today from a stakeholder with Brookfield on the dock issue and they have backed down on the issue of the 50 feet. Manager Garland stated that she is awaiting an official email and would provide further information at this time.
17. Manager Garland stated that she had a call with Angie Gee, USFS regarding revision of fee structures in North Carolina and she stated that they will be having public comment on these proposed fees on Friday. Manager Garland stated that the use fees will change in Graham County and the public comment will be a (45) day comment period. Manager Garland stated that all the fees will go toward making improvements and maintaining the areas and Angela Gee expressed that she is happy to speak with commissioners as a whole or individually if they have any questions. The proposed fees are:
 - a. Cable Cove and Horse Cove Camping – increase fee to \$15.00 per site from \$10.00.
 - b. Cheoah Point camp sites – increase fee to \$20.00 from \$15.00; RV sites – increase fee to \$25.00 from \$20.00 and Cabins- increase fee to \$40.00 from \$35.00
 - c. Parking at Cheoah Point Beach - \$5.00 per vehicle per day or \$30.00 annual pass
 - d. Atoah Shooting Range - \$5.00 per day per person or \$30.00 annual pass
 - e. Tsali – increase to \$20.00 from \$15.00
 - f. Rattler Cove – Group sites increase to \$75.00 per night from \$50.00 per night.
18. Manager Garland stated that she received an email from Robert Vance with USFS regarding dumpsites and he outlined the requirements for any site closures. The email states that sites have to be rehabilitated back to a natural state including fence, asphalt and concrete removal as well as placement of barriers to site or sites. The permits for all five sites expire December 31, 2017 so she is beginning to work on those applications.
19. Manager Garland stated that we rejoined the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments and we have received an invitation to the October 17-18 conference with a complementary registration for the commissioners and the county manager. Manager Garland asks who would be interested in attending to please let her know.
20. Manager Garland stated that we received the Facility Inspection Report for Sanitation and no violations was noted.
21. Manager Garland stated that she attached the report for the jail from the Grand Jury in the board's packets.
22. Manager Garland stated that we have all departments that are directly impacted by the effects of the Eclipse on standby for the weekend and Monday and these include the EMS, Sheriff, Jail, Sanitation, Health Department (food inspections) and Transit. Manager Garland stated that the Senior Center is planning to treat the day as a snow day for meals and they have distributed

emergency food for clients and have encouraged seniors to stay off the road for their own health and safety. Manager Garland stated that all departments will remain open on Monday with business as usual. Manager Garland stated that if the garbage is terrible then she may schedule a Sunday pickup. The board all agreed that the county manager will make the decisions concerning issues related to the Eclipse.

23. Manager Garland stated that she, Chairman Eller and Commissioner Nelms would be attending an A-0009 Quantum Meeting in Raleigh and she has worked on the issue with the meeting for ARC.
24. Manager Garland stated that Patrick Woody with NC Rural Center would arrive between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 23rd at the community building. Manager Garland asks that the board relay to her any topics that they may wish to discuss.
25. Manager Garland stated that Commissioner Williams has asked for a joint Travel and Tourism meeting on August 23rd at 5:30 p.m.
26. Manager Garland stated that two paramedics have requested to attend higher level training for Critical Care Paramedic at AB Tech October 16th to November 2nd causing them to miss three shifts. Manager Garland stated that they are asking that they not have to use 144 hours of annual leave and that the county pay for the tuition, books and hotel in Asheville. Manager Garland stated that the county pays for all of these things for Sheriff Deputies and doesn't understand the disparity between the departments. Manager Garland stated that we needed to treat all departments alike. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to make sure that every department is treated the same on every level. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Commissioner Williams stated that he is opposed to the fees set by the USFS and stated that Alcoa paid for the Cheoah Point Access and we needed to frame a letter of opposition to the USFS. The board directed Manager Garland to write a letter of opposition to the USFS on their proposed increase of fees in the county. Bill Flannigan, a member of the public stated that he used to work for the older Americans Act and they kept the campsites cleaned and maintained and the forest service needed to get this program back because these increases are too much for local people.
28. Chairman Eller asks for the discussion items. Manager Garland stated that we have Releases in the amount of \$522.58. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Releases. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Manager Garland stated that we received one bid on the 2009 Dodge Mini Van and no bids for the 1999 Ford Bus. Chairman Eller opened the one bid from Tim Sullivan for \$1600.00. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to accept the bid from Tim Sullivan for the 2009 Dodge Mini Van. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Manager Garland stated that it was time to renew the Verizon Wireless Contract which is 70 lines for \$47,110.00 and stated that these are not all phones and that several of them are Hotspots used by the Sheriff's Department, smart phones for DSS and tablets for Transit. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Manager Garland asks for the reappointment of Jess Wehr on the Travel and Tourism Board. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to reappoint Jess Wehr. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Manager Garland asks for the reappointment of Velda McGuire for the Jury Commission Board. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reappoint Velda McGuire. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Manager Garland stated that the board had held a public hearing on the dissolution of the DSS and Health Board and asks for a motion to dissolve these boards. Commissioner Williams made the motion to dissolve the DSS Board and the Health Board. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Manager Garland stated that the board needed to appoint a Health Advisory Board and decide if they wanted a DSS Advisory Board. The board will discuss the DSS Advisory Board at a later date. The board asks Clerk Crisp for a listing of the names who will sit on the Health Advisory Board. Clerk Crisp stated that Kerry Rogers, Commissioner Connie Orr, Karen Anderson, Anthony Ditmore, Claudine Gibson, Meggan Smith would like to stay on as the Health Advisory Board Members. The board also added Lorena Beasley, Aaron Stewart and Jill Raymer to the list if they would like to serve. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint the persons as named

above for the Health Advisory Board. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

35. The board discussed the times for the DSS Board and Health Board meetings to take place. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 4:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building for the DSS Board meetings. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 4:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building for the Health Board meetings. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to meet with the Health Advisory Board at 1:00 p.m. on August 23rd. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. Clerk Crisp asks is the board would prefer her to clerk for these two boards or if they would like to appoint someone else. The board all agreed that Clerk Crisp will take the minutes for the DSS and Health Board.
39. Manager Garland stated that we needed to remove the radios from the wrecked sheriff's vehicle so the insurance can come and take it. Manager Garland stated that the vehicle was totaled.
40. Manager Garland stated that the county would be observing Labor Day on Monday, September 4th and that essential services would remain open.
41. Manager Garland asks if the board had more discussion on the paving of the roads at the Old Mother Church Cemetery. Commissioner Orr stated that the cemetery board has begun to set aside monies to do this paving and they will also reach out to Division 14 to see if they could help in anyway.
42. Manager Garland stated that we had one comment for public comment. Manager Garland stated that Juanita Colvard had spoken with Sara Jane Melton with SW Commission and they could check on applying for a grant on the paramedics training. Commissioner Orr made the motion to reach out to Sara Jane Melton for possible grant funding. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
43. Chairman Eller stated that we would now 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 Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
44. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
45. Commissioner Orr made the motion to add Commissioner Dale Wiggins to the Health Advisory Board. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
46. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams 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