

Regular Meeting – October 3, 2017

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, October 3, 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. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes of September 19<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks for the manager's report. Manager Garland stated that our capital projects continue to progress. The 911 Call Center is at 49% in the construction phase and MCP is beginning to work on the technology side. The P&J Building is gutted and new wall structures are going up. Scott Donaldson brought over the preliminary plans for the administrative building and we need to have a workshop to make some decisions about these plans. Manager Garland asks the board if they wanted to make some time next meeting to review the plans and suggest any changes. The board was fine with the suggestion.
7. Ms. Garland stated that the board needs to make a final decision about whether to place the sales tax referendum on the ballot for the 2018 election cycle. The referendum would yield an additional \$150,000.00 in revenue. Manager Garland stated that if the board wanted the referendum put on the primary the election board would need to know by March 1<sup>st</sup> and if the board wanted it on the general election ballot then the election board would need to know by the end of July. Manager Garland stated that it will be our responsibility to educate the public due the information on the ballot being only the generic language. Attorney Coward asks that he be allowed to check into this a little more to see how much information could be placed on the ballot. The board was fine with this suggestion.
8. Manager Garland stated that she has attached the agenda and minutes of the RPO meeting held on September 25<sup>th</sup> for the board's review.
9. Manager Garland stated that she would hold item #4 for public comment.
10. Manager Garland stated that Slaying the Dragon Sports Car Hillclimb is this weekend October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and this is a family event with free admission. Manager Garland stated that parking and shuttle will be available and she left several flyers on the table for the public.
11. Manager Garland stated that Clerk Crisp prepared copies of the updated Graham County Personnel Manual and asks that the board review the changes and provide questions and comments within the next two weeks so we can proceed with publishing of the manual and begin the process of staff education.
12. Manager Garland stated that WCU had reached out to us for interns and she will be using two of them to assist with the pay plan for the county. Manager Garland stated that she was very pleased with this resource.
13. Manager Garland attached "Dates to Remember" for the upcoming meetings for the board's review.
14. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. Manager Garland stated that Darlene Lovingood and Ruby Turpin had signed in for public comment. Ms. Lovingood stated that she was here to ask for help on Yuletide Ministries. Ms. Lovingood stated that they helped 276 kids last year and they struggled to come up with the \$41,400.00. Ms. Lovingood stated that they still have the thrift store, they perform a cantata and they rely on lots of contributors. Commissioner Orr asks if they obtained their 501-C3 status. Ms. Lovingood stated that they did. Ms. Lovingood stated that she would appreciate any type of help that the county could provide. Ms. Lovingood stated that they try and spend \$50.00 on each child.
15. Chairman Eller asks Bill Flannigan to speak. Mr. Flannigan asks if the board has begun the groundwork for a new jail and government center. Mr. Flannigan stated that the county needed these centers and further stated that his son had visited our jail and he stated that it was not fit to put a dog in there. Mr. Flannigan stated that he was aware that the cost will be high but a

judge ruling will cost us lots more money. Commissioner Williams stated that the county would need around ten million dollars for this project. Commissioner Orr stated that the board has not been ignoring the situation and we are taking on our projects one at a time. Manager Garland stated that we are building a new 911 Center and remodeling the P&J Building at this time and she did have a debt model study completed at the same time she did for the other two projects. Commissioner Orr stated that we will come up with a solution and our intent is not be pass this onto another board but we have a lot to be accomplished and we are making steps on what we can afford.

16. Manager Garland stated that she had received a call from a concerned citizen, Mr. Coy Odom regarding sanitation. Manager Garland stated that he worked in the industry for 40 plus years before returning to Graham County and he stated that we needed to seriously consider closing all dumpster sites except for the Transfer Station and Stecoah due to the fact that all of the others are close to town and we are being inefficient. He also stated that we could save a lot of money and this would take care of the illegal dumping and diving. He also stated that other counties are using our dumpsites because theirs are controlled and charged in other counties. Manager Garland stated that he also stated that the transfer station should be gated and manned to limit illegal activity and further stated that it is time that Graham County begin looking at other counties and realize that we need to be more efficient and effective in our sanitation operation. Commissioner Eller stated that for four and a half years he has been discussing the need to fix the sanitation problem and he asks that the board come up with a plan by the next meeting. Commissioner Orr agrees as well as Commissioner Wiggins. Commissioner Orr stated that 98% of our citizens use and respect our dumpster sites but the 2% that abuse them has become a problem.
17. Chairman Eller stated that we would now go to the discussion items. Manager Garland stated that we have discoveries in the amount of \$729.12. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the discoveries. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Manager Garland stated that the Senior Center had received extra HCCBG monies in the amount of \$3099.00 with a 25% county match. Commissioner Williams made the motion to accept the extra money. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Manager Garland asks the board if they wanted to adopt the Resolution on Creeks and Waterways. The board had discussion. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Chairman Eller called for a vote. Commissioners Eller, Nelms, Orr and Wiggins voted yes. Commissioner Williams voted no. Motion carried four to one.
20. Manager Garland asks the board if they were ready to approve the Resolution requesting that the North Carolina Department of Transportation raise the speed limit in specific areas of Graham County. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Manager Garland stated that the board needed to move the November 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting to the EMS Training Room due to the town election being held at the community center. Commissioner Williams made the motion to move the November 7<sup>th</sup> DSS and Regular Meetings to the EMS Training Room. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. Manager Garland stated that Katherine Lynch agreed to sit on the Health Advisory Board. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Katherine Lynch to the Health Advisory Board. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Manager Garland stated that Billy Brown had resigned the Travel and Tourism Authority Board and asks the board's recommendations for a replacement. The board agreed to postpone this replacement to the next meeting.
24. Manager Garland stated that Aimee Johnson, Nikki Stewart and Brandy Cook had completed their requirements to be appointed as Tax Review Officer and could do so with the board's appointment. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint the ladies as Tax Review Officers. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Garland presented the board with an application for boards and committees for the public to fill out if they wished to serve on a board or a committee and asks that the board review it and revisit at the next meeting. The board all agreed.
26. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reopen the Snowbird Dumpster site. The board had discussion and learned that the fence has been taken down and the price to repair would be thousands of dollars. Commissioner Nelms stated that he wished that they had not closed the site because it did not get us to a goal and it has alienated that area of the county.

Commissioner Nelms stated that he understood that NCDOT would start the bike lane sooner than expected and this has not helped with the illegal dumping. Commissioner Wiggins stated that he has taken the time to look at all the sites and found that 90% of the people who drive to work pass at least one dumpster site and an added 2 ½ miles to a dumpster site is not asking too much. Commissioner Wiggins stated that it is 9 miles for Panther Creek to dump their garbage; 8.6 miles for Dick Branch to dump their garbage; 9 miles for Yellow Creek to dump their garbage so he does not feel that the closing of the Snowbird site had alienated anyone. Commissioner Wiggins stated that he received numerous complaints that the Snowbird site was being used for illegal drugs and it was the worst site in the county. Commissioner Williams stated that the people who live on West Buffalo go around Massey Branch when they come to town and they do not pass a dumpster site. Chairman Eller asks for a second to the motion on the floor. No second was made. Motion died for lack of second.

27. Chairman Eller stated that the board 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 Wiggins made the motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Commissioner Orr made the motion to pay out Gavin Colvard's compensatory time. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Dale E. Wiggins, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board