

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. for their regular monthly 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 Commissioner Williams to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Eller asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Eller asks for changes to the agenda. Manager Garland asks if we can move Item 13 Public Comment to #9A. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated change. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller stated that it was time to elect a chairman and a vice-chairman for 2018. Commissioner Orr made the motion to re-elect Keith Eller as the Chairman. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to re-elect Connie Orr as the Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the minutes for: Special Meeting-November 20th; Workshop and Regular Meeting-November 21st. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chairman Eller asks Cecil Elders to speak. Clerk Crisp stated that he was not present but he was requesting that the board of commissioners pave the road leading to his home on Snowbird. Clerk Crisp stated that she informed Mr. Elders that the county does not maintain roads and he would need to speak with NCDOT.
8. Chairman Eller asks Jessica Jones to speak. Ms. Jones stated that she was here to discuss an issue of our phone service in the county. Ms. Jones stated that she lives thirty (30) minutes from town and her neighbor had a heart attack while her phone was out and is still out and they have reported outages numerous times but with no response. Ms. Jones stated that the paving company tore the phone line down that connects to her and her neighbors and the telephone company refuses to repair it, in fact, the paving company had to use their employees to rehang the phone line so that it would be off the road. Ms. Jones asks the board if they could help them in some way to get service to their area of the county. Commissioner Orr asks where Ms. Jones lives. Ms. Jones stated that she lives on Farley Branch on Mountain View School Road. Chairman Eller stated that this issue is county wide. Commissioner Wiggins stated that he was without phone service for (12) weeks before his was repaired. Ms. Jones stated that she would help in any way that she could and she had spoken with a supervisor and he said that the copper is so old it is brittle and decaying and Frontier will not repair it. Ms. Jones stated that she contacted WLOS and they would not look into the problem. Ms. Jones stated that they have a petition with 260 names on it and they would like to put this out in the county to get more support. Commissioner Orr stated that she would gladly help and would take it to her church and her community on Beech Creek. Manager Garland stated that we can get the word out in the Graham Star and she would gladly help. Chairman Eller stated that the majority of Snowbird was out for one month because a tree fell across the line and they faced the same issues. Chairman Eller stated that the Utilities Commission does not govern Frontier but the Attorney General's Office does. The board agreed that we needed to make noise about this issue. Commissioner Wiggins stated that we needed to file the complaint with the Consumer Complaint Division. The board thanked Ms. Jones for coming to them with her concerns.
9. Chairman Eller asks Liz Velazquez to speak. Ms. Velazquez stated that she also lives on Mountain View Road and her business is located there as well. Ms. Velazquez stated that she has written letters and called many times to report these issues and she will receive a credit but that doesn't help the people in rural areas. Ms. Velazquez stated that Frontier has customers with severe medical conditions and businesses are affected by this non-service. Ms. Velazquez stated that it was time for Frontier to step up and further stated that her community has been patient. Ms. Velazquez stated that we need to send copies of the petitions to our congressmen and senators. Ms. Velazquez stated that she has been without phone since October 8, 2017 and they will give a credit but will not fix the problem. Ms. Velazquez stated that Frontier uses outside contractors and still we have no phone. Ms. Velazquez felt that we needed to send a bulk complaint to the FCC and try to make a change. Ms. Velazquez stated that the rural businesses have lost a lot of business due to the phone outages. Ms. Velazquez stated that she is the one that had the heart attack and still has no phone two months later. Commissioner Williams stated that we needed

the petition so that thousands of people will sign it. Ms. Velazquez stated that she had also called WLOS and they never called back and she will go higher to get help with this situation. Ms. Velazquez stated that she will be posting this on Facebook and asks that people like and forward the post. Commissioner Orr stated that we are a distressed Tier 1 county and we do need help. Manager Garland will get with Ms. Velazquez and Ms. Jones and organize an article to be put in the paper and get more people involved. The board and the public all agreed that this is important and we need help on this issue. The board discussed the use of hand held radios in this area and they do not have reception either. Tere Moore, with the Graham Star, stated that she would put the petition in the paper and hopefully reach as many people as possible. Commissioner Wiggins asks if she would put it in the neighboring counties as well. Ms. Moore stated that they could work something out. Commissioner Wiggins stated that this is not just a Graham County issue but the surrounding counties are having the same issues. Commissioner Orr stated that we needed to come together for a common cause. Mr. Flannigan stated that our telephone plant is old and if someone new moves in they do not have any connectivity with Frontier. Mr. Flannigan stated that he was a repairman and he understands what needs to be done but that Frontier will not invest money into a new plant. Commissioner Wiggins stated that they would probably sell it soon. Tere Moore stated that she knows that Frontier got billions of dollars for the Connect America to the Rural Communities and we needed to use this as leverage and stated that we needed to join the Class Action lawsuit that has already been filed. Shaun Adams, Town Alderman stated that the Town of Robbinsville would help as well.

10. Chairman Eller asks Bill Flannigan to speak. Mr. Flannigan stated that the other morning he took his wife to therapy and the dump site on Hwy 28 looked like a pigsty but when he came back by the site it was cleaned and he wanted to give thanks to the sanitation workers for their hard work because it took a lot of effort to clean this site up.
11. Chairman Eller asks Viola Lane to speak. Ms. Lane stated that she was here to request the Snowbird Dumpster site be re-opened. Ms. Lane stated that the nearest site is (8) miles from her home. Ms. Lane stated that her tribe did provide service to her home but there are times that she has more trash and would appreciate the Snowbird site re-opened. Chairman Eller stated that the main reason to close were the survey markers that was placed at the site for the proposed work to the Snowbird Road. Commissioner Williams stated that he has received many phone calls to have the site re-opened. Shaun Adams, Town of Robbinsville Alderman stated that he was in agreement with Viola Lane and the site needed to be re-opened.
12. Chairman Eller asks Juanita Colvard and Claudine Gibson to speak. Ms. Colvard stated that the reason they were here was to inform the public that the Urgent Care Center and Dialysis Center are coming to the county. Rumors are being stated that they are not but that is wrong. Ms. Colvard stated that Urgent Care and Dialysis should be here around April 2018. Ms. Colvard stated that this has not died and she wanted the press to be told that they are still coming to Graham County. Claudine Gibson stated that they and the county board have worked hard on this project and specific things are not always public knowledge but they are still coming to our county. Commissioner Orr stated that Ms. Colvard and Ms. Gibson have spearheaded this project and Urgent Care and Dialysis is coming to our county.
13. Chairman Eller asks for the manager's report. Manager Garland stated that she would give the Capital Projects Review. Manager Garland stated that the 911 Call Center construction is about (2) months ahead of schedule. Manager Garland stated that the board had approved a change order (2) months ago to reduce the cost for various options that we elected not to do and this included going with a different electrical switching for the building which was less expensive but still complied with all requirements under the grant. Manager Garland stated that this reduction in cost would be in exchange for upgrades to flooring, outside rockwork and additional paving. Manager Garland stated that the reduction in cost was \$38,500.00 for change order (1) and the contractor and architect have agreed to the other upgrades for a total of \$36,072.00 for a net decrease of \$2,428.00. Manager Garland stated that she would need board approval for change order (2). Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Change Order #2. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Manager Garland met with MCP last week and they are updating the budget against preliminary quotes they are receiving on the technology and if the costs come in lower than the budget, we will have some money left to do additional upgrades. Manager Garland stated that they are still anticipating late spring for occupancy of the building because there will be considerable work to do in testing the system before it is ready to do the cutover to the new system. Manager Garland stated that to date we have spent \$1,325,000.00 of the \$3.4 million dollar grant.

15. Manager Garland asks Misty Hembree, 911 Director to give the quotes for the recorder system. Ms. Hembree stated that she had sent out a RFQ and received three quotes. 1) Carolina Recording for \$45,506.00; 2) Quality Recording Solutions for \$68,605.00 and 3) Vista Com for \$95,217.00. Commissioner Orr asks if there is a preference. Ms. Hembree stated that she is fine with the lowest quote. Commissioner Williams made the motion to accept the lowest quote. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Manager Garland stated that the P&J building insulation was installed last week and the project was 46% complete at November 30th. Manager Garland stated that she is questioning two items with the architect. One is tile that the contractor is asking us to pay or replace due to damage during construction. Manager Garland stated that the architect is working with the contractor reminding them that under our contract documents, the burden of proof is on them as to how the damage is our fault and should be paid by us and in addition I noted that there is a difference between the contract for the door card readers and the actual quote we received. Manager Garland stated that the quote we received mentioned (9) and the contract specified in Option (1) there would be (14) card readers at a total cost of \$25,000.00. Manager Garland stated that she would keep the board posted on this issue and for them to bear in mind that the tile repair may cause another delay to the February 9th completion date.
17. Manager Garland stated that the preliminary plans are available on the Administration Building and the estimated cost which will include a new construction part so that we can move all government offices in the courthouse, except the court and public safety facilities, will be a total of \$1,273,000.00. Manager Garland stated that we had planned to use the funds not used to pay off the health department for the initial project not to include the new construction (\$740,000.00) out of the reimbursement of \$1,500,000.00 for the purchase of the P&J.
18. Manager Garland stated that the move of the building inspections is underway and we are working on getting the engineering finished on footers for the building at sanitation. Manager Garland stated that she had a quote from Curtis Mobile Home to do the move for \$5,000.00 with a quote of an additional \$1,000.00 to do the footers. Manager Garland stated that Curtis did not really want to do the footers so Gavin Colvard is working to find other contractors for this part of the project but she would need approval of the cost to move the building. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the move. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Inspector Nelms asks that the board hold on the footers because they needed to be standard footers. The board agreed to this request. Inspector Nelms and Ms. Self are preparing for the physical move of their records and office furniture and fixtures to the county manager's office. Manager Garland stated that she will check with the Tribe to see if they are willing to cost share the move.
19. Manager Garland stated that Sanitation Director Colvard is unsure how the board wants to proceed on the Christmas schedule for sanitation. Director Colvard stated that he would like to do a run on Sunday prior to Christmas. The board agreed that sanitation could work on Sunday to be off on Monday and then run again on Tuesday. The board gave a directive to Manager Garland on this schedule.
20. Manager Garland stated that she has the USFS Dumpster Applications finished and she will need board action on approving the county to apply for a ten-year permit with the USFS on these sites. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the submittal of the permits as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Manager Garland stated that she has received some inquiries on the Recycling shacks and asks if the board would consider selling those and further stated that we need to have a public auction in January to surplus several items that we are accumulating such as a stainless steel sink, a refrigerator, vehicles and several miscellaneous items. The board agreed to a surplus auction. Commissioner Wiggins stated that we would need to set a minimum price on some of the items. The board agreed.
22. Manager Garland stated that she had received an inquiry regarding the unpaved roads at the Old Mother Church Cemetery. Manager Garland stated that petitions had been presented to the board to have these roads paved and asks the board for their decisions. Commissioner Orr stated that the roads were in good shape and the graves are very close to this road. Manager Garland stated the NCDOT could not pave these roads because their equipment was larger than the road. Chairman Eller stated that these are not driven on and are used for carrying people to the gravesite. The board agreed that the roads were in good shape and if anything needed to be done it would be graveling.
23. Manager Garland stated that she would be out of town on December 14th to speak for Intellectually Disabled and Handicap in Atlanta Georgia.

24. Chairman Eller stated that the board would now go into the discussion items. Manager Garland stated that we have Releases in the amount of \$159.82. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Garland stated that Shaun Garrison, Mapping Director had sent in recommendation for name changes to some roads in Fontana. Commissioner Williams stated that we needed to hold on this until the Road Naming Board met and approved the names. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to hold on any action until the Road Naming Board presented their recommendation. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Manager Garland stated that we had tabled the Bush hogging at EMS but after talking with Gavin Colvard we need award this bid. Manager Garland stated that the first bid was from Joe Waldroup for \$1850.00 and the second bid was from Chris Waldroup for \$2225.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to award to the lowest bid, Joe Waldroup. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Wiggins stated that there are some concrete on one of the sites that needs to be covered up so the tractors would be able to mow that area. Commissioner Williams asks that the board look into purchasing a bush hog for our personnel to use. The board was in agreement.
27. Manager Garland stated that she would let Clerk Crisp explain the next item. Clerk Crisp stated that the recommendation for the CCPT was for Raymond Large with the District Attorney Office and not Commissioner Raymond Williams at large. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Raymond Large to the CCPT Board. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Manager Garland stated that she has the plan for the renovations to the administrative building and asks that the board come by and review the plans.
29. Manager Garland stated that next item for discussion is the Family Caregiver Support Program and stated that this program is for caregivers of people with dementia. Manager Garland stated that they would receive a \$500.00 voucher in respite. Manager Garland asks that everyone give her a call if they know of anyone who would benefit from this program. Manager Garland stated that the vouchers could be used for hair appointments, groceries or just respite. Commissioner Orr stated that this is not for immediate family but it is intended for caregivers and encourages everyone to use these funds.
30. Manager Garland asks for new or old business. No new or old business was discussed.
31. 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 Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Commissioner Orr made the motion to give the county employees a \$50.00 Ingles Gift Card for Christmas. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Commissioner Orr 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