

Regular Meeting – May 1, 2018

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. Board present: Keith Eller, Connie Orr, Jacob Nelms and Raymond Williams. Board absent: Dale Wiggins.

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 requests that we add Sophia Paulos, EDC Director to closed session. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the agenda with the change as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the minutes for the Joint Meeting – April 3rd; Workshop and Regular Meeting – April 17, 2018. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks Macky Lequire to speak. Mr. Lequire stated that it has been 40 years since he came to a commissioners meeting but he has something to say and he is going to say it. Mr. Lequire stated that it was time for the corruption to stop in Graham County and the Graham County Tax Office. Mr. Lequire stated that this is not the first time that he has received a wrong tax bill in fact it occurs over and over again. He purchased a 2003 trailer and gave \$300.00 for it (he produced the bill of sale) and his tax value is \$2320.00 which is \$500.00 lower than last year's bill. Mr. Lequire stated that he goes year after year to get this corrected and it is never fixed. Mr. Lequire stated that if this is being done to him how many other people is this happening too and this does not need to keep going on. Manager Garland stated that DMV is the ones who set the values on these bills through the VTS System and she has spoken with the tax office about this issue and has requested that they keep a list of all taxpayers that are having this same problem and correct the bill prior to it being sent to the taxpayer. Commissioner Williams stated that this is a trailer and the bill is sent to us by Raleigh. Mr. Lequire asks if anyone buys a trailer, does the state automatically know it. Manager Garland stated that if it is tagged then they know about it. Manager Garland stated that she has requested that all bills be looked at and corrected prior to their being sent to Raleigh. Mr. Lequire stated that he was supposed to have received a refund and he has yet to see that. Manager Garland stated that she did sign the check and he should receive the check this week. The board thanked Mr. Lequire for bringing this matter to their attention.
7. Doug Cable, a member in the audience, stated that he thought the county assessed the tax and then it went to Raleigh. Commissioner Orr stated that a law was passed "Tag and Tax" and Raleigh appraises the items that are tagged and then they send a list to each county with their values.
8. Chairman Eller asks Eugene Hooper to speak. Mr. Hooper stated that he wanted to talk to the board about the dumpsters specifically the Sweetwater Site. Mr. Hooper stated that people are throwing carpet and wood items into the dumpsters and we needed to patrol and monitor this activity to get it stopped. Mr. Hooper stated that if the Sheriff Department is supposed to patrol this and doesn't then we need to deduct this from his budget and hire someone to monitor the dump sites. Mr. Hooper stated that they are a shame and a disgrace. Commissioner Williams stated that there are 5 or 6 people who mess up the sites for plain meanness. Mr. Hooper stated that the county needed to monitor this more closely and hire an officer to take care of this instead of this costing the taxpayers more money. Mr. Hooper stated that the Bear Creek Site is used by people from out of the county and further stated that one site is all that the county needed. Commissioner Williams disagreed. Mr. Hooper stated that we needed someone to write tickets and if the sheriff doesn't cooperate then take this amount from his budget. Mr. Hooper stated that we needed to move on something.
9. Chairman Eller asks for the manager's report. Manager Garland stated that the first item for discussion is the capital projects. Courthouse Assessment – Heery will be here on Thursday, May 31st and Friday, June 1st to do the assessment. The first day will revolve around the actual inspection of the infrastructure and the second day will involve interviews of staff. Manager

Garland stated that they would like to meet with the Board of Commissioners on that Friday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. to do an exit conference and we will need to schedule a meeting for that afternoon.

10. Manager Garland stated that we needed to get busy promoting the proposed $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ sales tax increase right after the primaries. Manager Garland stated that the board needed to have it placed on the ballot no later than July 1st. Manager Garland stated that we needed to start with a newspaper article and do other advertising as well and she will be placing some money in the budget for the process.
11. Manager Garland stated that she has attached a draft of the legislation for the increase of the Occupancy Tax for District G, which is the unincorporated parts of Graham County. Manager Garland stated that this will allow collection of the total of 6% on accommodations in these areas which will create more equity of collections and increase revenues. Manager Garland stated that two-thirds of the net collections (the gross collections less up to 3% administration fees the County could charge on the first \$500,000.00 annual collections) should go for promotion of travel and tourism in District G and one-third for tourism related expenditures in District G. Manager Garland asks if the board is in favor of her putting forward the draft bill for consideration. Commissioner Orr made the motion to move forward with this increase of the Occupancy Tax for District G. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Manager Garland stated that WCU has finished their HR project and the scope of work would have cost the county \$10,000.00, however, all we are out was a bit of her time to guide them through what we needed. Manager Garland stated that we now have a personnel manual that is word and link searchable and is fully compliant with all federal and state labor regulations. Manager Garland stated that we also have an onboarding manual that can follow an employee from hire to the end of their employment with the county.
13. Manager Garland stated that a CDBG Scattered Site application is due on July 26th and we can apply for up to \$750,000.00 in funding. Manager Garland stated that she has begun correspondence with the Department of Commerce and we can have a firm assist with the application and then do a RFQ for the administration. Manager Garland stated that she has been talking with a couple of firms in addition to the firm we have used in the past and she needs direction on which way the board wants to go. The board all agreed to take RFP's for the administration.
14. Manager Garland stated that several months ago she presented the board with information regarding land use regulations that also addressed the future of floating houses. The public comment period ends May 18, 2018 and if the board wants to make any comments, we need your input this evening so we can compile it for the process. The board gave Manager Garland a directive to comment that we want things to stay the way they are concerning the houseboats.
15. Manager Garland stated that she received a letter from Rutherford County that advised all NC Counties of their intent to disengage from Vaya Health and to align with Partners Behavioral Health Management. Manager Garland stated that they will have to accept public comment for (60) days and pass a resolution to this effect. Manager Garland stated that Rutherford County is a border county to Partners catchment area.
16. Manager Garland stated that the Sheriff has requested that we install a card swipe system in lieu of locks on the new store front at the sheriff's office. Manager Garland stated that this would be above her spending limit and she told the Sheriff that she would have to get approval from the Board of Commissioners. The board all stated no.
17. Manager Garland stated that the board needed to revisit the dates set for Budget Workshops. The board had discussion and decided to meet Monday, May 21st; Tuesday, May 22nd; and Wednesday, May 23rd at 9:00 a.m.
18. Manager Garland gave the board a list of dates to remember.
 - a. Monday, May 14th – TVA River Tour meet at Murphy Chop House from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. to receive updates on the latest reservoir information.
 - b. Thursday, May 17th – GREAT meeting at Stecoah Valley Center 11:30 a.m. the guest speaker is Angie Chandler, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area and we need to RSVP by May 11th
 - c. Thursday, May 17th – Senior Aging Conference –SCC at 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the theme is: Assistive Technology.
 - d. Thursday, May 24th – Grand Opening Reception – Stecoah Valley Center – “Courtyard of the Cherokee: exhibit.
 - e. May 29th and May 30th – Rural Day and County Assembly Day in Raleigh

- f. May 31st, June 1st – Courthouse Assessment.
19. Manager Garland stated that she, Clerk Crisp and Asst. Finance Officer Machel Crisp will be attending an Employment Law Seminar in Asheville on Friday, May 11th.
 20. Manager Garland stated that we needed to do a ribbon cutting on the new Human Services Building and asks if Friday, May 18th would work. The board was fine with this date.
 21. Chairman Eller stated that we would now go into the discussion items. Manager Garland stated that she needed approval for the JCPC Fiscal Year Funding for 2018-2019 and the county portion is \$5382.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the funding as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 22. Manager Garland stated that we have received a request from the Cross Creek Property Owners on the NO WAKE at Cross Creek. Clerk Crisp stated that Mr. Lee had presented paperwork for the board to review on how the commissioners must ask consideration for the No Wake. Commissioner Williams made the motion to postpone this request until Attorney Coward can talk to Wildlife on restrictions that will be set. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 23. Chairman Eller asks for new or old business. No new or old business was discussed.
 24. 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 Orr made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 25. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 26. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept the contract for the Verizon Vehicle Monitoring for a three month trial period and to randomly pick (35) cars to install the monitors on. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote was called. Commissioners Eller, Orr, Nelms and Wiggins voted yes. Commissioner Williams voted no. Motion carried four to one.
 27. Commissioner Orr stated that the state will be putting forth a bond for the schools and this bond will not cost the taxpayers and asks that everyone encourage the voters to vote for this bond.
 28. Commissioner Orr made the motion to give the school an additional \$142,500.00 due to their shortfall in revenues. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion with stern instructions that they needed to budget correctly for the upcoming fiscal year because the commissioners will not continue this trend. Vote unanimous.
 29. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms 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