

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, August 20, 2019 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 Wiggins called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Wiggins asks Commissioner Nelms to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Wiggins asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the August 6th Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Wiggins asks Sophia Paulos, EDC Director to give the EDC Monthly Report. Ms. Paulos stated that after she graduated from NC Rural Center Development Institute she has been busy developing assignments that would greatly affect the economy and vitality of Graham County. Ms. Paulos stated that she has been assisting with Main Street improvements. Those improvements have been a Community Garden, which will open next spring, funding for the mural project, a grant to give four buildings renewed street fronts through the Downtown Strong Community project and a museum by the Graham County Historical Society. Ms. Paulos stated that a new non-profit has been formed, REVVED UP, which will address the needs and efforts of the many people who are signing on to bring our County Seat to a new life of prosperity. Ms. Paulos stated that with the help of the REDI project, a waterfall of community participation is paying off. Ms. Paulos stated that REVVED UP and the Town of Robbinsville are hosting a Poker Run to raise funds with the top prize of \$500.00 and all proceeds are going to Graham County EMS. Ms. Paulos stated that our citizens are working together to meet the needs of the community. Ms. Paulos thanked John Colwell for his work and has been supported by the Town of Robbinsville, Wolf Creek and Iron Horse, Killboy, Deals Gap, Midway Tire and many more. Ms. Paulos stated that with the help of a group of volunteers and business owners Poker Run will become an annual event that will help support our EMS for many years to come. Ms. Paulos stated that you could volunteer or donate to John Colwell 828-348-9620 or email to dragonflyinnstudio@yahoo.com.
7. Ms. Paulos stated that the 100-page report of the Graham County Housing Report was completed with the assistance of Russ Harris at the Southwestern Commission and very interesting data about Graham County was found. Ms. Paulos gave a reporting on homeownership as well as showing the need for new subsidized rental units and the need to replace subsidized rental units.
8. Ms. Paulos stated that by watching a webinar sponsored by SAMSUNG she has found available funds to support our emergency responders across the country. Ms. Paulos stated that she secured a full report specific to Graham County that outlines exactly which grants are available to our Sheriff's Department at both the state and national levels. Ms. Paulos stated that she has shared the reporting with the Sheriff and will be meeting to discuss which grants are the best fit for the department and the citizens of Graham County. Ms. Paulos stated that the goal is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Sheriff Department in their mission and reduce the amount of county funds needed to achieve these goals.
9. Ms. Paulos stated that we have a new cell phone tower, which will go online, in the middle of town. Ms. Paulos stated that we are a Tier 1 Distressed County and she is working with Keith Conover from the NC Department of IT to find an effective way of addressing areas that Frontier used USDA funds to reportedly bring homes up to 10/1 service. Ms. Paulos stated that this money did not have the impact that was intended when the federal government appropriated these funds and our state and regional partners are working hard to address this disparity. Ms. Paulos stated that the Southwestern Commission and Mountain West Partnership have begun the final phase of their county based, region wide, broadband study and this final portion is set to map out all of the vertical assets in the county, power poles, telephone poles, tall buildings, water towers, cell phone towers and more which will be used to bring high-speed internet to the furthest reaches of our county.
10. Ms. Paulos stated that our support for our Recovery to Work program continues to grow. Ms. Paulos stated that she was on a conference call with Olivia Collier of ARC, Nicole Tess and Tara

Alley from the NC Department of Health and Human Services and they are excited about this program which could give citizens suffering with substance abuse disorder an opportunity to begin a new life. Ms. Paulos stated that DHHS has multiple free or low to no cost training opportunities that our coordinated care counselor will be able to attend once the program has started. Ms. Paulos stated that the program focuses on what is known as Individualized Placement and Support (IPS). The IPS Model is an evidence-based program that focuses on getting people back to work in a place of employment of their choosing. Ms. Paulos stated that they work with organizations like NCWORKS to get people in recovery back to work and into a day-to-day life. Ms. Paulos stated that a number of resources has been shared to ensure that the program is successful, funding is secure and a program that can be modeled in our neighboring counties.

11. Ms. Paulos stated that she continues to work hard to secure the final \$100,000.00 of ARC funding for the 3D Mammogram Machine and the \$50,000.00 Paramedicine Program. Ms. Paulos stated that she is working with the citizens and businesses in our area to get data we need to learn the economic impact this machine will have on Graham County. Ms. Paulos thanked Olivia Collier, Manager Garland, Juanita Colvard and Claudine Gibson for their work on this project to provide adequate healthcare to the citizens of Graham County.
12. Chairman Wiggins asks Angela Knight, Graham County School Superintendent to speak. Ms. Knight stated that she is here to speak to the board about a school building grant. Ms. Knight stated that they are being required to expand the elementary classrooms and they are out of space. Ms. Knight stated that she would like to apply for federal funding to build a 6th Grade wing onto the Middle School. Ms. Knight stated that they can take advantage of this grant once every five years and it does require a three to one match. Ms. Knight presented a possible art design for the board to review. The board discussed the cost at this time of building. Manager Garland stated that she could designate the 524 Sales Tax dollars toward this project. Manager Garland stated that the School Bond is paid off in 2024 and that money can go toward the debt. Ms. Knight stated that the wing would be for 6th Grade, Cafeteria Space and an Administration Addition. Ms. Knight stated that she knew this was a huge conversation. Commissioner Orr stated that grants are not guaranteed forever and we need to take advantage of this now. Manager Garland stated that she would get with Davenport to appropriate the sales tax to this project. The board all agreed that this was doable. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow Angela Knight to apply for the School Building Grant for a 6th Grade Wing, Cafeteria Space and Administration Offices. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
13. Chairman Wiggins asks Amanda Whitaker to speak on the CDBG Grant. Manager Garland stated that Freddie Harrell would be presenting for Ms. Whitaker. Mr. Harrell stated that he was with Withers Ravenel and they are over the administration of the CDBG Grant. Mr. Harrell stated that the board would need to adopt the following resolutions and/or plans.
 - a. Fair Housing Resolution – Establishes a complaint procedure. Establishes Becky Garland, County Manager as the authorized official to receive complaints regarding housing discrimination. Establish procedures for receiving and resolving housing discrimination complaints. Housing discrimination is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act) and the North Carolina Fair Housing Act.
 - b. Providing Meaningful Communication with Persons with Limited English Proficiency – Ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable federal and state laws and their implementing regulations with respect to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on the grounds of race, color or nation origin by any entity receiving federal financial assistance. Administrative methods or procedures, which have the effect of subjecting individuals to discrimination or defeating the objectives of these regulations, are prohibited.
 - c. Local Jobs Initiative Section 3 Plan – Local Economic Benefit for Low and Very Low Income Persons. Opportunities for training and employment be given to lower income residents of the community development projects area and contracts for work in connection with federally assisted community development project be awarded to business concerns located or owned in substantial part by persons residing in the Section 3 covered area, as required by Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. Graham County will comply with all applicable provisions of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended (24CRF Part 135), all

regulations issued pursuant thereto by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and all applicable rules and orders of the Department issued thereunder.

- d. Equal Employment and Procurement Plan – Maintains the policy of providing equal employment opportunities for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, age, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor, except where religion, sex, national origin, or age are bona fide occupation qualifications for employment.
- e. Graham County also completed a 504 Self-Evaluation Survey

Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept and approve of the resolutions and/or plans as stated by Freddie Harrell, Withers Ravenel Administration of the CDBG Grant.

Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

- 14. Chairman Wiggins asks for the finance and manager's report. Manager Garland stated that the county ended the month with a \$7,842,526.04 cash balance, which is \$162,296.21 ahead from this time last year. Manager Garland stated that we collected \$698,074.94 in current year real taxes; \$45,970.02 in prior year taxes and \$44,630.75 in DMV. Manager Garland stated that our year to date collections for real are \$744,044.96 and DMV is \$444,630.75.
- 15. Manager Garland stated that our revenues for the month was \$1,021,049.61 and our expenditures was \$1,071,389.19 for a deficit of \$50,339.58. Manager Garland stated that we had some big-ticket payouts last month due to the renovations for the CT and Mammography Suite.
- 16. Manager Garland stated that our sales tax collection was \$183,647.36 not including the ¼-cent tax.
- 17. Manager Garland stated that the tax office has collected \$477,569.97 in past due taxes.
- 18. Manager Garland stated that the budget is tracking well and we are at 93%. Manager Garland stated that with the new software system we would be able to track expenditures as they come in.
- 19. Manager Garland stated that she has a Budget Ordinance for the NC Neighborhood Program for Graham County through the Graham County Rural Development Authority for \$750,000.00 and needed approval from the board. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
- 20. Manager Garland stated that we are set to hold an auction on September 21st at the Sheriff's Department and we needed to approve the surplus vehicles as listed. Commissioner Orr made the motion to surplus the vehicles as listed. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Manager Garland requests the help of Commissioner Eller to set minimum bids on the vehicles.

1992 FORD TRUCK WITH SNOW PLOW	VIN#1FDXK74PXNVA16964
1993 EAST TRAILER	VIN#1E1E9U28XPRM14145
2013 DODGE CHARGER	VIN#2C3CDXAG5DH534249
2013 FORD TAURUS	VIN#1FAHP2M82DG212573
2012 DODGE CHARGER	VIN#2C3CDXAT6CH224963
2012 DODGE CHARGER	VIN#2C3CDXAG4CH156827
2008 TOYOTA RAV-4	VIN#JTMBD33V086086652
2010 FORD VAN	VIN#1FTDS3EL5ADA15085
2006 FORD VAN	VIN#1FTSS34L66HA71836
2004 FORD CROWN VIC	VIN#2FAHP71W24X175549
2008 DODGE VAN	VIN#1D8HN44H28B176089
1992 DODGE TRUCK	VIN#1B7GG26X3NS623523
2000 CHEV TRUCK	VIN#1GCDT19W2Y8207489

- 21. Manager Garland stated that the staff had their third leadership-training seminar last Friday and it was successful. Manager Garland stated that the staff outlined three priorities and action plans to work on for the good of the county and when we get these goals attained; we will continue to form goals to work on as a team. The goals are:
 - a. Creating a sustainable workforce within the County government and for our community as a whole. Create a coalition of stakeholders to collaborate with the schools and other community organizations to begin the process of educating and mentoring students in middle and high school about our roles as public servants. Help young people realize they can create a sustainable living in Graham County so that we can stop having our young people being our biggest export.

- b. Broadband - working together as a staff to get the research necessary to get broadband in the county.
- c. Continuing to build strong relationships with the Governing Board through effective communication of each departments' mission and goals through information sharing in workshops and in written form.

Manager Garland stated that the better the Governing Board is informed about what each department is doing and working toward, the better we as a team can continue the strong path to which we have started over the past several years.

22. Manager Garland stated that she has the quotes for a new phone system. Manager Garland stated that a cloud system was not affordable. The board reviewed the quotes. The board all agreed to table a decision so they can review the quotes. The board asks that this be placed on the September 3rd agenda.
23. Manager Garland stated that she would not attend the NCACC meeting. Commissioner Orr and she had reviewed the agenda and decided Commissioner Orr would attend on Friday and Saturday.
24. Chairman Wiggins asks for public comment. Manager Garland stated that William Lee from Cross Creek had signed in for public comment. Chairman Wiggins asks Mr. Lee to speak. Mr. Lee stated that he has owned a home at Cross Creek since 1996 and he loves this place. Mr. Lee explained to Commissioner Cody of his previous meetings with the board concerning a request of a buoy on the Ground Squirrel channel. Mr. Lee stated that these are real life issues. Mr. Lee stated that Attorney Coward had sent a letter to Ms. Betsy Hayward, No Wake Zone Coordinator for North Carolina in August of 2018. Mr. Lee stated that Officer Little with the Wildlife Commission came up with an opinion that there are hazards in the Ground Squirrel Channel. Mr. Lee stated that in the letter from Ms. Hayward a single buoy was recommended where the hazards and concerns exist. Mr. Lee gave the board a map of the channel and explained the distances. Mr. Lee asks that the board implement a No Wake Zone with buoy's in the Ground Squirrel Channel where the dangers are located. Mr. Lee stated that the board must hold a public meeting and post two notices in the paper to let people know of the No Wake Zone. Mr. Lee stated that they must have the permission from the Graham County Board of Commissioners. The board had further discussion. Commissioner Eller asks what Brookfield's stance is on this proposal. Mr. Lee stated that Brookfield would not reply because safety is not their responsibility and it is left up to the State. Commissioner Eller stated that this is a Wildlife issue and not a county issue. Mr. Lee stated that NC Wildlife issues tickets. Mr. Lee stated that residents could not sit on their docks due to the wake of the boats. Commissioner Nelms stated that he did not see the need for a No Wake on the entire channel. Chairman Wiggins stated that they sympathize with Mr. Lee but he does not see why this is a county issue. Attorney Coward stated that the county has to pass a resolution and hold a public hearing for a No Wake Zone. Commissioner Wiggins stated that a No Wake of the entire channel would be a tough decision due to our fisherman who utilize the lake. Commissioner Orr stated that this discussion needs to be tabled at this time for further review and then the board would make a decision. Chairman Wiggins tabled the discussion.
25. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the Releases for \$340.54 and the Discoveries for \$39,378.32. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the Releases and Discoveries as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Chairman Wiggins opened the bid for the EMS Shower Replacement. The bid was from Chris Waldroup for \$5,918.00 per shower. Commissioner Eller asks what is wrong with the showers. Manager Garland stated that they are cracked and the water is getting to the floor and walls. The board tabled this bid until further review.
27. Chairman Wiggins opened the bid for the floor replacement in the Clerk of Court's Office. The bid was from Chris Waldroup for \$8,500.00. The board had discussion and due to our building a new courthouse in the near future, they wanted carpet installed. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to have carpet installed in the Clerk of Court's offices. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Chairman Wiggins asks for a reappointment for Diana McRae for the Library Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to reappoint Diana McRae to the Library Board. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Chairman Wiggins asks for new or old business. No new or old business was discussed.
30. Chairman Wiggins 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 Eller made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

31. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Manager Garland stated that Dirk Cody, NC Transportation Commissioner has asked for a letter from the board on the road that they want named after Ronnie Milsap. The board agreed to start at Old Hwy 129 and Hwy 129 Intersection to Tapoco Bridge that crosses into Swain County. Commissioner Cody made the motion to rename the road from Old Hwy 129 and Hwy 129 Intersection to Tapoco Bridge to the Ronnie Milsap Highway. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Chairman Cody made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Dale Wiggins, Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board