

Regular Meeting – May 3, 2016

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, May 3, 2016 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 Nelms called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Nelms asks Commissioner Williams to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Nelms asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the agenda. Manager Edwards stated that we needed to amend the agenda and add Juanita Colvard, Transit Director as Item 9A. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Nelms asks Erma Phillips, Tax Assessor to discuss the remaining appeals from the Board of Equalization and Review.
6. Ms. Phillips stated that the Board of Equalization and Review was adjourned on the 19th day of April and the Board of Commissioners would now make the decisions of the remaining appeals. Ms. Phillips stated that the Board of Commissioners serve also as the Board of Equalization and Review. Ms. Phillips stated that the board needed to make a decision on the property owned by Dirk Cody and Eternal Truth Ministries. Commissioner Williams asks if the appeal from Mr. Cody was the counties fault. Ms. Phillips stated that their appeal was a loss of business due to the berms that are located on the by-pass in front of their business. Ms. Phillips stated that large trucks cannot make the right hand turn due to the berms and this is costing the business revenue every time a truck takes their business elsewhere. Ms. Phillips stated that this is not our fault but it was not the business owners fault either and she estimated the loss to be 7%. Commissioner Cody asks if the Town of Robbinsville will have to lower their taxes as well. Ms. Phillips stated that the Town's receive their scrolls from the county tax assessor's office. Commissioner Williams made the motion to give a temporary 7% reduction with the understanding that if the berms are removed then the 7% will be added back to the bill and further stated a resolution is to be sent to the Governor's Office concerning these berms (flower beds) requesting that they be removed due to our loss of tax revenue but mainly for the safety of the people. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Ms. Phillips asks the board for their decision concerning Eternal Truth Ministries. Chairman Nelms stated that he personally felt the board could not lower the taxes because a Completion has not been given on the structures that are being built on the property and further stated that they are welcome to appeal next year when the structures are completed. Commissioner Eller made the motion to deny the appeal based on the non-completion of the structures that are to be used for the ministry. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Ms. Phillips stated that the board lost the appeal for Reid and Bebo Miller due to their logging one tract of the property in 2013. Commissioner Eller asks if the case was just for one year. Ms. Phillips stated that she rolled Mr. Miller out of the PUV due to non-compliance of their forestry plan and 2014 and 2015 was still on the books.
9. Chairman Nelms asks for the approval of the Board of Equalization and Review Minutes for April 19th. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the Regular and Workshop Meeting Minutes of April 19th. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Chairman Nelms asks Sara Thompson with Southwest Commission to speak. Ms. Thompson is the new Executive Director for Southwest Commission. Ms. Thompson also presented the board with their 2015 Annual Report and stated that this is the 50th year that they have been an organization. Ms. Thompson stated that their council of government serves the seven far west counties and last year were able to leverage six million of funds to run the programs, most of which are pass thru funds. Ms. Thompson stated that they supply funding for Area Agency on Aging which funds senior center's meals on wheels and transit systems. Workforce Development use federal funds as well and are used to help people get jobs or training especially if their place of work has closed and Planning and Economic Development which she was over prior to accepting Executive Director and there are an array of services which include grant writing and board facilitation. Ms. Thompson stated that Rose Bauguess is your liaison for

District 14 NCDOT issues and then lastly they have a revolving loan fund which does not compete with local funding but supplies funding to those who are unable to secure loans for their business. Ms. Thompson also discussed Advantage West and the Mountain West Partnerships. Ms. Thompson stated that they promote the entire region. The board thanked Ms. Thompson and will look forward to working with her.

12. Chairman Nelms asks Juanita Colvard to speak. Ms. Colvard stated that she needed the board to approve the updated version of the Drug and Alcohol Policy for Transit. Ms. Colvard stated that changes had to be made according to audit reviews. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the modified Drug and Alcohol Policy for Transit. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
13. Chairman Nelms asks Rebecca Garland for the finance report. Ms. Garland stated the county has received our Medicaid Cost Settlement and the amount is \$79,387.00.
14. Ms. Garland stated that she needed permission to pay the second billing to Pageant and Freeman for \$3,465.00 and further stated that site plans were still being reviewed. Commissioner Orr made the motion to pay the second payment to Pageant and Freeman. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Ms. Garland stated that the county needed to relicense our email and the cost is \$5,468.00 to Catalyst. Commissioner Orr made the motion to pay Catalyst \$5,468.00 for relicensing of our email. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Ms. Garland stated that she had been approached by the Soil and Water Board and they have state money that needs to be spent and are wanting to purchase a truck for Billy Corbin. Ms. Garland stated that her only concern was who is responsible for the tag, insurance and upkeep. Ms. Garland stated that this can be tabled until the budget workshops.
17. Ms. Garland thanked the board for their contribution to the Special Olympics and stated that the day was great. Commissioner Orr and Nelms was also present at the games and agreed with Ms. Garland that the games are very humbling.
18. Commissioner Williams asks that Rebecca Garland be present at the next regular Travel and Tourism meeting on May 12, 2016.
19. Chairman Nelms stated that we would now hear the manager's report. Manager Edwards stated that he has held a second leadership team meeting and the employees are working very hard and the meeting went well.
20. Manager Edwards stated that he had sent out a survey and 111 employees replied.
21. Manager Edward stated that he had asked Freddie Harrell about the PARTIF Grant and where McGill was at concerning implementation of the park. Manager Edwards stated that a \$5500.00 bill had been received for the county to pay and he needed to speak with the board in closed concerning this contract.
22. Manager Edwards stated that we had a request to write a letter to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park requesting that they reopen Parson's Branch Road. The board asks that Manager Edwards contact the park with questions of the closing and possible opening dates.
23. Manager Edwards stated that no one had signed in for public comment. Jacky Ayers, Town Alderman asks the board if they had sent a resolution concerning the houseboats on Fontana. The board has sent a letter of support and will approve a resolution tonight.
24. Manager Edwards stated that we would now go into the discussion items. Manager Edwards asks for the approval of the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Edwards stated that the June 7th regular meeting needed to be changed due to the election. The board all agreed that they will meet on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve this meeting date change. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Manager Edwards stated that the Heritage Festival would be held on Friday, July 1st and Saturday, July 2nd this year and asks the board their desire for the closing on Friday. The board discussed all options and decided to close all county offices with the exception of essential services and the employee may use comp, annual leave or leave without pay. Commissioner Cody made the motion to close all offices with the exception of sheriff, EMS and communications and allow the employees to use comp, annual leave or leave without pay for this day. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Manager Edwards stated that Recreation Director Ronnie Williams had asked if the board would surplus items (old soccer shirts, soccer balls, cleats, shoes, pompoms, etc.) in his department to

be sold at the games. Mr. Williams stated that this would be a way to put money back into the general fund. Commissioner Williams made the motion to surplus the various recreation items for sale. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

28. Manager Edwards stated that EMS has a 2005 Dutchman Lite Series Camper that they do not use and asks that this item be surplus for sale. The board wanted this item run in the paper for sealed bids. Commissioner Eller made the motion to surplus the 2005 Dutchman Lite Series Camper and sell with a minimum bid of \$3,000.00. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Manager Edwards stated that he needed the board to adopt the new road names approved by the Road Naming Board. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adopt the road names as suggested by the road naming board. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Manager Edwards stated that the next item is the resolution for the house boats on Fontana Lake. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Cody stated that he had also spoken with Congressman Mark Meadows and thanked him for his support for the house boats as well.
31. Commissioner Orr asks if anyone is planning to attend the meeting held in Tennessee concerning the house boats. The board all felt that this was too far for the board to travel. Commissioner Orr stated that she would get a copy of the resolution to David Crisp or Prince Boat Dock to take with them to the meeting.
32. Manager Edwards asks the board if they are ready to approve the resolution in support of House Bill 2. Chairman Nelms asks that this be tabled. Chairman Nelms made a motion to table this resolution until further information is given. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Manager Edwards asks Clerk Crisp to discuss the insurance premiums. Clerk Crisp stated that our insurance agent is actively trying hard to get the best quote as possible and the increase has gone down from the first proposed increase. Clerk Crisp stated that they would continue to work on this until the best price is given.
34. Manager Edwards stated that the school had presented their upcoming budget to the Clerk as requested by law and stated that they are asking for the same amount as last year which is \$570,000.00 and Capital Outlay \$16,500.00. Manager Edwards stated that he had spoken to the school about the new road and asks about the possible installation of a sidewalk and was told that this could probably be paid by the school. Manager Edwards stated that if the sidewalk is installed at the same time as construction then the state would pay for 80% of the cost.
35. Manager Edwards asks Juanita Colvard to speak on the next item. Ms. Colvard stated that there have been changes to the Medicaid transportation billing and a new MEI number would have to be applied for. Manager Edwards stated that personnel information had to be submitted of the board. The board was in agreement.
36. Chairman Nelms asks for new or old business. Commissioner Orr asks about the tennis courts. Manager Edwards stated that the company will be coming this week. Commissioner Eller stated that the fencing company will be coming as well.
37. Chairman Nelms stated that the board needed to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (3) (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 Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
39. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow Juanita Colvard and Tracy Jenkins to work 40 hours a week instead of the 37.5 hours working now. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
40. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Autumn Ellington to work as a lifeguard under the WEA Program through EBCI. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
41. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the contract from Turner and Company, CPA in Murphy for the county audit. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
42. Commissioner Orr made the motion for Manager Edwards, Clerk Crisp and Finance Officer Rebecca Garland to travel to Sylva to meet with our county attorney, Jay Coward. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
43. Commissioner Orr made the motion to hire Tim Ledwell as the new Recreation Assistant. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

44. The board directed the staff to set up interviews with the EDC Candidates and Chairman Nelms and Commissioner Orr will sit on the panel.
45. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Jacob Nelms, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Keith Eller, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Lynn Cody, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board