

Regular Meeting – February 21, 2017

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, February 21, 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. Clerk Crisp stated that we needed to delete Item #10 Ms. Eller was unable to attend due to sickness but she would attend the next regular meeting. Clerk Crisp stated that we needed to add to Item #13 – EDC Board appointment and the Request for additional names to be added to the Memorial in front of the courthouse. Clerk Crisp stated that the final item is to add Item #14 – Rebecca Garland will speak on contracts. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting – Feb. 7th and the Continued Meeting – Feb. 8th. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks Senior Center Director Wanda Hill to speak. Ms. Hill stated that she was here to get permission to apply for the HCCBG Grant for Fiscal Year 2018 in the amount of \$122,169.00 with a 10% county match. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow Ms. Hill to apply for the HCCBG Grant. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chairman Eller asks Butch Sanders, DSS Director to speak. Mr. Sanders was not present.
8. Chairman Eller asks Alicia Parham, Health Director to speak. Ms. Parham stated that she was here to discuss the Animal Ordinance. Ms. Parham stated that there are several updates that need to be made to the ordinance. Ms. Parham stated that the Animal Control Board needed to be reappointed and the section which pertains to an animal shelter needed to be changed. Ms. Parham stated originally we were going to contract with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians but this contract was never finalized and we began to use Macon County. Ms. Parham stated that one of the issues is where do we take animals and who pays for this when they are taken. Ms. Parham stated that there is also an issue of safety. Ms. Parham stated that she is the control officer and she can delegate this to the Environmental Health Office but she felt that if they go out then a deputy needed to be there as well due to dangerous situations. Ms. Parham stated that she has concern for her Environmental Health Specialist and requests that the ordinance be changed to assure that a deputy would be with them when they needed to go out to an animal disturbance.
9. Chairman Eller stated that we needed to appoint or reappoint the Animal Control Board. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to reappoint Raymond Williams and Kurt Orr to the Animal Control Board and postpone the third member to the next meeting. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. Chairman Eller asks Rebecca Garland to give the Finance and Manager's Report. Ms. Garland stated that the county ended the month of February with an \$8,987,983.78 cash balance which is ahead by \$1,300,000.00 from this time last year. Our total tax collections for the month are Real - \$819,779.48 and DMV \$43,072.62. Ms. Garland stated that we collected \$5,000.00 on VTS for the big trucks and collected \$110,000.00 in past due taxes bringing the tax collection rate to 91.4% which is up from this time last year at 90.5%. Ms. Garland stated that the back taxes collected since July 2013 is \$568,504.98. Ms. Garland stated that she and the tax collector Tajuana Ledwell are pushing for a 96% collection rate. Ms. Garland stated that the revenues for the month was \$1,634,694.32 and the expenditures was \$1,002,003.65 giving us a surplus of \$632,690.67. Ms. Garland stated that we have a year to date surplus of \$3,049,627.12 which is up by \$1,000,000.00 and this is great news due to the big projects that we are doing and the fact that we have to front the money on the new 911 Center. Ms. Garland stated that our sales tax collection was \$191,429.41 with a portion of this money going to the schools due to the sales tax expansion. Ms. Garland stated that we are doing very well with budget, we are at 50% and the ideal goal was 41% so she is very pleased with the percentage.
11. Ms. Garland stated that she did have a budget amendment for the board's approval. Budget Amendment #6 – Amend Senior Center grants to recognize the additional funds for General Purpose Funds, additional funds for Snowbird Senior Center for \$60,385.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #6. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

12. Ms. Garland stated that the EMS cost report settlement report had arrived and we will receive \$84,529.00 which represents 90% of the total to be settled at some point in the future. DHHS audits all cost reports within about (5) years of filing and holds the 10% contingency pending the audit. They last audited 2011 a year or so ago and have gotten no finding or no settlement to date.
13. Ms. Garland stated that Commissioner Orr had received a NACO article where Medicaid reform may cost counties money due to the cuts at the federal level which will trickle back down to the county level via stress on local budgets. There will be a webinar on March 2nd that she will be viewing in relation to this topic and welcomes any commissioner to attend.
14. Ms. Garland stated that counties are now responsible for 50% of salaries of Agriculture Extension employees which took affect two fiscal years ago. Extension is requesting the addition of one full time staff member that was lost when NC State A&T University began their cuts two years ago. This request will be in their upcoming budget request.
15. Ms. Garland stated that we received a Flood Plain Conditional Letter of Map Revision for the board's review. This was issued due to the NCDOT Bridge Project at the school property and stated that our request has complied with their regulations, however, because the bridge could cause changes in watercourse, FEMA may require us to submit a schedule of maintenance activities to ensure that we stay in compliance with our ordinance and their regulations. Ms. Garland stated that she would be getting with Larry Hembree and David Hyatt to determine our next steps.
16. Ms. Garland stated that the Rural Center had accepted Sophia Paulos into its Leadership Development Program which includes three-three day sessions beginning March 28th. They have approved a scholarship to cover a little less than half the tuition leaving a remaining balance of \$750.00 which would need to be covered by the county. Ms. Garland stated that she did some research on the program and it is designed for leaders in small rural areas and concentrates its focus on four areas: business development, workforce development, physical infrastructure, and social infrastructure. Their program flyer states that the program is designed to allow participants to explore critical functions that not only relate to job development but also to looking at quality jobs, quality of life, and impact that economic development has on the entire community. They recruit individuals to attend the program who have high levels of commitment and reflect the broad diversity of rural NC. Ms. Garland stated that she needed direction if they want Sophia to attend this program. Ms. Garland stated that the invitation was received last Friday and she has until this Friday to register if the board desires her to attend. Ms. Garland stated that Sophia will be staying at a B&B for \$75.00 to \$95.00 per night which is must cheaper than the motels in this area. Commissioner Williams made the motion to pay the \$750.00 plus the actual costs to attend the program. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Ms. Garland stated that the report from Mission Critical Partners was attached to their packets and we are in the process of submitting a budget revision to the 911 Board, asking to shift monies out of the technology side in the amount of \$150,000.00 to the construction side of the project. We are requesting to use some of the 911 Fund Balance to purchase part of the items on the technology side of the project.
18. Ms. Garland stated that our main controller server has gone "to sleep" twice in one week and in speaking with Katalyst and with TP Technologies, the server is nine years old and is overloaded. Ms. Garland stated that she is awaiting a quote from CDW-G on the cost of a new server and further stated that the current server could be used if it is demoted with good backup and redundancy. Ms. Garland stated that all issues provided to her have been verified. Ms. Garland stated that she will be polling the board as soon as the cost for the new server has been received. Ms. Garland stated that she needed one server definitely and one more server may be needed.
19. Ms. Garland stated that our Maintenance Director Gavin Colvard had called Asheville Fence again and they are scheduled to begin work March 15, 2017 on our dumpster sites. Ms. Garland stated that she made a personal visit to the dumpsites and they are in bad shape.
20. Ms. Garland stated that the budget will begin in earnest next week and she attached a rough timeline to schedule the board's budget retreat which will last at least a half of a day.
21. Ms. Garland stated that she needed to travel to Smithfield which is below Raleigh for a family medical issue and would leave Thursday afternoon and be gone on Friday but she will be available by phone.
22. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. No one had signed in for public comment.
23. Chairman Eller stated that we would now go to the discussion items. Manager Garland stated that she needed approval for the Releases in the amount of \$968.15. Commissioner Williams

made the motion to approve the Releases. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

24. Manager Garland stated that the Sheriff Department's roof is leaking and asks the board if she needs to get quotes for this repair to which they agreed and this needed to be done as quickly as possible.
25. Manager Garland stated that the board needed to replace Dwayne Cable on the Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Commissioner Williams to this board. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Manager Garland stated that we needed a replacement to the various boards previously held by Sharon Edwards. The board tabled this until the next meeting.
27. Manager Garland stated that the board needed to replace Brandon Jones on the EDC Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Adam Wachacha to this board. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Manager Garland asks Clerk Crisp to discuss the request on the Memorial at the courthouse. Clerk Crisp stated that she had a request to add William Snider's name to the memorial on the courthouse square due to his death being caused from the results of the Vietnam War. Commissioner Orr stated that a Veteran's Flag Foundation had been started and they are working toward installing a wall big enough to get every Veteran's name on it from the Civil War and up. The board tabled this request.
29. Chairman Eller asks for further business. Commissioner Williams stated that Eddie Hollifield had asked if the board could give the Boy Scouts \$300.00 to go toward the Bass Tournament that they are hosting. Manager Garland stated that this is a non-profit and the board could legally give the money. Commissioner Williams made the motion to give the Boy Scouts \$300.00. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. 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 Williams made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to advertise for the permanent part time position at the Senior Center. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to allow Manager Garland the discretion to make the decision on buying one server or two. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr 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