

Regular Meeting – November 7, 2017

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Graham County EMS Base located at 70 West Fort Hill Robbinsville, NC for their regular monthly meeting. The meeting place was changed due to the Municipal Election that was held at the regular meeting place. 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 Wiggins to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Eller asks for changes to the agenda. Clerk Crisp stated that Attorney Coward needed to be added to closed session for attorney-client privilege. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated change. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the October 17<sup>th</sup> Workshop Session Minutes and the October 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks Shelly Forman to speak. Manager Garland stated that Ms. Forman was not present.
7. Chairman Eller asks for the manager's report. Manager Garland stated that she would give the board the capital project updates. The 911 Call Center building construction was at 63% complete as of October 24<sup>th</sup> and the technology side of the project has begun. The county received two bids for the IT Infrastructure installation and would need this approved by the board. The tower and the generator are being ordered now and the computer flooring was delivered last week. Manager Garland stated that the project is running ahead of schedule.
8. Manager Garland stated that the P&J Building is approximately 30% complete as of October 31<sup>st</sup> and all of the office areas have been subdivided and drywall work is in process. Manager Garland stated that there is question about insulation between the roof and the ceiling area where the sprinkler system is in place. Manager Garland stated that discussion about insulation needed to be finalized to make the building more cost effective. They are asking the builder to review the options and get some cost quotes and will present at the next meeting.
9. Manager Garland stated that the quotes for the IT Installation are:
  - a. TP Enterprises \$11,800.00
  - b. CIC Enterprises \$33,533.57Commissioner Wiggins was concerned about the disparity and asks if the two quotes line up. Manager Garland stated that the quotes do line up. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go with the cheapest bid which is TP Enterprises. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. Manager Garland stated that the area outside the P&J Building where the old loading dock is located is causing concern from the building maintenance department. This area will hold the HVAC Units and it does not drain well due to the sloping from the parking lot. Manager Garland stated that this needed to be evaluated for remediation. Manager Garland stated that the builder suggested building up the concrete by putting a slab in the area so that it may drain properly. The concern is in the winter the area will turn into a skating rink and asks permission to investigate the options. The board all agreed to investigate the options.
11. Manager Garland stated that she and Commissioner Nelms had gone through the remaining contents of the P&J Building to determine what items can be saved and re-used. Manager Garland asks permission to surplus anything of value and hold a public auction and surplus and dispose of all non-use items. The board agreed to this request.
12. Manager Garland stated that she enclosed the preliminary drawings by PFA for the changes to the community building and will have a larger version as soon as possible.
13. Manager Garland stated that we received notification from the State Board of Equalization and Review that the American Upland Trust did not timely file their appeal to the Board of E&R so they were denied their tax appeal.
14. Manager Garland stated that she has three budget amendments for the board's approval.
  - a. Budget Amendment #1 is to amend to recognize payment from NC EMA for reimbursement of out of pocket costs for wildfire from the fall of 2016 in the amount of

\$18,504.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #1. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

- b. Budget Amendment #2 to record additional revenues received by recreation from a donation for uniforms and for additional costs and revenues for the Cracker Bowl in the amount of \$11,000.00. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #2. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
  - c. Budget Amendment #3 needs to be approved at the next meeting for the Court Order from Judge Coward. Manager Garland stated that she has followed the directives from the Judge and has determined if Cherokee County charges rent to us to use their facilities that one week of court will cost the county about \$33,000.00 per week. Manager Garland stated that she provided an analysis which was constructed directly from the order and it is a certainty that the Superior Court session will be held out of the county due to the assigned judge and according to the Clerk, there will be a serious trial during that session. There will be two more sessions during the first six months in 2018 where the venue could change. Manager Garland stated that she, Attorney Coward, Commissioner Eller and Commissioner Orr met with Judge Coward and Clerk of Court Tammy Holloway and he reviewed the calculations and questioned the Cherokee County amounts and stated that he would contact them because he wasn't sure that they could charge us rent. Judge Coward stated that she needed to add potential lodging costs but agreed to the other calculations. Manager Garland stated that they talked tax base, PILT, sales tax referendum and the general plight we face here in the county however as the third arm of government he reminded us that by statute, we are required to provide adequate court facilities. Judge Coward made the following recommendations: To form a committee with all the department managers, county manager, two commissioners, Clerk of Court, Sheriff and Judge Coward for investigation of options; Have the Sheriff's Association visit for assessment of security issues with current courthouse; Engage an architecture firm to evaluate our current situation and our options; and, re-engage Davenport to reassess our debt model we created a year ago, taking into consideration new budgetary concerns with the school system funding issues. Manager Garland stated that we needed to do Budget Amendment #3 to lay aside funds according to the court order for a least three court sessions this year. Manager Garland stated that her calculations is \$100,000.00. The board gave Manager Garland a directive to set aside \$100,000.00 for Budget Amendment #3 and prepare the amendment for approval at the next meeting.
15. Manager Garland stated that she received a request for the naming of the new Long Creek Bridge for the Bemis Lumber Family. Manager Garland stated that she has had several calls and emails requesting that the board petition NCDOT. Manager Garland stated that the guidelines are fairly strict and after doing research learned that most bridges are named after a person and not a family. Manager Garland asks if this is something that the Board of County Commissioners would be interested in doing. The board all agreed that due to the previous denials of bridge naming that they would not entertain this request.
  16. Manager Garland stated that Mr. Lester Greene, Finance Officer for the Schools was here to discuss the school funding. Mr. Greene thanked that board for the funding that has already been made to the school and stated that the school board had voted to characterize the \$82,000.00 we reverted to them in October for the Articles 40, 42 and 44 sales tax expansion to capital outlay but now see the need to transfer \$50,000.00 out of capital outlay to local expense. Mr. Greene stated that in order to do this, they needed school board and county board approval. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow \$50,000.00 to be taken out of capital outlay and put into local expense. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
  17. Manager Garland also stated that the school had made their activity bus payment and asks the board to give the \$16,500.00 set aside for capital outlay to the school. Commissioner Orr made the motion to give the school their capital outlay money in the amount of \$16,500.00. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
  18. Manager Garland stated that she had a request from Appalachian Community Health Center to write a letter of support as they re-apply for the FQHC funding for 2018. Commissioner Williams made the motion to write the letter of support. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
  19. Manager Garland stated that she had included three reports for the board to review in their packets. The Southwestern RPO prioritization overview; Vaya Health Medicaid Dashboard and

financial report for third quarter and the Jail Inspection Report which no deficiencies were noted.

20. Manager Garland stated that she met with Valley River Humane Society and the van program is going very well and to date they have picked up 57 cats and 57 dogs for the first three months. Manager Garland stated that we are running ahead of projections at this time. Manager Garland stated that they have been extremely helpful with confinements and have not charged the county any additional monies for this service. Manager Garland stated that the Graham County Animal Advocates met the \$2500.00 match as promised.
21. Manager Garland stated that the Veterans Day program will be at the Robbinsville High School on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m. with the parade to follow and asks everyone to come out and support our Veterans.
22. Manager Garland stated that she was needing to renew the USFS Permits for the dumpster sites. The permits expire December 31<sup>st</sup>. Manager Garland stated that she feels that we need to renew them due to closure activities extending beyond the December 31 deadline.
23. Chairman Eller stated that we would now go into the discussion items. Manager Garland stated that we have Releases in the amount of \$1,663.94 and Discoveries in the amount of \$256.17. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Manager Garland stated that the county had received two bids for a new ambulance and asks Chairman Eller to open the bids. Chairman Eller stated that the first bid was Precision Rescue Vehicles in the amount of \$122,937.00 and a bid from Southeastern Specialty Vehicles in the amount of \$129,350.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to accept the lowest bid after EMS Director Larry Hembree reviews the bids to make sure they are equal. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Garland asks if the board had decided to amend the Tobacco Ordinance to include all county vehicles. Commissioner Orr made the motion to amend the ordinance as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Manager Garland stated that Juanita Colvard, Transit Director had requested that David Maennle be added to the TAB Board. Commissioner Wiggins stated that we also needed to appoint Beth Booth to the TAB Board now that she is the Health Director. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint David Maennle and Beth Booth to the TAB board. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Chairman Eller asks for new or old business. Commissioner Williams stated that he had both. Commissioner Williams stated that he wanted all the old radios fixed before someone gets hurt and the new business was to do it immediately. The board had discussion and all agreed that an engineer needed to be hired to come into the county and test the transmitter and the radios. The board gave a directive to Commissioner Eller and EMS Larry Hembree to get this done as soon as possible.
28. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. No one was signed in for public comment.
29. 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.
30. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the contract from Anthony Alderman for the appraisal of the Stanley Property. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Signature page attached!

Signature page for the November 7, 2017 Regular Meeting

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Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Dale E. Wiggins, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board