

Budget Meeting – May 23, 2018

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. for a budget meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All board was present.

1. Chairman Eller called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Eller asks Health Director Beth Booth to speak. Director Booth stated that she interviewed an applicant for the Environmental Health position and they are certified in wells and water. Director Booth stated that the initial interview went very well then they called back to say they needed more money and could they possibly have a county car to drive. Director Booth stated that we were compared to Jackson and Haywood Counties. Director Booth stated that the job is not negotiable and changing things to suit candidates would create a lot of problems. Director Booth stated that she would continue to contract with Macon County and use Mr. Nelms as a fill in Monday through Thursday. Director Booth asks the board if they would be willing to contract with someone on animal control. Director Booth stated that she has been approached by a Deputy who is interested in doing this for us.
3. Director Booth stated that she was doing cross training in her department so that all areas of the health department are covered at all times. Director Booth stated that she would continue to work on hiring an Environmental Health Specialist and we would figure out the rest as we go.
4. Manager Garland stated that Clerk Crisp had looked into the reservations for the NACO Conference and the rooms would be around \$4,000.00 and the registration fees were over \$1,000.00. The board all agreed that there was no need to attend this conference.
5. Manager Garland stated that the meeting with the CEO from Erlanger was short and sweet and he was very interested in meeting our board when he came over for the EMS Appreciation Luncheon for Life-force on Friday at 11:30 a.m.
6. Manager Garland stated that Erlanger Public Relations will be reaching out to us for a workshop session in July.
7. Manager Garland stated that Ed Satterfield had called and asked if the county could give money to the museum. The board stated that their work on the museum is very impressive and they would like to give \$10,000.00 if possible. Manager Garland will add this into the budget.
8. Manager Garland stated that we have received an extra \$10,000.00 on our HCCBG funding and we are very pleased.
9. Manager Garland stated that the board wanted to have further discussion on the Economic Development department. Commissioner Orr stated that she had some concerns. Commissioner Orr stated that she would be discussing personnel so we needed to go into closed session.
10. Chairman Eller asks for a motion to go into closed session under G.S.143-318.11(a) (6) for personnel. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Manager Garland asks if the POP Money would still be going to the EDC Board to give as grants to our local businesses. Commissioner Wiggins stated that he did not realize the board gave small grants. Commissioner Orr stated that it has been awhile since this has happened but they do have funds to make small grants or loans. Commissioner Orr stated that the money is spent on local business expansion and job creation.
13. Manager Garland stated that we would be putting internet into Keith's shop and this will probably be done wireless from the pool building. Chairman Eller stated that he would be needing a tire balancer in the near future and would get a price for the board.
14. Manager Garland stated that we plan to study Swain County's Sanitation Department and will be speaking with Kevin King on this. The board would like to speak with Kevin King on the dumpsters at Deal's Gap as well.
15. Manager Garland stated that Rose Baugess with Southwest Commission needed to speak with the board. Ms. Baugess stated that she was here to go over the process of setting the priorities for road maintenance for Graham County. Ms. Baugess stated that the board needed to list their local priorities. Ms. Baugess stated that NCDOT is very aware of the priorities of Corridor K and the Topton road. The board discussed the priorities. The board chose 1) Corridor K –

Robbinsville 129 to US 28; 2) 143 Business from Massey Branch to the By-Pass; 3) Corridor K – Robbinsville to Andrews. The board discussed other projects which included Knight Street for the school traffic and Connection of the High School to the Elementary School into Downtown and a loop at the P&J Building (now the HHS Building) across the creek and back to Tallulah Road. The board listed their Division priorities as 1) Corridor K; 2) Knight Street and 3) P&J loop. Ms. Baugess discussed the points system that NCDOT uses in funding these projects and stated that we have to follow a process which includes feedback from public input. Ms. Baugess stated that she would record the board's choices and if they needed to change anything to please let her know. The board thanked Ms. Baugess for her time and help.

16. Manager Garland stated that the Transit department is totally funded by grants.
17. Manager Garland stated that 4-H Youth is totally self-funded.
18. Manager Garland stated that the Extension Budget and the Soil and Water stays as level each year as possible. Manager Garland stated that we receive funds from the state to cover half of the salary and office supplies for the Soil and Water.
19. Manager Garland stated that we still receive \$2,000.00 for the Veteran's Budget which we match. Commissioner Orr stated that she would like to see this money be put toward the Veteran's Flag and on marble slabs of every veteran in this county. Commissioner Orr stated that she would like to see steps and benches at this area as well.
20. Manager Garland stated that the DSS budget needing some tweaking for unemployment and she made those necessary changes.
21. Manager Garland stated that the Senior Center Budget increase was due to the extra funds that we have received by grant money.
22. Manager Garland stated that the recreation budget is coming in at the same level as last year and the swimming pool is just an expense.
23. Manager Garland stated that she bumped up Computer Support and would be able to re-coop some of this money through the 1571 Report.
24. Manager Garland stated that she dropped the EMS Billing Budget and we will be looking at our contract closely in December.
25. Manager Garland stated that the Mobility Grant faded away and Transit would be receiving two new vans this year.
26. Manager Garland stated that the Grounds Budget is going to be shared by Ronnie and Paul and they are extremely busy at this time.
27. Manager Garland stated that the Cemetery Budget came in with a request for a new truck and she will be using the cemetery crew this winter in the HHS Building for repairs.
28. Manager Garland stated that when Communications move into their new building, Larry Hembree is requesting that we turn their room into more bedroom space. The board said no. Manager Garland asks that the IT Equipment be moved from inside the closet to this space and allow working space for the IT personnel. The board was good with this recommendation.
29. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to adjourn the meeting. 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