

Regular Meeting Minutes – July 3, 2018

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 5:30 a.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 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. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the minutes for the Workshop Session June 19th; Regular Meeting June 19th; and Continued Meeting June 26th. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks for the Manager's Report. Manager Garland stated that she met with Misty Hembree on the 911 Call Center and it is projected to "go live" in early September. Manager Garland stated that there have been some issues with the grounding on the tower and MCP and Director Hembree are working through that with the contractor and the sub. Manager Garland attached the latest report from MCP for the boards review.
7. Manager Garland stated that she has attached the preliminary report from Heery for the boards review and she requested for them to spend some time reviewing it together. Manager Garland stated that this is the first of two reports and it is the draft and this report addresses the condition of the building and the cost to fix as is.
8. Manager Garland discussed the small projects and stated that we budgeted \$60,000.00 in building repairs and she needs to keep about \$20,000.00 for things that arise during the course of the year but we need to prioritize the following based on general quotes we got to get an idea of the cost.
 - a. Gutters for DHHS Building approximately \$13,500.00
 - b. Repave county parking lot for \$10,000 (chat and tar)
 - c. Concrete the front of community building instead of mulching for \$12,000.00. The board discussed using pebbled gravel or rock instead of concrete.
 - d. Front walk at Sheriff's department and we are waiting on a quote due to a safety issue.
9. Manager Garland asks if the old cemetery truck can be repurposed for another department. Chairman Eller stated that the truck has over 198,000 miles and is rusted out so his opinion is no that it needs to be junked. The board all agreed to junk the vehicle.
10. Manager Garland stated that we received one application for services on the CDBG (Neighborhood Program Scattered Site Housing Grant). Manager Garland stated that she initially had two firms interested but only one gave a proposal. Manager Garland checked with NC Commerce and they said as long as we follow our own procurement policy we did not have to re-advertise. The proposal we received was from Grant Administrators (Joan Stillwell) at \$5,000.00 and we can reimburse up to \$3000.00 from the grant. Manager Garland recommended to the board that we accept the proposal of \$5,000.00 with the hope of bringing in \$750,000.00 in grants and better housing for our folks in need of better options (renovations and replacements) with no match required by the county. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept the proposal from Grant Administrators for the CDBG grant application. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Manager Garland presented a draft resolution opposing HB 320 and she gave three scenarios for the board's consideration. Commissioner Orr stated that the NCACC has always supported the counties concerning this issue. The board agreed to read the three scenarios and get back with Manager Garland so that the resolution can be approved at the next regular meeting.
12. Manager Garland stated that we received word that the Medicaid Cost Settlement for the 2016-2017 has been approved by DHHS for the Health Department and the tentative settlement was \$461,416.00 however the state claims a third under their guidelines so we will receive 90% of \$307,856.00 or \$277,070.00 in the next several weeks. Manager Garland stated that the other 10% will be released sometime in the distant future after a desk audit by DHHS. Manager Garland stated that she is still awaiting the final settlement for 2012 on EMS.
13. Manager Garland stated that we received notification by DHHS on Friday that our request for an expedited review of our Certificate of Need application for the CT and Mammogram was

approved. Manager Garland stated that we will not need to have a public hearing until we receive the final determination.

14. Manager Garland stated that NACO sent a Live Healthy packet for the county to rejoin and we have provided the prescription drug plan for several years which is free to residents. We can also provide a dental and medical discount program that they can pay \$6.95 to receive it. Manager Garland stated that this program helps residents to save between 15-50% on dental and medical care with participating providers. Manager Garland stated that we can renew the prescription drug plan but need County Commissioner approval to sign up to participate with NACO for the medical and dental plan.
15. Manager Garland stated that she has received a request by members of the staff to explore a policy allowing staff who attain the age of 65 and are Medicare eligible to opt out of the BCBS group plan and pursue a Medicare supplement plan for which the county provides reimbursement in lieu of paying the monthly BCBS premium. They obtained quotes for \$250.00 per month for the supplement as opposed to the \$700.00 per month premium we are paying. Manager Garland stated that we need to investigate legality issues under ACA and Internal Revenue Code for Section 125 plans to enact it. Manager Garland stated that it would provide better coverage of age related issues such as cataract removal than our plan provides. Manager Garland asks if the board is interested. The board asks that Manager Garland do the research and implement this into the personnel policy. The board felt that this is worth looking at.
16. Manager Garland stated that the Town of Lake Santeetlah passed a Zoning Ordinance on June 25th and she has copies available at the office if the board is interested.
17. Manager Garland stated that she received an email from Vaya Health with a request for us to participate in a Community Needs Assessment Survey that helps them with the Gaps Analysis. The link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018CNASBODCCAB>.
18. Manager Garland stated that she enclosed updates from the General Assembly and the main items to note are:
 - a. HB 1031 – School Board Dispute Resolution passed and was signed by the Governor. It repeals the authority for schools to sue and continues required joint meeting and mediation process which is followed by a funding formula requirement if they cannot come to resolution for current expense. Counties can still be sued over capital outlay.
 - b. HB 335 – Restored Saturday Early Voting for 2018 only and then eliminates the final Saturday and also extends hours for one-stop Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the election board will set the hours for weekend voting.
 - c. Constitutional Amendments to appear on the general election ballot in November:
 - i. Maximum Tax Rate 7%. Current capped rate is 10%.
 - ii. Right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife.
 - iii. Judicial Vacancy Sunshine Amendment.
 - iv. Photo ID to vote requirement.
 - v. Victim's Rights.
 - vi. Bi-partisan Ethics and Elections Enforcement.
19. Manager Garland stated that Stecoah Valley Center Director Beth Fields called and she met with her, Jennifer West and Rick Davis last week about funding. Manager Garland stated that she reiterated that we were recouping the roof over time therefore the \$5,000.00 allocation remains. Manager Garland asked what the additional \$5,000.00 would be used for and they stated that they had received a grant from Covington Foundation for \$6,800.00 to do some needed repairs and they needed the additional five to do painting of the fascia of the building and they are asking the board to reconsider. The board asks that a quote be given on the work that needs to be done. The board also stated that they must present a 990 that is prepared by an outside CPA Firm.
20. Manager Garland stated that Phillip Price is running for Congress and he would like to come to the next commissioner meeting and hear about the needs in our district from the commissioners. The board all agreed that they would like for him to be placed on the Workshop Session agenda.
21. Manager Garland stated that our sanitation department would be working July 4th from 6:00 a.m. until whatever time it takes to pick up the cans. The transfer station would be closed to the public. Manager Garland stated that when Scott Hooper finishes his CDL driving test we will begin Sunday pick-ups.
22. Manager Garland stated that some of the Cherokee County Commission Board is still saying that Graham County is not paying their part of Tri-County funding. Manager Garland stated that they

cannot ask us to pay our campus portion plus a percentage formula basis. Manager Garland stated that it needs to be treated as one campus regardless of where the sub-campus are located if they want a percentage formula worked out with Graham County. Commissioner Orr stated that we needed table this issue until a formula is worked out.

23. Manager Garland gave the board some dates to remember of upcoming meeting. These meetings will not be attended by a majority of the board members.
24. Chairman Eller asks for the Discussion Items. Manager Garland stated that we have Releases in the amount of \$194.23 and Releases in the amount of \$40.95. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Garland asks that the board allow us to combine the Accident Review Board with the Safety Committee due to these boards doing the same duties. Commissioner Orr made the motion to combine the two boards as stated. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Manager Garland stated that she needed approval of the poll for the purchase of the cemetery truck for \$38,684.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the poll as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Manager Garland stated that the GREAT meeting will be held July 19th and they need the board to RSVP. Commissioner Orr and Commissioner Wiggins will be attending. Clerk Crisp stated that she would RSVP.
28. Manager Garland stated that the health fair was a success and over 252 people participated.
29. Manager Garland stated that the board needed to grant an Order of Collection to Tajuana Ledwell and Aimee Johnson. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the Order of Collection as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Manager Garland stated that the tax bills went out yesterday.
31. Chairman Eller asks for new or old business. No new or old business was discussed.
32. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. No one was signed in for public comment.
33. 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.
34. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Chairman Eller asks for a motion to grant Kayla Spencer leave without pay after she exhausts her leave time. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to grant the leave without pay to Kayla Spencer. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Chairman Eller asks for further business. No further business was discussed.
37. Chairman Eller asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Connie Orr, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Dale Wiggins, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board