

Regular Meeting – September 18, 2018

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 5:30 p.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. Manager Garland stated that Butch Sanders could not attend the meeting tonight due to his wife's illness and asks to remove him from closed session. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the agenda with the change as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the September 4th Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller stated that he needed a motion to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing for the 2018 Community Development Block Grant-Neighborhood Revitalization Program. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chairman Eller asks Joan Stillwell, Grants Administrator to speak. Ms. Stillwell stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to take public comment on the 2018 Community Development Block Grant-Neighborhood Revitalization Program. Ms. Stillwell explained the purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comments for consideration for the 2018 Community Development Block Grant - Neighborhood Revitalization Program for housing. North Carolina has received approximately \$10.0 million for NC Neighborhood Revitalization Program to serve low and moderate income residents with housing needs. Graham County is considering applying for a \$750,000 Grant - Neighborhood Revitalization Program for housing needs. Activities for consideration are rehabilitation, acquisition, clearance, relocation, substantial rehabilitation, replacement housing and emergency repairs. All homes/households must be owner occupied, single-family and low to moderate income in order to qualify. Ms. Stillwell explained that all of the site visits had been made on the original list. The remaining sites will be visited next week. She explained she would be presenting pictures and addresses to the Selection Committee soon for selection and prioritizing anyone on the list. She also explained, that some were already ineligible due to mobile homes without permanent foundations. A second public hearing will be held September 18 at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Stillwell said if anyone needs additional information contact the County Manager at 12 North Main Street, Robbinsville, NC or at (828) 479-7961. Written comments concerning the application process may be submitted to the County following the public hearing. Persons with disabilities or need assistance should contact the County Manager, at 12 North Main Street, Robbinsville, NC or by phone (828) 479-7961 or Becky.Garland@grahamcounty.org TDD # 1-800-735-2962 or Relay North Carolina 7-1-1 The Public Hearing information will be available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact the County Manager at (828) 479-7961, or at 12 North Main Street, Robbinsville, NC for accommodations for that request. Ms. Stillwell stated that if we receive the money we can move forward on rehabilitation to reconstruction and we will not exceed \$40,000.00 for rehabilitation. Ms. Stillwell stated that we will do (1) emergency repair; (5) reconstruction, clearance and relocations and (2) rehabilitations. Ms. Stillwell stated that we can use the county money that was received from the sale of one of the CDBG Homes as leverage since we are now completing statewide. Ms. Stillwell stated that we could receive \$750,000.00 and using the county match of \$47,636.99 we will be able to do the projects. Ms. Stillwell stated that the administration costs will be 10%. Ms. Stillwell stated that if anyone has questions to please get the information to Manager Garland or Clerk Crisp and they can relay the message on to her.
8. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. No public comment was given.
9. Chairman Eller asks for a motion to close the public hearing and reopen the regular meeting. Commissioner Orr made the motion to close the public hearing and reopen the regular meeting. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

10. Ms. Stillwell stated that the board needed to appoint a Selection Committee to say which homes will receive the funding and there needs to be discussion on who can qualify and who cannot. Ms. Stillwell stated that we have a big list and asks the board to review the homes and list the addresses only of the homes that are to be repaired or replaced.
11. Ms. Stillwell stated that she did have one plan and one resolution that needed to be adopted tonight and they are the Citizen Participation Plan and the Resolution to apply for the 2018 Community Development Block Grant-Neighborhood Revitalization Program. The leftover money from the sale of the Scattered Site House property will be used as according to state CDBG regulations for a match. Again we have a total of five reconstructions; two rehabilitations and one emergency repair. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the Citizen Participation Plan. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
13. Chairman Eller asks Wanda Hill, Senior Center Director to speak. Director Hill stated that she was here to get approval to apply for the General Purpose Grant in the amount of \$10,693.00 with a county match of \$3,564.00 for a total of \$14,257.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to apply for the General Purpose Grant. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Director Hill also stated that the senior center is receiving a Blue Cross Blue Shield grant of \$10,000.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to accept the BCBS Grant of \$10,000.00 for the senior center. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Manager Garland stated that she met with Sara Jane Melton, SW Commission who oversees the funding for the senior centers and the grant goes to meals on wheels.
15. Director Hill stated that she has received (15) signatures for breakfast and (3) of those would require Transit and (2) stated that they might come. Director Hill stated that (4) people requested that we buy better bingo prizes instead of serving a breakfast. Manager Garland stated that we will also be getting a program that is computer based for the seniors to sign in when they come to the center; sign up for trips; order lunch for the next day and other things as they come up. Manager Garland stated that this program will enhance our program integrity as well as our keeping the Senior Center of Excellence. Director Hill stated that she will having a webinar tomorrow concerning this program.
16. Chairman Eller asks for the finance and manager's report. Manager Garland stated that we ended the month of August with a \$7,789,268.25 cash balance which is up from \$6.9 million last year. Manager Garland stated that we are owed \$189,000.00 from the 911 Board. Manager Garland stated that we are one million dollars ahead of this time last year and she is very pleased to see this number.
17. Manager Garland stated that we have collected \$396,608.83 in current year taxes; \$14,768.19 in prior year taxes and \$46,279.82 in DMV. Manager Garland stated that our year to date tax collection is \$1,104,074.20 for real taxes and \$87,924.49 in DMV and we are \$44,000.00 ahead from this time last year. Manager Garland stated that our tax collection rate is 17.59% and last year at this time it was 16.29% and she commended the tax collector's office for their hard work.
18. Manager Garland stated that our revenues for the month was \$1,630,108.74 and our expenditures was \$1,090,070.77 giving us a \$540,037.97 surplus for the month. Manager Garland stated that our year to date surplus is \$584,844.14. Manager Garland stated that we received our SRS money in the amount of \$155,000.00 and she will be cutting checks to the school and the fire departments.
19. Manager Garland stated that our sales tax collection was \$165,908.97 which is up \$19,000.00 from this time last year. Manager Garland stated that we are tracking behind on the year to date surplus due to the rainy summer but our occupancy tax collection has been very healthy.
20. Manager Garland stated that we have collected \$611,784.19 in back taxes.
21. Manager Garland stated that our budget should be at 83% and we are at 87% and the departments that look close or under the percentage have a reason. Manager Garland stated that the staff is well trained on keeping within the budget.
22. Manager Garland stated that Beth Booth, Health Director needed to speak to the board. Director Booth stated that she needed to move forward on accreditation with a HIPPA Assessment and the money was put in the budget. Director Booth stated that the cost is \$5250.00 which includes travel. Director Booth stated that our security officer is Glenda Bradley and the company will be working with her to do a thorough assessment of our system. Director

Booth stated that we must do a risk analysis and the company will do an initial assessment and return in (6) months for a follow-up assessment and our final score will be given. Director Booth stated that we have to make a good faith effort to protect our HIPPA protected information. Commissioner Orr made the motion to hire Carolina IT to do the HIPPA assessment for \$5250.00. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

23. Manager Garland stated that she would now go into her manager's report. Manager Garland stated that she and Commissioner Orr had a good trip to DC week before last and they met with approximately ten of our members of Congress. Manager Garland stated that all members was supportive of the PILT and SRS funding. Manager Garland stated that the drafter of the bill, Senator Ron Wyden from Oregon has drafted a new version of SRS that involves potentially establishing a permanent endowment fund to provide stable, increasing, reliable funding for county services, roads and schools. Manager Garland stated that Commissioner Orr and she spoke with the Deputy Secretary of the Interior and his deputy after the meeting regarding Corridor K and the obstacles we have faced with NEPA and they gave them their business cards and assured them that they will assist us if we hit the NEPA obstacle again.
24. Manager Garland stated that the board tabled the request from Yuletide Helpers and asks if the board wanted to give an appropriation to them. Commissioner Williams made the motion to give them \$10,000.00. Chairman Eller asks for a second. No second was given. Motion failed for lack of second. Commissioner Orr made the motion to give them \$5,000.00. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Garland stated that she is ready to proceed with the ad campaign on the Sales Tax Referendum and she can put this in the paper and do flyers for under \$500.00. Manager Garland stated that if the board had any ideas or additions to please let her know.
26. Manager Garland stated that the Meals on Wheels Escape is a 2006 model and the transmission has gone out again that we replaced in 2015. Manager Garland stated that the vehicle has 185,000 miles and asks the board if they want to repair or replace. Commissioner Williams stated that we needed to get a new one. Commissioner Nelms asks if we have another vehicle available. Manager Garland stated that they are currently using the administrations red escape. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to give the red escape to the Senior Center Department. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Manager Garland stated that the NCACC's deadline for the legislative goals are due 9/21 and presented the board with Commissioner Orr's ideas. Manager Garland stated that the board would need to rank the goals. The board agreed with Commissioner Orr's suggestion and the goals are:
 - a. No new conservation/wilderness lands in counties currently having (at least) 25% non-taxable land mass.
 - b. Support increased state funding for mental health and behavioral health facilities. Support Medicaid reimbursement to EMS for behavioral health transports. Include county participation in behavioral health program governance.
 - c. Support goals of NC Military Affairs Commission.
 - d. Increase lottery funding to 100% of original promise, sales tax flexibility and state-wide bond for school capital needs.
 - e. Support legislation to ensure that the funding formula (STI) funds and prioritizes RURAL as well as urban projects.
 - f. Seek legislation to allow counties to invest in digital infrastructure and lease to private providers to expand broadband access to unserved rural areas.
28. Manager Garland stated that we have a change order on the 911 Call Center and this is a negative change order for \$1700.00 on the intercom system. Director Hembree used part of the technology side of the grant to integrate the intercom into the security system. Director Hembree is still waiting on Frontier for the final configuration for the ALI circuits and has not gotten a date for installation so we still do not have a final date for the go live. Director Hembree and Manager Garland will be discussing the ribbon cutting and this needs to coordinate with the State on the date so they will be present. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the change order as stated. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Manager Garland stated that Larry Hembree, our EMS/EM Director has been called into Duplin County by NCEMA to help emergency response and he anticipates being in Duplin seven to ten days. Director Hembree has Brian Stevens and Brian Johnson overseeing the EMS duties while he is gone.

30. Manager Garland stated that Clay County Manager Mark Pullium has sent a copy of a resolution they passed last week regarding Tri-County Community College board positions and funding from their county. Manager Garland said according to the resolution it appears that Clay County has never been fully allowed all of their board members referring to issues dating back to 1998 and have rescinded their funding for the 2018-2019 year until the 2015 legislation brought by Roger West is repealed or overturned by a court of competent jurisdiction. They will retain the \$5000.00 they fund for their economic development function.
31. Manager Garland stated that she has a resolution from TVA to divestiture of TVA transmission assets and this will have a significant impact on local power companies, our communities, businesses and rate payers and they are opposed to the divestiture. Their next meeting in Gatlinburg is October 16-17, 2018 and the main program is on October 17th in the afternoon. Manager Garland stated that she and Commissioner Orr attended last year and asks the board if they wish to go. Commissioner Orr stated that she would like to go this year. Manager Garland and Commissioner Orr will attend the meeting.
32. Commissioner Orr stated that she has been speaking with Burt Robinson with TVA and they are going to donate a flagpole to the county to be used at the Veteran's Memorial Site. The board was pleased with this information.
33. Manager Garland stated that the A-0009 meeting originally scheduled for early October in Asheville has been rescheduled for October 19th due to the hurricane. There will be design study conference call/webinars that will have to be held prior to that date and she will let the board know these dates when she receives them.
34. Manager Garland stated that Graham County is featured in the Cooperative Extension Annual Report and gave the board a copy for their records.
35. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. No public comment was given.
36. Chairman Eller asks for the discussion items. Manager Garland stated that she has Releases in the amount of \$306.02 and Discoveries in the amount of \$251,755.64. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Chairman Eller asks for new or old business. Commissioner Williams made the motion to extend the timeline for the elderly exemption to Steve Duncan due to his health problems as documented by a doctor. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. The board held on the decision for Emma Stinnette's tax appeal.
39. Chairman Eller stated that he needed 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 Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
40. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
41. Chairman Eller asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams 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