

Budget Meeting – June 7, 2019

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Friday, June 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. for a budget meeting in the Graham County Transit Facility located at 201 West Fort Hill Robbinsville, NC. All board was present.

1. Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Wiggins ask Manager Garland to proceed. Manager Garland stated that Commissioner Orr wanted to speak to the board concerning the Denver Trip for Sophia Paulos. Commissioner Orr stated that the board did not make a motion for Ms. Paulos to attend this trip and she has learned that it is the biggest Outdoor Trade Show. Commissioner Orr stated that in the past the previous EDC Director looked for the money to attend but was unable to secure the funding. Commissioner Orr stated that Ms. Paulos has a PowerPoint that she will be presenting and she would like to see this prior to her leaving. Commissioner Orr stated that she supports her going to this show and this is a worthwhile endeavor for all western counties but she would like to know Ms. Paulos calendar ahead of time so that the commissioners will be able to have discussion prior to any trips. Manager Garland stated that Ms. Paulos will be sharing her calendar with her and she can share the calendar with the board. Manager Garland stated that this is good accountability and she gave a directive to Ms. Paulos to let her know where she is going each day. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to allow Sophia Paulos, EDC Director to attend the Outdoor Trade Show in Denver. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the trip as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Wiggins wanted to set the interviews for a DSS Director. The board all agreed for Chairman Wiggins, Commissioner Orr, Manager Garland, Kim Crisp, H.R. and Interim DSS Director Kay Fields to do the interviews. The board asks that we get with Mrs. Fields on the date.
4. Juanita Colvard, Transit Director needed to speak with the board on the Urgent Care renovations. Ms. Colvard discussed a waterline that needed to be closed off; tile for the MAMMO room, door handles for the CT room and materials for the X-Ray room. Commissioner Eller made the motion to appoint Juanita Colvard as the Project Manager for the Urgent Care renovations. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. The board discussed the date to hold the DSS meeting and decided to meet Monday, June 17, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. The board all agreed. Commissioner Eller made the motion to set the DSS Monthly Meeting date to the 3rd Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Manager Garland went over the Insurance quotes that the board received from Surry Insurance, NCACC and Gibson Insurance. The quotes was very similar. The board wanted the final quote on the Cyber Insurance comparison and if they are still close have Clerk Crisp poll the board for a final decision.
7. Manager Garland stated that she also needed approval for the Audit Contract with Turner & Hatchett. Manager Garland stated that the cost stayed the same as last year. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the Audit Contract with Turner & Hatchett. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Manager Garland discussed the retirement concerning law enforcement and after speaking with a State representative, she learned that the statute aligns with the county personnel policy that defines a full time permanent employee. Manager Garland stated that in our current policy the waiting period is one year than 1000 hours must be met before retirement is started being withheld and paid in. Manager Garland stated that she will doing a census and will correct anything that needed to be corrected concerning the officers. Manager Garland stated that she did learn after reviewing the general statutes that we pay our part and the employee is responsible to pay their part. Manager Garland stated that the full amount has to be paid by both parties. Manager Garland stated that she would be getting with Attorney Coward. Manager Garland stated that we experienced a lot of turnover in the Sheriff's Department.
9. Manager Garland stated that the board needed to have discussion on the mil rate. Manager Garland stated that we have a shortfall of \$549,467.54. Manager Garland stated that the Sheriff is requesting \$1.5 million, which is an increase. Manager Garland stated that the Sheriff is going to make a good faith effort to write grants for capital outlay and we could put \$135,000.00 in contingency instead of fronting the money prior to receiving grants. The board asks where this puts us on the mil rate. Manager Garland stated that it would need to be revenue neutral plus

five cents. Manager Garland stated that she is meeting with the Sheriff and his employees to discuss General Statute 159 due to some transactions that was not handled properly. Manager Garland stated that the Sheriff put Debbie Buchanan over procurement and she knows the rules to follow. The board discussed the mil rate. The board discussed the need to form a sanitation committee to become active on solutions to our garbage issues. The board stated that this committee needed to go into the communities and get the people's ideas, issues and concerns over our recycling and garbage collections. The board agreed to appoint a Sanitation Committee on June 18th at our regular meeting. The board discussed the needs of the new mandated Justice and Jail Center that we must build. The board discussed the needs for the School and their appropriation, which is now double what they used to request. The board discussed a sanitation fee per year for every household. Commissioner Eller made the motion to set the Mil Rate at .65 cents due to our mandated Justice/ Jail center, increased needs for our schools due to State cuts and the increased needs of public safety. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

10. Manager Garland stated that the budget would need to lay out for (10) days and be published in the Graham Star so we needed to schedule our public hearing on June 25, 2019. The board agreed.
11. The board discussed the animal issue and wanted our ordinance reviewed and changed to clearly define what is a dangerous dog versus a nuisance animal.
12. The board discussed moving the Mapping Office to the courthouse.
13. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Dale Wiggins, Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board