

Continued Meeting – June 25, 2019

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. for a continued meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All board was present.

1. Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to close the continued meeting and open the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget for Graham County Government. Commissioner Eller made the motion to close the continued meeting and open the public hearing as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Chairman Wiggins asks Manager Garland to present the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget for Graham County Government. Manager Garland stated that in accordance with North Carolina Statute 159-11, the Graham County Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget is being respectfully submitted. Manager Garland stated that the budget is balanced in accordance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act with total revenue and expenditures for \$17,940,749.00. Manager Garland gave a power point presentation for the board and the public to view as she went through the budget. Manager Garland stated that this budget is passed on a departmental level and a line item budget is available in the finance/county manager office for review. Manager Garland stated that the line item budget is utilized for analytical purpose and internal management use.
5. Manager Garland stated that 2019 is a budget revaluation year and the new property values were submitted to the taxpayers in January 2019 in advance of the billings and budget for the 2019-2020 budget year. Manager Garland stated that the county is required to have a revaluation every eight years but this board has a revaluation every four years to keep from having inequities in our tax valuation.
6. Manager Garland stated that the county lost almost six million dollars of our tax base due to conservation easements and PUV. Manager Garland stated that this board has maintained their budget at five cents above the revenue neutral rate for the past eight years. Manager Garland stated that our tax rate at this time is .585 per hundred and the board agreed to stay at five cents above revenue neutral and try and meet the critical goal and needs of the county. Manager Garland stated that we are planning forward for the construction of the courthouse and justice facility as mandated by a Superior Court Judge; we are maintaining budgetary allocation for rehousing in Cherokee County for criminal trials at a cost of \$33,000.00 per week; and we are maintaining Public Safety and Human Services caused by substance abuse in the community and the need for safe facilities in which to serve the public. Manager Garland stated that we have state mandates to provide safer and more secure facilities for the Election Board and for our Courts systems. Manager Garland stated that the commissioners set the tax rate at .65 cents per one hundred in order to meet the needs and mandates set forth for the county. Manager Garland stated that if we set the rate below the median tax rate of the State, our schools do not receive the “low wealth funding” and this will result in the schools coming back to the county for more revenue in order to sustain the shortfall. Manager Garland stated that our present board is building a better tomorrow for our residents. Manager Garland stated that all departments was maintained at previous year’s level due to the loss of expected revenues from the federal and state government. Manager Garland stated that no pay increases were given for staff. Manager Garland stated that expenditures by function was General Government 21.01%; Public Safety 31.23%; Economic Development 1.22%; Human Services 26.12%; Cultural and Recreation 2.71%; Transportation 3.39%; Education, Including Debt Service 9.26%; Contributions to Other Agencies .86%; Transfers for Capital Outlay 3.57%; Transfers to Other Funds .06% and Contingency .56%.
7. Manager Garland asks for public comment. No public comment.
8. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to close the public hearing and reopen the continued meeting. Commissioner Eller made the motion to close the public hearing and reopen the continued meeting. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

9. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Ordinance as presented by Manager Garland. Commissioner Cody made the motion to adopt the ordinance as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. Chairman Wiggins asks for new or old business. Manager Garland stated that she did have some budget amendments for the board's approval.
 - a. Budget Amendment #11 – Final Year End Amendments
 - b. Budget Amendment #1 – Amend for additional year end expenditures in the 911 Fund
 - c. Budget Amendment #1 – Amend to recognize additional costs for remapping project to the Revaluation Fund

Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to approve the budget amendments as stated.
Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the budget amendments as stated.
Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

11. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (6) for privileged or confidential information and personnel. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
13. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms 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