

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. Board present was Dale Wiggins, Lynn Cody, Keith Eller and Connie Orr. Board absent was Jacob Nelms.

1. Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Wiggins asks Commissioner Cody to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Wiggins asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Wiggins asks for changes to the agenda. Manager Garland asks that we add Donna Adams to #6A. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated change. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to approve the Workshop and Regular Minutes of March 19. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Wiggins asks Michelle Shiplet to speak. Ms. Shiplet thanked the board for their time and wanted to share the progress of the community garden. Ms. Shiplet presented pictures of the garden and gave highlights of the accomplishments. Ms. Shiplet stated that the Church Mouse has helped many people and many people have helped them as well and hopes that the community garden aid more people. Ms. Shiplet stated that this project drew attention and citizens called Rev'd Up formed a committee! Ms. Shiplet stated that this committee would be working on main street improvements. Ms. Shiplet stated that their community table is now feeding (65 to 100) people every week and this is amazing. Ms. Shiplet showed the board a map of upcoming projects and stated that the Town of Robbinsville has given them a long-term lease on the old VFW building and we plan to have an Arts Pavilion at the empty space. Ms. Shiplet stated that the Church Mouse bought the property to build a 150-foot pavilion, which will have bathrooms and parking. Ms. Shiplet also stated that she has been working with the school on employing IDD kids not exclusively to help run a coffee shop in this area as well. Ms. Shiplet stated that the Azalea Club is helping us with our planting and work in the garden. Ms. Shiplet stated that we would be upgrading Welcome to Robbinsville signage, which will hide the big billboards somewhat when you enter town. Ms. Shiplet stated that walking trails are being planned to the courthouse square and we are working with the owner of the rock wall to make improvements there as well. Ms. Shiplet stated that all of this will be handicap accessible and they are working with EBCI to place Otter Statutes in the park. Ms. Shiplet stated that they would have a full stage and a drop down monitor screen for movie night. Ms. Shiplet stated that she wanted the county to be a part of all that is going on and stated that the Town of Robbinsville gave them the lease for the building and will work with us on this project. Ms. Shiplet stated that they would be doing a Wall Mural on the VFW building based on the Snowbird Community. Ms. Shiplet stated that they are all about building bridges in this community. Ms. Shiplet stated that they needed to preserve and take care of our assets and our mural will be on the mapping being done by GREAT. Ms. Shiplet stated that we are a community and we need to lock arms and work together and asks that the board send words of encouragement and stated that she will come back this time next year to give an updated reporting on all the great things being done in our county. Chairman Wiggins thanked Ms. Shiplet for her work and stated that he looks forward to the community garden. The board all agreed.
7. Chairman Wiggins asks Donna Adams to speak. Ms. Adams stated that she needed the boards help. Ms. Adams stated that she built her house in 2005 at 713 Tallulah Road and told the Town Water department to quit flooding her home when they let water out of their tank on Fort Hill. Ms. Adams stated that they overfill the tank and drain it for (45) minutes (3) times a day and the treated water gushes down to her property. Ms. Adams stated that they installed a float but it malfunctioned and the water is still running down the mountain into her ditch and she is not able to continue shoveling the mud from her ditch. Ms. Adams stated that the last time she was doing this she fell and broke her wrist and this shut down the quarry and her income. Ms. Adams stated that she has installed new pipe in her ditch but the water still flows over and something needed to be done. Ms. Adams stated that she called Chad and told him he needed to clean up this mess and he stated that it was up to his supervisor so she is here to find out who his supervisor is. Ms. Adams stated that her water bill is over \$40.00 per month and they are wasting treated water every day and night. Chairman Wiggins stated this is the Town of Robbinsville's responsibility and he was not sure, when they held their meetings but suggested that she attend one of their meetings and voice her complaints. Chairman Wiggins stated that if she did not get help there then she might need to contract DENR-Water Quality in Asheville. Ms. Adams stated that this is not storm water. Chairman Wiggins stated that Ms. Adams needed to take pictures and video the water. The board stated that they would do what they could to help her.
8. Chairman Wiggins asks Wanda Hill, Senior Center Director to speak. Ms. Hill stated that she was here to get permission to apply for the centers block grant funding for \$130,172.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow Ms. Hill to apply for the funding. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Chairman Wiggins asks for the managers' report. Manager Garland stated that our county attorney, Jay Coward lost his mother on Saturday and the visitation is included in the packet.

10. Manager Garland stated that Homegrown Leaders is a regional leadership and economic development training that develops and supports highly skilled, highly motivated leaders who are committed to building regional collaboration across multi-county regions in the state. Manager Garland stated that there will be a training for two days in Cullowhee NC and the Rural Center recommends that elected officials, government staff, faith based and community minded people apply. The cost is \$500.00 and she would like to attend. The board all agreed that Manager Garland should attend.
11. Manager Garland stated that Rural Day was last Tuesday in Raleigh and they focused on broadband and healthcare. There is a push in the General Assembly and Congress to make it known that the census maps for internet coverage are based on wrong assumptions. The assumption is that one person with high-speed internet in a census tract equals access for the entire tract and this is not true. Manager Garland stated that another issue being advocated was by Governor Kasich from Ohio and he laid out a strong case for Medicaid Expansion in NC. Ohio was one of the first states to adopt it and him when he left office they had over a \$3 billion dollar surplus. Manager Garland stated that another speaker is a Marine Veteran and he stated that just because he had a VA medical card did not mean that he could easily access it. Manager Garland stated that they also spoke on the opioid crisis and how Medicaid expansion could be helpful in addressing the problem through mental health funding for addicted persons. Economic status does not dictate addiction outcomes.
12. Manager Garland stated that she sent the board a survey from NACO about our PILT and SRS funding and asks that the board participate.
13. Manager Garland stated that the Occupancy Tax is sitting in the Rules Committee in the Senate following its passage of the House and she emailed Senator Davis for his support.
14. Manager Garland stated that the Local Government Commission is having a local officials training in conjunction with SERCAP. The meeting will be April 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the library.
15. Manager Garland stated that our ad hoc recreation committee has been meeting over the past couple of months and they have been working toward a submission of a PARTF grant application. Manager Garland stated they had a conference call with Judith Francis, who has been very helpful, but she provided a long list of required items that are necessary to submit the application, one of which is a need to formalize a recreation committee that includes community members and members of other agencies such as the school, to be appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Manager Garland stated that we are proposing the following individuals for your consideration and all have been contacted and are willing to serve if appointed by the Board.  
The members would be
  - a. Jacob Nelms, County Commissioner
  - b. Rebecca Garland, County Manager and Finance Officer
  - c. Ronnie Williams, Recreation Director
  - d. Warren Knott, Graham County Schools
  - e. Aaron Stewart, Land Management and Survey Experience
  - f. Juanita Colvard, Grants Management and Acquisition
  - g. Brandon Lovin, Citizen Stakeholder
  - h. Janelle Rattler, EBCI and Citizen Stakeholder
  - i. David Haney, Citizen Stakeholder
  - j. Sophia Paulos, Economic Development
16. Manager Garland stated that we are getting \$89,788.00 from our cost settlement.
17. Manager Garland stated that we finished the RFP process last Friday for the CDBG Grant. Manager Garland stated that we have received only one proposal from Withers and Ravenel and she had reached out to NC Commerce to verify that we do not have to repost the solicitation but we do have to re-advertise for two weeks. Manager Garland stated that the proposal needs to be reviewed as soon as possible because we have to submit the environmental assessment in May so time is pressing.
18. Manager Garland stated that the health director was advised by the state that she will be receiving an additional allocation for Maternal Child Health Mini Grant and they have approved funding to improve clinical space for women of childbearing age. Manager Garland stated that Director Booth has identified new furniture for the waiting room and televisions for tele-health and printed educational materials. Manager Garland stated that there is no match and it is 100% funded by the State. Manager Garland stated she needed to do a budget amendment for the expenditure of the grant and needed approval to make the expenditure. Manager Garland needs approval for Budget Amendment #6 for \$20,700.00; \$12,680.00 capital outlay and \$8,020.00 for supplies. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the budget amendment and allow the expenditures as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Manager Garland stated that received a response letter from FEMA and we are working toward the re-working of the floodway maps. Commissioner Cody wanted the letter from FEMA put in the Graham Star for the residents to see.
20. Manager Garland also gave dates for the board to remember of upcoming meetings.
21. Chairman Wiggins asks if they have checked the Wachacha Bald Tower reception. Manager Garland stated that EMS Director Larry Hembree has not reported to her at this time.
22. Chairman Wiggins asks for public comment. Commissioner Cody stated that he had one request that NCDOT widen the Hyde Town Road now that we have the Stecoah Valley Campground. Commissioner Cody stated that

it is very hard to get the campers through this road. Commissioner Cody stated that these motor homes are very expensive and we need to at the very least fix the potholes. Manager Garland stated that she would contact NCDOT on this issue.

23. Chairman Wiggins stated that we would now go into the discussion items. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the Releases for \$1,743.09 and the Discoveries for \$7,002.29. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Chairman Wiggins stated that the county would be observing April 19<sup>th</sup> for Good Friday.
25. Chairman Wiggins stated that there is a meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the WNC Regional Livestock Center in Canton to discuss USFS Lands.
26. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval to implement a recreation committee. Commissioner Eller made the motion to implement a recreation committee. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to approve the recreation committee as named earlier in the meeting. Commissioner Cody made the motion to appoint the recreation committee as named by Manager Garland. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Chairman Wiggins asks for new or old business. No new or old business was discussed.
29. Chairman Wiggins 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 Eller made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody 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