

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting held in the Graham County Community Building located at 191 P and J Road Robbinsville, NC. All board was present.

1. Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Wiggins asks Commissioner Nelms 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 stated that under Item 10 we needed to change the amount of Releases to \$1,278.50 and move Sophia Paulos to the next regular meeting. Commissioner Lynn Cody asks that he be added to the agenda. Chairman Wiggins stated that we would add Commissioner Cody to Item 7 in the place of Sophia Paulos. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Wiggins made the motion to approve the Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 15th and the Continued Meeting Minutes of January 22nd. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Wiggins asks Juanita Colvard to speak about the RFQ's and RFP's for Health Care in the county. Ms. Colvard presented the quote sheets to the board. Ms. Colvard stated that Dr. Castor and his staff was present for questions if needed. Ms. Colvard stated that Nancy Lane had put the quotes out and they include vendor quote comparisons from Phillips, Canon, Siemens and GE. After discussion with the board, Ms. Colvard, Ms. Gibson and Doctor Castor chose GE as the vendor. Ms. Colvard stated that we needed to remember that these are GoldenLeaf funds that are being used for this procurement. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept GE with final approval after Ms. Colvard negotiates the bundled price with GE. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Ms. Colvard stated that they are still working on the RFQ's for the Ultrasound and she will report these findings to the board as soon as she receives them.
8. Chairman Wiggins asks Commissioner Cody to speak. Commissioner Cody stated that he sets one night a month to meet with the public to talk to them about concerns that they have with the county. Commissioner Cody stated that John McRae had asked about his property on Upper Tallulah (Malcolm George property) being in the floodplain. Commissioner Cody stated that the highest portion of his property is in the floodplain and the lowest portion of the property is not in the floodplain. Chairman Wiggins stated that Larry Hembree needed to be contacted concerning the floodplain. Commissioner Eller stated that this property is not the only property that has issues with the floodplain and he was told that they are changing the elevations in the county and Larry Hembree will be having a phone conference on this information next week.
9. Commissioner Cody stated that he had an employee come and talk to him on Ethics and he feels that we need to provide a way for the employees to report complaints confidentially. Commissioner Cody stated at his employment, a system is in place and it works very well and he would be glad to get the program set up for Graham County. Commissioner Cody stated that the employees have a right to speak freely and should have the means to do so. Manager Garland stated that this is an excellent idea and she is all for an Ethics program. Manager Garland stated that all employees should feel safe when reporting issues without the fear of repercussions. Chairman Wiggins stated that we needed it where all employees have access to email. Manager Garland stated that she is all about accountability. Commissioner Eller asks how this works now. Manager Garland stated that we rarely get a complaint and she contributes that to a fear of retaliation. Manager Garland stated that she needed to know what the employees know especially if they are recognizing fraud in a department. Commissioner Eller asks how much this would cost and Commissioner Cody stated that he would try and get a price. Chairman Wiggins stated that we answer to the voters and if someone has a legal complaint then Manager Garland needed to know about it. Manager Garland stated that she goes over Ethics in the department head meetings but that does not mean that all employees are receiving the same conversation. Chairman Wiggins stated that Manager Garland needed to work with Commissioner Cody on getting more information for the board to review.
10. Chairman Wiggins asks Manager Garland to give the Manager's Report. Manager Garland stated that the CDBG Grant was approved in December but we have not received the grant package from Commerce. Manager Garland stated that she called Commerce last week and they said that it would be several weeks until they release the package. Manager Garland stated that after this is received we would then be able to advertise for proposals for the grant administrator.

11. Manager Garland stated that the EPA Grant for the Brownfield Assessment was submitted to EPA on Thursday morning.
12. Manager Garland stated that Angie Knight and she met with the lead architect with the School Planning Division at the Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh and he stated that Graham County would be in a good position from the competitive perspective because we are small and any changes made will affect a sizeable percentage of the student body. Manager Garland stated that he said we need to have land acquisition. Manager Garland stated that the grant is provided for in the general statutes; therefore, the funding will be long-term. Manager Garland stated that he also said that there is no time limit in the use of the funds because of the multi-year nature of capital projects. Manager Garland stated that the use of these funds, which are a part of the lottery funds, will cause regular lottery fund allocations to be suspended for five years,
13. Manager Garland stated that she had a meeting with the SERCAP (Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project) consultants and Pam Hysong regarding our sanitation model. Manager Garland stated that they would be coming for our March workshop to present their findings and make some recommendations. Manager Garland stated that Ms. Hysong is willing to begin a grant application for equipment needs with sanitation and we might be able to qualify for up to \$50,000.00 in grant funds per year for three years according to her and could pair it with USDA loans to either to replace trucks and/or buy other equipment such as compactors. Manager Garland stated that we are applying for \$20,000.00 for equipment to assist with our recycling program. Manager Garland stated that we needed to surplus two items at Sanitation (a dump truck that rusted out and the trailer that we purchased several years ago for the recycling program that is too shallow and does not have the appropriate hitch equipment.) The board gave a directive to Manager Garland to sell the property and apply for the funding.
14. Manager Garland stated that we have a need for new dumpsters and previously we were trying to rehabilitate them but the cost of metal has risen dramatically in the past few months. Manager Garland stated that we needed (10) dumpsters and further stated that she will wait and see if we receive funding from SERCAP before she orders. The board agreed with Manager Garland.
15. Manager Garland stated that she has attached the 911-progress report and we are researching ways to improve our technology.
16. Manager Garland stated that we have begun working on the Community Building and have found that the walls are in need of repair and we received a preliminary quote of \$5800.00 for Spanish Lace on the walls. Manager Garland asks the board for their direction.
17. Manager Garland stated that we are getting pricing to fix the landscape beds at the community building and we are looking at a price of \$6,800.00 - \$8,500.00 to place river stone in the beds and the concrete would run around \$10,000 to \$12,000 and asks the boards direction. The board wanted to work this into the next budget.
18. Manager Garland stated that the budget meetings will begin in the next few weeks and she is planning a budget retreat for the department managers on February 21, 2019. Manager Garland stated that she is working with the staff on capital needs and repairs. Manager Garland stated that she needed the board to give her dates in mid-March for the commissioner budget meetings.
19. Manager Garland stated that the final valuation for Brookfield was sent in today at \$211,000,000.00 which will be a little over one million dollars in taxes.
20. Manager Garland stated that Ferris Associates will begin work next week with the tax office and the final contracts was reviewed and approved by Attorney Coward and Chairman Wiggins.
21. Manager Garland stated that LGERS is moving their rate up to 8.95% for next fiscal year from 7.75% and this will affect the upcoming budget. Manager Garland stated that the sheriff department employee's rate would be even higher.
22. Manager Garland stated that Jacob Nelms, Building Inspector needed to speak on a personal issue. Mr. Nelms stated that he is putting a porch on his home and he has to get permission by the board to do his own inspections. Commissioner Eller made the motion to allow Jacob Nelms to approve the inspections for his new porch. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Manager Garland gave the board a listing of dates to remember and reminded the board of the upcoming A-0009 Meetings to be held next week at the community building.
24. Chairman Wiggins asks for public comment. No public comment was given.
25. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board would now go into the discussion items. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the Releases for \$1,278.50. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the Releases as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Chairman Wiggins stated that he would now open the bids for the sidewalk repair at the Sheriff's Department. Those bids were Robbinsville Custom Moulding - \$6495.00; Lovin

Equipment Sales -\$9990.00; Graham County Land Company \$9900.00 and McLain's Concrete - \$6325.00. Commissioner Eller made the motion to go with the lowest bid. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

27. Chairman Wiggins stated that Tri-County was giving a Public Appreciation Banquet February 7th for Public Safety and Lynn Cody and Keith Eller are invited to be participants. Commissioner Orr stated that she would be serving at the banquet.
28. Chairman Wiggins stated that the Spring 2019 District Meetings will be April 4th at the Ramsey Center at WCU and the board will need to pre-register. Clerk Crisp stated that she has registered Commissioner Orr due to her participation in the NCACC. The board all agreed that Commissioner Orr represents the county well with the NCACC.
29. Chairman Wiggins stated that we needed to reappoint Michelle Redmond to the Travel and Tourism Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to reappoint Ms. Redmond to the Travel and Tourism Board. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Chairman Wiggins stated that we needed to reappoint the following members on the Transportation Advisory Board Ginger Claybon, Noah Crowe, Wanda Hill, Melissa Blevins, Dennis Myers, Connie Orr and Harold Phillips. Commissioner Cody made the motion to reappoint the members as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Chairman Wiggins asks for new or old business. Attorney Coward stated that Commissioner Orr was elected to the Vaya Health Board of Directors, which will give Graham County a voting seat. The board was very pleased with this information.
32. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board would now 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 Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to grant Whitney Key (6) weeks without pay for the birth of her child. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow the (6) weeks without pay. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to adjourn. 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