

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC 28771. Commissioners present: Dale Wiggins, Lynn Cody and Keith Eller. Commissioners absent: Connie Orr (attending NCACC event in Raleigh) and Jacob Nelms.

1. Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Wiggins asks Commissioner Cody to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Wiggins led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Wiggins asks for changes to the agenda. Manager Garland asks that we add EMS Director Larry Hembree and Transit Director Juanita Colvard to closed session. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the Workshop and Regular Minutes of April 16th and the Board of Equalization and Review Minutes of April 30th. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Wiggins asks for public comment. No public comment was given.
7. Chairman Wiggins asks Manager Garland to give her manager's report. Manager Garland stated that the Golden Leaf Foundation announced that Dan Gerlach has stepped down as President and is the acting Chancellor of East Carolina University as of Monday May 6th. Manager Garland asks permission to send a letter of appreciation on behalf of Graham County to Mr. Gerlach and stated that Mr. Gerlach has been a great friend of Graham County. The board all agreed.
8. Manager Garland stated that NCGS Senate Bill 630 will require counties to create a formal plan for IVC transports by October 1, 2019 and will radically change how IVC's are handled. Vaya Health will be the lead agency and will require that IVC's be handled outside of ER admissions if possible. Manager Garland stated that it would also require that the facility handling the IVC would do a health screening in addition to the mental health assessment and there will be a focus group discussion over the next few months for managers and law enforcement but no dates have been set to date.
9. Manager Garland stated that she attended a seminar at Southwest Commission about Opportunity Zones and this will allow investors to sell capital gain property and defer the gain for a period of seven years. Manager Garland stated that if they hold the property until 2026, then they recognize 85% of the original gain and then get a stepped up basis for taxable gain. If they sell after 10 years of holding the property, then they sell tax-free. The final regulations are about to be issued by the IRS. Manager Garland stated that we have opportunity zones in this county so as we are talking to people who want to invest in this county, then we need to make sure that they are aware of this process.
10. Manager Garland stated that she received information on FIBER NC Act House Bill 431 that will include clear authority for local governments to build infrastructure to lease to private providers. Commissioner Orr will be addressing the counties at the County Assembly Day about the need for rural broadband expansion.
11. Manager Garland stated that the house approved its 2019-2021 budget to include \$100 million in lottery proceeds for school capital; \$30 million school safety grants; \$15 million expansion to broadband expansion with GREAT grants; \$60 million in NC FAST improvement; increases to State Special Assistance payments, which will require a mandatory county match increase as well.
12. Manager Garland stated that under Senate Bill 584 De-criminalization of county ordinances will make it more difficult to collect civil fines and will necessitate counties to revise their ordinances. Manager Garland stated that this will make some ordinances such as animal control, sanitation and public safety impossible to enforce at the local level.
13. Manager Garland stated that Senate Bill 212 Child Welfare NC FAST passed Senate, which delays implementation of case management systems except for pilot counties. Our implementation that was supposed to occur this winter was delayed due to issues within our DSS system. The delay is until October 1, 2019.
14. Manager Garland stated that she received a request from the state to pay \$4000.00 for Beaver Management and asks the board for direction. The answer was no.

15. Manager Garland stated that on April 19th during the storms we had a power outage at our HHS building on P and J road due to a fallen tree. Duke Energy partially restored power, which caused the generator to turn off but resulted in a brown out at the building. Lorita Eller reported on the effects to the vaccine supply at the Health Board meeting. The cost was \$3, 3338.00. Manager Garland stated that we also lost one computer, which will be about \$800.00 and some power Strips. Manager Garland stated that she called Duke Energy and their claims administrator is refusing to take responsibility so she will file a claim with our insurance as soon as we get the final values for a computer replacement.
16. Manager Garland stated that Homeland Security will be coming next Monday for the Election Board and they will provide us with a written report of how they need the election board configured.
17. Manager Garland gave the board a copy of the Vaya Health Quarterly Report and stated that this will change as the State moves into Medicaid Transformation.
18. Manager Garland gave a follow up on a complaint about trash on the sides of the roads. Manager Garland stated that the tops on the sanitation trucks were staying open and she is having these repaired so that the lid will close properly. Manager Garland stated that she reached out to NCDOT and they have a trash pickup schedule. Manager Garland stated that she also spoke with the state on the contractors of the trash pickup dumping at the sanitation site instead of the green cans and making sure that it was Graham County garbage.
19. Manager Garland stated that we have new EMS Rates to adopt at the Medicare Prevailing Rates. Commissioner Cody made the motion to adopt the new Medicare Prevailing Rates. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
20. Manager Garland stated that our tax base has declined and this means our revenue neutral rate will go up slightly. This is the rate that the NCDOR provides assistance with in order to maintain tax revenues at stable levels from previous budgets. Manager Garland stated that currently our tax rate is set at \$.00585, which is about 87% of the state median tax rate. Manager Garland stated that having our tax rate below 100% would cause negative consequences that will cost our schools money in their low wealth allocation. Last year the rate went from 100% to 98% and the school allocation fell from \$97,000.00 to \$27,000.00. Manager Garland stated that the school is requesting \$1,025,000.00 for current expense and \$100,000.00 in capital outlay funds. Manager Garland stated that the board would need to have a mil rate in place as soon as possible.
21. Manager Garland stated that two requests for payment above her spending limit have been received. One from our architect Masters Architecture PLLC for our design of the mammography and CT technology for \$5,279.10. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve this expenditure. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. Manager Garland stated that the second bill is for security key card access to the jail, judge's chamber, and probation and jail administrator office. Manager Garland stated that the cost is \$5500.00 and the Clerk of Court is willing to split the cost with the Sheriff. Commissioner Cody made the motion to allow for the key card access. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Chairman Wiggins stated that Manager Garland would be traveling with her son, David Maennle to West Virginia to meet with Barnwood Builders to construct a cabin for her son. Manager Garland stated that they would be filming here as well.
24. Chairman Wiggins stated that we would now go to the discussion items. Chairman Wiggins stated that Manager Garland discussed the Litter pickup schedule.
25. Chairman Wiggins asks about a cellphone for Lorita Eller. Clerk Crisp read the request from Health Director Beth Booth. Commissioner Cody made the motion to allow Lorita Eller a cellphone. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Chairman Wiggins stated that the GREAT meeting would be held May 16th at the Stecoah Valley Center.
27. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the board poll concerning meeting with Representative Kevin Corbin. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the poll. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the board poll to accept Withers Ravenel as the CDBG Administrator for \$75,000.00. Commissioner Eller made the motion to accept the proposal from Withers Ravenel. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Chairman Wiggins asks for new or old business. No new or old business was discussed.

30. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11A (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.
31. Commissioner Cody made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Commissioner Eller 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