

Regular Meeting – January 7, 2020

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular monthly meeting. 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. Commissioner Orr gave acknowledgment to our beautiful flag for our Veteran's located at our Urgent Care Office on Main Street and stated that they are working on stronger lights for nighttime.
4. Chairman Wiggins asks for changes to the agenda. Manager Garland stated that we needed to add Commissioner Cody as Item #6A for Stecoah Rescue Squad; add approval of the Workshop Session for December 17th to Item #5 and change the Open House for Urgent Care to Monday, January 27th. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the changes as stated. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the changes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the minutes for the December 17th Board of E&R; Workshop Session and Regular Meeting December 17th. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Wiggins asks Wanda Hill, Senior Center Director to speak. Ms. Hill stated that when the Senior Center was built in 2014 funds were tight and a generator could not be purchased at that time. Ms. Hill stated that Dogwood Trust has grants available up to \$25,000.00 and she would like to apply for a grant to purchase a generator for the building. Ms. Hill stated that the center feeds the Jail 365 days a year and the site can be named as a shelter in case of emergencies. Ms. Hill stated that a quote was obtained which came in higher than the \$25,000.00. Manager Garland stated that she could use the General Purpose Monies to cover the overage. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow Wanda Hill to apply for the grant and use General Purpose Funds for the overage and if anytime in the future we have money available to save taxpayer dollars then we should be very diligent and apply for those funds. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chairman Wiggins asks Commissioner Cody to speak. Commissioner Cody stated that Stecoah Rescue Squad is applying for the \$25,000.00 Dogwood Trust grant as well for the purchase of a defibrillator and the squad will try to raise the remainder of the money. Manager Garland stated that she did check with our EMS Director Larry Hembree and our defibrillators are in compliance. Manager Garland stated that every entity could apply for the Dogwood Trust funding.
8. Chairman Wiggins asks Manager Garland to give the manager's report. Manager Garland stated that she would need approval for the poll to replace Zone 1 HVAC in the P&J Building on the DSS Side. Manager Garland stated that the poll was to replace the unit at \$8200.00. The board asks how many more units are left to replace. Manager Garland stated that we will have three more units in that building to replace at some time and she would work this cost into the upcoming budget. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the poll for the replacement of the HVAC. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Manager Garland stated that she has two budget amendments for the board's approval.
 - a. Budget Amendment #6 – this was passed at the December 3, 2019 meeting when the board approved the drawdown of lottery funds for \$69,415.00 for renovations in the bathroom at the football field. This amendment needs to be ratified and signed by the board.
 - b. Budget Amendment #7 – this is to move \$5000 from contracted services in the DSS budget to the Clerk of Court fees line item for internal managerial purposes and posting for the 1571. This represents a zero change to the total budget.Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the budget amendments and ratify with signature. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. Manager Garland stated that Jason Marino, our Projects Manager, is in the process of finalizing the bid packages for the recreation, cemetery and election renovation projects and hopes to have them ready this week. We have been in contact with Heery about their work on the courthouse project and are in the process of finalizing dates that work for a visit.

11. Manager Garland stated that the NCDMV had written to advise the driver's license examiners were only coming to Graham County during the months of May and October for 2020. Manager Garland stated that she wrote a letter of appeal and called our folks with Hometown Strong for help and we were able to negotiate a monthly visit. They will be coming the first Wednesdays of each month except for the months of April, July and December for which it will be the second Wednesday. We have posted the change on Facebook and will place some ads in the Graham Star. The board agreed that we needed to let the public know of this change.
12. Manager Garland stated our ARC Recovery to Work Grant has been entered into the DC System and we are hopeful that this is a good sign for the award of this grant. Manager Garland stated that Ms. Jones with ARC stated that the application was very well written.
13. Manager Garland stated that she received quotes for the QRV for the Paramedicine Program which followed the federal procurement requirements and presented those quotes as:
 - a. Andy Shaw Ford \$31,743.00
 - b. Jackie Jones Ford \$32,900.00
 - c. King Ford \$35,498.00Manager Garland asks that the board approve the quote then she will submit to ARC for approval to obtain the funding. Commissioner Cody made the motion to go with the lowest quote, Andy Shaw Ford for \$31,743.00. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Manager Garland stated that the Graham Star is running a Special Feature for the Black Knight Championship and asks if the board would like to have an ad in this feature. The board had discussion and Commissioner Orr made the motion to do a ½-page ad for \$250.00 from Graham County. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Commissioner Orr stated that in the same context she would like to donate \$1,000.00 to the school for the purchase of rings for the ballplayers and the cheerleaders and put this in the form of a motion. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Manager Garland stated that Deena Collins, the community relations director for Erlanger would be coming January 15th to introduce Drs. Snead who will be practicing medicine at the Erlanger Primary Care facility in Andrews. Manager Garland stated that they would be meeting at the EMS Base at 10:00 a.m. if the commissioners would like to attend.
17. Manager Garland stated that an A-0009 Team Meeting was held today via GoToMeeting and they spent over an hour going through scenarios from Johnson Gap to Robbinsville looking at bridges versus culverts. Manager Garland stated that in an earlier conversation they determined that the road needs to follow the existing path to Town as opposed to going around Five Points. Manager Garland stated that there was also discussion on a bridge to cross the Appalachian Trail and they wanted to know who would maintain the bridge. Manager Garland stated that she made it clear that Graham County would not pay for infrastructure that spans a federal highway.
18. Manager Garland stated that NCDOT would close the Nantahala Gorge Thursday, January 9th for NCDOT to remove debris and loose material that is in danger of sliding between the Wayah Rd and Pizza on the River. Manager Garland stated that the traffic would be diverted through Graham County.
19. Manager Garland stated that Chairman Wiggins and she were invited to participate in a press conference regarding Medicaid Expansion January 15th in Raleigh and Chairman Wiggins is scheduled to lead off the press conference.
20. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board would now go to the discussion items. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the Releases for \$712.94. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the releases as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board would need to accept the Community Services Block Grant Submission by Four Square. Commissioner Cody made the motion to accept the grant submission as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. Chairman Wiggins asks for the reappointment of Mike Teem and Sheriff Jones to the EDC Board for a one-year term. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept the reappointments as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Chairman Wiggins stated that there would be an Open House for Urgent Care on Monday January 27th between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.
24. Chairman Wiggins stated that the county would be closed for Martin Luther King Holiday on Monday, January 20th.
25. Chairman Wiggins asks for new or old business. No new or old business.

26. Chairman Wiggins asks for public comment. No public comment.
27. Chairman Wiggins asks for 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 Orr made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. 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.
29. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms 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