

Regular Meeting – July 20, 2021

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the Graham County Veterans Building located at Moose Branch Road Robbinsville, NC for their regular monthly meeting. The meeting place was changed due to Superior Court being held in the regular meeting place at the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. Board present Lynn Cody, Jacob Nelms and Dale Wiggins. Board absent Connie Orr and Keith Eller.

1. Commissioner Wiggins called the meeting to order.
2. Commissioner Wiggins asks Commissioner Cody to give the Invocation.
3. Commissioner Wiggins asks Commissioner Nelms to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Commissioner Wiggins asks for approval of the agenda. Clerk Crisp stated that we needed to delete Item #6; Add the poll for the Courthouse HVAC and add Releases and Discoveries. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Commissioner Wiggins asks for approval of the May 21st; May 28th and June 4th Budget Meetings; June 15th Workshop and Regular Meeting. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Commissioner Wiggins asks Finance Director Becky Garland to give the monthly reporting. Director Garland stated that Manager Marino was on military training for three weeks and he had asked if she would give an update for him. Manager Marino would be calling into the meeting. Director Garland stated that there was a change order at the Middle School resulting in a \$14,000.00 credit in the plumbing portion of the renovations.
7. Director Garland stated that the Mack Truck is still awaiting repairs due to the delay on receiving the necessary parts.
8. Director Garland stated that the Cybersecurity training module went well, and Manager Marino believes that it will be a useful tool for our department heads to use to monitor their department's computers.
9. Director Garland stated that USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) called, and they are extending the grant/loan of \$47,000.00 to be used at the sanitation department. Director Garland stated that the board needed to discuss ways to spend the money. Clerk Crisp asks if this money could be used to purchase a metal building to replace the shed that is in disrepair. Director Garland stated that she would investigate this possibility.
10. Director Garland stated that the stadium lights are going up. Commissioner Nelms asks where the county can store the old lights to be used on the county fields. The board would need discussion on the location for storage.
11. Director Garland stated that the capital projects are moving along, and Judge Coward has expressed his desires that the county begin the project now. Commissioner Wiggins stated that State Officials are looking for funds to aid the county in this project.
12. Director Garland stated that they are awaiting an environmental on the Snowbird Project.
13. Director Garland stated that the county ended the year with a \$8,618,891.49 cash balance which is ahead \$664,000.00 from this time last year and \$6,300,000.00 from this time ten years ago. Director Garland stated that we have \$2,483,497.26 in the Capital Projects-NCCMT account; \$114,172.10 in the School Capital Projects-NCCMT account and \$819,782.50 in the American Rescue Plan Act. Director Garland stated that the board needed to schedule a workshop on the American Rescue Plan Act to set their priorities and the board will have until 2026 to spend the money. Director Garland stated that she would be filing the first reporting on August 31st.
14. Director Garland stated that the current year tax collection for the month was \$45,864.49 and the prior year was \$9,686.66 for a total of \$55,551.45. Director Garland stated that our DMV collections for the month was \$57,520.09. Director Garland stated that our year-to-date tax collections were \$7,220,428.78 for real; \$617,400.44 for DMV and our tax collection rate was 97.65%. Director Garland commended the tax department for their diligence in the collections.

15. Director Garland stated that our revenues were \$1,399,155.61 and our expenditures was \$2,494,728.83 for a net loss of \$791,045.29. Director Garland stated that our year-to-date revenues were \$17,713,143.77 and our expenditures was \$16,980,729.33 for a surplus of \$732,414.44.
16. Director Garland stated that our sales tax collection for the month is \$226,285.69 which is ahead from \$182,292.05 last year at this time. Director Garland stated that \$268,705.33 was collected for the 524 Expansion: \$286,705.33 Schools Portion of 524 and our Capital Projects account has \$2,506,019.84.
17. Director Garland stated that our back tax collections \$482,711.44 and our total back tax collections since 2013 is \$633,518.52.
18. Director Garland stated that we received an additional \$326,023.00 in PILT (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) funding which covers (113,681 acres) in Graham County for a total payment per acre of \$2.87 which is a .04 cent raise from 2020 where we received \$2.83 per acre.
19. Director Garland stated that she transferred \$302,000.00 to the courthouse fund out of the 2020-2021 budget and paid our debt service for schools of \$271,591.50. Director Garland stated that she transferred \$75,070.00 for maintenance for the CT and MAMMO out of general fund to our Golden Leaf funds and transferred \$50,000.00 to our Revaluation Fund.
20. Director Garland stated that she transferred \$159,282.00 to the school and fire departments in SRS (Secure Rural Schools) funding for fiscal year 2020-2021.
21. Director Garland stated that we were able to come in \$750,000.00 below budgeted expenditures in the General Fund which is at 96% of the budget and saw an increase of 19% in sales tax for the year and through the end of May as well as a 75% increase in occupancy tax collections.
22. Director Garland stated that we hauled 500 tons more of garbage this past fiscal year than the year before and that equates to one million pounds of garbage hauled in the past fiscal year.
23. Director Garland stated that she needed approval to reappropriate funds for capital outlay appropriated in the 2020-2021 budget year but not expended but remain encumbered in the 2021-2022 budget year. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the budget reappropriation as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Director Garland stated that she needed approval of Budget Amendment #1 to recognize grant from NCSU (North Carolina State University) for computer equipment in the amount of \$49,602.00. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #1 as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Director Garland stated that she needed approval of a Resolution accepting the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in which Graham County is eligible to receive funding from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (CSLRF) directly from the US (United States) Treasury Department currently estimated in the total amount of \$819,782.50 and has applied for and already received the first tranche of said funds in the amount of \$1,639,565.00. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the resolution as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Director Garland stated that she had received a resolution from Withers Ravenel regarding the policies that needed to be adopted for the CDBG-NR Community Development Block Grant Program for the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and the CDBG-CV Coronavirus Recovery Program. Director Garland stated that the policies are as stated:
 - Duplication of Benefits Policy for Coronavirus
 - Participation Plan
 - Language Access Plan
 - Equal Opportunity Plan
 - Fair Housing Plan & Complaint Procedure
 - Procurement Standard
 - Local Jobs Initiative (Section 3 Plan)
 - Section 504 Self-Evaluation Survey
 - Section 504 Non-Discrimination Policy
 - Section 504 Grievance Procedure
 - Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Pla

Optional Coverage Relocation Plan
 Excessive Force / Section 519 Policy
 Code of Conduct / Hatch Act Policy
 Acquisition Guidelines
 Disposition Guidelines
 Relocation Guidelines
 Clearance Guidelines
 Rehabilitation Guidelines
 Rehabilitation / Reconstruction Guidelines
 Hook Up Guidelines
 Public Facility Guidelines
 Complaint Procedure
 Contracts Officer Designation
 Labor Standards Officer Designation
 Verification Officer Designation
 Just Compensation Officer Designation
 Financial Management Procedure
 Neighborhood Revitalization Contractor Procurement and Disbursement Policy
 Neighborhood Revitalization Assistance Policy

Commissioners Nelms made the motion to approve the policies as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

27. Director Garland stated that she did receive information that the county could not use the ARPA funds for Broadband. Director Garland stated that there are a lot of federal and state regulations, and she would be having further discussion with Region A for further guidance concerning this issue.
28. Commissioner Wiggins asks for public comment. No public comment.
29. Commissioner Wiggins stated that we would now go to the discussion items.
30. Commissioner Wiggins asks for designation of Voting Delegate for NCACC (North Carolina Association of County Commissioners) Legislative Goals Conference because he and Commissioner Orr's not being able to attend the conference. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to appoint County Manager Jason Marino as the voting delegate. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Commissioner Wiggins asks for approval of the following road names that were previously approved by the Road Naming Board and those roads are:
 - Mt. Sizemore Way – off Shellstand Rd
 - Thelma Ln – off Sweetwater Rd
 - Boree Rd – off Carringer Rd on Yellow Creek
 - Tammy's Trail – off Boree Rd (as listed above)
 - W Buffalo Cove Rd – off West Buffalo

Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the road names as presented. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

32. Commissioner Wiggins stated that the Grand Jury had their yearly inspection of the Jail and found that although it was an older facility, they found it safe and in decent order and repair.
33. Commissioner Wiggins asks for approval of the board poll to approve the Audit Contract for \$49,900.00. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the audit contract as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Commissioner Wiggins asks for approval of the poll to adopt the Resolution on Interlocal Agreement with NCACC regarding insurance. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the poll as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Commissioner Wiggins asks for a motion to surplus the following items being sold by Soil & Water.
 - 601 Kawasaki Mule, 4x4 with winch
 - 25-gallon electric sprayer; workhorse; no boom nozzle; had spray gun
 - 6x10 trailer with dropped tailgate
 - 18x21x10 Carport; damage to top

Commissioner Nelms made the motion to surplus the items as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

36. Commissioner Wiggins asks for discussion on the updated Ordinance for Concealed Weapons on County Property. Commissioner Cody stated that he has read and approves the Ordinance as written and made the motion to adopt the Ordinance for Concealed Weapons on County Property. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Commissioner Wiggins asks for approval of the Releases for \$5,485.09 and the Discoveries for \$2,506.06. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. Commissioner Wiggins asks for approval of the poll for the Courthouse HVAC. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the poll as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
39. Commissioner Wiggins asks for new or old business. No new or old business.
40. Commissioner Wiggins asks for a motion to go into closed session under NCG.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(3)(5)(6) for privileged or confidential information, attorney-client privilege, personnel, and contracts. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
41. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Cody made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Nelms seconded. Vote unanimous.
42. Commissioner Wiggins stated that the board would meet Friday, August 6th at 9:00 a.m. to host a working workshop on the ARPA funding distribution.
43. Commissioner Wiggins asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Graham County Board of Commissioners
Connie Orr, Chair (Absent)
Keith Eller, Vice-Chairman (Absent)

Lynn Cody, Member

Jacob Nelms, Member

Dale Wiggins, Member

ATTEST

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners