

Regular Meeting – April 16, 2024

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular monthly meeting. Board present Natasha Williams, Lynn Cody, Keith Eller, and Connie Orr. Board absent Jacob Nelms. Also, present Finance Director Stacy Carpenter, Project Manager Jason Marino, and Interim County Manager/Clerk to the Board Kim Crisp.

1. Vice-Chair Williams called the meeting to order.
2. Vice-Chair Williams asks Commissioner Cody to give the Invocation.
3. Vice-Chair Williams asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Vice-Chair Williams asks for changes to the agenda. Clerk Crisp asks that we add to the discussion items: desks for Clerk of Court. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Commissioner Orr seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Vice-Chair Williams asks for approval of the February 20th Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes and the March 8, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Eller made the motion as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Vice-Chair Williams asks Brian Stevens, EM Director to speak. Director Stevens stated that the previous ambulances that he ordered are still in production and the date to receive is unknown. Director Stevens stated that he has been trying to research other options and has negotiated an offer with Atlantic Emergency Solutions to be able to deliver us one in July, it was an order that someone else did not want any longer and he also has reached out to other vendors on custom build and we are looking at (22-49) months before they enter into production and another (120) days after that, so in talking to Atlantic he placed a demo on hold that meets all the requirements that we need and have negotiated the price down \$10,000.00 if we make a deposit prepayment. Director Stevens stated we will receive another discount after the prepayment but is unsure what that amount will be at this time. Director Stevens stated that he would like to go ahead and execute the contract with Atlantic Emergency Solutions for \$330,000.00. Director Stevens discussed the difference in pricing, and we will only budget for the shortfall of \$90,000.00 in the upcoming fiscal year. Director Stevens stated that he would also like permission to cancel the order of the two ambulances due to the time frame. Commissioner Cody asks if we will have penalties in cancelling the two that have been previously ordered. Director Stevens stated no, there is no penalty. Commissioner Cody made the motion to proceed with the purchase and roll over the additional funds to the next budget. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Orr made the motion to cancel the contract with Northwestern. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Vice-Chair Williams asks Shelly Foreman, Vaya Health Community Relations Regional Director to speak. Ms. Foreman stated that Vaya Health is an agency that manages state and federal funds for people with mental health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities and as of July 1st we will be going live with a tailored plan and will begin managing fiscal and pharmacy for all our members. Ms. Foreman recognized Commissioner Orr and Commissioner Cody that sit on the regional board and Commissioner Orr is the vice-chair for that board and appreciates all they do for Vaya. Ms. Foreman discussed the child and family Medicaid waiver; we have managed Medicaid since 2012 and we manage care in the Child Welfare System. Ms. Foreman stated that they have asked DHHS to allow us to continue with this managed care and this has been discussed with the general assembly and they adopted in their last budget cycle for the state to move forward with a single statewide vendor that will manage services for children and families both in the foster system and in their in-home program. Ms. Foreman stated Vaya, based on their history and for the allowance from the general assembly to apply. Ms. Foreman stated that they agreed to apply after working with sister's companies and they are looking to apply to be that single vendor for that specific population and continuing what they do now. Ms. Foreman is asking for a letter of support to go with the application and the state did do a statewide commission and they are made up of experts to begin looking at the challenges in the system and how to address them. Ms. Foreman stated the state raised the Medicaid rates for mental health, which has been a long time coming but now they will have higher rates to deliver the services and we will have additional funds for whoever gets the funds. Commissioner Orr stated that in talking with higher rates for the provider, it will be a plus in getting help to our most needed population. Commissioner Orr made the motion to support

Vaya and the work that they do and to send the letter of support. Commissioner Eller seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

8. Vice-Chair Williams asks Jason Marino, Project Manager to speak. PM Marino gave the board a printout of the project's updates. PM Marino stated that our Senior Center Kitchen Expansion is awaiting permission from Commerce to proceed. PM Marino stated that our CDBG homes are underway and gave a slide presentation showing the two home sites and the amount of work being done. PM Marino stated that our RHS Big Oaks stadium bleacher project is underway, and they are working on the preliminary design and scheduling design progress meetings. PM Marino stated that they are working with Southeastern Seating for the rental bleachers to have in place before graduation in May 2024. PM Marino stated that Fleetwood Daniels Group is working on the Jail abatement for lead paint and anticipates results within the week. PM Marino stated that he is currently working on solicitation for an engineering firm to complete design, construction documents, bidding, award and contract administration for the EMS Base Asphalt Paving of the Parking Lot and Access Road. Vice-Chair Williams thanked PM Marino for the reporting.
9. Vice-Chair Williams asks Stacy Carpenter, Finance Director to give the finance updates. Director Carpenter stated that she is still working on the completion of the audit, doing the cost settlement reporting, etc. and will be giving only an abbreviated report. Director Carpenter stated that our revenues for the month are \$1,891,931.34 and the expenditures were \$2,304,163.14 and these are unreconciled at this time. Director Carpenter stated that our current tax collection is \$147,962.79, our prior year collection is \$10,249.42 and DMV is \$62,696.64. Director Carpenter stated that our sales tax collection for January was \$261,119.50 and our ¼ cent collection is \$22,732.10. Director Carpenter stated that she is doing weekly progress reports with NCACC, LGC Coach and Auditors.
10. Director Carpenter stated that she did have budget amendments for review and approval.
 - a. Budget Amendment #19 - \$21,445.87 from courts contingency to jail for inmate medical bills.
 - b. Budget Amendment #20 - \$50,000.00 additional revenue for public health
 - c. Budget Amendment #21 - \$34,278.39 for a new Meals on Wheels vehicle for Senior Center. Director Carpenter stated that there are no county matching funds.
 - d. Budget Amendment #22 - \$71,000.00 additional revenue for EM GrantCommissioner Eller made the motion to approve Budget Amendments #19/20/22. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow for the purchase of a 2024 Escape for \$34,278.39 and accept the bid. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #21. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Vice-Chair Williams asks for public comment. Bill Flannigan stated that he lives in the Stecoah Community and wanted to thank the board for manning the dumpster sites. Mr. Flannigan stated that the ladies are no longer afraid to go empty their trash and he greatly thanked the board and told them he appreciated all that they do. Mr. Flannigan stated that he would like for something to be done at the old Tuskegee Motel, it is a hazard, vagrants are using the bathrooms, that have no doors and are staying in the abandoned rooms. Mr. Flannigan asks the board help to get this cleaned up.
13. Vice-Chair Williams stated that the board would now go to the discussion items and asks for a motion to approve the Releases \$255.35 and the Discoveries \$445.20. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Vice-Chair Williams asks for approval of the April 3rd poll for DSS Interim Director M. Anderson. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Vice-Chair Williams asks for approval to allow free tipping for the Lake Santeetlah Clean UP on May 4th. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Vice-Chair Williams asks for approval of the Generator Maintenance Proposal using 911 Funds. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Vice-Chair Williams asks for approval of the Emergency Protocol Dispatch Software. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Vice-Chair Williams asks for approval of the agreement with Southwest Commission for EDC Services. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

19. Vice-Chair Williams asks if the board wanted to participate in the NC Beaver Management Program for \$6,000.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to decline. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
20. Vice-Chair Williams asks for permission to send the letter to Secretary Kinsley DHHS. All board agreed.
21. Vice-Chair Williams asks to schedule budget meetings. Those meetings will be held on May 13th, 14th, 16th, and 17th at 10:00 a.m.
22. Vice-Chair Williams asks about the discussion of the Bear Creek Dumpster Site. Interim Manager Crisp asks that a public meeting be held for discussion on manning the site. The board agreed to meet Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.
23. Vice-Chair Williams asks for a motion to reappoint Brian Johnson and Edd Satterfield to the RDA Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Vice-Chair Williams asks that the board send RSVP to the Five Point Community Kitchen Invitation.
25. Vice-Chair Williams asks that the board send RSVP to the GREAT meeting on May 16th at 11:00 a.m.
26. Vice-Chair Williams asks for new or old business. Interim Manager Crisp stated that she has a quote for new desks in the courtroom for approval. Manager Crisp stated that this is another way to ensure that we keep courts in the county. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept the quote. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Vice-Chair Williams 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 Eller made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Vice-Chair Williams asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr made the motion as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Vice-Chair Williams asks for a motion to accept the request for annual leave payout for C. Jenkins. Commissioner Orr made the motion as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Vice-Chair Williams asks for a motion to adopt the Pay Policy for Board Members concerning special boards. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adopt the Graham County Board Policy for Board Members effective January 1, 2024. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Vice-Chair Williams asks for a motion to adopt the Annual Leave Pay-Out Policy effective April 17, 2024. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adopt the policy as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous
32. Vice-Chair Williams asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Jacob Nelms, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Natasha Williams, Vice-Chair, Graham County Commissioner

Lynn Cody, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Keith Eller Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board