

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. Board members present Natasha Williams, Keith Eller, Lynn Cody, and Connie Orr. Board absent Jacob Nelms. Also, present Interim Manager Kim Crisp, Finance Director Stacy Carpenter, Project Manager Jason Marino, and Attorney JK Coward.

1. Vice-Chairman Williams called the meeting to order.
2. Vice-Chairman Williams asks Commissioner Cody to give the Invocation.
3. Vice-Chairman Williams asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for approval of the January 16th Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Vice-Chairman Williams asks Donna Stephens, Bethany Leonard, and Stacy Carpenter to discuss the Opioid Settlement. Bethany Leonard presented a resolution to direct the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds to the board and the resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS Graham County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids.

WHEREAS the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and bankruptcy resolutions ("Opioid Settlement Funds") are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation ("MOA") and the Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds from Additional Settlements of Opioid Litigation ("SAAF").

WHEREAS Graham County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA.

WHEREAS section E.6 of the MOA states that, before spending opioid settlement funds, the local government's governing body must adopt a resolution that:

- (i) indicates that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; and,
- (ii) states the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy; and,
- (iii) states the amount dedicated to each strategy for a specific period.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in alignment with the NC MOA and SAAF, Graham County authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

1. First strategy authorized:
 - a. Name of strategy: Early Interventions
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: 6
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$35,000.00.
 - e. Period during which expenditure may take place:
Start date April 1, 2024, through End date June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: funds to cover the cost of a school-based .5 FTE youth support counselor contracted through HIGHTS to support youth at-risk for substance use or affected by family members' substance use disorders.
 - g. Provider: HIGHTS, Inc.
2. Second strategy authorized:
 - a. Name of strategy: Early Interventions
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: 6
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$2,000.00.
 - e. Period during which expenditure may take place:
 - f. Start date April 1, 2024, through End date June 30, 2025.
Description of the program, project, or activity: fund mileage reimbursement for area Social Work interns that support school-based mental health and substance use disorder response efforts.
 - g. Provider: Graham County Schools
3. Third authorized strategy:
 - a. Name of strategy: Post-Overdose Response Team
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: 8

- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$120,000.00.
 - e. Period during which expenditure may take place:
Start date April 1, 2024, through End date June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: An existing Community Linkage to Care and Post-Overdose Response program currently based at the Graham County Public Health Department that supports people who use drugs and/or with a history of drug use, and people seeking treatment and recovery, to healthcare, social services, harm reduction, and treatment; support (2) full-time peers support specialists and program expenses. Coordinate referral-based outreach to overdose survivors.
 - g. Provider: Graham County Department of Public Health
4. Fourth authorized strategy:
- a. Name of strategy: Recovery Support Services
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: 3
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$10,000.00.
 - e. Period during which expenditure may take place: Start date April 1, 2024, through End date June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Contracted support for a clinical counselor already providing services in Graham County to expand their scope to regularly offer evidence-based substance use disorder group counseling for county residents affected by opioid use disorder and other SUDs (referred by DSS, the PORT, self-referred, etc.), for example, the 12-week curriculum *Prime for Life*
 - g. Provider: Gabriell Pringle-Jenkins
5. Fifth authorized strategy:
- a. Name of strategy: Recovery Support Services
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A.
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA:
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$20,000.00.
 - e. Period during which expenditure may take place: Start date April 1 2024 through End date June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Support WNCAP to maintain and expand harm reduction services in Graham County including providing resources for staff time and travel and to aid in the purchase and distribution of naloxone and other supplies; to overall provide support to leverage efforts already contributed to the county by this agency.
 - g. Provider: Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP)
 - h. The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the named and authorized strategies is \$187,000.00. Adopted this the 19th day of March 2024. Signed by Chairman Jacob Nelms and Attested by Clerk Kim Crisp.

Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the resolution as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Director Stephens stated that the resolution is the same amount as last year, they were required to have a new resolution for the Department of Justice.

- 7. Vice-Chairman Williams asks Juanita Colvard, Urgent Care Project Manager to speak. PM Colvard stated that she was hoping to have the contract for the meeting tonight, but the attorneys are still reviewing at this time. PM Colvard stated that the contract will be for ten years with Advent Health. The board was very pleased to receive this information.
- 8. Vice-Chairman Williams asks Wanda Hill, Senior Center Director, for the HCCBG Grant. Director Hill stated that she was here to get permission to apply for the HCCBG Grant in the amount of \$158,313.00 with a county match of \$13,072.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the HCCBG Grant funding amount. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
- 9. Vice-Chairman Williams asks Jason Marino, Project Manager to speak. PM Marino stated that he is working on the abatement for the jail and will keep the board and sheriff updated. PM Marino stated that Fleetwood Daniels Group is the selected firm, and they are currently working on the contract, scheduling, and budget numbers.
- 10. PM Marino stated that our Senior Center renovations had a sole bidder with a total bid of \$353,255.00 and the bid went to WNC Contracting. The base bid is \$250,232 with an alternate bid of a backup generator for \$103,023.00 and they are awaiting approval for the sole source bid from NC Commerce. PM Marino stated that he did ask NC Commerce for back up funds if available for the anticipated shortfall of \$20,039.00 which includes the generator.
- 11. PM Marino stated that our CDBG homes have construction underway and WNC Contracting is the bidder for these two homes. PM Marino stated that they are finding temporary housing for one family during the construction phase at 297 Cotton Tail Lane.
- 12. PM Marino stated that the Grace Place-Five Point Kitchen remodel is reporting at 100% complete and invites the commissioners to visit the kitchen.
- 13. PM Marino stated that they received one bid for the Big Oaks Stadium Bleacher and design is underway. PM Marino stated that they are finalizing the rental bleachers

agreement for the 2024/2025 season.

14. PM Marino stated that the Clerk of Court office flooring is still awaiting decision by the board on how to proceed.
15. PM Marino stated that he is working on numbers for the Sanitation Shed and the plan is to demolish the existing building and install a new metal building.
16. PM Marino stated that he is working on a budget estimated cost for the asphalt and repave at the EMS Base Parking Lot and access road.
17. Vice-Chairman Williams asks Stacy Carpenter for the Finance reporting. Director Carpenter stated that she is still in audit and will update the board after this is completed on the updated financials. Director Carpenter stated that she did have a budget amendment #19 for review and approval for Medical Supplies for the Jail using Courts Contingency for \$21,445.87. The board wanted to review the amendment prior to approval. Director Carpenter stated that her staff is currently helping her with the postings for the audit and they are awaiting payment from the Volkswagen Grant for Sanitation and repayment for the Little Snowbird Project. Director Carpenter stated that our sales tax collection for the month was \$261,119.50.
18. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for public comment. No public comment.
19. Vice-Chairman Williams stated that the board would now go to the discussion items. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the Releases \$3,329.18 and Discoveries \$287.84. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
20. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for approval of the quote for YubiKeys due to our Cybersecurity breach. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for approval of the Portable Radio Grant Application Quote for \$33,323.56. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. Vice-Chairman Williams read the Board of Equalization and Review Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the schedule as presented. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. All board approved.
23. Vice-Chairman Williams stated that the board needed to RSVP for the NCACC District Meeting in Waynesville on April 23rd at 6:00 p.m.
24. Vice-Chairman Williams stated that we needed to rebid the 2017 Ford Transit Bus. The board wanted the bus to be advertised with a minimum bid of \$4,000.00. Commissioner Cody made the motion to rebid the bus. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for a motion to approve the lease for NC Department of Correction. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for approval of the 3/12/2024 Poll for the Green Property for Recreation Expansion. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for a motion to allow for the Sanitation Master Plan Cost Change with Municipal Engineering. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for the request for the port-a-john at the inmate wood yard. The board asks that the sheriff be contacted, and he share the cost with the Town of Robbinsville.
29. Clerk Crisp stated that the health department would like to surplus their 2008 Ford Escape. Commissioner Cody made the motion to surplus the 2008 Ford Escape and use the Kelly Blue Book for the minimum bid. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for a motion to approve the reappointment of Robin Turner to the Travel and Tourism Board for a three-year term. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Vice-Chairman Williams asks about the meeting with Becky Garland for LGC Training. Clerk Crisp stated that she and Stacy Carpenter would be attending this meeting.
32. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for new or old business. Commissioner Orr stated that she had received word that NDCOT will be working with our seven most western counties for road funding and wanted the public to know if the board had not have agreed to the super two road that is being constructed the state would have taken the entire amount and put to interstate 26 and Graham County had been promised a road since 1965. Commissioner Orr stated that \$73 million dollars had been spent with lawsuits and other entities.
33. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for 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 Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Vice-Chairman 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.

35. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for a motion to approve the lease for the CDBG residents located at Cottontail Lane Robbinsville, NC until their home can be constructed. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the lease as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Vice-Chairman Williams asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eller made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr 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

