

Continued Meeting – May 27, 2014

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC for a continued meeting from the budget meeting held on Thursday May 22, 2014. All commissioners were present.

1. Chairman Edwards called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Edwards asks Manager Cable for an update on Stanley. Manager Cable stated that Ashley Furniture Representatives had visited on the facilities again on Friday, May 23, 2014 and everything was still in negotiations.
3. Manager Cable stated that he and Commissioner Orr would need to leave today at noon due to their meetings in Raleigh for the NCACC County Assembly Day.
4. Manager Cable asks the board to read a resolution that he prepared concerning the North Carolina Alliance for Transportation Reform (NCATR) and the Waysouth organizations. Manager Cable stated that due to the misinformation that was contained within their resolution advocating against the completion of Corridor K and he felt that we have been subject to the constant assaults from outside interest opposing improvements to Western North Carolina and further stated that these organizations have strongly opposed improvements to safety, economic prosperity and the overall welfare of our residents for far too long. Manager Cable stated that it is necessary to realize that these outside environmental organizations input and influence has been unsubstantiated and harmful to our people and we needed help from our state leaders in removing any consideration to the false claims.
5. Commissioner Eller asks that we make inquiries with our NCDOT and ask why the roads are given the name scenic when you have to stop the car and get out before you can view the scenery. Commissioner Eller asks if there are grants that we can apply for to cut back the overgrowth at our overlooks. Manager Cable stated that he would ask about this issue.
6. Chairman Edwards asks Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer to give him an update on where we are with the budget. Ms. Garland stated that the Health Director had ask for the same consideration to be given to her salary as to the DSS Director and the board was okay with this request and made an allowance for the lowest paid employees of DHHS to be given a fifty cent raise. Ms. Garland stated that the board denied the purchase of a new vehicle.
7. Ms. Garland stated that the board had denied the request for raises at DSS due to their adjustments in the budget last year.
8. Ms. Garland stated that the Sheriff had asked for four new vehicles and the board put this money into contingency to be financed at a later date if absolutely necessary. Commissioner Eller stated that it would be good to be on a rotation of replacing three cars per year. Commissioner Holder stated that he has received a lot of complaints about the number of county vehicles that we own and we needed to have all vehicles in one facility where they have to be signed out for use. Commissioner Eller stated that security of the vehicles would be an issue if we used the upper plant as a parking lot. Manager Cable stated that he received a call from the sheriff's department five minutes after he left the meeting on Thursday asking if they could start looking for the new cars. Commissioner Williams stated that we needed to look for used vehicles. Commissioner Holder stated that we need to keep what we have and keep them in our county.
9. Ms. Garland stated that she would go through the special appropriations with the board at this time. Ms. Garland stated that the request from JCPC was the same as last year at \$5305.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the funding request. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. Ms. Garland stated that the Jail Budget came in at the same funding level but after talking to Chuck Stewart, Chief Jailor he had two employees obtain their certification and asks that they be moved up in pay equal to

the other certified officers. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow for the two certified officers pay to be raised equal to the other certified employees. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

11. Ms. Garland presented the board with the Audit Contract for \$45,000.00 and the cost of the audit report of \$4900.00. Ms. Garland stated that in the past she has done the audit report but she no longer has the time due to taking on the T&T and RDA budget supervision. Ms. Garland stated that the audit report was very time consuming. Commissioner Edwards questions why the RDA did not take care of their own budget due to their being their own body politic. Ms. Garland stated that Phyllis McCracken keeps the books and has great records so her reporting is not hard to follow. The board discussed the RDA Audit letter that was received due to their not completing their audits since 2006. The board did not want the RDA to jeopardize the county audit. Clerk Crisp stated that she had lost a white goods grant due to the audit being late. Commissioner Orr stated that she would get with Ms. Garland and answer the audit letter when

she returned from Raleigh and asks when the audits should be completed. Ms. Garland stated that all the audits should be completed by October 1st of every year. Commissioner Orr stated that she would have a meeting to take care of these concerns with the RDA Board. Ms. Garland stated that she is bound by statute to take care of the Travel and Tourism Budget. Ms. Garland stated that she will do the audit report if that is the board's desires but she will have to let other things go in order to complete the report in time. Commissioner Williams stated that if the board decides to hire for the position in the finance office then he wanted the EMS Billing to be a priority and the county needed to get every dime that they can get from this billing. Commissioner Edwards stated that there are over 320,000 new codes to learn and there is no one in house that can do this. The board had discussion on this issue. Commissioner Orr asks, "What is the best way to proceed with the county audits?" Ms. Garland stated that the pricing by Turner and Hatchett was a very good price. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go with Turner and Hatchett on the audit for \$45,000.00 and the audit report for \$4,900.00. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

12. Ms. Garland asks about the NC Forest Service request. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow the funding request of \$61,745.00 under the condition that we see the paperwork where the money is spent in Graham County for our people and not for the other districts and we expect a monthly report or no money will be sent. . Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

13. Commissioner Williams stated that all special appropriations needed to send a quarterly report prior to the money being given to them. All board was in agreement. Commissioner Eller stated that we needed accounting of how our county dollars are spent and if it appears that the money is not spent in Graham County then we do not need to fund them again. Commissioner Holder stated that we needed accountability for our taxpayers and the commissioners are responsible for making sure that this is done.

14. Ms. Garland stated that Tri-County came in with the same request as last year. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the same funding request as last year. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

15. Ms. Garland stated that she had given the Smoky Mountain Mental Health Center the same appropriation as last year of \$6,000.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the \$6,000.00 funding. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Chairman Edwards calls for a vote. Commissioners Williams, Eller, Holder and Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Edwards voted no. Motion carried four to one.

16. Ms. Garland stated that the library had asked for an increase due to insurance and asked for an increase in salary. Commissioner Edwards asks if we have a contract. Clerk Crisp stated that she would find the contract. Manager Cable stated there was a minor disagreement with the wording and could not remember if the county had one at this time. Commissioner Williams made the motion to fund the library at \$64,500.00. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

17. Ms. Garland stated that she kept the appropriations for the rescue squads at \$5,000.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

18. Ms. Garland stated that the Heritage Festival had asked for \$2,000.00 Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

19. Ms. Garland stated that the county did not need to put any monies into the revaluation fund this year.

20. Ms. Garland stated that the school had asked for the same appropriation of last year of \$570,000.00 and they ask for a capital outlay of \$37,500.00 for a new HVAC Unit in the old gym which will be equally paid by the county and the school. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the request. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

21. Ms. Garland stated that the State of Franklin ask for an appropriations of \$4,000.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

22. Ms. Garland stated that all the fire departments received \$26,850.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

23. Ms. Garland stated that the QZAB payment was the same and there are ten years remaining on the loan.

24. Ms. Garland stated that the County tank line item was actually the contract with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for their fuel usage and this is an in and out line item. Commissioner Williams made the

motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

25. Ms. Garland stated the appropriations for the Services for the Blind is \$392.00 and is a program through our DSS. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

26. Ms. Garland stated that the Bond Payment was \$303,000.00 and this is an in and out line item. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

27. Ms. Garland stated that I.O.I. had requested the same funding as last year at \$9,700.00. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

28. The board discussed the burial expense line item and agreed to put \$5,000.00 in contingency for the indigent burial expenses. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

29. Ms. Garland stated that the food bank had asked for \$12,500.00 and stated that the board had been funding at \$10,000.00. Commissioner Williams asks the board to table this request until he could talk with Jerry Ledbetter about the request. Commissioner Orr made the motion to table. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

30. Ms. Garland stated that the Special Olympics had requested \$5,000.00 which will allow the kids to attend the state games. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

31. Ms. Garland stated that the Stecoah Valley Center had requested \$20,000.00 and she had left \$10,000.00 in the budget. Commissioner Holder made the motion to fund the \$10,000.00. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

32. Ms. Garland stated we fund a Special Assistance fund for DSS and the amount was over budget at this time. Ms. Garland suggested \$77,939.00 for this fund and keep this amount under strict review. Commissioner Williams made the motion to fund at \$77,939.00. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. The board agreed to cap at this amount.

33. Commissioner Holder made the motion to continue the meeting until Friday, May 30, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Graham County Community Building. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Robert M. (Mike) Edwards, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Billy Holder, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr , Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board