

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All commissioners was present.

1. Chairman Nelms called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Nelms asks Commissioner Williams to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Nelms asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the February 2, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Nelms asks for the finance report. Rebecca Garland stated that the county had ended the month of January 2016 with a cash balance of \$7,683,479.04 which is up \$1.3 million from this time last year. Ms. Garland stated that our tax collections was doing good with the current collections of \$1,766,321.52 and the prior year collection of \$12,304.46. Ms. Garland stated that the DMV collections was \$32,715.78. Ms. Garland stated that we are at a positive variance on collections and our tax rate is 90.05%. Ms. Garland stated that our revenues for the month was \$2,334,506.13 and our expenditures was \$955,983.10 bringing our year to date surplus to \$2,745,501.35 which is up \$1.2 million dollars from this time last year. Ms. Garland stated that our sales tax is still positive with a January collection of \$118,384.38 giving us a positive variance of \$95,853.77 and she was very pleased with this reporting.
7. Ms. Garland stated that our budget is doing very good at 41% which is under the projected percentage of 50% at this time.
8. Ms. Garland stated that she did have two budget amendments
 - a. Budget Amendment #12 to recognize a Teen Pregnancy Grant in the amount of \$96,858.00.
 - b. Budget Amendment #13 to amend to make technical corrections for the transfer salaries for staff transferred between departments during fiscal year and to recognize the insurance and benefits module approved by BOC for ACA reporting during December board meeting.Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Budget Amendments #12 and #13. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Ms. Garland stated that she needed the board's approval to purchase tablets and a scanner through the Teen Pregnancy Grant in the amount of \$2,856.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. Ms. Garland stated that we had two cameras to go bad at the EMS Base and one is still operating but is aging. Larry Hembree, EMS Director is requesting the purchase of three new cameras at \$2,515.50. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the purchase and to install all three new cameras and use the older one as a backup. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Ms. Garland stated that the DSS Director Butch Sanders is requesting that he be allowed to spend down the Duke Energy Shareholder funds with the purchase of four lap tops, a stand-alone computer and a scanner for \$5936.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve this expenditure. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Commissioner Orr stated that she is receiving good news from DSS and not one complaint has been given since the new director took over. Commissioner Orr thanked Commissioners Nelms and Commissioner Eller who sits on the DSS board.
13. Ms. Garland stated that she needed approval for the Sheriff's Department to use the Forest Service money on equipment to be installed in the cars for \$4258.00 and further stated that the Sheriff's department would ask for Sheriff Pak's for the equipment in the next budget cycle. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Ms. Garland stated that she had a bill from Mission Critical on the new 911 Building for \$11,407.00 which is budgeted. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Ms. Garland stated that it was time for the Sheriff's Department to renew their Sheriff Pak for a total of \$5500.00 Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Chairman Nelms asks Joan Stillwell to speak. Ms. Stillwell stated that she had a couple of things for the board. The first is approval of a bid opening for the property located at 1366 Old Sweetwater Road. Ms. Stillwell stated that Charles Toomey bid \$9650.00 and Betterbuilt bid

\$8675.30. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept the lowest bid by Betterbuilt Construction pending approval by USDA. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

17. Ms. Stillwell presented the board with a listing of names and addresses for repair work using the remaining Housing Preservation Funds. Ms. Stillwell asks that the board add two addresses: 160 Old Sweetwater Road and 840 Old Sweetwater Road. Ms. Stillwell stated that there should be around \$6,400.00 remaining in the funds for this last project and she would do the paperwork to see which homes were eligible. Ms. Stillwell stated that we are on a timeline and a meeting may need to be called to select the applicant. Chairman Nelms stated that as soon as the paperwork is received the board would call a special meeting. All board members was in agreement.
18. Chairman Nelms asks for public comment. Manager Edwards stated that no one had signed in for public comment. Commissioner Cody stated that he was looking at the motto on the wall, "In God We Trust" and stated that he was proud of this board for allowing prayer and displaying the motto. Commissioner Eller suggested that we put our county seal below the motto. Clerk Crisp stated that she would work on this for the board.
19. Chairman Nelms stated that we would now go into the discussion items. Manager Edwards stated that we needed to postpone the Town of Santeetlah's Contract for Collection of Taxes till a later date and the Ethics Policy would be for the board's review instead of an action item.
20. Manager Edwards stated that he needed approval for the Releases in the amount of \$912.76. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Manager Edwards stated that we did receive bids for the Concrete and Curb Replacement at the Library and asks that Chairman Nelms open the bids. The bids were:
 - a. Betterbuilt Construction for \$9,825.00
 - b. Robbinsville Custom Moulding Inc. for \$10,867.00
 - c. Aldridge Brothers for \$12,297.50
 - d. Dadco Construction for \$11,450.00

Commissioner Williams made the motion to go with the lowest bid but withdrew the motion until the bids for the painting could be opened to see if we would have enough funds to do the work.

22. Chairman Nelms opened the bids for the Exterior Paint job at the Library. Those bids are:
 - a. Betterbuilt Construction for \$14,400.00
 - b. Robbinsville Custom Moulding Inc. for \$6,435.00

The board had discussion on the total cost of both projects which came to \$16,260.00.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to accept the lowest bids for both projects at the library and adjust the overage of \$688.00 by Ms. Garland's expertise on where to take the funds from. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

23. Manager Edwards stated that he has a Resolution to the US Forest Service which he read for the board's approval. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept the resolution as written. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Manager Edwards stated that the board had to do an emergency poll of the board concerning a contract with our tire recycling company. Manager Edwards stated that US Tire Recycling had increased their contract and we were currently looking at \$100.00 per ton but was offered an increase from \$68.00 per ton to \$80.00 per ton. Manager Edwards stated that the county has not had an increase since 2004. Manager Edwards stated that the poll had been unanimous. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the poll. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Edwards presented an Organizational Chart to the board for their review and/or approval. Manager Edwards explained the chart to the board and stated that a time log would be expected for persons working in the departments which receive indirect costs. Manager Edwards stated that this chart did not diminish any responsibility of the commissioners or manager. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the organizational chart. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Manager Edwards stated that the Heritage Festival is planned for July 1st 2nd and 3rd.
27. Manager Edwards stated that he had spoken with Judge Coward and the issue with the courthouse is still on the table. Manager Edwards stated that Judge Coward would like to see a plan that the commissioners have concerning the courthouse issues.
28. Manager Edwards stated that Cherokee County had contracted with Tri-County Community College to do their economic development for \$40,000.00 and was unsure of where the other counties would fit into this plan. The board all agreed that Tri-County needed to remain unbiased where the counties was concerned on economic development.
29. Manager Edwards stated that he had spoken with Wesley Grindstaff with NCDOT and a new guardrail will be installed from Johnson Gap to Fontana. Manager Edwards also stated that the

bridge project to the school had been accelerated and the bridge will be located between the old Credit Union and McDonalds but was unsure on the design at this time.

30. Manager Edwards stated that our county attorney had resigned and he reached out and received two resumes for the boards review.
31. Chairman Nelms asks for new or old business. Manager Edwards stated that the dues needed to be approved for the Southwestern NC Resource Conservation & Development Council for \$1,900.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the dues. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Chairman Nelms asks for a motion to go into closed session for G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (5) (6) for privileged or confidential information, personnel and contracts. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Commissioner Orr made the motion to hire J.K. Coward, Jr. as the county attorney pending salary negotiations. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Commissioner Orr made the motion to hire Scott Donaldson, PFA Architects for the 911 building project. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow Sean Garrison to install the 911 signs Commissioner Cody stated that this needed to be added to his job description. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Commissioner Williams stated that the office sends out letters to residents for suggestions of road names and asks that the board put a 30 day time limit for such suggestions. Commissioner Williams asks that the signs be mounted with nuts and bolts to prevent the theft of the signs. The board discussed using plastic instead of metal.
38. Commissioner Orr made the motion to move our Senior Center Day Cook to a Supervisor Cook 1 as stated in the Graham County Pay Plan. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
39. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjust the Supervisor Cook 1 salary to \$12.25 an hour as stated in our county pay plan. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
40. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Jacob Nelms, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Keith Eller, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Lynn Cody, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board