

Regular Meeting – March 21, 2017

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All board was present.

1. Chairman Eller called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Eller asks Commissioner Williams to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Eller asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the agenda. Manager Garland stated that we needed to add Item #6A – Resolution for Authority of County Manager over the personnel functions; and Item 6B – Resolution for Tri-County Community College. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the agenda with the changes as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the March 7th Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks Donnie Orr to approach. Chairman Eller stated that Donnie Orr will be retiring at the end of this month and they presented him with a gift. Mr. Orr thanked the board.
7. Chairman Eller asks Becky Garland, County Manager to speak. Manager Garland stated that she has the resolution prepared at the request of the board which gives the County Manager authority over personnel functions. Manager Garland asks that this resolution be tabled until after closed session. All board agreed to table this resolution until after closed session.
8. Manager Garland stated that the next resolution concerned Tri-County Community College which calls for supporting special legislation that would permit Tri-County Community College to charge in-state tuition to students from out-of-state counties that border the Tri-County Community College Service Areas. The board had discussion. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Commissioner Wiggins stated that this will cost more money for the college and this will mean more money from local dollars and why would we allow other states this advantage. Commissioner Wiggins stated that Tri-County had removed all Graham County representation except for the one governor's appointee who happened to live in Graham County so we do not have a voice on that board any longer. Commissioner Orr stated that she agreed that it would likely cost us more money. Commissioner Williams withdrew his motion. Commissioner Orr withdrew her second. The board agreed to table this resolution until further information could be given.
9. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. No one was signed in for public comment.
10. Chairman Eller asks for the finance and manager's report. Manager Garland stated that we ended the month with a \$9,028,598.92 cash balance and we are very grateful to the taxpayers for diligently paying their taxes. Manager Garland stated that we will be using these funds to front the cost on the new 911 Center. Manager Garland stated that we collected \$164,468.43 in property tax; \$35,189.58 in DMV and \$12,720.74 for the prior year taxes bringing our year to date tax collection of \$5,988,666.02 and DMV collection of \$307,517.00. Manager Garland stated that we are ahead from last year in both the property tax and the DMV collections. Ms. Garland stated that our tax rate is 94.18%. Manager Garland stated that our revenues were \$932,759.78 and our expenditures were \$980,080.60 giving us a deficit of \$47,320.82. Manager Garland stated that our sales tax collection is still ahead and we collected \$157,736.19 for the month giving us a year to date surplus of \$224,236.30 which as a reminder a large part of these funds belong to the school through the expansion.
11. Manager Garland stated that our budget should be at 34% and we are currently at 42% and thanked the employees for being frugal with the money. Manager Garland stated that our new servers should be installed by next week and we will be moving files over to it and we are hoping that this will go as smoothly as possible.
12. Manager Garland stated that Cox & Son Roofing will begin the roofing job at Stecoah Valley Center on April 10th.
13. Manager Garland stated that we have been invited to attend a Stepping Up Initiative in Raleigh on May 9th and asks if any of the board wanted to attend. Commissioner Orr stated that she would like to attend. Manager Garland stated that she would get Commissioner Orr registered. Manager Garland stated that it is County Assembly Day in Raleigh on May 10th as well and felt

that a commissioner should attend this as well. Commissioner Wiggins stated that someone needed to be at these events. Commissioner Eller stated that we need to be at the table on all issues.

14. Manager Garland stated that we needed to consider dates for the budget meetings.
15. Manager Garland stated that the 911 Board had approved the change to the budget on the 911 Call Center and was very pleased with this news. Manager Garland stated that she had been on a conference call with the Local Government Commission and they are supporting our projects.
16. Manager Garland stated that Davenport would be getting the RFP's out for the P&J Building next week or so and the bid opening will be in April, a public hearing in May, and the paperwork will be presented to the Local Government Commission for approval on June 6th and then we will close our loan. Manager Garland stated that the loan for the P&J Building will stand alone.
17. Manager Garland stated that we needed to set a date for a budget retreat. The board all agreed to meet April 17th after the Board of Equalization and Review.
18. Manager Garland stated that the new Snowbird Senior Center will have their ribbon cutting on March 27th at 2:00 p.m.
19. Manager Garland handed out Share Happiness Cards and asks the board members to fill one out so the Big Brothers – Big Sisters program can receive \$2.00 for every card turned in.
20. Manager Garland stated that Josh Carpenter had recommended that Sophia Paulos attend a leadership program which is a little pricy but we will have this discussion in budget.
21. Commissioner Wiggins stated that he would like some explanation from Representative Corbin on the Tri-County Resolution and further stated that he did not understand how Cherokee County could be a Tier 1 County and would like an explanation on this as well. Commissioner Wiggins stated that we needed to have discussion on these issues.
22. Chairman Eller asks for the discussion items. Manager Garland stated that she needed approval on the Releases and Discoveries. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Releases for \$676.63 and Releases for \$1270.77. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Manager Garland stated that she needed approval on the poll that was taken concerning the second site for the new Dialysis Center. Manager Garland stated that the poll vote was unanimous. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the poll. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Manager Garland stated that we needed to reappoint the SW Child Development Board which is Butch Sanders; Angela Knight and Connie Orr. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reappoint the SW Child Development Board as stated. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Garland stated that we needed to replace Dewayne Cable on the SW LTC Committee and that Larry Reeves, Ombudsman had recommended Brenda Mills. Commissioner Williams stated that he wanted to resign from this committee. The board all decided to table this decision until Wanda Hill could give a recommendation.
26. Commissioner Wiggins stated that we needed to run an advertisement in the Graham Star asking if anyone would like to volunteer to serve on these boards. The board was in agreement to the advertisement. Commissioner Wiggins stated that he is scheduled to complete 2 hours of training on Thursday before he is allowed to sit on the SW LTC board. Commissioner Orr stated that she would go to the nursing home and see if anyone there would be willing to attend.
27. Commissioner Orr stated that she had been asked to write a letter concerning Tallulah Health Center and asks the board's permission to sign as a county commissioner. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the letter. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Manager Garland stated that Clerk Crisp had reached out to (6) car vendors and did not receive any responses on the van so the original quote stands. Manager Garland stated that she would need to finance the van and stated that she needed permission to seek bank financing for the van. Commissioner Williams made the motion to get the financing. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Manager Garland stated that we did an emergency repair to the Community Building last Thursday and Friday and had to replace the sewer pipe to the building. Manager Garland stated that this cost was \$1800.00.
30. Chairman Eller asks for new or old business. Manager Garland stated that she needed approval on the new DSS and Health Department Facility plans. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the plan as presented. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

31. Chairman Eller stated that we would now 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 Wiggins made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adopt the Resolution giving Authority of County Manager over the Personnel Function. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to pay Larry Hembree his overtime for this upcoming pay period. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Dale E. Wiggins, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board