

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular monthly meeting. Commissioners present was: Keith Eller, Jacob Nelms, Dale Wiggins and Raymond Williams. Commissioner Connie Orr was absent due to her attendance of a NCACC Board of Director's Meeting in Lexington, NC.

1. Chairman Eller called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Eller asks Commissioner Williams to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Eller asks Commissioner Wiggins to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the April 4th Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks Wanda Hill, Senior Center Director to speak. Ms. Hill stated that she was here to present the HCCBG Grant funding application for the board's approval and further stated that the funds was lessened by \$1,387.00 and the amount of the funding is \$120,781.00 with a county match of \$13,421.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to apply for the HCCBG Grant funding. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chairman Eller asks for the finance report. Manager Garland stated that our cash balance for the end of March was \$8,613,601.72 which is up one million from this time last year and this is a good thing since the county will be fronting the \$3.4 million dollar grant funded 911 Call Center. Manager Garland stated that our tax collections for the month was \$91,593.50 and the DMV collections was \$35,433.90 which is ahead by \$83,000.00 in real property and \$70,000.00 in DMS from this time last year. Manager Garland stated that our tax collection rate is 95.52% which is excellent. Manager Garland stated that the revenues for the month was \$948,933.27 and the expenditures was \$1,193,624.85 giving us a deficit of \$244,691.58 but our year to date surplus is \$2,662,129.75. Manager Garland stated that our sales tax was \$158,063.83 and we are still running ahead by \$267,219.70 but keep in mind around \$108,000.00 of this will go to school due to the sales tax expansion. Manager Garland stated that we have collected \$572,260.03 in back taxes since 7/01/2013 and the tax collector's office continues to work hard on her collections.
8. Manager Garland stated that she had two Budget Amendments for approval.
 - a. Budget Amendment #9 – amend to move roof for Stecoah Valley Center from contingency and add to project from fund balance. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #9. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 - b. Budget Amendment #10 – amend for hire of Assistant Tax Assessor to be paid out of revaluation fund. Assistant was hired for revaluation. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #10. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Manager Garland stated that we were at 36% of our budget and the suggested amount is 25% so all the department heads are doing a great job on their budget. Manager Garland stated that there is a reason if a budget is running hot for example we are spending down the 5310 grant in Transit and we added a salary to the tax assessor's as well as advertising for this position.
10. Manager Garland stated that we needed to schedule more budget meetings. The board agreed to meet on May 8th, 11th, and 12th at 10:00 a.m.
11. Manager Garland stated that we had received an MOU from the Tribe concerning the Health Department Environmental Department. The tribes wishes to contract with us on the Environmental permits and pay us regular fees. The board wanted a chance to read the MOU before they would approve it.
12. Manager Garland stated that we received our letter from Goldenleaf and we have been approved to use the funds for the Urgent Care Center and the Dialysis Center. Manager Garland stated that she will be sending them a timeline and will work very closely with Mark Sorrels and Dan Gerlach and was very excited about the entire project.
13. Manager Garland stated that on May 18th there is a Local Government Conference in Greensboro, NC and she would like to attend. All board agreed for her to attend.
14. Manager Garland stated that a new request has been made concerning the audit on a study on benefits of law enforcement and the county is required to pay for this study at a cost of \$500.00 per year. If we do not pay the \$500.00 then we will be written up in the audit as out of compliance. The board agreed to stay in compliance concerning the audits for the county.

15. Manager Garland stated that the roof project has begun at Stecoah Valley Center and Beth Fields sent a thank you to the board and stated that they were half way done.
16. Manager Garland stated that we will be having a public hearing on May 2nd on our loan for the P&J Complex and the RFP's had been sent out with two of our local banks being interested. Commissioner Wiggins asks when the final drawings would be made available. Manager Garland stated that we do have the blueprints and Commissioner Nelms is working on them. Manager Garland stated that there will be a meeting on April 26th at 3:00 p.m. for the bid opening at the EMS Base.
17. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. No one had signed in for public comment.
18. Chairman Eller stated that we would now go to the discussion items. Manager Garland stated that she needed approval for the Releases \$67.48 and the Discoveries \$256.58. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Manager Garland stated that there will be a meeting with the SW Rural Planning Organization (TAC) and the SW Rural Planning Organization (TCC) and all is invited to attend and the dates are in their packets.
20. Manager Garland stated that there is a HCCBG meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. Chairman Eller stated that he would attend.
21. Manager Garland stated that the property at the Stecoah Valley Center has been appraised as requested and the appraisal was \$6,000.00. This is the property that Keith and Shirley Crisp had inquired about that adjoined their property. There was some discussion on the property and Attorney Coward stated that there is an automatic 10 day upset bid on any property being sold by the county. The board wanted the property advertised in the paper for 10 days. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow the sale pending the results if any of an upset bid with the property being advertised for 10 days and all closing costs and legal fees will be paid by the purchaser. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. Manager Garland stated that Commissioner Wiggins would like to have a joint meeting with the Board of Health for closed session to discuss personnel issues. Chairman Eller stated that we were supposed to have one concerning the findings from the attorney who helped us on a previous case. The board gave a directive to Manager Garland to get this scheduled as soon as possible.
23. Chairman Eller 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 Wiggins made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Chairman Eller stated that we had received a letter from the State of NC that the road will be closed at Long Creek on April 30th beginning at 7:00 a.m. to replace the bridge. Chairman Eller stated that they will keep one lane open at a time until completion.
26. Chairman Eller stated that the Annual Ramp Dinner has been called off due to the lack of obtaining fish for the dinner.
27. Chairman Eller asks for motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Williams 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