

Budget Meeting - June 5, 2017

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, June 5, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. for a budget meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All commissioners was present.

1. Chairman Eller called the budget meeting to order.
2. Chairman Eller asks Manager Garland to proceed with the budget discussions. Manager Garland stated that the Sheriff would be attending the meeting and our county attorney will be present for any statutory questions. Manager Garland stated that the Sheriff does have full control of the vehicles but the commissioners have the control over the budget and the financing of those vehicles. Manager Garland stated that the board can control the number of staff that is located in the Sheriff and Jail Departments and this can be found in NC General Statutes 153-A. The statutes state plainly that the board adopts a compensation plan and all must abide by our pay plan.
3. Sheriff Danny Millsaps joined the meeting. Chairman Eller asks the Sheriff how many inmates we currently have in jail. The Sheriff stated that we have (5) in our jail and at least (10) in the other counties. Chairman Eller stated that jail budget was a major concern and Swain County can house (105) inmates. Sheriff Millsaps stated that Swain will not transport their inmates for court nor sit with them on involuntary commitments. Sheriff Millsaps stated that Transylvania County will transport our inmates to and from court and will sit with our commitments as well as transporting our inmates to the Emergency Room for \$40.00 per day. Sheriff Millsaps stated that Cherokee County had called and requested that we pick up all of our inmates from their jail. Sheriff Millsaps stated that he was doing the best that he could where the inmates was concerned. Commissioner Wiggins stated that every time that one of our inmates are taken to Murphy Medical they run a CT-Scan on every one of them. Sheriff Millsaps stated that Swain did not have a hospital there anymore on weekends. Commissioner Williams stated that they can be taken to Sylva. Commissioner Wiggins asks if it matters where the inmates are housed. Sheriff Millsaps stated that he takes them to the counties that offer the best benefits. The board asks how long it takes to get to Brevard and the response was two hours. Sheriff Millsaps stated that he has only verbal contracts with these counties. Commissioner Nelms asks how many transports are done per day. Sheriff Millsaps stated that it depends, we may go days without any transports and then we may have two or three a night. Commissioner Nelms asks if you could reschedule your staff where they would be on call a couple of nights for the transports and this would give the staff Overtime which would increase their pay instead of having (15) employees. Commissioner Nelms stated that we have a lot of turnover at the jail and we need to try and keep our good employees. Commissioner Williams stated that he had spoken with Cherokee County and they work our inmates that are located in the Cherokee Jail and he doesn't understand why our inmates cannot be available to help the county when needed. Sheriff Millsaps stated that it all depends on their sentence and if they are given a (90) day CPU then we cannot hold them in our jail because the state will send them somewhere else. Commissioner Williams stated that we had (31) W-2's mailed out for the Jail only this past year and something is not right. Sheriff Millsaps stated that safety is a priority and conflicts do occur. Commissioner Orr stated that we can all work together to get this all figured out. Commissioner Williams stated that the deputies that live outside of Graham County are driving too fast on the four lane and they begin their time when they get in their car at their homes and this is not right. Commissioner Wiggins stated that it would be nice if we can afford to build a new jail where the inmates can cook their own meals and institute a work program. Sheriff Millsaps stated that it is hard when the courts dismiss all the cases and all we get are the ones that are behind on child support. Commissioner Wiggins thanked the Sheriff for his program of calling the senior citizens in our county to do a wellness check. Sheriff Millsaps stated that there are (18) people that we call each day. The board asks the Sheriff is he has any questions. Sheriff Millsaps stated that he has one jailer that moved into a supervisor position and her pay has not been increased and she needed to be raised up in pay due to the position change. Sheriff Millsaps stated that it did not matter about certification because we are still waiting for a BLET Class to open up. Commissioner Orr asks how often these classes are held and the Sheriff stated twice a year. Commissioner Orr thanked the Sheriff for coming to speak with the board today. Sheriff Millsaps stated that the camera had been installed on the Elementary gym that covers

the library and the playground. Sheriff Millsaps stated that we are experiencing quite a bit of theft at this time and hopes the cameras will help.

4. Chairman Eller asks Manager Garland about the discussion that we will have with the Health Department this afternoon. Ms. Garland stated that she has a power point presentation to review with the board. Ms. Garland stated that it is the goal of the Graham County Board of Commissioners to seek better understanding of the Graham County Public Health Budget and operations so as to better serve the people of Graham County and it is also the goal to provide an update as to the status of the upcoming move of the Graham County Health Department into the former Phillips and Jordan building. The board reviewed the power point. Commissioner Wiggins asks why the health department can't contract with the county on the Environmental Health tasks. Manager Garland stated that she was told by the director that it was an issue of state insurance that doesn't cover anyone whom is not a county health department employee.
5. The board learned that we had to pay a permit fee of \$200.00 to have our county pool inspected by the Graham County Health Department.
6. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11A (6) for personnel. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to leave the tax rate of .585 cents unchanged for the upcoming 2017-2018 budget. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. 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