

Regular Meeting – May 16, 2017

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular monthly meeting. 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. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting May 2nd; Board of Equalization and Review May 1st and Budget Meetings May 8th and May 11th. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks Sophia Paulos to speak. Ms. Paulos stated that she did not receive information on the request from EDC and she would reschedule. The board was fine with this request.
7. Chairman Eller asks for the Finance and Manager's Report. Manager Garland stated that we finished the month with an \$8,324,779.65 cash balance which is well ahead of this time last year of \$7,250,304.59. Manager Garland stated that we will begin using the funds for the new 911 Center now that the bids have been awarded. Manager Garland stated that our tax collection for the month was \$40,216.77 for real property and \$51,514.12 for DMV and she is very pleased with the DMV collections. Manager Garland stated that our tax collections to date is \$6,120,476.29 for real property and \$394,465.02 for DMV and we are \$83,000.00 ahead from this time last year. Manager Garland stated that our tax collections rate is 96.04% and we are ahead from this time last year. Manager Garland stated that our revenues for the month was \$821,651.33 and our expenditures was \$1,096,046.22 leaving us a deficit of \$274,394.89 which is normal this time of year due to our large payments for the Health Department / EMS loan and the school bond. Manager Garland stated that our surplus to date is \$2,360,139.40 and she is very pleased to see this number. Manager Garland stated that our sales tax collection for the month was \$129,907.74.
8. Manager Garland stated that our departments are staying within budget and we are holding at 29% remaining which is a very good percentage for this time. Manager Garland stated that if some departments looks low they have a very good reason why.
9. Manager Garland presented the board with some dates to remember such as the Rural Center meeting and the Southwestern TAC meeting on May 22nd. Manager Garland stated that there is a NCDOT meeting on May 25th to discuss the Highway 28 project and a meeting with VAYA Health on Thursday, May 18th and felt that a commissioner did need to attend this meeting. Manager Garland stated that the state budget has made cuts to the LME's throughout the state and felt that this may be a way to require them to do a spend down on their fund balances. At present, VAYA Health has a cash balance of \$107,000,000.00 of which \$62,000,000.00 is unrestricted funds. Manager Garland stated that this is a good program that they do provide and they are asking for our support. Commissioner Orr stated that we need to be at the table to advocate for our people and the board agreed.
10. Manager Garland presented a reporting from Tajuana Ledwell on her duties in her office for the board's review.
11. Manager Garland stated that she had a Final Approving Resolution on the P&J Financing for the board approval. Manager Garland read the resolution to the board and stated that the renovations are not to exceed \$3.1 million dollars. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept the Resolution of the Board of Commissioner of the County of Graham, North Carolina, approving an installment financing contract and deed of trust with respect thereto and delivery thereof and providing from certain other related matters. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Attorney Coward stated that he was okay with the Final Approving Resolution.
12. Manager Garland stated that she had received the final approval of engagement letter from Parker and Poe to roll in the financing of the P&J Building and no further action is required.
13. Manager Garland stated that she did send in the application for the LGC's approval a week ago.
14. Manager Garland stated that she needed approval for the Releases of \$146.25. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Releases. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

15. Manager Garland stated that the board needed to accept the bids for the renovations on the P&J building. The bids were: Clark and Leatherwood - \$1,850,000.00; Owle Construction LLC - \$1,150,000.00 and Graham County Land Company - \$1,298,000.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go with the lowest bid – Owle Construction LLC for \$1,150,000.00. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Manager Garland asks the board if they had made a decision on a possible MOU with Smoky Mountain Blueways on the maintenance of trails in our county. Manager Garland stated that that county will not have a financial investment in the MOU. Commissioner Orr made the motion to enter into the MOU with the Smoky Mountain Blueways Advisory Council. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Manager Garland stated that she had received a request for Beaver Management from NC Wildlife Management with a request of \$4000.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to deny this request. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Manager Garland stated that the scales at sanitation had been wiped out by lightning and the repairs are running close to \$9,000.00 total. Manager Garland stated that we are having the scales used by the public to weigh their trucks and is this something that the board wants to continue. The board agreed to allow the public use of the scales. Manager Garland stated that there are four trees that need to be taken down at sanitation and stated that this should have been done a year ago. The board agreed to take down the trees that blocks the view of traffic when pulling out of sanitation.
19. Manager Garland stated that the county will be off on Monday, May 29th for Memorial Day and only essential services would be working.
20. Manager Garland asks the board to reschedule the budget meetings planned for Thursday and Friday of this week so that she can better prepare. The board agreed to meet Monday, May 22nd at 1:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 23rd at 9:00 a.m. to finish discussions on the budget.
21. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. Manager Garland stated that Mary Griffin had signed in for public comment. Ms. Griffin stated that she was the new librarian and wanted to introduce herself to the board. Ms. Griffin stated that the library is having a problem with persons climbing on the air conditioner units and getting on the roof to access internet so with the board's permission she will be unplugging three internet lines at night to prevent this destruction. The board was in agreement with this request. Ms. Griffin stated that she has a meeting room available in the library if the board would like to utilize it. The board thanked Ms. Griffin for the offer and welcomed her as the new librarian.
22. Chairman Eller stated that the board needed to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (3) (6) for privileged or confidential information, attorney-client privilege, personnel and contracts. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. The board all agreed to put the NC State Forest Service appropriations into contingency until Manager Garland could check into the legalities of funding this appropriation. All board agreed.
25. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr 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