

## Regular Meeting Minutes August 7, 2018

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. Commissioners present was: Keith Eller, Connie Orr, Jacob Nelms and Raymond Williams. Commissioner Dale Wiggins was absent.

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 any changes to the agenda. Manager Garland stated that we needed to add Juanita Colvard, Transit Director to closed session for contracts and attorney-client privilege. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the agenda as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Eller asks for approval of the Workshop and Regular Minutes of July 17<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Eller asks Kevin King, Swain County Manager to speak. Manager Garland stated that she invited Manager King to come and speak to the board regarding his sanitation department in Swain County and see if we could gain from modeling his changes. Manager King stated that Swain County has one collection site and the site is open Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday's from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Manager King stated that they now use a trash compactor system which will hold more trash and roll off containers rather than front loader containers. Manager King stated that they did receive help from the state on the layout for the flow of traffic into the site. Manager King stated that they have one attendant on site. Manager King stated that they were receiving a lot of garbage from Jackson County when they had multiple sites open and this has eliminated that problem. Commissioner Williams asks how much a compactor costs. Manager King stated that they paid \$45,000.00 and they have five. Manager King stated that they did receive state assistance of \$80,000.00 when they went to the new system. Manager King stated that they also received a White Goods Grant for \$150,000.00 and they spent around \$300,000.00. Manager King stated that they contract the off-site haul of the garbage. Manager Garland asks if Swain County saw a difference in their recycling after they went to one site. Manager King stated that this did help in the separation of recycling products and they single stream all recycling into one compactor. Commissioner Orr asks how much the entire program cost the county to get up and running. Manager King stated that it was \$450,000.00 with the county paying \$300,000.00 and the state giving us a grant for \$150,000.00. Manager King stated the total cost for collection and disposal is around \$950,000.00. Commissioner Williams asks about the compactors. Manager King stated that the county needed to be sure and get the correct compactors that have teeth on the front because they don't automatically come with them and the price is not bad and further stated that there is not much to tear up on the compactors. Commissioner Orr asks how many total employees are there in sanitation. Manager King stated that they have a total of seven employees with two of those being attendants. Commissioner Williams asks if Manager King would consider contracting for the Deal's Gap collection. Manager King stated that he was very interested in that. Commissioner Williams asks that he present a figure to the board for consideration. The board thanked Manager King for his time to come and speak with them.
7. Chairman Eller asks for the Manager's Report. Manager Garland stated that she has received quotes for screens and a projection system for the conference room, operations room, training room, director's office and break room for the new 911 Call Center and they are:
  - a. CIC Technologies for \$43,595.85
  - b. Informed Logic, LLC for \$37,825.58Commissioner Nelms made the motion to go with the lowest quote which is Informed Logic, LLC. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Manager Garland stated that two regional meetings about A-0009 is on the schedule for Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from Stacy at the Land of Sky Regional Council. Manager Garland stated that she is not sure if both these dates are for meetings with DOT or if Stacy is trying to get some consensus on a meeting but she would let the board know for sure.

9. Manager Garland stated that Heery has completed their final cost estimate and as soon as she receives it she will call the board so that we can have a conference call with them.
10. Manager Garland stated that our annual software maintenance cost on the tablet systems for Transit is due and the total cost is \$12,575.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the annual cost for the tablets at Transit. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Manager Garland stated that the air conditioner at Wachacha Bald is 17 years old and is failing. Manager Garland stated that they have gotten quotes for a new unit which is 7000 BTU system with a five year warranty on the compressor and coils and a one year warranty on other parts with labor installation of \$2600.00 from Elliott Brothers. They also gave a quote for a mini-split system to use as a backup for \$3800.00. Manager Garland asks if the board would be interested in setting up a fail over system. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go with the 7000 BTU System only. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Manager Garland stated that the Stecoah Valley Center is requesting their \$5000.00 we allocated to be used for a match on a Covington Foundation Grant. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow the request. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
13. Manager Garland stated that she received an email from the law firm handling the PILT lawsuit and they have acknowledged our opt-in to the lawsuit.
14. Manager Garland stated that she has a resolution for House Bill 320 regarding PUV's and NCACC has suggested that we request the repeal of the legislation and send the resolution to all 100 counties. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the resolution as written. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Manager Garland stated that the Occupancy Tax increase request died in finance committee and Representative Corbin cautioned in May that any legislation with the name "tax" has a hard time passing but he will re-introduce in the long session next year.
16. Manager Garland stated that she received a directive from the State Treasurer's Office stating that under the new budget bill passed by the NC General Assembly that all building inspection fees have to be accounted for separately and all of it has to be dedicated to building inspections operations only and reported as such. Manager Garland stated that in the future if there is a surplus in this account, we will be required to hold a restricted fund balance.
17. Manager Garland stated that she received notice that we had been overpaid on our Medicaid Cost Settlement for Fiscal Year 2010 for EMS by \$11,000.00 and she will be sending a letter of appeal by the end of the week.
18. Manager Garland stated that she received the NC Forest Service revised contract to add the Smoke Chaser Position and take our contract to a 35% basis bringing the total increase to \$28,022.50. The board wanted these totals checked because they understood the increase to be around \$10,000.00.
19. Manager Garland stated that the Vaya Quarterly Report for period ending 6/30/2018 has been received and it gives more detail on the unrestricted spendable cash that Vaya holds at the end of the period.
20. Manager Garland stated that we previously discussed opening a NCCMT Government Funds Account to transfer funds into to gain additional interest earnings. At present we have about \$8,000,000.00 in General Fund Checking Account and about \$150,000.00 in the First Citizens Money Market Account which is the depository for our EMS billing payments sent directly to our EMS billing company. Manager Garland would like to transfer between \$1,000,000.00 and \$1,500,000.00 of the general fund balance into the account and \$150,000.00 from the EMS account with the board approval. Manager Garland stated that we currently have the \$1,500,000.00 in the capital reserve account which is yielding about \$2,000.00 per month in interest revenue. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow Manager Garland to transfer the monies into a NCCMT Government Funds Account. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Manager Garland stated that we have word from the state that the grant for the mammogram machine and the para-medicine grant are on the governor's desk for signature which is wonderful news and we are also awaiting news for a broadband and T&T grant which is on the same memo for signature.
22. Manager Garland stated that we were saddened to hear about the passing of Ted Phillips, the founder of Phillips and Jordan and it is through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Phillips that we obtained the former P&J Building which has allowed us to make so much progress in placing human services under one roof and get urgent care and dialysis. The service for Mr. Phillips will

be Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> here in Robbinsville and the family has requested that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the WCU School of Construction Technology or Ted and Avis Phillips Endowed Nursing Scholarship Fund in care of Lincoln Memorial University. Manager Garland stated that typically we send flowers to families in these circumstances and asks what the board would like to do. Commissioner Orr made the motion to make a donation of \$1000.00 to both organizations. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

23. Attorney Coward stated that the family had also requested that people do a random act of kindness for a total stranger. Manager Garland stated that she will send this to the staff and encourage them to do this on August 18<sup>th</sup> and to let her know so that she can let the family know.
24. Chairman Eller stated that the board needed to have discussion on a possible water and sewer grant. Chairman Eller stated that the last survey went up Old Sweetwater Road. Manager Garland stated that the county spent around \$70,000.00 the last time and we didn't receive the grant. The board asks that Manager Garland speak with Joan Stillwell and the Town concerning this request. Commissioner Orr stated that RDA may also be interested in looking into this grant.
25. Chairman Eller asks for the discussion items. Manager Garland stated that we have Releases of \$7,952.75 and Discoveries of \$6,685.31. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Manager Garland stated that we needed to remove Peggy Hyde from the TAB Board and replace her with Melissa Blevins from DSS. Commissioner Orr made the motion to accept the recommendation on the TAB Board. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Manager Garland stated that the board had been approached by the Wayne Carringer Heirs on signing over the old railroad property that is in front of their property. Attorney Coward stated that the land could not be given to them but they would have to offer fair market value and would need to get the property in question surveyed. Commissioner Orr made the motion to handle this property the same way as they did the Stecoah property. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Manager Garland stated that Jess Wehr needed to be reappointed to the T&T Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to reappoint Jess Wehr to the T&T Board. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Manager Garland stated that Wanda Hill had to resign from the CAC Committee due to a family kinship and we needed to name a replacement for her. The board tabled this decision for further review.
30. Manager Garland stated that we needed to accept the resignation of Melissa Blevins from the CAC Board and appoint Molly Lunsford in her place. Manager Garland stated that Ms. Blevins has more responsibility at the DSS Department and is unable to attend the meetings. Commissioner Williams made the motion to replace Melissa Blevins with Molly Lunsford. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Manager Garland read a thank you card from former Tax Assessor Erma Phillips for her years with the county.
32. Chairman Eller asks for public comment. Manager Garland stated that Theresa Chamberlain was signed in comment. Chairman Eller asks Ms. Chamberlain to speak. Ms. Chamberlain stated that she was here to complain about the Frontier Telephone service. Ms. Chamberlain, a retiree, stated that a tree fell on the line and everyone on our road has been out of phone service since June 29<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Chamberlain stated that she has called Frontier many times and they will say that they are coming to fix the problem but they never show up. Manager Garland took Ms. Chamberlain's information and she will contact the NC Utilities Commission concerning this issue. Ms. Chamberlain stated that many residents in this area are elderly and disabled and they need access to the phone and cell phones do no work in this area of the county. Ms. Chamberlain stated that she switched to Hughes Net and three more families have had to switch as well but something needed to be done about Frontier. Commissioner Williams stated that this board has been working on this for months and it is a public safety issue.
33. Chairman Eller asks Beth Fields to speak. Ms. Fields stated that she is here to follow up on the request that was made for Stecoah Valley Center for an allocation of \$20,000.00. Ms. Fields stated that she is having an outside firm do the 990 form as mentioned last year by the board but they have repairs that need to be made to the building. Ms. Fields stated that the center has been repairing interior water damage that was done from the roof prior to the board installing a

new one and they are in need of more funding. Ms. Fields stated that they are currently trying to secure a \$1,500,000.00 grant to stabilize the old gym. Ms. Fields stated that the rock work was crumbling and they need an additional \$10,000.00 for the windows to be replaced with Plexiglas. The board discussed the Jam Program and was very pleased to hear that Daylan Carver would be teaching a class. The board stated that they would have discussion and get back with Ms. Fields.

34. Chairman Eller stated that the board needed 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 Nelms made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Commissioner Orr made the motion to grant Teresa Crisp leave without pay. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Commissioner Orr made the motion to grant Josh Turner leave without pay that was previously taken due to an oversight by the department head. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Commissioner Eller, Orr, Nelms and Wiggins voted yes. Commissioner Williams voted no. Motion carried four to one.
38. The board discussed options for a health department truck and decided to purchase a new vehicle with a warranty.
39. The board discussed options for jail vehicles and wanted us to look at the state surplus site for a van and a car.
40. No further business was discussed. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Keith Eller, Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

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Connie Orr, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

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Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

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Dale Wiggins, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

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Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board