

Regular Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2018

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. for their regular meeting held in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All board was present.

1. Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Wiggins asks Commissioner Nelms to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Wiggins led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 6th and the Workshop Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of November 20th. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Wiggins asks for the manager's report. Manager Garland stated that we need to have a follow-up call with HEERY now that the new board is seated and we can begin to work forward. Manager Garland asks for dates that would work with the board. Manager Garland stated that she will also be calling Mitch Brigulio and Davenport to do changes to our scenarios to incorporate the sales tax.
7. Manager Garland stated that Sheriff Jones and she had met and discussed office space. Sheriff Jones felt that renovations would need to be done at the bank building. Manager Garland suggested that he look at the community building. Sheriff Jones and Chuck Stewart stated that this is more than adequate to use for the sheriff's department and he would ask the Town of Robbinsville to use the lot beside the building for the impound. Manager Garland stated that the Election Board would also like to move to this building but they and the Sheriff are asking for the two offices in the hallway so the board would have to decide about these offices. Manager Garland stated that Sheriff Jones can use the interior office space for the evidence room so there is no need to create a vault; there is a glassed in partition between the public and the staff for better security; the community building would not require major renovations but she would advise that a storefront be put in the hallway to delineate the community portion from the offices. The board had planned to put a secure door into the old CPS section for the Election Board. The Election Board could use the old CPS Section. Sheriff Jones stated that he wanted to move the impound to a less visible location instead of it being located on the by-pass. Manager Garland stated that Administration could possibly move to the bank building. Manager Garland stated that she is trying to utilize the space in the best way. Commissioner Orr stated that everyone needed to be somewhere temporarily until a new facility is built. Manager Garland stated that this is a short term solution. Commissioner Cody stated that the bank building would be perfect for the tax office due to the drive through window. The board will have further discussion.
8. Manager Garland stated that the General Assembly passed Session 2018-69 in June that required counties to do an inventory of existing ordinances that have a criminal provision. They are doing a research study and hope to create State law around common issues in counties so that there is consistent statutory law with consistent criminal penalties around these common issues.
9. Manager Garland stated that NACO sent out an alert about the SRS Funding and asks that everyone contact our Congressmen, Senators and Representatives asking that they include the SRS funding in the 2019 Appropriations package. Commissioner Orr stated that she will be seeing Senator Thom Tillis on the 15th and she will hand carry a resolution to him. The board was in agreement to a resolution being drafted up in support of the Secure Rural Schools. Rick Davis and Beth Fields stated that they would write letters in support of this as well.
10. Manager Garland stated that Graham County will remain in a Tier 1 classification. The county ranking is determined by four factors: unemployment rate, median household income, population growth, and assessed property values. This moved 13 counties out of the Tier 1 status part time. Manager Garland stated that we need to thank Kevin Corbin for advocating to get that legislation moved in a different direction.

11. Manager Garland stated that the NCACC sent out a draft of the law to implement the Constitutional Amendment to require Vote ID. Manager Garland stated that they will be taking comments by email if the board would like to take a survey.
12. Manager Garland stated that the NCACC has started doing podcasts and she included the links for the boards review.
13. Manager Garland stated that EPA has issued the announcement that they have opened the grant cycle for the Brownfields Assessment Grant. Last meeting she brought a proposal from WR-Martin to write a grant for us. Manager Garland stated that their proposal is for \$5,000.00 to write the grant since we are a Tier 1 county and Freddy Harrill recommended them to us. The deadline for the grant is January 31st and asks the board if they want to proceed. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go for the grant with WR Martin for \$5,000.00. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Manager Garland stated that Hometown Strong is still doing a lot of work and Maggie Sauer is working with Sarah Thompson on getting a regional meeting scheduled about Medicaid Transformation and EMS services challenges. Manager Garland will provide an update once this meeting is set.
15. Manager Garland stated that she received an email from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and they want to meet with us soon to talk about grant possibilities. They do land acquisition for greenways, preserves, passive-use parks, stream restoration, innovative storm water and planning projects. This could be useful either as part of the PARTF grant project and also for Stanley property after we get the brownfield remediated.
16. Manager Garland stated that the floor of the 1999 Mack bed is failing and the estimate to fix it will be \$6000.00 with a better grade of metal or \$5000.00 with a lower grade of metal. The board wanted two quotes on this repair and then go with the lowest quote with the better grade of metal.
17. Manager Garland stated that there is a Local Officials Meeting with NCDOT scheduled Tuesday, December 11th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. regarding the improvement of NC 143 West Buffalo to 143 Business at the community building. Manager Garland stated that it is an informal meeting. Manager Garland also provided a draft design study report on Corridor K to the board for their review.
18. Manager Garland stated that the Southwest Commission Area Agency on Aging is planning to do a seminar about caregiving and they would like to get information on interest. Manager Garland asks that everyone let their friends and family know and urge them to reach out to the Senior Center to indicate interest.
19. Manager Garland stated that the NC 4H Annual Report for Graham County is in the office if the board would like to review.
20. Manager Garland stated that she sent an email of thanks to the NC Bar Association for their \$1000.00 donation to the referendum campaign and want to publicly thank Attorney Coward for advocating with the Association for the donation and to the Association members. Their support helped us do the education campaign and it will bear much fruit for the County in the years to come.
21. Manager Garland also gave the board dates to remember of meetings and holiday notices.
22. Chairman Wiggins stated that we would proceed to the Discussion Items. Chairman Wiggins stated that we have Discoveries of \$78.16. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the discoveries. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Chairman Wiggins stated that the County Web Site yearly fee is due to Stars Creative for \$3,400.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the renewal fee for Stars Creative. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Chairman Wiggins stated that the Library Board needed to replace Betty Hyde who had resigned and requests that Diana McRae be put in her remaining term to August 2019. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Diana McRae to the Library Board. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board needed to replace Raymond Williams on the Accident/Safety Committee. The board decided not to put anyone else on this committee.
26. Chairman Wiggins stated that we needed to replace Raymond Williams on the Four Square Board. Commissioner Orr volunteered to sit on this board. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to appoint Commissioner Orr to this board. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

27. Chairman Wiggins stated that we needed to replace Raymond Williams on the Grounds Committee. Commissioner Eller volunteered to sit on this committee. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Commissioner Eller to this committee. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Chairman Wiggins stated that we needed to replace Raymond Williams on the Road Naming Board. Commissioner Cody volunteered to sit on this board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Commissioner Cody to the Road Naming Board. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Chairman Wiggins stated that we needed to replace Raymond Williams on the Senior Center Advisory Board. Commissioner Eller volunteered to sit on this board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Commissioner Eller to this board. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Chairman Wiggins stated that we needed to replace Raymond Williams on the SW Aging Leadership Team. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Commissioner Nelms to this board. Commissioner Wiggins seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Chairman Wiggins stated that we needed to replace Raymond Williams on the SW Region A Aging Advisory Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Commissioner Cody to this board. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Chairman Wiggins stated that we needed to replace Raymond Williams on the Travel and Tourism Board. Chairman Wiggins volunteered to sit on this board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Chairman Wiggins to the Travel and Tourism Board. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board needed to adopt the Resolution for the Sales Tax Levy. Commissioner Cody made the motion to adopt the Resolution for the Sales Tax Levy. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board needed to discuss rescheduling or cancelling the January 1st DSS Meeting and Regular Monthly Meeting due to the holiday. Commissioner Orr made the motion to cancel the first meeting of the month in January 2019 due to the holiday and further stated that the board would convene at the next regular meeting to be held on January 15th. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Chairman Wiggins asks if any of the fellow board members wanted to attend the Essentials of County Government on January 17th and 18th. No one would be attending this meeting.
36. Chairman Wiggins asks for new or old business. Manager Garland stated that we had received an email requesting that the board adopt a resolution recognizing January 20-26, 2019 as School Choice Week in Graham County. Commissioner Orr made the motion to ignore this request. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Manager Garland asks if the board wanted to take any action concerning the Stecoah Valley Center appropriations request. Commissioner Orr made the motion to give \$7500.00 to the center. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. Chairman Wiggins asks for public comment. Commissioner Cody had signed in for public comment. Commissioner Cody respectfully asks that the board approve him to work with EDC Director Sophia Paulos on contacting the Utilities Commission regarding Frontier. Commissioner Cody stated that their lack of services is uncalled for and he has received many complaints regarding Frontier. Commissioner Orr asks that we check the minutes to see if the county has previously joined a Class 1 Lawsuit against Frontier. The board was in full agreement to Commissioner Cody's request.
39. Commissioner Cody also stated that every third Wednesday of the month he will be at the Stecoah Rescue Squad Building to meet with any individual that would like to speak to him on any county issues from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
40. Chairman Wiggins asks Beth Fields to speak. Ms. Fields thanked the board for the allocation.
41. Chairman Wiggins asks Jack Gross to speak. Mr. Gross stated that he and his wife reside at the Town of Santeetlah and he thanked the county board of commissioner for their transparency because it is lacking in the Town of Santeetlah. Mr. Gross stated that at the last meeting he came before the board with a tax issue concerning the property that the Town of Santeetlah is claiming which makes his property become lake view instead of Lake Front. Mr. Gross withdrew his previous request due his being involved in a law suit with the Town and will await the outcome of the lawsuit before he makes a request again. The board wished him well.
42. Chairman Wiggins asks Rick Davis to speak. Mr. Davis congratulated Commissioner Wiggins, Cody and Nelms for their win on the election. Mr. Davis thanked the board for their support to

the Stecoah Valley Center of \$7500.00 and stated that he would be back to ask for more. Mr. Davis stated that a verbal agreement of \$20,000.00 was made when the board received their 990 Tax Forms from an outside agency and the center has provided that. Mr. Davis asks that they reconsider the request again tonight after closed session because the center needed the appropriation and the board's support.

43. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board 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 Orr made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
44. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
45. Commissioner Wiggins asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Commissioner Nelms rescinded the motion to adjourn because the board needed to continue this meeting. Commissioner Eller rescinded his motion as well. The board previously was to meet on Thursday, November 6th but needed to change this date to Tuesday, December 11th at 10:00 a.m. The board had discussion and was not sure that this date would work. Chairman Wiggins decided that he would call a special meeting when a date was set. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Dale Wiggins, Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board