

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, December 3, 2019 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 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. Manager Garland stated that we needed to Delete Tammy Holloway from Number 8 and add Sara Thompson, SW Commission, add Commissioner Lynn Cody as Number 11A and add contracts and attorney-client privilege on #14 for Manager Garland. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board needed to appoint a Chairman for the upcoming year as according to G.S. 153A-39. Commissioner Eller made the motion to leave Commissioner Dale Wiggins as Chair. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to appoint a Vice-Chair. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to leave the Commissioner Lynn Cody as the Vice-Chair. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chairman Wiggins asks for approval of the minutes for the Workshop Session and Regular Meeting November 19, 2019. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Chairman Wiggins asks Sara Thompson with Southwest Commission to speak. Ms. Thompson stated that she was here to give a yearly report from the Southwestern Commission. Ms. Thompson stated that their mission is to improve the quality of life in its seven-county service area by assisting local governments in reaching their goals. Ms. Thompson stated that the Southwestern Commission is the Council of Government (COG) for North Carolina's Region A, covering the western most part of the state; Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties, the Qualla Boundary, and the 17 municipalities therein. Ms. Thompson stated that they also offer grant writing and are currently focusing on regional broadband. Ms. Thompson stated that there is also a shortage of houses in our region and they are looking for resources to assist with this loss. The board thanked Ms. Thompson for her work.
9. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board needed to discuss the Graham County Transportation Plan amendments. Manager Garland read the resolution that the board is considering to adopt. Commissioner Cody made the motion to adopt the Resolution to Adopt the Graham County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Amendments. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. Chairman Wiggins asks for the manager's report. Manager Garland stated that the board approved the purchase of new IT equipment in October and she has been gathering information on financing to smooth out the budget. Manager Garland recommended that the board use UCBI with a three-year term with an interest rate of 3.17%. Manager Garland stated that she would need the board to approve the financing and adopt a Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the financing and adopt the Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Manager Garland stated that during the last staff training, the employees formulated values that the staff want to adopt and would like the board to endorse. Manager Garland presented the board with the values. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to officially endorse the Graham County Government Values as proposed by the employees of Graham County. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Manager Garland stated that Erlanger Hospital has issued a letter that they will be closing the labor and delivery at the Murphy Campus on December 31, 2019 and stated that they would only accept OB's on an emergency basis only.
13. Manager Garland stated that the school board approved a drawdown of lottery funds to complete the expenditures at the bathrooms at the football field for \$69,414.85. Manager Garland stated that the request must be co-signed by the chair of both the school board and the board of commissioners. Manager Garland stated that she would need approval for a budget amendment as well. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the request and approve

the budget amendment as presented by Manager Garland. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

14. Manager Garland stated that the board needed to pursue the lighting on the new flagpole and stated that we would like to work off the existing poles at the Health Department. The board gave a directive to Manager Garland to proceed with the lighting as stated.
15. Manager Garland asks for any public comments to the Community Transportation Plan. No comments.
16. Manager Garland gave the board a list of dates to remember.
17. Chairman Wiggins asks Jason Marino, Project Manager to speak with the board. Mr. Marino presented some plans for the boards review for the recreation and cemetery facilities. Mr. Marino went over the square footage of the buildings, site location and floor plan. Mr. Marino stated that the cemetery would need a 30x50 and the recreation facility would need a 30x40. The board opted for a 30x60 for the recreation building to house an exercise room for the public. The board discussed the location for both buildings and wanted the Recreation Facility to be at the property on P and J road and the cemetery building at the property directly across the road from the Transit Facility on West Fort Hill Road.
18. Manager Garland stated that Heery and Associates would be looking at the Fort Hill property for the Justice/Jail Facility. Manager Garland asks if the board is agreeable to allow Heery and Associates to move forward with a fee of \$24,175.00. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to pay Heery and Associates \$24,175.00 to proceed with the new Justice/Jail Facility. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Chairman Wiggins asks Commissioner Cody to speak. Commissioner Cody stated that the Stecoah Rescue Squad was notified that their M-Series defibrillators would no longer be serviced after February 3, 2021 and stated that this will cause a hardship on Stecoah to replace these defibrillators. Commissioner Cody stated that the defibrillators are necessary in critical situations. Commissioner Eller stated that we should be able to obtain these new defibrillators through the fire grants. Chairman Wiggins asks if the other squads would need these as well. Commissioner Eller stated that Meadow Branch may but did not think that Snowbird carried them on their trucks. The board discussed the cost of the defibrillators of \$95,000.00. The board discussed speaking with Sophia Paulos on possible funding through the Dogwood Trust. Commissioner Cody stated that he would look as well for grants but the county would need to plan for this expense in the next fiscal budget.
20. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board would now go to the discussion items. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to approve the Discoveries for \$1,383.00. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve the discoveries as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to accept the estimate from Burchfield's Tree Service to remove trees at the Graham County Playground. Commissioner Eller made the motion to accept the estimate as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to reappoint Commissioner Connie Orr to the Road Naming Board. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to reappoint Commissioner Connie Orr to the Road Naming Board. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to replace Butch Sanders with our new DSS Director to the following boards: HCCBG Board, Accident/Safety Committee, Child Fatality Protection Team, Community Child Protection Team, SW Aging Leadership Team and the SW Child Development. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to appoint Cris Weatherford to boards or committees as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Chairman Wiggins asks for new or old business. No new or old business.
25. Chairman Wiggins asks for public comment. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols from Tallulah Road asks if the maps that were just adopted were actually Corridor K because he was led to believe that Corridor K was scrapped but the maps show the same route as the proposed Corridor K. Commissioner Eller stated no, the board did not adopt anything concerning to Highway 129 South. Chairman Wiggins stated that the board amended the CTP Plan to add our roads to the National Highway System. Commissioner Nelms stated that nothing was adopted concerning Corridor K. Commissioner Cody stated that the board was given new options regarding Corridor K, which involves a tunnel from Stecoah to Robbinsville but no definite decisions have been made. Commissioner Nelms stated that the plan is a long range planning statement that we would like to see happen and is not the last plan. Commissioner Eller stated that we would be having many public meetings before any options are chosen. Commissioner Eller stated that our

main reason to have a four lane through our county was to provide better roads for our people to be able to get to a hospital. Mr. Nichols stated that the NCDOT Maps have not been upgraded because they show a four lane going through the middle of his house. Manager Garland stated that in the past meetings we were told not to segment the road now they have come back to the board and we can only do segments of the road as money becomes available. Commissioner Eller stated that we have not met to decide anything on Corridor K and if the state can put a tunnel in from Stecoah to Robbinsville, they should be able to put a tunnel through Tatham Gap where we would be within 10 minutes of getting to Andrews. The board all told the Nichols family that they did not have anything to worry about.

26. Chairman Wiggins asks for a 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 Eller made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Commissioner Eller made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to grant Troy Grindstaff the use of his sick reserve of 224.48 hours due to his absence for medical reasons. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the leave as requested by Troy Grindstaff. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to give every county employee a \$50.00 Ingles Gift Card for Christmas. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow the gift to the employees. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to settle the Reed Miller tax appeal. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to settle the Reed Miller tax appeal due to the cost. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Chairman Wiggins asks for a motion to adjourn. 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