

Regular Meeting – September 21, 2021

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular monthly meeting. Board present Keith Eller, Lynn Cody, Jacob Nelms and Dale Wiggins, Board absent Connie Orr. Also, present Manager Jason Marino, Finance Director Becky Garland, Attorney JK Coward and Clerk Kim Crisp.

1. Vice-Chairman Eller called the meeting to order.
2. Vice-Chairman Eller asks Commissioner Cody to give the Invocation.
3. Vice-Chairman Eller asks Commissioner Wiggins to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Vice-Chairman Eller asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Vice-Chairman Eller asks for the approval of the August 17, 2021, Workshop and Regular Meetings and the Special Meetings August 6, August 17, and August 26, 2021. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Vice-Chairman Eller asks Manager Marino to give the Manager / Project Manager's report. Manager Marino stated Graham County Schools issued a request for proposals and received one proposal from Western Builders in the amount of \$49,473.00. Manager Marino stated that the school board signed the contract and materials are on order with an estimated start date in October 2021 with a total duration to include fixing the hardwood floor and bleachers in thirty to forty-five days.
7. Manager Marino stated that the new repaired 2021 Mac Trash Truck was delivered Tuesday September 14, 2021, but the truck did not work so Shealy's towed the vehicle back to their shop on September 20, 2021. Attorney Coward will be writing a letter to the company with our displeasure.
8. Manager Marino stated that MESCO provided the United States Forest Service with the signed access application for the Atoah Landfill. Manager Marino stated that Jonathan Pfohl with MESCO stated that they will arrange a time to meet with the USFS personnel to fine tune the well location and address any other questions or concerns they may have. Manager Marino stated that they are preparing a budget estimate for the board to review and consider. Manager Marino stated that these costs are separate from the costs associated with the routine annual groundwater/surface water sampling conducted each year.
9. Manager Marino stated that the county has been given the green light to proceed with the replacement of two monitoring wells on the property behind the sheriff's office that was contaminated by the fuel spill at the 76 Station.
10. Manager Marino stated that he has been exploring a new interactive administrative and IT (Information Technology) training and found eJ4 is a reputable nationwide company that provides interactive eLearning training that will improve our computer systems stability and security. Manager Marino stated that they have a large catalog to choose from that is customizable with monthly course updates and new courses added automatically and believes this will enhance our training throughout the departments. Commissioner Wiggins asks how they will monitor the use of the modules. Manager Marino stated that he will be able to track the usage for every employee. Manager Marino stated that they can purchase the module for three years at \$5,000.00. Commissioner Cody stated that this will be an effective way to obtain continuing education. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the purchase of the module for \$5000.00. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Manager Marino stated that county officials working alongside local citizens have been brainstorming about ideas on how to get more of our people vaccinated and together they have formed "Take One for the Team" initiative. Manager Marino stated that this initiative would allow the person taking the shot to donate \$50.00 to their team of choice, ex. Football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, etc. Commissioner Wiggins asks who will fund this initiative. Director Garland stated that they are applying for Dogwood Trust funds and further stated that the American Rescue Act Funds can be used as well.
12. Manager Marino stated that he would now go to the project managers report. Manager Marino stated that the Moose Branch building project has been delayed due to delivery delays.
13. Manager Marino stated that the cemetery and recreation buildings are moving along, and construction is underway.


14. Manager Marino stated that the election board renovations had been delayed due to the construction workers having COVID-19 but the construction is underway.
15. Manager Marino stated that the Middle School 6 Grade addition and renovation is 28% complete and Western Builders was awarded the contract.
16. Manager Marino stated that the Little Snowbird Creek Bank Remediation and the Little Snowbird Creek Clear and Snag are at 95% complete.
17. Manager Marino stated that the biggest delays result from delivery of materials and shortages of steel.
18. Vice-Chairman Eller asks Director Garland to give the finance reporting. Director Garland stated that we ended the month with a \$8,16,893.60 cash balance which is \$150,764.52 below this time last year. Director Garland stated that we purchased the stadium lights, and this affected the bottom line.
19. Director Garland stated that the current year tax collections are \$520,374.56; prior years are \$20,833.17 and DMV \$63,593.08. Director Garland stated that collections are \$100,000.00 more from this time last year. Director Garland stated that our year-to-date tax collections is \$1,420,166.17 and DMV \$121,061.93. Director Garland stated that we have a 20.17% tax rate.
20. Director Garland stated that our revenues for the month was \$1,446,653.25 and our expenditures was \$1,857,850.42 for a deficit of \$411,197.19. Director Garland stated that our year-to-date revenues is \$2,452,842.02 and expenditures was \$2,818,854.30 for a deficit of \$365,962.08. Director Garland stated that we are ahead in revenues of \$641,924.53 from last year.
21. Director Garland stated that our sales tax collection for the month was \$251,284.93 which dropped some from last month but overall, we are still running ahead.
22. Director Garland stated that we have collected \$482,980.02 in past due collections for 2004-2014.
23. Director Garland stated that she paid the QZAB note off and she did include a budget amendment for the board to sign that was approved at the DSS meeting.
24. Vice-Chairman Eller asks for public comment. Clerk Crisp stated that Hank Dinschel was signed in for public comment. Vice-Chairman Eller asks Ms. Dinschel to speak.
25. Ms. Dinschel stated that she has been to the local school board meetings concerning the masks and asks that until the board stops making our children wear masks, they do not fund the schools. Ms. Dinschel stated that the school board are cowards except for one Mr. Allison. Ms. Dinschel stated that it is un-constitutional to make our children wear masks and asks that this board follow the science because this virus is spread by droplets and those droplets are staying in the masks and this is making our kids sick. Ms. Dinschel stated that she sent messages to this board and Commissioner Wiggins fired right back and she appreciated him. Ms. Dinschel asks who you believe because Stephen Petty, an Industrial Hygienist who is President of Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. and is an expert on PPE and air quality and asks that the board research his podcast because he is stating the fact that these masks are doing damage to our kids. Ms. Dinschel stated that the school is listening to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and the DHHS (Department of Health & Human Services) and they do not care about the true facts, nor do they care what we the people think. Ms. Dinschel stated that she and her sister was kicked out of the school board meeting for not wearing a mask and they do not want the truth. Ms. Dinschel stated that she is up to debate on this issue, and she has seen the numbers that are being told to the public and all she asks is where are they getting their information from because from her research and a lot of research has been done on masks and they are cutting off oxygen. Ms. Dinschel stated that carbon dioxide stays in the masks and if the kids use the same mask over and over and they do, they are being deprived of the oxygen that they need. Ms. Dinschel stated that we must get natural immunity to these viruses and wearing a mask does not work and the science is there to prove it. Ms. Dinschel stated that the study that was done by Stephen Petty has been removed from social media and asks why no one is listening to a licensed industrial hygienist because what the school board is doing is child abuse. Ms. Dinschel stated that South Dakota did not close their schools, nor did they make people wear masks and their businesses went on as usual. Ms. Dinschel asks again the board stop funding the school. Ms. Dinschel stated that we are being put into two camps, God's Camp and Satan's Camp. Ms. Dinschel stated that she got the virus and was extremely sick and the doctor's office would not treat her with any medications, and she asked for a prescription of hydroxychloroquine because it does work but the doctor would not listen to her, so her sister went and purchased Ivermectin for her and she took it and started getting better the next day.

- Ms. Dinschel stated that the Governor and the health departments are trying to coerce people into getting the shots and wearing masks and this is disgraceful. Ms. Dinschel stated that the news is not telling the truth and the deaths that are being reported is 1% of the population, only 1% so how many more people must die before someone says enough and gives the patients the medications that work. Ms. Dinschel stated that Jonathan Allison, Graham County School Board member is the only one that stood against the mask mandate and one of the members that stood up in favor of the masks did not have a mask on, yet she and her sister were thrown out of the meeting. Ms. Dinschel stated that GOD told her to take this message to the boards and she will continue to stand up for the kids and respectfully asks that we cut the funding to the school. Ms. Dinschel stated that someone must help, and she asks that the board research the facts and the science because the school board will not listen to the truth and begs the board to help her and further stated that God is real, and He is guiding her on this issue. Vice-Chairman Eller thanked Ms. Dinschel for her comments.
26. Vice-Chairman Eller asks for approval of the releases \$2,459.79 and discoveries of \$39,309.01. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Vice-Chairman Eller asks for reappointment of Connie Orr to the RDA Board. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to reappoint Connie Orr to the RDA Board. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Vice-Chairman Eller asks for approval of the poll taken August 18, 2021, to pay the Sheriff's Attorney. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to approve the poll as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Vice-Chairman Eller asks for new or old business. No new or old business.
30. Vice-Chairman Eller 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 Wiggins made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Vice-Chairman Eller asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Wiggins made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Vice-Chairman Eller asks for a motion to continue the meeting to Friday, October 1, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Nelms made the motion. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Connie Orr, Chairman (ABSENT)

Keith Eller, Vice-Chairman


Lynn Cody, Member


Jacob Nelms, Member


Dale Wiggins, Member

ATTEST


Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board