

Continued Meeting – June 2, 2023

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Friday, June 02, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. for a continued budget meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. Board present Jacob Nelms, Natasha Williams, Connie Orr, and Keith Eller. Board absent Lynn Cody. Also, present Finance Director Stacy Carpenter and Interim County Manager/Clerk Kim Crisp.

1. Chairman Nelms called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Nelms asked for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Eller made the motion Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Nelms asks Finance Director Stacy Carpenter to continue the budget discussions. Director Carpenter gave a breakdown of the items that was discussed in the previous meeting.
 - a. Instructed all the directors to cut out their raises in their departments.
 - b. Trimmed the DSS budget around \$200,000, cutting the new positions from three to two.
 - c. We have \$5,200,000.00 of unrestricted funds in the general fund.
 - d. Asks if the commissioners wish to donate to the Heritage Festival this year. Commissioner Orr expressed concern on the financials for the heritage festival and asked that the board hold this decision, the board agreed.
 - e. Sanitation quotes for the fencing has not been received at this time. Have spoken with Mesco concerning Stormwater drainage area and they are working on a plan to remedy. Discussed possibly manning the dump sites and limiting the number to three sites in the county. Estimated savings on fuel \$3,000.00 per month and should see added revenue up to \$140,000.00 due to business owners using the green cans instead of going over the scales. Commissioner Eller stated that he keeps getting reports of folks sitting in the office so will this require hiring extra personnel. Commissioner Orr stated that we needed to look at everything prior to any decision.
 - f. Discussed Reval increases which will affect the mil rate. Recommended mil rate is 0.59 which will allow for a \$200,000.00 cushion. Keeping in mind we are still under a judge's order for a new Justice Center with a cost of \$30 million.
 - g. Discussed elderly exemptions and the need to market to the public that this is income based.
 - h. Discussed possible increase for sheriff wage rate. Commissioner Orr made the motion to increase the sheriff salary \$5,000.00 Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote called: Commissioner Eller opposed; Commissioner Orr, Nelms, Nelms voted yes. Motion carried three to one.
 - i. Further discussion on possible sanitation site closings, would propose to keep Snowbird Site at Sanitation Center, East Buffalo Site and Stecoah Site manned and open.
 - j. Agreed to put appropriation for Heritage Festival in contingency until the board received the financials.
 - k. Ask for approval of the 2023-2024 Holiday Schedule as presented by Clerk Crisp. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Holiday Schedule. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 - l. Discussed the mil rate. Commissioner Eller made the motion to set the mil rate for the 2023-2024 Budget at 0.59 because of the extra expenses needed for the football stadium. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Chairman Nelms asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Signature page attached!

Signature page for Continued Meeting June 2, 2023.

Jacob Nelms, Chairman

Natasha Williams, Vice-Chair

Lynn Cody, Member

Keith Eller, Member

Connie Orr, Member

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board