

Regular Meeting – October 17, 2023

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 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 Jacob Nelms, Natasha Williams, Connie Orr, and Keith Eller. Board absent Keith Eller. Also, present Finance Director Stacy Carpenter; Payroll Specialist Lanie Stewart and Interim County Manager/Clerk to the Board Kim Crisp.

1. Chairman Nelms called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Nelms asks Commissioner Cody to give the Invocation.
3. Chairman Nelms asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the minutes for the July 18th Workshop and Regular Meeting; September 26th Emergency Meeting; August 15th Workshop and Regular Meetings; September 19th Workshop and Regular Meetings; September 25th Special Meeting; September 26th Continued Meeting and the September 29th Special Meeting. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chairman Nelms asks Ruby Turpin with Yuletide to speak. Manager Crisp stated that they were unable to attend the meeting but did send a letter for the board's review. Manager Crisp stated that Yuletide ministries has begun raising money for Christmas 2023 and they are asking for an appropriation from the county. Finance Director Carpenter stated that we did budget for a \$5,000.00 appropriation. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve giving the appropriation as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chairman Nelms asks Wanda Hill and Melissa Crisp to speak. Deputy Senior Center Director Crisp stated that she was here to ask permission to apply for an AARPA Grant for \$12,405.00 with zero county match. Commissioner Orr made the motion to grant permission as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Deputy Director Crisp stated that the Senior Center Title IV Plan is still under review, and she would present the approved copy to the board once she is given the approval from the state.
9. Chairman Nelms asks Health Director Donna Stephens to speak. Director Stephens stated that she had met with the task force for the Health and Fitness Center and had spoken with Kara King with the Cannon Foundation and they do want to help build a Health and Fitness Center. Director Stephens asks if the board would consider allowing them to apply for a USDA Loan to purchase the property across the road from the library. Director Stephens stated that there are nine acres of land, and the foundation will help build the building but cannot fund land acquisition. Commissioner Orr asks the price of the property. Director Stephens stated \$280,000.00 which a contract will be drawn up and be used for not only and Health and Fitness Center but for a Greenway as well that will allow for walking trails to Stanley Furniture location. Director Stephens stated that the property will have town water and sewer. Chairman Nelms stated that the board would have further discussion.
10. Chairman Nelms asks about the LATCF Funds. Finance Director Carpenter stated that the second tranch of money had been deposited and she needed guidance on this second round of money. Director Carpenter stated that the first tranch was given to the fire departments and the minutes stated that a capital plan would need to be made regarding the second tranch. The board all agreed to get a plan in place and stated that we did need a capital improvement plan and asks that Director Carpenter email the board any information regarding these funds.
11. Chairman Nelms asks for the finance report. Director Carpenter stated that we ended the month with a cash balance of \$5,370,652.18. Director Carpenter stated that our projects account balances are:
 - a. Capital Projects NCCMT \$3,303,141.32
 - b. School Capital Project NCCMT \$ 120,202.65
 - c. American Rescue Plan Act UCBI \$ 850,323.07
 - d. SCIF Grant – Courthouse NCCMT \$4,968,594.51Director Carpenter stated that we have gained \$43,366.74 in interest on these accounts.
12. Director Carpenter stated that our current year tax collections is \$368,413.75; prior year \$12,177.36 and our DMV is \$56,703.74. Director Carpenter stated that our year-to-date tax collections for real are \$1,744,460.54 and our DMV is \$194,146.58.
13. Director Carpenter stated that our revenues for the month were \$930,482.39 and our expenditures were \$2,241,432.43 for a deficit of \$1,310,950.04. Director Carpenter stated that our revenues to date are \$2,368,441.59 and our expenditures were \$7,691,272.70 for a deficit of \$5,322,931.11.

14. Director Carpenter stated that our sales tax collection was \$316,423.22 and our annual growth is 8.62%.
15. Director Carpenter stated that our back due tax collections is \$435,209.86.
16. Director Carpenter stated that she did have three budget amendments for the board's approval.
 - a. Budget Amendment #2 to move \$6500.65 from one line item to another in the Health Department Budget. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #2 as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 - b. Budget Amendment #3 to account for extra money received for DSS in the amount of \$4,000.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 - c. Budget Amendment #4 to move \$5,000.00 in the DSS budget between line items. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Chairman Nelms asks Juanita Colvard, Transit Director to speak. Director Colvard stated that she was here to get approval of the Title VI Plan for Transit. Director Colvard stated that she submitted the plan to Clerk Crisp for the board's review. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Director Colvard stated that she needed to speak to the board as the Chairman of the Election Board. Ms. Colvard stated that a new law has been passed regarding voting equipment and the current equipment that the county uses will no longer be supported, and they have an opportunity to get a \$14,000.00 trade in for their current machines. Ms. Colvard stated that the cost for the new M100's is \$58,000.00 minus the \$14,000.00. Ms. Colvard stated that this new machine will print all the ballots so they will save money there as well. Ms. Colvard stated that they can make two payments, one in July 2024 and the other in July 2025. Commissioner Orr made the motion following the recommendation of the Graham County Election Board Chairman Juanita Colvard to purchase the M100's with a two-payment agreement and a \$14,000.00 trade in credit. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Chairman Nelms stated that the board would now go to the discussion items and asks for approval of the Releases of \$1,574.91 and Discoveries of \$206.02. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
20. Chairman Nelms asks for an update on the CDBG Grant. Interim Manager Crisp stated that SW Commission is helping us apply for the new CDBG Grant and she will be working with Ms. Scott on getting the information. Manager Crisp stated that she would like to take new applications and the board would need to hold a public hearing to inform the public.
21. Chairman Nelms asks Interim Manager Crisp to lead the discussion items. Interim Manager Crisp stated that they have been speaking with the school regarding an HVAC system for the Healthy Living Center and we learned that ESSR Funds can be used for this repair. The board wanted Chairman Nelms to get with Dr. Knight and have this discussion.
22. Chairman Nelms asks for approval of the poll for Urgent Care for \$116,528.00 to install lead line walls for the new x-ray. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the poll as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Manager Crisp asks if the board wanted to sell the 2012 Equinox that is in administration fleet. Manager Crisp stated that we kept one of the newer pathfinders and this one could be surplus if the board approves. Commissioner Williams made the motion to surplus the 2012 Equinox as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Manager Crisp stated that the Jail had inquired about purchasing the Senior Center Van which is a (15) passenger van. Manager Crisp stated that the trade in value is in the \$30,000.00 but to swap between departments she would recommend around \$21,000.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow the purchase between departments if the Sheriff and the Senior Center Director agreed. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Crisp asks that Commissioner Orr explain the SW Child Development Closing. Commissioner Orr stated that they were informed that the Child Development Center would be closing two weeks ago due to a cash flow problem and she does not accept that and has reached out to Sue Ledford with Four Square for assistance. Commissioner Orr stated we are asking the State for assistance. Attorney Coward asks if all the centers would be closing. Commissioner Orr stated that yes in Graham, Clay, Jackson, and Cherokee. Commissioner Orr stated that something is out of sync.
26. Chairman Nelms asks for new or old business. Manager Crisp stated that she had a letter that was addressed to Commissioner Lynn Cody and read the letter to the board.
27. Lanie Stewart, Payroll Specialist stated that Graham County needed a Public Relations Page and a platform to educate the citizens on different issues going on in the county.
28. Commissioner Nelms 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 Orr made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

29. Commissioner Nelms asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

30. Chairman Nelms stated that no further business would be discussed and asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Jacob Nelms, Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Natasha Williams, Vice-Chair, Graham County Commissioner

Lynn Cody, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Natasha Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board