

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, August 19, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC for their regular monthly meeting. All board members were present.

1. Chairman Edwards called the meeting to order and reminded the board of their duties under the State Government Ethics Act.
2. Commissioner Edwards asks Commissioner Williams to give the Invocation.
3. Commissioner Edwards asks Commissioner Eller to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the Regular and Workshop Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2013. Commissioner Holder made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Commissioner Edwards recessed the regular meeting to go attend a meeting with Governor McCrory at the Graham County High School. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board would reconvene at 6:45 p.m. and no later than 7:00 p.m. All board was in agreement to the recess.
7. Commissioner Edwards called the regular meeting back to order at 6:45 p.m. and asks Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer to give her finance reporting.
8. Ms. Garland stated that our cash balance was down a little from last year due to Alcoa paying their taxes early due to their property sale to Brookfield Inc. Ms. Garland stated that the good news is that the county has over four million this year and we have yet to collect the Brookfield tax revenue. Ms. Garland stated that the tax collections were going very well and there have been monies generated from the proposed foreclosures. Ms. Garland stated that she was looking at a surplus of \$503,000.00 at the closing of June. Ms. Garland stated that our sales tax was still tracking ahead and applauded the county residents for buying local. Ms. Garland stated that the new computer system generated her reporting in one minute and she was very pleased with the system and further stated that all the department heads have jumped in and was doing very well with their requests. Ms. Garland explained the detailed reporting and stated that all board members would have access to the system once our IT Director, Taylor Carringer sets up the connection. Commissioner Edwards and the board were very happy with the system. Ms. Garland stated that her office would be going online with payroll in January and training would be up coming on the payroll and budget preparation. Commissioner Edwards stated that he was very pleased the system was user friendly.
9. Ms. Garland stated that the Jail Fingerprint machine needed repairing for a cost of \$8964.00 without a warranty or replacement for a cost of \$17,787.00 with a one year warranty. Ms. Garland stated that Chief Jailor Chuck Stewart had spent last Thursday looking for another vendor and was not able to find but one company. The board discussed possible ways to save money in order to pay for this state required equipment. Commissioner Orr asks that Joe Jones be contacted to see if there are any grants available to help with the purchase. Commissioner Williams stated that the board needed to go ahead and order another one due to the necessity of the machine. Clerk Crisp stated that the Jail charges a \$10.00 fee for fingerprinting.
10. Ms. Garland stated that she had one more item and this was a request for an off-site backup for the finance office at a cost of \$975.00 yearly and the information will be kept for 180 days of backup at all times. The board stated that they would add this to the action items.
11. Commissioner Edwards asks Manager Cable to give the Goldenleaf Update. Manager Cable stated that Claudine Gibson had been appointed to the Goldenleaf Board which is very positive for our county. Manager Cable stated that we are looking at potential projects that could be funded through Goldenleaf. Commissioner Orr stated that she was very glad that Ms. Gibson was on the board.
12. Commissioner Edwards asks Dave Dodson to speak on the recycling updates and possible schedule changes. Mr. Dodson stated that the recycling was over 40 ton now that has been hauled to Asheville. Mr. Dodson stated that everything was going very well but suggested that the board entertain changing the scheduling of the recycling attendants to Monday through Saturday from either seven to one or eight to two. Mr. Dodson stated that the sites would be kept cleaner and hoped that this would improve the recycling volume by 30%. Mr. Dodson stated that his last request was to allow residents to drop off large residential items such as mattresses, furniture and appliances to the transfer station at no charge. Clerk Crisp stated that this would need to state residential household items only. Commissioner Holder stated that this did not include yard waste, construction debris, shingles or items related to these. Mr. Dodson stated that Sanitation Director Donnie Orr packs the recycling materials before loading to gain more weight. The board thanked Mr. Dodson for his work on the recycling program.
13. Commissioner Edwards asks Juanita Colvard to speak on the Transit Local Coordinated Plan. Ms. Colvard stated that she needed approval of the Coordinated Public Transportation and Human Services Transportation Plan on Graham County's part which is located on page 9 and page 25. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the Local Coordinated Plan for Graham County. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Ms. Colvard stated that the open house for the Transit Facility has been changed to September and she would advice Clerk Crisp of those dates to coordinate with the board as soon as possible.
15. Commissioner Edwards asks for public comment. Clerk Crisp stated that no one had signed in for public comment but asks if Commissioner Edwards would ask the two public attendees if they had anything to say. Commissioner Edwards asks Daniel Rattler to speak. Mr. Rattler stated that he was here requesting

- that the county fix the potholes at the Tri-County Campus and to ask that the board install reflectors at the stop signs in the Buffalo, Stecoah and Massey Branch area. Mr. Rattler stated that the stop signs are very difficult to see at night. The board stated that this could be one of the DOT Prioritization projects.
16. Commissioner Edwards asks Betty Carver to speak. Ms. Carver asks the board about the grant money that helps with repairing homes. Manager Cable stated that we waiting on confirmation of the grant award but the county did not have a guarantee that we will receive any funds. Ms. Carver stated that she would like to know if the county was going to help her or not. Commissioner Williams stated that Ms. Carver could contact Clerk Crisp periodically to find out if the funds had been awarded and further stated that the two homes being built now were decided upon over a year ago.
 17. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the Releases and Discoveries. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 18. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board needed to approve the polls that were taken. Clerk Crisp stated that she would need a motion to strike the poll that was taken for the Ribbon Cutting on the New Transit Facility due to the State not being able to attend in August. Commissioner Williams made the motion to strike the poll on the ribbon cutting ceremony. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 19. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval for the Senior Center polls to install handrails and sidewalks with gutters and to remove the Occupancy Tax legislation due to the language change. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the polls. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 20. Commissioner Edwards asks Manager Cable to precede with the discussion items. Manager Cable gave the monthly report on CDBG 12-C-2417 and stated that the performance schedule was on and there were no problems. Manager Cable gave the monthly report on CDBG 10-C-2231 and stated that the performance schedule was on and there were no problems. Commissioner Holder made the motion to approve the monthly reporting for CDBG 12-C-2417 and CDBG 10-C-2231. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 21. Manager Cable asks the board's pleasure on the tax appeal for Venice Lance on their PUV. Commissioner Williams made the motion to deny this appeal due to receiving the application after the deadlines set by the NC Department of Revenue. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 22. Manager Cable gave an update on the new Senior Center Facility and stated that he had various proposals for the board to consider at this site. Manager Cable stated that the committee had requested that handicap doors be installed at the new facility for a price of \$2700.00. Manager Cable stated that this price is higher than the ones received at the Health Department and suggested that another price be looked at. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the installation of the handicap doors but to check with the vendor on the pricing. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 23. Manager Cable stated that the second item was a request for a recirculation pump for the hot water heater which has been plumbed into the building without clearance from the commissioners. Clerk Crisp stated that the power bills would double with a recirculation pump. Commissioner Williams made the motion to deny the recirculation pump. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 24. Manager Cable stated that the third item was a request for the sign to be moved to the road side of the building on a base similar to the one built at the new transit facility for a price of \$3700.00. Commissioner Edwards made the motion to allow the new sign base to be built. Commissioner Williams asks that the sign be made with wood instead of rock. Commissioner Orr stated that she did not want to lessen the look of the new building with a cheaper sign and seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.
 25. Manager Cable stated that the fourth item was the need to move the excess dirt from the new senior center site and Larry Hembree had requested that this dirt be used to fill at the EMS Base where the ambulances pull out onto the road. The board had discussion with Commissioner Williams making the motion to use Commissioner Holder's advice on how the dirt is to be packed and put in at the EMS Base with the purchase of drain pipe extensions if needed. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Orr stated that this piece of property has a history and she would like to know how many county dollars have been spent on this site and how much the cost would be to move forward on completing the site plan which she understands is already in the hands of McGill & Associates.
 26. Manager Cable stated that the fifth item was steps with handrails from the upper plant parking lot to the new senior center site for a price of \$4465.00. Commissioner Williams asks if this could be tabled now due to expense of the requests that have been approved. The board all agreed to table this issue.
 27. Manager Cable stated that the sixth item is the survey for the senior center site which should have been done a long time ago. The board wanted proposals from Alan Carver and Terry James. The board tabled this request until a proposed price was given to the board.
 28. Manager Cable stated that the seventh item is the installation of a drainage ditch from Fort Hill to the new headwall and gave two quotes for rip rap at \$900.00 or a concrete culvert at \$2250.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go with the rip rap but rescinded the motion until the board could go look at the site. All board was in agreement to looking at the site.
 29. Manager Cable stated that he had been appointed to the TVA Regional Council by the Governor's Office and would be attending the meeting in Knoxville sometime in October.
 30. Manager Cable gave an update on the stray animals. Manager Cable stated that he had reached out to Valley River Humane Society and asked three times for a contract and one has not been provided to date. The board had heavy discussion and all agreed that the county could not afford animal control. Manager Cable stated that all the surrounding counties were having the same problems that we are having. Commissioner Edwards stated that the Nation was having the same problems.

31. Manager Cable stated that he had received a request from Kay Fields and Tracy Jones to appoint Chairman Edwards to the CCPT Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Chairman Edwards to the CCPT Board. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Manager Cable asks for approval for Larry Hembree and Brian Johnson to attend the fall conference in Wilmington in October. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the travel. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Manager Cable asks for approval for Larry Hembree and other departmental staff members to attend the TVA / Oak Ridge Safety Training. The board wanted to know what staff. The staff would be Larry Hembree, the County PIO Officer, the Health Director and the Extension Office staff member. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow for the travel. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Manager Cable stated that there had been a request for county employees to have a Grounds Advisory Committee to help keep the buildings and grounds belonging to Graham County in good condition and to plan for the needs such as restoration, cleaning, pruning, weed-eating, mulching and painting. The names submitted are: Juanita Colvard; Tammy Holloway; Kim Crisp; Machelle Crisp; Patsy Monroe; Alicia Parham; Andy Cable; David Hyatt; Chuck Stewart and a Commissioner of the Board's choosing. Commissioner Orr made the motion to appoint Commissioner Williams and the names as submitted above to the Grounds Advisory Committee for the county. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Manager Cable stated that he need approval for training classes for Tajuana Ledwell and Kristi Odom to Chapel Hill and Asheville for their required hours. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the training. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Manager Cable stated that a complaint had been filed by an employee at DSS for black mold. Manager Cable stated that there were no signs of black mold but the ventilation system did need to be cleaned. Manager Cable stated that we have not received any proposals yet on the cost and asks to table this issue until the prices come in. The board agreed to table this issue.
37. Manager Cable asks the board's decision on the Recycling Scheduling Changer for the Recycling Attendants. Commissioner Eller stated that Donnie Orr, Sanitation Director needed to make the decision on the hours. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow Donnie Orr, Sanitation Director to choose the hours of operation and to change the schedule to Monday through Saturday. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. Manager Cable stated that there was a request from the sanitation board that the county allows residents to bring their large residential items to the transfer station at no charge due to the time and cost of the county personnel using to load and deliver these items to the station. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow the residents to take large household items to the transfer station at no charge for residential only and this doesn't include commercial dumping. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Examples of these items are: household furniture, appliances and mattresses. This will not include construction debris, shingles or yard waste.
39. Manager Cable stated that he had a request from the NC Department of Transportation for the county to seek input on the community's need of highways, pedestrian needs, bicycle and transit needs and submit a list to the NCDOT for prioritization. The board directed Clerk Crisp to run an ad in the paper asking for the residents input and combine the information for the boards review at the next meeting. Commissioner Williams stated that he as a commissioner had worked for years on the by-pass and with Tom Davis help the by-pass was put in and now they have ruined it with those crosswalks and flowers. Commissioner Williams stated that this would be his priority to get that fixed back to the way it was. Commissioner Williams also stated that there have been two wrecks already on because of these flowerbeds. The board all agreed that the county had several urgent road needs.
40. Manager Cable stated that Espiritus Production had requested that they be allowed to film our EMS Department but after speaking with Dr. Gabarino, Medical Review Officer and Larry Hembree, EMS Director and learning that they are not comfortable with this filming, he is asking the board to deny this request. Commissioner Edwards stated that if the MRO and EMS Director are not comfortable about this request then his answer would be to deny the request. Commissioner Eller made the motion to deny the request to allow Espiritus Production to film at the EMS Base. Commissioner Williams seconded this request. Vote unanimous.
41. Manager Cable stated that the tax assessor was reviewing the PUV's in the county and making sure that all land owners that are in the PUV were following their plans on timber harvest. Clerk Crisp handed out another audit for a land owner that Erma Phillips, Tax Assessor had just received. The board all agreed that these PUV's need to be audited and the land owners be held accountable if they are receiving a tax break and not following through with their plan of timber harvesting.
42. Manager Cable asks the board their decision on the fingerprint machine for the jail. The board all wanted Manager Cable to look into the possibility of a trade-in or see if the machine is worth fixing. The board agreed to have Manager Cable poll them with the options as needed. The board directed that IT Director, Taylor Carringer be in on the reviewing options.
43. Manager Cable asks the board their decision on the off-site backup for the finance office. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the \$975.00 yearly fee for off-site backup for the finance office. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. All in favor.
44. Clerk Crisp asks the board decision to allow the Jail Employees to go to the training conference on September 24th, 25th and 26th in Greensboro, NC. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow for the travel. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
45. Clerk Crisp stated that she had received a request from John Feil, Chamber of Commerce for a donation for their Winterfest. Clerk Crisp stated that the board gave \$500.00 last year. Commissioner Williams

made the motion to give \$500.00 to the Chamber of Commerce for Winterfest. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

46. Clerk Crisp stated that the air conditioning units had went out in the library computer room and the probation office at the courthouse. Clerk Crisp stated that she had received three proposals for the units. Manager Cable wanted to check into this issue before they approve the proposals. The board agreed to table this issue but allow a poll once Manager Cable checks into the repairs.
47. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board would now go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) (3) (6) for privileged or confidential information, attorney-client privilege, personnel and contracts. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
48. Commissioner Orr made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
49. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board discussed personnel and attorney-client information while in closed. No further business was discussed.
50. Commissioner Holder made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Robert M. (Mike) Edwards, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Billy Holder, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams. Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board