

Regular Meeting – November 18, 2013

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, November 18, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC. Commissioners present were: Robert M. Edwards, Billy Holder, Keith Eller and Raymond Williams. Commissioner Connie Orr was absent due to illness.

1. Commissioner Edwards called the meeting to order and stated that Commissioner Connie Orr was absent due to hip replacement surgery. Commissioner Edwards asks that everyone please remember Commissioner Orr during her recovery.
2. Commissioner Edwards asks Commissioner Williams to give the Invocation.
3. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Commissioner Edwards asks for approval of the Regular and Workshop Minutes for October 21st; the Special / Public Hearing Minutes for November 7th and the Amended Minutes for September 16th. Commissioner Holder made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Commissioner Edwards asks for the finance report. Ms. Rebecca Garland stated that the 2012/2013 audit has been submitted for review and the county has a one million dollar surplus which gives the county a 35% fund balance the first time ever to her knowledge. Ms. Garland stated that new rules now apply and a separate audit is now required for authority's such as Travel and Tourism and the Rural Development Authority. Ms. Garland stated that the Travel and Tourism Authority had their audit done but she was waiting on the RDA to get their audit done. Ms. Garland stated that she did not see anything on the draft that was negative and was very pleased with the audit. Commissioner Edwards asks if the county will get a nasty letter because of the RDA audit. Ms. Garland stated that the RDA has never had an audit before and they do need one but this doesn't negatively impact the counties audit. Ms. Garland stated that the tax collections was up which is very good and thanked the taxpayers and further stated that the new DMV system was bringing in more revenue for the county. Ms. Garland stated that our tax collections rate was at 97% and thanked the tax office for their hard work. Ms. Garland stated that the sales tax is lower than last year at this time and still contributes this to the bad weather and slow economy. Ms. Garland stated that the budget is looking good and most departments are within budget and the ones that are close have a good reason as to why they are not. The board thanked Ms. Garland for her hard work and for her tireless efforts in finishing the audit.
6. Commissioner Edward asks for public comment. Manager Cable presented the list to Commissioner Edwards and after reading all the names of everyone who had signed up all but one had left. Commissioner Edwards asks Lisa Russo to speak. Ms. Russo stated that in the workshop session the conversation came up about the cameras that were installed at the dumpster sites and she felt that this was a great idea to have these monitored not only to stop individuals from dumping stray animals but from littering and scavenging through the dumpster sites. Ms. Russo stated that the county needed to stress the importance of enforcement and hoped that Sheriff Mickey Anderson would assist in arresting these individuals who are breaking these laws that are already on our books. Ms. Russo stated that ordinances hurt honest people because they are the only ones who pay constantly and we don't want to pay any longer, we want to see the people who are breaking these laws pay for the crimes whatever they may be. Ms. Russo stated that certain people are doing the littering and the dumping and they should be the ones who should pay not the honest people.
7. Commissioner Edwards stated that the board would now go into the Discussion ad Action Items and asks Manager Cable to proceed.
8. Manager Cable gave the monthly status report for the CDBG 10-C-2231 and the CDBG 12-C-2417 and stated that all was on schedule and everything was running smoothly. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the monthly status report for the two CDBG grants as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Manager Cable asks for approved on the Releases and Discoveries. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Releases and Discoveries. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. Manager Cable stated that he had received a request that the commissioners write a letter of support asking Tri-County to teach a diesel mechanic's class. Commissioner Williams made the motion to write a letter in support of this class. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Manager Cable stated that the Clerk needed confirmation from the board that she submitted the Community Anti-Poverty Plan (grant application) to the Graham County Commission Board

for Four Square Community Incorporated. All board acknowledged receipt of this grant application.

12. Manager Cable stated that he would read the polls that were taken and asks the board to take a vote on all the polls at one time if that was pleasing to the board. Chairman Edwards asks Manager Cable to proceed. Manager Cable stated that the polls were as follows:
 - a. CDBG & USDA Project Awards: Allows Manager Cable to sign awards on project documents and award proposals for asbestos testing and lead paint testing to Alpha Environmental Services. Poll taken 11/08/13
 - b. Senior Center: County accepts the lighting the contractor installed and moves forward instead of delaying the project. Poll taken 11/05/13
 - c. Transit Paving: Permission to pave to 2nd entrance of Transit facility for \$9400.00 using operating reserve funds from the transit budget. Poll taken 10/30/13
 - d. Special Meeting called for tax appeal decision and closed session and to hold a public hearing on the 5310 Grant – Transit Department on November 7th at 5:00 p.m. Poll taken 10/28/13
 - e. Ribbon Cutting at Transit Facility to be held on November 19, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. due to rescheduling of state officials. Poll taken 10/28/13
 - f. Facility Funds: Request for camera's to be installed in lower courthouse and exterior with use of facility funds at request of Clerk of Court Tammy Holloway for \$6123.00. Poll taken 10/25/13

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the polls as stated. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

13. Manager Cable stated that the Senior Center facility is moving along nicely and suggests that the commissioners go by and visit the site. Manager Cable stated that the building should be completed by years' end and the senior citizens of our community will have an excellent facility to go to.
14. Manager Cable stated that he needed to get permission for Andy Cable to travel to Raleigh for the PARTIF Grant on November 21st and 22nd. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow the travel. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Manager Cable also requested travel for Andy Cable to attend a workshop with GREAT, US Forest Service and Travel and Tourism in Virginia which is designed to attract tourists to areas with federally owned lands. Manager Cable stated that the group is seeking scholarship funds to pay for the workshop but the county would pay for the room and board. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow Andy Cable to attend the workshop. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Manager Cable asks Clerk Crisp to explain the next item of discussion. Clerk Crisp stated that Employee Daniel Sriver was currently enrolled in IT Classes and was asking to Intern on his days off for free with IT Director Taylor Carringer. Clerk Crisp stated that she had spoken with Mr. Carringer and he said that he was fine with Ms. Sriver's internship and would look forward to working with him. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the internship and applauded Mr. Sriver's desire to further his career with further education and was grateful that we could help. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Manager Cable presented the board with a guideline of a plan of action for the board to review in the event of a federal shutdown in January of 2014. Manager Cable stated that he would need a timeline in the event that a shutdown would occur and the steps that the county commissioners would want to take. Manager Cable stated that there are vendors that would require notice if their contract would be ending due to the shutdown. Manager Cable stated that the board needed to be proactive as much as possible. Commissioner Edwards stated that the county needed to stay in close contact with the NCACC and we did need to stay proactive. Rebecca Garland stated that she had worked up a template from the first shutdown and she has kept the calculations from that time so we will be a little more prepared on the numbers but we will need to keep a close watch on what the government is doing.
18. Manager Cable stated that the tax appeal on Venice Lance had been withdrawn with the NC Property Tax Division at the Department of Revenue and would now come out from under the land management program.
19. Manager Cable stated that there will be a meeting with the US Forest Service on December 5th at the Community Building to have local input on the upcoming plan revisions to the US Forest Service Forestry Plan. Manager Cable stated that other parts of WNC have areas that reflect mineral deposits and this may be a good time to open the door for exploration of this area instead of having it closed off for another twenty years. Commissioner Williams stated that this meeting has been kept quiet and he knows that there are minerals in the Gold Mine area that stretch into Copper Hill Tennessee.
20. Commissioner Williams asks about the fingerprint machine in the jail. Manager Cable stated that the jail needed a new printer for the machine which was much cheaper than the original price.

Manager Cable stated that he has been working with the State Bureaus office on obtaining pricing for a new system but at this time a new machine is being rolled out in 2014 that will be able to network with the other states with a price of around \$15,000.00 which is cheaper than the used replacement parts of the old machine. Commissioner Williams asks that Manager Cable get with the Tribe when their new jail opens to see if we can contract with them for better pricing on the housing our overflow inmates.

21. Clerk Crisp stated that one of our jail vehicles had been wrecked and requested that Commissioner Eller take a look at it in the county parking lot to see the extent of the damage. One estimate had come back that the damage exceeded the worth of the vehicle. Commissioner Eller stated that he would get the vehicle and review the damages.
22. Commissioner Edwards asks for further business. No further business was discussed. Commissioner Edwards asks for a motion to 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.
23. Commissioner Holder made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Commissioner Eller made the motion to dismiss Tony Williams from employment with Graham County effective immediately. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agreement with the Town of Robbinsville on picking up the dried waste from the new Wastewater Treatment Facility as outlined in the agreement written by Attorney Donna Cody, signed by Commissioner Robert M. Edwards and attested by Clerk Kim Crisp. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Commissioner Williams made the motion to hire Gavin Colvard as a temporary maintenance director until advertisement and notice for the job could be given for a two week period and applications taken. The board wanted Mr. Colvard to be notified that this is a temporary position only and applications are being taken. Commissioner Eller seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Commissioner Williams made the motion to close the county offices on Monday, December 23rd and to allow county employees to use their annual leave or comp time if they choose or to take a day off without pay. Commissioner Williams stated that "only" essential offices will remain open. Commissioner Holder seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Graham County's normal holiday schedule will be Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th.
28. Commissioner Holder made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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

Billy Holder, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Keith Eller, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Raymond Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board