

Budget Meeting – May 19, 2014

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Monday, May 19, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their annual budget meeting. Commissioners present were: Billy Holder, Keith Eller, Connie Orr and Raymond Williams. Commissioner Robert M. Edwards was absent and excused by the board due to sickness.

1. Commissioner Holder asks for a motion to call the meeting to order. Commissioner Eller made the motion to open the budget meeting. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

2. Commissioner Holder asks Rebecca Garland, Finance Officer to proceed. Ms. Garland presented the board with workbooks containing her projections for the upcoming budget. Ms. Garland explained the workbook and her projections and Ms. Garland gave a synopsis of budgetary issues. Ms. Garland stated that the projected tax revenue for 2014 increased by \$112,000.00.

3. Ms. Garland stated that the projected revenues for DSS and DHHS are expected to decline approximately \$75,000.00 from prior years due to sequestration.

4. Ms. Garland stated that the EMS Revenue has declined this fiscal year due to the decline of the call volume and the state budget cuts in Medicaid. Ms. Garland stated that the county no longer receives Medicaid reimbursement for Medicare/Medicaid cross over claims and this amount is not collectable from the patient.

5. Ms. Garland stated that the projected EMS Revenue from the EMS Medicaid cost settlement has been stopped under the new NC Medicaid guidelines and our EMS Services for fiscal year 2014-2015 are not projected to receive any additional reimbursements. Ms. Garland stated that this revenue will be applied toward State Medicaid shortfalls according to a NCDHHS update provided to health directors and this was averaged approximately \$75,000.00 per year for the past four years.

6. Ms. Garland stated that the total revenue projections for 2014-2015 are about \$42,585 less than last year's projected revenues.

7. Ms. Garland stated that the total projected expenditures are higher than 2013-2014 levels by \$246,820.00 combined with the \$42,500.00 loss in revenues for a combination of a \$289,405.00 shortfall.

8. Ms. Garland stated that the reasons for the increase in expenditures include:

IX. The increase in the health insurance expenditures from last year's budget levels of approximately \$50,000.00.

X. An increase in estimated worker's comp and general liability insurance of approximately \$25,000.00.

XI. The growth in the jail budget of about \$117,000.00 based on current year census and expenditures levels.

XII. An increase in the Sheriff's budget request for Meth Lab Supplies at approximately \$25,000.00.

XIII. An increase in the Finance Budget to support hiring additional personnel including benefit costs at approximately \$35,500.00 and other increases in department budgets that are supported by associated revenues.

XIV. A request of additional part time staff for grounds at approximately \$7,500.00.

15. Ms. Garland asks the board to look closely at the following departments:

XVI. Communications staffing for 911 mapping personnel

XVII. EMS and Emergency Management

XVIII. Health Department Director's salary adjustment

XIX. Health Department and DSS requests for new vehicles

XX. Computer and IT – VDI vs. purchases of additional CPU's (need to add \$20,000.00 for replacement of 10-25 CPU's this coming year)

XXI. Sheriff and Jail Budgets – growth in both areas

XXII. Soil and Water Conservation – Out of money by the end of May

XXIII. Special Appropriations of Library and Schools

24. Ms. Garland stated that the board can consider using fund balance to help cover the shortfall now that the

county is maintaining the required balance. Ms. Garland stated that the fund balance projection is 29% and the county needed to use this first before considering raising the mil rate. Ms. Garland stated that this is the first time in five (5) years that the benchmark has been met and/or exceeded and she was very pleased.

25. Ms. Garland asks that the board study the workbooks and give her guidance on how to proceed. The board discussed the overall budget and wanted the salaries looked at more closely. The board discussed the possible minimum wage increase which will affect next year's budget. The board discussed the possible closing of Stanley and the impacts this will have on our county.

26. The board discussed the possibility of ordering a new ambulance or waiting one year.

27. Commissioner Orr stated that the board needed to discuss Andy Cable's, EDC Directors salary and asks that the board consider an increase in his pay. Commissioner Orr stated that Andy Cable's work has been vital for the county and he has assisted in helping small businesses get started which is more income for our county. The board discussed the need to raise other employee's pay as well as including the vehicle maintenance pay rate. Manager Cable stated that the board could consider a small COLA increase for all employees. Commissioner Orr made the motion to raise Andy Cable's pay rate to \$18.00 per hour. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

28. Commissioner Orr requested a copy of all employees salaries with their benefits added so that the board would have a true picture of the exact cost for each employee. Commissioner Orr stated that an hourly wage did not give the correct pay out that is given to each employee. The board all agreed that they would like to see a copy of the exact amount paid to county employees.

29. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. 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

