

GRAHAM COUNTY TRAVEL & TOURISM BOARD AND PUBLIC HEARING

2020/2021 BUDGET MEETING

JUNE 18, 2020 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Held at the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street, Robbinsville

Attending: Chairman Dale Wiggins, Vice-Chairman Robin Turner, Jessica Wehr, Billy Brown, Rick Davis, Mary Griffin

Absent: Meredith Jenkins

- 1) Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- 2) Jessica Wehr made a motion to go out of Board meeting and go into Public Hearing for Budget Review. Billy Brown second the motion. Vote Unanimous
- 3) Becky Garland, financial officer was not present. Chairman Wiggins asked if there were any comments on the Budget.

Chairman Wiggins began the discussion by urging the Board to be conservative. He explained that he is concerned about the 2020/2021 budget as well as future year's budgets because of the uncertainty of the revenue that may or may not come in. He said that the Board should take each request for funding and look at it individually to decide if their request was tourism oriented and then fund accordingly. Every recipient should be held accountable for what they are spending money on. They should be able to provide a financial statement and a report showing how the funds were spent.

Chairman Wiggins noted that there were no members of the public present. He then asked the Board members if they had any comments.

Rick Davis began a discussion about the unspent funds left in the 2019/2020 budget, by asking what the approximate total amount of these funds is. Chairman Wiggins identified the remaining monies that might not be available for expenditure. Mr. Davis stated that he had looked at the 2019/2020 budget and noted all the accounts which had money remaining. He then presented the Board with a worksheet showing that in his estimation, the unexpended and uncommitted funds totaled approximately \$84,000. Mr. Davis went on to say that he felt the Board should use approximately \$45,000 of this money to fund all the requests previously made by outside groups for the 2020/2021 budget.

Robin Turner said "I'm not real in support of it." He continued saying that the Board does not know what is going to happen this year, and with some of these proposals we don't know where the money is going. He explained that the Board has had a problem getting financial statements from some of the people it had funded in the past. Also, with some of their proposals like Stecoah, we don't get a full accounting of how all their money is spent and where all their revenue comes from. Rick Davis offered that the Executive Director, Beth Fields is the person to ask about any questions concerning Stecoah Valley Center's finances. Mr. Turner

concluded by stating that there is too much uncertainty about what is going to happen with some of these organizations.

Chairman Wiggins suggested that "As we move forward" the Board meet with each organization requesting funding and review their proposal with them. He explained that the Board is trying to do this budget cycle differently and that due to uncertain circumstances that he would like for the Board to sit down with each person making a request for funding and talk to them about what they are using the money for and what the Board would expect of them if they are funded. Then Robin Turner suggested that also, going forward the Board establish the total amount of money available to fund requests each year.

4) There were no Public Comments

5) Chairman Wiggins asked for a motion to close Public Hearing and go into Board meeting. Billy Brown made the motion to do so. Jessica Wehr second the motion. Vote Unanimous

6) Chairman Wiggins called for adoption of the 2020/2021 Budget for Graham County Travel & Tourism as presented. Billy Brown made a motion to adopt the 2020/2021 budget as is. Robin Turner second the motion. Vote Unanimous Each Board Member present signed Budget

Chairman Wiggins said that the audit contract with Turner and Hatchett for \$4200 would need to be approved. Billy Brown made a motion to approve the audit contract. Robin Turner second the motion. Vote Unanimous

The July meeting will need to be canceled because the Board will not be able to have a quorum during the month. The next meeting will be August 6, 2020.

Chairman Wiggins asked for a motion to adjourn. Billy Brown made a motion to adjourn. Robin Turner second. Vote Unanimous

