

## **Graham County Travel & Tourism Regular Board Meeting**

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

**October 1, 2020**

**5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

All Board members were present. Dale Wiggins: Chairman, Robin Turner: vice-chairman, Billy Brown, Rick Davis, Valerie Frapp, Meredith Jenkins, Mary Griffin

Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Wiggins welcomed Valerie Frapp to the Board.

Chairman Wiggins asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes on June 4, 2020 and the Budget meeting minutes on June 18, 2020. A motion to approve both meeting minutes was given by Billy Brown and second by Robin Turner. Vote Unanimous

Chairman Wiggins asked Robin Turner to discuss the soon to expire lease contract on the building. Mr. Turner stated that he and Billy Brown had met with the property owner and had come to an agreement. After Mr. Turner went over the details of the lease, Billy Brown made a motion to accept the lease contract on the Building. Robin Turner second the motion. Vote Unanimous

### **Financial Officer:**

Becky Garland was not present. The financial and budget report was handed out by Daniel Allison, Director. Total Cash Available for Expenditures is \$412,045.48 with \$77,320.13 in Capital Reserve and 84% remaining in budget.

### **Chairman's Remarks:**

Chairman Wiggins said that things are busy in Graham County. There is a lot going on and there are a lot of visitors in town and people are staying in Graham County. He is glad to see that things are picking up. Chairman Wiggins also said that he and Daniel had been filmed for a video to promote Graham County as a safe place to visit and participate in activities in which you can safely social distance. This promotion will be a social media promotion and it will include using our new U Tube site.

**Director's Report:** Daniel Allison, see attached sheet

Mr. Allison stated that for the second year we are partnering with Monroe County in a Fall social media campaign to promote leaf looking on the Cherohala Skyway. He continued by saying "We have gotten off to a good start. The campaign just began today and we have given out six tokens already."

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments

**New Business:**

Chairman Wiggins said that he had discussed a cigar box guitar workshop with Rusty Taylor before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. He explained that Mr. Taylor is from Atlanta and he is a cigar box guitar builder and festival promoter. Chairman Wiggins stated that Mr. Taylor had been excited about the idea of doing a workshop in Graham County. Chairman Wiggins will talk to him again about the idea for maybe coming to Graham County in December or January.

Mary Griffin had asked the Board for \$2200 in March to fund hiring a Project Manager for the Graham County Farmer's Market. For a period 22 weeks, this manager would work with Graham County Organizations to teach classes such as canning, cooking with available local produce, and other activities for our community members and visitors, and would handle advertising for the Graham County Farmer's Market. The Board voted to give \$1100 out of the 2019/2020 budget and \$1100 out of the 2020/2021 budget.

In August, Ms. Griffin emailed a request asking the Board to amend her previous request and pay someone to schedule musicians that are playing at the Farmer's Market each week. Since there was no meeting in August due to the spread of COVID-19, this has not been brought to the Board.

Ms. Griffin asked the Board to once again amend her request and allow for Roy Smith to be paid for scheduling the musicians, \$20.00 per Saturday, and to allow for some of this money to be shared with the musicians.

Chairman Wiggins stated that Ms. Griffin would need to continue to advertise the days and times that the Farmer's Market is open in order to attract visitors. Ms. Griffin said that it was already on the Travel & Tourism Facebook page.

After a brief discussion by several board members, Chairman Wiggins suggested that the Board give \$240.00 now and if the Farmer's Market stays open for an additional 2 weeks, the Board would give \$100.00 at that time. Rick Davis made a motion to do so. Meredith Jenkins second the motion. Vote Unanimous. Chairman Wiggins explained to Ms. Griffin that she will also need to prepare an invoice and forward it to Director Allison in order for a check to be cut.

**Old Business: None**

Billy Brown made a motion to change the meeting time to 4:00 P.M. Valerie Frapp second the motion. Vote Unanimous. The meetings will remain on the first Thursday of each month. This will be posted in the Graham Star.

Billy Brown made a motion to Adjourn. Robin Turner second. Vote Unanimous

**Next meeting: November 5, 2020**

