

Grayson County Board of Supervisors
Budget Work Session
May 18, 2020

Members attending by conference call were: Brenda R. Sutherland, Kenneth R. Belton, John S. Fant, Michael S. Hash and Thomas R. Revels.

Staff attending in person: William L. Shepley, Mitchell L. Smith and Leesa A. Gayheart

IN RE: OPENING BUSINESS

Supervisor Revels mad the motion to approve; duly seconded by Supervisor Hash. Motion carried 5-0.

IN RE: CARES ACT

Mr. Shepley the following update:

- Thanked the Board of Supervisors for their support over this period
- We currently have 22 cases in Grayson County
- Federal level response has been to pass the CARES Act which provides money directly to the Counties in recouping expenses related to COVID-19. Grayson County has been allotted approximately \$1.4M based on its population but it's restricted to COVID-19 expenses only. We must educate ourselves on how we can get the money for eligible expenses. We do know that under the CARES Act, we are not eligible for any money regarding loss of revenues due to COVID-19
- Counties are forming teams and sharing information to smaller Counties
- We have a venue to ask to ask questions with Virginia Tech
- There is some money available for payroll to small businesses and we will be passing the details on to Chris Butler who is working closely with our small businesses
- A separate bill, HEROS Act, has passed the House but must go through the Senate

Supervisor Fant inquired about the hiring of a grant's person and Mr. Shepley responded that there are small grants that could still be pursued, and the need is urgent for our small businesses for five (5) to ten (10) hours per week. Supervisor Fant asked if the grant's person could handle the CARES Act as well? Mr. Shepley stated that we don't

have time to waste in bringing someone in who will be our leader on the CARES Act ins and outs, so we've asked Leesa Gayheart to be the leader and to let him know if she's going to need some additional assistance with her regular duties in order to still continue to focus on the information we need in order to access the money from the CARES Act and still be able to do her regular job. Mr. Shepley noted that he still feels there's a need for a part-time grants person to help with the CARES Act but to also to seek out others grants that would help our small businesses. Supervisor Revels stated that he's read the CARES Act and has looked at the requirements for funding at the County level and it appears it's kind of skewed towards the larger Counties where they've had the largest number of cases and he's just not sure how much Grayson County will actually receive. Mr. Revels also stated there are a lot of grant opportunities and feels we need to focus on acquiring a strong grant writer to help us access those funds. Mrs. Gayheart stated that the Chairman's signature will be needed on the document in order to acquire those funds and the document must be turned in by May 22, 2020 with funds being sent on June 1, 2020.

IN RE: OLD BUSINESS

- GRANTS CONSULTANT DISCUSSION

Supervisor Belton noted that the Board of Supervisors had voted a year ago to hire a part-time grant person. Supervisor Fant inquired about the fee for the grant person and also if the contract being good after the emergency is over, will that terminate the contract with the consultant, or will it terminate when the contract expires? Mr. Shepley noted that staff will consult with legal but thinks it is when the contract expires. Mr. Shepley stated the rate is \$60 per hour which is substantially lower than what some of the others charge. After doing some research the average is approximately \$100 per hour and the consultant, we are looking at is local and would be able to travel here in person when needed and has successfully written 55 grants in their career. Supervisor Revels noted that he's not sure we can do this in government but in the private sector, often there was a lower hourly fee with a success bonus built in – for example, the consultant was paid \$40 per hour but for every grant awarded there was an administrative override built in to it – has that been discussed or is it even possible in a government role? Mrs. Gayheart noted that has been discussed and staff will discuss with legal so that we do not cross any ethical lines. Mr. Shepley then read the Resolution (listed below). Supervisor Revels made the motion to approve; duly seconded by Supervisor Fant. Roll call vote as follows: Supervisor Revels – aye; Supervisor Fant – aye; Supervisor Hash – aye; Supervisor Sutherland – aye; Supervisor Belton – aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**RESOLUTION
FOR AN EMERGENCY
PROCUREMENT UNDER
VIRGINIA CODE SECTION
2.2-4303(F)**

WHEREAS, the Board is mindful of the impact that the COVID-19 emergency has made on the County, in terms of public health, disruption of the local economy and burdens on local services and schools, among other significant impacts to the community, and finds that due to these many impacts it is necessary to procure the services of a grants writer to obtain available grant funding to enable the County to obtain available grant relief and other funds available from Federal, State and private sources; and

WHEREAS, the Board is aware of the availability of a consultant as a qualified and reputable vendor for these services, and finds that due to the exigent nature of the grants process and the need to timely respond to COVID-19 and obtain available funding that the services should be procured on an emergency basis; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is not practicable to engage in the formal procurement process due to the exigent nature of the COVID-19 crisis; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grayson County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the proposed contract with the consultant and authorizes the Chair or alternatively the County Administrator to execute the contract on the County's behalf; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the County staff to place a written finding to this effect in the contract file, and to publish notice of this emergency procurement on the County's website, in conformity with Va. Code Section 2.2-4303(F).

Adopted this 18th day of May 2020 in the County of Grayson, Virginia.

By: _____

Kenneth R. Belton, Chair
Grayson County Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____

William L. Shepley, Clerk
Grayson County Board of Supervisors

- **ORDINANCE – INSTITUTING EMERGENCY PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

Supervisor Belton explained this Ordinance was voted on and approved at the regular Meeting held on May 14, 2020 with Supervisor Fant making the motion to approve and Seconded by Supervisor Hash. Since it is an Ordinance, roll call vote is necessary. Roll Call vote as follows: Supervisor Fant – aye; Supervisor Revels – aye; Supervisor Hash – aye; Supervisor Sutherland – aye; Supervisor Belton – aye. Motion carried 5-0.

IN RE: BUDGET WORK SESSION

- Grayson Glow Request (listed below)

Supervisor Belton explained the Town of Independence paid \$10,000 and they are asking Grayson County for \$5,000. Supervisor Fant spoke of the challenges of fund raising and mentioned bumping it up to \$7,500. Supervisor Revels spoke on all departments having to give up money and he's not in favor of giving more than they've actually asked for. Supervisor Fant stated he is ok with the request; it was just a thought on increasing it. Supervisor Revels asked if others have asked for more money and Mr. Shepley explained we have received a request of \$500 from Fries and that is the only request we have received.

MAKING GRAYSON GLOW

P.O. Box 99

Independence, VA 24348

May 4, 2020

To: The Grayson County Board of Supervisors

These are definitely trying times in our country due to the Covid-19 virus, the likes of which we have never seen.

We have had very positive feedback about our Christmas lights and are in the process of beginning our fundraising projects to enhance our town and county even more; however, due to the social distancing, we are unsure of what events we can coordinate and carry out if things don't change in the near future.

The MOSCA Company offered a 33.3% discount on commercial lighting, but only through February 29, 2020. When we consider that one snowflake (pole and light) costs anywhere between Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$850.00) to Twelve Hundred Dollars (\$1200.00), the discount saved us Eleven Thousand Six Hundred Forty Dollars (\$11,640.00) on our recent order. However, we now have an outstanding debt of Twenty Four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000.00).

Therefore, we are once again requesting that the county donate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). We sincerely appreciate your consideration.

Thank you!

**Jeff Miller, Chairman
Phyllis Price, Co-Chairman
Making Grayson Glow**

Dates to Remember:

6/13/20 - BINGLOW - Independence V.F.W.

7/4/20 - 4th of July food booth

7/24 & 7/25/20 - 21 Road Market @ 1908

10/17/20 - BINGLOW - Independence V.F.W.

10/31/20 - Town Halloween Event

11/28/20 - Tree Lighting - Town Park at 6:00 pm

**12/5/20 - Independence Christmas Parade @ 3:00 p.m.
1908 Open House**

THEME: LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

- HANDS OF GRACE REQUEST (listed below)

Supervisor Hash explained they have been in existence for twelve (12) years and have never had to ask for help but with the virus and people out of work, they have seen a big increase in needs. Supervisor Revels stated he feels this is a great effort to endorse. Mr. Shepley noted the request is for \$12,000. Mrs. Gayheart also noted this might possibly be reimbursable under the CARES Act and will double check to be sure and asked Supervisor Hash to collect documentation to prove the increase. Mr. Hash stated they do track the numbers and an increase is substantial since March when COVID-19 began. Supervisor Fant stated that under local support there is \$25,000 going to Feeding America; would it be possible to have that money applied to a group within Feeding America? Mr. Smith stated he had spoken with Feeding America President and they would be willing to serve another area of the County especially with the success in Providence and Whitetop as well. Supervisor Revels stated at the last distribution in Whitetop they served over 200 families. Supervisor Hash stated the Hands of Grace pickup their food through Feeding America. Supervisor Fant asked if there are any other nonprofit groups doing the same thing in Providence and Whitetop and Mr. Smith stated he is not aware of any group(s) doing this. Supervisor Fant proposed to approve \$12,500 for this request. Supervisor Revels stated he would support that. Supervisor Revels complimented Supervisor Hash for what he is helping to do for the community.

May 5, 2020

Grayson County Board of Supervisors
Independence, VA 24348

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Hands of Grace Food Bank, The Way Camp and Feeding the Children. We are a 501C3 non-profit organization based out of Elk Creek, Virginia. The Hands of Grace Food Bank started in 2008 in the small basement of Springfield Church. In the first month, we only served 11 families. As our food bank outreach grew, we were able to move into the old Grayson Garment building in Independence, courtesy of Mr. Ted Bartlett. At that time, we were providing food for approximately 300 families. When the retired Elk Creek Elementary School became available through the Elk Creek Valley Fire Department, we were able to acquire the use of that building and further expand our outreach. Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Hands of Grace Food Bank served approximately 600 families per month. However, in March and April of 2020 our number of families have increased by thirty-three percent! If the pandemic continues, our expectation is for those numbers to rise exponentially, especially with increased unemployment. Families are reaching out for assistance now more than ever before.

The Way Camp began in 2010 by providing a free three-day summer camp for children in Grayson County. Our first year we had 27 children at camp, and it has continued to steadily increase to 182 children in 2019. The children stay three days and three nights. They are served three hot meals per day with snacks in between and can participate in a variety of activities.

On May 5, 2020, a new program started in coalition with Feeding America called Feeding the Children. Through this program, we provide seven days of food once per week to any child in need in Grayson County. On our first giveaway, 120 children were provided meals. This outreach will continue weekly until school begins, however long that may be. It will resume next summer and continue annually. The cost of this is approximately \$1000 weekly.

Our services are community-based meaning all our workers are volunteers. All the programs operate solely by donations, every dollar that is received is devoted to the outreach. We have no paid employees. We serve those in need in our community and do not discriminate based on age, religion, race, gender, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.

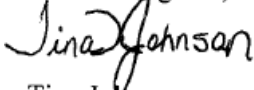
Our expenses include:

- Food acquisition, which is between \$800 and \$1200 per month
- Electric service, which is between \$300 and \$500 per month
- Insurance on the building, which is \$2400 yearly
- The Way Camp expenses, which is \$15,000 yearly
- Feeding the Children expenses,

On average our yearly expenses range from \$16,000 to \$23,000, not including The Way Camp and Feeding the Children expenditures. Currently our largest re-occurring contribution is \$275 monthly, all other monies are received through single family donations and community fundraising events. The increased demand is financially straining on our already limited resources.

We feel it is our responsibility to serve our community to the best of our ability. With the recent increase in need, we are concerned our financial resources will be exhausted. We respectfully request any financial assistance that may be available through federal, state or county resources. Anything the county can do to help us serve our communities will be greatly appreciated. Together we can make a difference.

Kindest Regards,



Tina Johnson
Hands of Grace

IN RE: BUDGET WORK SESSION

Supervisor Belton asked for any comments regarding the budget:

- Supervisor Fant stated he's comfortable overall with the budget and commended staff on all their hard work.
 - Noticed under the PSA budget there's a reduction of \$15,000 delay specific to the Fisher Gap Project. Mrs. Gayheart noted a construction project was slated for a water line – that grant was withdrawn by the grantor (Mt. Rogers PDC) due to other Counties having expenditures and are now ready for reimbursement – the Federal government has not paid

some of that money out so they are having to take their money and pay the Counties that already have expenditures. Since we have no expenditures to date, the money was pulled.

- Do we have any idea on the operational short fall of funds due to lack of fundraising for Fire and Rescue? Mrs. Gayheart noted that is not included as part of the budget – specifically the volunteer agencies will have a shortfall, but at this time we don't know exactly what that amount will be and they could possibly qualify for CARES Act funding. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Hoyle is working with each volunteer agency to access each situation. Mr. Shepley stated the more likely response for our volunteer agencies could come from the HEROS Act if it passes. Supervisor Revels asked if the County could allocate money to each agency based on what they spent for COVID-19, couldn't that be turned in to the CARES Act funding and then the County be reimbursed? Mr. Shepley responded that all money for the CARES Act must go through County Administration and the Board of Supervisors so no agency could apply for reimbursement of funds themselves. Supervisor Fant asked that staff look at shortfalls and provide in contingency.
- Supervisor Fant requested to see the budget as it will be advertised before it is submitted to the paper for advertisement.
- Supervisor Fant inquired about progress on the refinancing debt discussion yet and Mr. Shepley responded that staff has not pursued anything yet, but Mrs. Gayheart is in the process of compiling a list of sources we can reach out to for guidance.
- Supervisor Fant inquired about the priorities in the past and having a narrative and feels it would be helpful to have that again – requested staff develop a similar narrative with priorities on what this budget is doing and more importantly what this budget is not doing but be clear in the difference of budget cuts and appropriation cuts.
- Supervisor Revels inquired about progress with the school system on advancing the idea of strategic planning. Mr. Shepley stated he has a written guarantee that they will work with us on that, but nothing has been done on that at this moment. Supervisor Revels feels that the two (2) boards should be involved in this effort together. Supervisor Belton agreed and stated a face-to-face meeting would be good.
- After no further discussion on the budget, Supervisor Revels made the motion to advertise the budget for the public hearing; duly seconded by Supervisor Sutherland. Motion carried 5-0.

IN RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Fant made the motion to go into closed session pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(5) of the Code of Virginia for discussions relating to prospective business

or industry or the expansion of an existing business or; duly seconded by Supervisor Revels. Motion carried 5-0.

Supervisor Fant made the motion to come out of executive session; duly seconded by Supervisor Revels. Motion carried 5-0.

Whereas, the Grayson County Board of Supervisors has convened a closed session on this 18th day of May 2020, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, §2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board of Supervisors that such closed session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (I) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed session to which this certification resolution applies, and (II) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board of Supervisors with recorded confirmation from members as follows: Michael S. Hash – I so certify; Thomas R. Revels – I so certify; Kenneth R. Belton – I so certify; John S. Fant – I so certify; Brenda R. Sutherland – I so certify.

IN RE: ADJOURN

Supervisor Sutherland made the motion to adjourn the meeting; duly seconded by Supervisor Revels. Motion carried 5-0.

Kenneth R. Belton, Chair