

Regular Meeting – April 15, 2025

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular monthly meeting. All board members were present. Also present, Interim County Manager/Clerk Kim Crisp, Finance Director Stacy Carpenter and Project Manager Jason Marino.

1. Vice-Chairman Cody called the meeting to order.
2. Vice-Chairman Cody gave the Invocation.
3. Vice-Chairman Cody asks Commissioner Williams to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for a motion to approve the agenda. Clerk Crisp asks that we delete Item #6, Ms. Carpenter was unable to attend. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated change. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for approval of the minutes for February 3rd Special Meeting and February 26th and 27th Budget Meetings. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Vice-Chairman Cody asks Gavin Colvard, Sanitation Director to speak. Director Colvard gave an update on the fencing for the Snowbird site and stated that it will be a 16-week wait for the installation. Director Colvard asks permission to use the small building located beside our Vehicle Maintenance Shop for our personnel that will be at the Snowbird Site. The board all agreed to the request.
7. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for the project manager's update. PM Marino gave a report regarding the projects that are ongoing at this time. PM Marino stated that our Justice Center is still awaiting a site location decision. PM Marino stated that he is working with finance to have a budget for the Jail repairs.
8. PM Marino stated that our EMS Asphalt Paving design is 95% complete and we continue to look for grant funding to finish this project.
9. PM Marino stated that our Dogwood Trust Homes have their storage containers delivered, and the owners are packing up at this time. PM Marino stated that the home site located at 243 Orr Branch has started demolition of the existing structures. PM Marino stated that the home site located at 66 Atoah Road has storage containers delivered in April and demolition will follow.
10. PM Marino stated that the Moose Branch Azalea Hills project is moving forward, and they met with the school to discuss the administration details and hopes this project will begin in spring.
11. PM Marino stated that the Cemetery Commission has a project for a new set of steel reinforced concrete steps to be installed at the Santeetlah Cemetery and the project was awarded to Clay's Concrete. PM Marino stated that this project will be completed in May.
12. PM Marino stated that our sanitation project is a priority if funding is available, and he did request funding from legislature and Southwestern Commission to replace the structure that is deemed unsafe and to provide much needed improvements to the entire facility as depicted in the Sanitation Master Plan.
13. PM Marino asks that the board waive the permit and sanitation fees for the two homes that are being built. Commissioner Williams made the motion to waive the fees as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for the finance reporting. Director Carpenter stated that she has an amendment for the board's approval: Budget Amendment #11 the Health Department needed intra/inter-departmental transfers in the amount of \$197,000.00 to reclass funds to other supplies and to cover salaries for the remainder of the fiscal year and Agriculture Extension needed funds in the amount of \$6,024.00 to complete the fiscal year in their retirement line due to underbudgeting in the past. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approved Budget Amendment #11. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Director Carpenter stated that all required board training was completed, and she submitted the budget to actual reports on April 14th to the Local Government Commission (LGC) and will need a motion to approve the draft budget. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the Fiscal Year Draft Budget 2025/2026 as presented. Commissioner Nelms seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Director Carpenter gave an audit update. Director Carpenter stated that the auditors were here on-site last week completing final work and the anticipated filing with LGC is April 30th. Director Carpenter stated that the auditor will present the audit to the board at their May Commissioner

Meeting, and they are beginning work on the FY 2023-2024 Audit once the FY 2022-2023 is closed.

17. Director Carpenter stated that the revenues for the month of March were \$1,118,440.07 and our year to date \$17,355,667.98. Director Carpenter stated that our expenditure for March was \$1,761,909.66 and our year to date \$16,526,027.85.
18. Director Carpenter stated that our property tax collection for March is \$157,285.75; prior years is \$9,911.29 for a total year to date is \$8,784,951.19 and the balance to be collected is \$477,004.33. Director Carpenter stated that our tax collection rate is 94.85%.
19. Director Carpenter stated that our sales tax collection for February is \$234,687.70 with our year to date \$2,405,648.19 and the sales tax set aside for the schools is \$47,394.34 with a year to date of \$501,709.49.
20. Director Carpenter stated that she did have seven draw requests for the school in the amount of \$43,418.02 that the board must approve. The expenditures are:
 - a. Lovin Equipment and Sales (mower) \$16,834.27
 - b. 1st Choice Automotive Corp (maintenance truck) \$14,800.00
 - c. Smart Pass (bathroom hall pass system) \$1,063.10
 - d. Greenhouse Megastore (portion of fan replacement) \$6,156.31
 - e. Lowe's (gazebo repairs) \$2,835.26
 - f. Cox & Son Roofing (RES & Central office leaks) \$989.75
 - g. Lowe's (split rail fence RHS) \$739.33

Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

21. Director Carpenter stated that the available balance for the school's sales tax is \$233,952.70.
22. Director Carpenter stated that our ¼ cent set aside collection was \$17,931.36 with a total to date of \$1,623,452.84.
23. Director Carpenter stated that our vehicle tax collections for March are \$70,777.76 and our year-to-date collection is \$524,170.34.
24. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for public comment. No public comment.
25. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for discussion items. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for approval of the Releases \$156.53 and the Discoveries \$5853.47. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Vice-Chairman Cody asks about the HVAC for the Election Board. Interim Manager Crisp stated that HVAC has never worked properly since installation and wanted this noted for public record.
27. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for discussion and or approval of the contracts regarding revaluation.
 - a. Sansoucy Associates (dams)
 - b. C.B. Ferris, Inc. (2027 desktop revaluation excluding dams)

Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Sansoucy. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve C.B. Ferris, Inc. for the 2027 Revaluation with the exclusion of the dams. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

28. Vice-Chairman Cody stated that the county non-essential offices will be closed April 18th for Good Friday.
29. Vice-Chairman Cody stated that the board would now open the bids for the surplus vehicles.
 - a. 2016 Ford Interceptor
 - i. Waylon Jordan \$1200.00
 - ii. Evelyn Jordan \$800.00

Commissioner Williams made the motion to award the 2016 Ford Interceptor to Waylon Jordan. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

- b. 1995 Ford F-350
 - i. Robert Garland \$589.99
 - ii. Justin Holley \$752.00
 - iii. Blake Cable \$1300.00
- Commissioner Orr made the motion to award the 1995 Ford F350 to Blake Cable. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Vice-Chairman Cody stated that no one turned in a bid for the 2008 Ford Truck and asks the board if they wish to lower the minimum bid. Commissioner Orr made the motion to lower the price to a minimum of \$1000.00. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
 31. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for a motion to approve the poll for Radios and Computers that were discussed in the budget meeting for \$40,597.17. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the poll. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

32. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for a motion to write off three bills for sanitation in the amount of \$89.60 due to the wrong address being given and the amounts being below \$50.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the request. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Vice-Chairman Cody asks which board member would be willing to attend the Brookfield Recreation Plan meetings. Commissioner Smith and Incoming County Manager along with T&T Director Daniel Allison will attend the meetings.
34. Vice-Chairman Cody asks when the board would like to hold the public hearing for the FY 2025-2026 Budget. Commissioner Orr made the motion to present the budget by May 6th and held the public hearing on May 20th. Commissioner Nelms seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Orr made the motion as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for a motion to reopen the meeting. Commissioner Williams made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion.
37. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Meggan Smith, Chair, Graham County Commissioner

Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Natasha Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board