

## Regular Meeting – July 15, 2025

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. for the regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. Board present: Lynn Cody, Connie Orr and Natasha Williams. Board absent Meggan Smith and Jacob Nelms. Also present: Manager Brady Cody, Project Manager Jason Marino, Finance Director Stacy Carpenter and Attorney JK Coward. Present by phone Clerk Kim Crisp.

1. Vice-Chair Cody called the meeting to order.
2. Vice-Chair Cody gave the Invocation.
3. Vice-Chair Cody asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Vice-Chair Cody asks for approval or changes to the agenda. Manager Cody asks to add under Item 6 – Josh Carpenter, Mountain West Partnership and under the Manager Reporting Item 8L – Elderly Exemption. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion.
5. Vice-Chair Cody asks for approval of the minutes for: Workshop & Regular June 17<sup>th</sup>; Continued June 3<sup>rd</sup>; June 9<sup>th</sup>; June 17<sup>th</sup>; June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Special Joint Meeting June 23<sup>rd</sup> and Special Meeting July 8, 2025. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Vice-Chair Cody asks Josh Carpenter with Mountain West Partnership to speak on the EDC Grants. Mr. Carpenter stated that the county has had several small businesses apply for the EDC Grant for the third round and four grants were approved by the EDC Board. Mr. Carpenter stated that with the four grants it will create (11) new jobs with a \$85,000.00 investment. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the recommendation from the EDC Board and award the four grants. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Orr thanked Josh Carpenter for vetting these companies and for his work in Graham County.
7. Vice-Chair Cody asks Jason Marino for the project manager's reporting. PM Marino presented slides for the commissioner to view the progress on CDBG Homes, and everything was moving along with good progress.
8. PM Marino stated that he is continuing on the Jail Project, and he will continue to solicit and receive quotes over the next couple of weeks for the remediation of asbestos and lead-based paint containing materials.
9. PM Marino stated that he is requesting that the board allow him to use the grant funding previously vetted to the EMS Paving Project to buy a building for Sanitation to replace the existing old, damaged structure and provide much needed improvements to the entire facility. PM Marino stated that he has been speaking with Southwestern Commission on potentially moving the \$100k with board approval. PM Marino stated that they received a quote for \$96K and this could be purchased with grant funding without the slab, electrical and drainage which can be done in phases. PM Marino stated that he had spoken with Manager Cody, and they agreed that the safety of the employees is the greatest concern, and this needed to be done. Commissioner Orr made the motion to use the grant funding as stated for a new sanitation building. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. PM Marino stated that he is continuing conversation with the school on the Moose Branch Azalea Hills Project. PM Marino stated that an updated MOA between the GC RDA and the GC Board of Education, the grant agreement documents, and general contractor licensing requirements are under review with the school and RDA Attorney's, and he will continue submission of the quarterly financial and performance reporting that is required with this grant. Commissioner Orr stated that RDA began in the late 1960's-1970's and Graham County has maintained the program with a land purchase on Moose Branch that will allow our school students to build a new home. Commissioner Orr stated that Graham County has sold one lot and dedicated one lot for the school to teach their students.
11. PM Marino stated that the striping for the regular and handicapped parking spaces at the P and J Buildings have begun, and he will be assisting with this work to keep in-house to save money and time. PM Marino stated that they will continue with other county facilities parking lots as feasible.
12. PM Marino stated that the design is reporting at 95% for the EMS Base Asphalt Paving and the estimate has been provided, however, the project is on hold due to the availability of asphalt during the winter months and trying to acquire additional funds to complete the

project. PM Marino will continue submission of the quarterly financial and performance reporting that is required with the grant.

13. PM Marino stated that the estimates to remove and replace existing asphalt with 6" of reinforced fibered 4000 PSI concrete was \$100,000.00 and the 4" of Hot Mix Asphalt was \$95,000.00. PM Marino stated that this estimate does not include engineering, site work, and drainage.
14. Vice-Chair Cody asks for finance reporting. Director Carpenter stated that she did have one final budget amendment for the board to review and approve. Director Carpenter stated that Budget Amendment #18 completed all the changes for the year end. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #18. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Director Carpenter stated she had Budget Amendment #1 on the restricted accounts of the final balances for Register of Deeds, Sheriff Restricted, Opioid Settlement, 4-H Youth Education, DSS Restricted, Transit Operating Reserve, Cemetery Capital Projects and Hurricane Helene Relief Funds for review and approval. Director Carpenter stated that also included are the splitting of the BI-TEK bill between Tax Assessor and Tax Collector; appropriating funds for the purchase of a used vehicle for Grounds and appropriating remaining balance to Contingency Funds. Director Carpenter stated that on the revenue changes she corrected restricted balances revenue lines to correspond with end-of-year balances. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #1 as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Director Carpenter stated that the Local Government Commission received our FY 22/23 Audit on June 10<sup>th</sup>; they rejected the audit due to information on the SEFSA. Director Carpenter stated that RH Accounting is reworking and performing additional procedures, and they will submit by the end of this week.
17. Director Carpenter stated an engagement letter for FY 23/24 with RH Accounting will be forthcoming after the LGC approval of FY 22/23.
18. Director Carpenter stated that the income for June is \$1,767,504.57 with a year-to-date balance of \$21,411,673.97 and the expenses for Junes are \$2,407,206.45 with a year-to-date balance of \$22,602,377.34.
19. Director Carpenter stated that our property tax collections for June are \$23,793.65; prior years \$5,318.71 for total collections of \$8,976,958.95 with a balance of \$289,036.56 to be collected.
20. Director Carpenter stated that our tax percentage rate for June is 96.88%.
21. Director Carpenter stated that our sales tax collection for May is \$293,311.18 with a year-to-date collection of \$3,262,247.56. Director Carpenter stated that the schools' allocations for May are \$58,128.81 with a year to date of \$667,733.39 with a remaining available balance of \$221,323.44.
22. Director Carpenter stated that our ¼ cent allocation for public safety for May is \$25,422.56 with a year to date of \$1,696,982.90.
23. Director Carpenter stated that the DMV Collections for June was \$58,021.65 with a year to date of \$720,799.79.
24. Vice-Chair Cody asks for the manager's report. Manager Cody asks for approval of the Releases \$2258.40 and the Discoveries \$10,279.52. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Cody asks for a motion to appoint Daniel Allison to the RDA Board. Commissioner Orr made a motion to appoint Daniel Allison to the RDA Board. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Manager Cody let the board be aware of the NCACC Conference in Pitt County August 21<sup>st</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
27. Manager Cody asks for approval of the July 2<sup>nd</sup> poll for the Hometown Heroic Hands Nomination. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Manager Cody asks for a motion to approve the reappointment of the Health Advisory Board Members Jill Raymer, Meggan Smith, Aaron Stewart and Katherine Lynch. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Manager Cody asks for a motion to reappoint Lynn Cody to the Road Naming Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

30. Manager Cody asks for a motion to reappoint Dirk Cody to the Transportation Advisory Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Manager Cody asks for a motion to approve the Resolution to Recognize and Approve America 250 NC Committee. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Manager Cody asks for permission to apply for the CDBG-NR Neighborhood Revitalization Grant for \$950,000.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to apply for the grant as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Manager Cody gave a reminder for the July 28<sup>th</sup> Southwestern Commission Recognition of 60-years of Service at Bettys Creek.
34. Manager Cody stated that the county had to amend the pay plan and add some class types that were not included such as Trainees. Commissioner Williams made the motion to amend the pay plan as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Manager Cody stated that he received a request from a resident concerning the Elderly Exemption who missed the deadline and explained the reasons. Commissioner Orr made the motion to allow the Elderly Exemption. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Vice-Chair Cody asks for public comment. Vice-Chair Cody asks Representative Karl Gillispie to speak. Representative Gillispie thanked the board for allowing him the opportunity to speak. Representative Gillispie thanked the board for being a great partner and gave some updates from Raleigh, no budget but the House is committed to getting one completed. Representative Gillispie stated that he sits on the Finance Committee and will be having another meeting where hopefully they will come to an agreement on the budget.
37. Vice-Chair Cody asks for further comment. Finance Director Carpenter stated that she did need approval for Chris Ferris's renegotiated contract for our 2027 Revaluation. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the renegotiated contract. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. Vice-Chair Cody asks for a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Williams made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
39. Vice-Chair Cody asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
40. Vice-Chair Cody asks for a motion to approve the Closed Session Minutes for Continued Meeting June 3<sup>rd</sup>; June 9<sup>th</sup>; June 17<sup>th</sup>; June 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Joint Meeting June 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Special Meeting July 8<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
41. Vice-Chair Cody asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion.

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Meggan Smith, Chair, Graham County Commissioner

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Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Natasha Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board