

Regular Meeting – September 16, 2025

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC 28771 for their regular meeting. All board was present. Also, present Attorney JK Coward, Manager Brady Cody, Finance Director Stacy Carpenter and Clerk Kim Crisp.

1. Chair Smith called the meeting to order.
2. Chair Smith asks Commissioner Cody to give the Invocation.
3. Chair Smith asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chair Smith asks for approval of the agenda. Manager Cody asks that one item be added under Item 13.O. Surplus Transit Van. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated change. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the August 19<sup>th</sup> Workshop and Regular Meetings. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chair Smith asks for a motion to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing for Combined Capital Application for 5310 Transit and 5310 Senior Center. Commissioner Orr made the motion as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chair Smith asks Transit Director Tracy Jenkins and Senior Director Wanda Hill to speak. Director Jenkins stated she is asking permission to apply for the FY 26/27 5311 Administrative Funding for \$107,034.00 with a local match of \$16,055.00 and Combined Capital Funding for \$232,546.00 with a local match of \$23,256.00 which will be used to replace two of the Nissan Pathfinders with Vans/Lifts. Director Jenkins stated that her match will be taken from her operating reserves and not from taxpayer dollars.
8. Director Hill stated she is asking permission to apply for the FY 26/27 5310 Capital Purchase of Service for \$129,585.002 with a local match of \$12,959.00 to utilize Graham County Transit system fleet vehicles for the senior citizens.
9. Director Jenkins and Director Hill asks for public comment. No public comment.
10. Chair Smith asks for a motion to close the public hearing and reopen the regular meeting. Commissioner Williams made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Chair Smith made the motion to approve the requests from Director Jenkins and Director Hill to apply for the 5310 Transit and 5311 Transit and 5310 Senior Center Funding. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Chair Smith asks Nikki Stewart, Extension 4-H Representative, to speak. Ms. Stewart stated that she was here to give an update of the Graham County Agriculture Event Center. Ms. Stewart stated that this center will serve as a multipurpose event center which will increase community engagement, promote agritourism/economic development and promote agricultural education. Ms. Stewart stated that in the Graham County US Census in 2022 our small county averaged \$903,000.00 in agriculture sales and that is big for our small county. Ms. Stewart stated they have applied for a grant to assist with the cost of building this AG/Event Center and they continue to search for additional funding. Ms. Stewart stated that they asked Travel and Tourism to sponsor the center, and they agreed to match funds for the arena panels. Ms. Stewart stated that they know the county is stretched thin with the upcoming Justice Center and they are not asking for taxpayer dollars and are willing to work for the funding. Ms. Stewart stated that they did fill out an application for a grant, was awarded the grant and they were number two out of nine counties statewide but with the state budget not being passed no funds have been given at this time. Ms. Stewart stated that the rodeo event was a lot of fun and supplied a family-friendly event for our residents to attend. Ms. Stewart stated that the center can be used by the Farmer's Market where they can be open rain or shine, festivals can use the center as well as providing a HUB for other community events. Ms. Stewart stated that another rodeo will be held October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, which will be larger than the first one offering more competitions. Ms. Stewart stated that in the previous rodeo the 4-H was able to raise money at the snack stand which helps their organization tremendously. Ms. Stewart stated the estimated cost for the center is \$1,140,800.00 and they currently have one half million and will continue to pursue further funding. Ms. Stewart stated that they did visit Swain Counties facilities which is 202" x100" which includes bleachers that will hold 800 people and they stated that they wished they had built bigger. Ms. Stewart stated that the idea of a center is now becoming a possibility, and they are very excited about building community support and want to remain

transparent with their plans. Ms. Stewart asks that the board appoint a committee that will help keep the project organized and structured and suggests Randy Collins, Amy Holder, Jerry Phillips, Thomas Menard and herself be on the committee. Chair Smith stated that it was a wonderful idea, and she appreciated all the hard work that has gone into making this idea a reality. Chair Smith stated that Commissioner Nelms is involved and asks Commissioner Orr if she wanted to be involved as well. Commissioner Cody stated that TVA helped fund the Swain County Center and asks that they be contacted for possible assistance.

13. Chair Smith gave an introduction and welcome to our new Interim Health Director Angela Knight and asks Director Knight if she would like to speak. Director Knight thanked the board for their vote of confidence and stated that she had a long history and love for Graham County. Director Knight stated she is excited about working with all Graham County Citizens and letting them know all the services that are provided by the health department. Commissioner Williams stated that the board is very excited, and she has no doubt that Director Knight will do a wonderful job for our county.
14. Chair Smith asks for public comment. Clerk Crisp stated that Mary Jane Phillips had signed in for public comment. Ms. Phillips stated that seven years ago she put her name on the list for repairs to her home and kept getting the run around and was told they ran out of money. Ms. Phillips stated that she spoke with Kim Crisp and told her what needed to be done to her home. Ms. Phillips stated that she is not young any longer and is unable to work and her home has really gone down and she would like something done. Manager Cody stated that they are currently walking through the process of applying for more funding and ask if Four Square could intervene with immediate repairs. Ms. Phillips stated that she was born and raised at 3212 Tallulah Road and needed the assistance. Commissioner Williams stated that she would get up with Ms. Phillips to see what funds may be available.
15. Chair Smith asks for further comments. No further public comment.
16. Chair Smith asks Finance Director Stacy Carpenter to give the finance reporting. Director Carpenter stated she has an amendment for the board's review: Budget Amendment #4 for decrease of \$31,814.24 and an increase of \$323,274.14 resulting in an increase of \$291,459.90. Chair Smith made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #4 as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Director Carpenter stated that she will be having a visit from Tim Greene with the Local Government Commission, he will be here to receive an update and to meet our new county manager.
18. Director Carpenter stated that the portal has been opened for the FY 24/25 Audit, and she has 80% of the documents uploaded at this time.
19. Director Carpenter stated that our revenues to date are \$3,706,453.29 and our expenditures are \$4,088,027.31.
20. Director Carpenter stated that our property tax collection for August is \$513,423.19; prior tax collection is \$41,811.74; total tax collections for 2025 are \$1,000,464.88 and the balance to be collected is \$7,694,910.52.
21. Director Carpenter stated that the tax collection rate is 14.77%.
22. Director Carpenter stated that the sales tax collection for July, which is paid in September, was \$363,850.75. Director Carpenter stated that the schools allocation for sales tax for July was \$61,754.50 with an available balance of \$517,251.30. Director Carpenter stated that our ¼ cent allocation for public safety for July is \$34,393.45 and the total to date is \$1,762,588.66. Director Carpenter stated that the vehicle tax collection is \$60,151.20 for a year-to-date collection of \$131,096.52.
23. Director Carpenter stated that she needed approval for a Company Resolution for Treasury Management Services to perform wires via online portal. Director Carpenter stated that this is required by United Community Bank. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the resolution as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Director Carpenter stated that she needed approval for a Graham County Resolution to engage in electronic payments as per General Statutes 159-28. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Director Carpenter stated that she needed approval for a new Graham County Wire Transfer Payment Policy as referenced in the Resolution to engage in Electronic Payments. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Director Carpenter stated that she needed approval of a Resolution authorizing execution of Opioid Settlements with Secondary Opioid Manufacturers and approving the Third Supplemental Agreements for Additional Funds from the State of NC. Chair Smith made the

motion to approve the resolution as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

27. Director Carpenter stated that she needed approval of the Financial Performance Indicator of Concern (FPIC) Response to the Local Government Commission for Audit FY 22/23. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the submission of the Financial Performance Indicator of Concern as stated. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Director Carpenter stated that she needed approval for the Sheriff's Office to purchase from Durabook for Investigation Supplies in the amount of \$5,054.10. Commissioner Orr made the motion as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Director Carpenter stated that she needed approval for an invoice from DMJ's for the hydroseeding of the AG Site and Health Department Fitness Center Site for \$5,187.50 and this money will be taken from the recreation expansion funds. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Director Carpenter stated that she needed approval to pay \$90,045.00 for Graham County Schools out of their sales tax allocations for repayment to E-Rate for ineligible basic maintenance services. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the expenditure. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Chair Smith asks Manager Cody to give the manager's report. Manager Cody stated that we have Releases of \$213.23 and Discoveries of \$376,644.41 for the board's approval. Chair Smith made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Manager Cody stated that we have a Local Government Resolution for Eco King that needs to be approved. Chair Smith made the motion to approve the Local Government Resolution for Eco King as presented. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Manager Cody stated that due to the hiring of Angela Knight the Resolution to the County Manager needed to be amended and the board take authority over the Health Director due to a conflict of interest. Chair Smith stated that she would need to be recused from this vote due to her employment with the Health Department. Commissioner Williams made the motion to recuse Chair Smith from the vote due to a conflict of interest. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adopt the amended Resolution to the County Manager. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Manager Cody gave a project manager's update due to Director Marino attending a military exercise. Manager Cody stated that the sanitation project was redesigned, and we were able to utilize the money left over from the Snowbird Creek Project. Manager Cody stated that the recycling cannot be operated until the new building is completed and they must change the operation plan to reflect this change. Manager Cody stated that the existing structure is deemed unsafe and they will go ahead with the order for new construction materials.
35. Manager Cody stated that the lead-based paint abatement for the jail was resubmitted, and the total is \$58,850.00. Manager Cody stated that we have the \$50,000.00 and will need to take the \$8,850.00 from contingency. Chair Smith made the motion to move forward with this abatement and the fundings for the overage can be used from the jail budget. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Manager Cody stated that the Sheriff's department is asking to surplus the 2010 Ford Expedition and donate to the Graham County Fire and Rescue. Chair Smith made the motion to surplus the 2010 Ford Expedition and donate it to the Graham County Fire and Rescue as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Manager Cody stated that we have been asked to adopt a Resolution Recognizing September as National Recovery Month. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adopt the resolution as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. Manager Cody asks for a motion to approve the poll for Project Goldilocks payment to Rick Laney Marketing. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the poll as stated. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
39. Manager Cody asks for a motion to approve the poll to pay requests from School for \$3,1743.15 and \$24,900.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the poll as stated. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
40. Manager Cody stated that the Sanitation Director had asked about selling the 1999 and 2000 Garbage Trucks. The board agreed to table this discussion for more information.
41. Manager Cody stated that the Snowbird Dumpster Site is now open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
42. Commissioner Orr stated that a lady locked her keys in the car at the Bear Creek Dumpsters and the attendant was very helpful.

43. Manager Cody stated that we could be having court in Cherokee County that could last for four weeks. Manager Cody stated that the county is responsible for the transportation, snacks and meals for the Jurors and two deputies. Manager Cody stated that he would keep the board informed once the trial begins.
44. Manager Cody stated that we need to have a public hearing for the CDBG Grant on Monday, September 29, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Manager Cody stated that we are required to have two public hearings, and we will post another public hearing for Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
45. Manager Cody asks permission to surplus a Transit 2019 Ford Van. Manager Cody stated that the motor was blown so he did not have a value at this time. Commissioner Orr made the motion to surplus the vehicle as stated and hold the sale until a value could be determined. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
46. Chair Smith asks for a motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(3)(5)(6) for privileged or confidential information, attorney-client privilege, contracts and personnel. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
47. Chair Smith asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
48. Chair Smith made the motion to allow for pay adjustment for I. Roberson due to her job reclassification and added duties. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
49. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the Closed Session Minutes August 19, 2025. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the closed session minutes as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
50. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody made the motion as stated. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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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