

Special Budget Meeting – April 2, 2025

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for a special meeting. All board was present.

1. Chair Smith called the meeting to order.
2. Chair Smith asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chair Smith asks Project Manager Jason Marino to discuss the Jail Inspections report and the plans with time frame for the repair. PM Marino stated that the initial scope of work was bid out and the bids came back extremely too high, so the board wanted him to take the lead for the repair. PM Marino stated that there is asbestos that will have to be removed by a certified vendor and some lead paint. PM Marino stated that they can incapsulate the paint abatement but there would be some removal on the lead paint in the window seals. PM Marino stated that the problem areas are not on the metal, but on the walls, floor and hallway and he was told that there was no budget for the repairs in this budget cycle. PM Marino stated that once a new Justice Center was built the jail would have a complete scope of work to remove all asbestos or lead paint in the entire building. Commissioner Williams asks if we can hold off on the asbestos removal and incapsulate only. PM Marino stated that yes, we can but the state inspector wanted the lead abated. Commissioner Orr requests that this be put in writing. Commissioner Williams stated that the project will have a certain amount of unknown when you begin tearing into floors etc. and they will have to clear the place out to perform any type of work. PM Marino stated that they did test several areas for lead, and he is dealing with this on one of the Dogwood Rehabilitation homes. Chair Smith asks that PM Marino get with the Sheriff and see what the minimum can be done. PM Marino stated that if we do only the lead abatement the price would come in around \$50,000.00. Chair Smith stated that the jail will have to be closed for the remediation.
4. The board discussed the pay plan and discussed that the Sheriff's new pay proposal would not be accepted at this time. Commissioner Cody stated that the staff received a pay increase last year as well. Chair Smith stated that the Sheriff needed to meet with the Town for funding. The board wanted the salaries to remain as is for the sheriff department and the jail. The board discussed the Sheriff and Jail budgets thoroughly.
5. The board wanted to RIF a dental assistant position at the dental clinic and RIF the one environmental health position.
6. The board discussed increasing the amount of sales tax anticipated for revenue. The board discussed the occupancy tax revenue from the extra 3%. The board discussed ambulance fees and the need to see the actual numbers and wanted this service rebid.
7. The board discussed property for the new justice center.
8. The board discussed the garbage collections.
9. The board discussed the BCCP program and did not want this program to be cut. The board wanted this program to pay for in-county residents and not out of county.
10. The board discussed a possible breach of contract with Urgent Care regarding the lease agreement.
11. The board discussed Budget Amendment #9. Chair Smith made the motion to approve the final Budget Amendment #9. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. The board discussed the senior center, and they all agreed to increase the food services. The board did not want any senior citizens in the county to go hungry.
13. Director Stacy Carpenter stated that she did need approval for Budget Amendment #10 to add funds to the senior center budget for meals. Chair Smith made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #10. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. The board discussed overtime hours, leave hours, salary versus hourly, etc.
15. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms 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