

Special Joint Meeting with Town of Robbinsville
July 22, 2025

The Graham County Board of Commissioners and the Town of Robbinsville Mayor and Aldermen met Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street for a joint meeting to discuss proposed Economic Development Incentive Grant for Project Goldilocks. Commissioners present was Meggan Smith, Chair; Lynn Cody, Vice-Chair; Jacob Nelms, Member; Connie Orr, Member and Natasha Williams. Town Board present: Debbie Beasley, Alderwoman; Kenneth Hyde, Alderman and Mayor Shaun Adams. Also, present Manager Brady Cody, Attorney JK Coward, Emma Jutte, Intern, Attorney Vicki Teem, Clerk Kim Crisp, Finance Director Stacy Carpenter.

1. Chair Smith called the meeting to order for the county. Mayor Adams asks for a motion to call the Town Board to order. Alderman Hyde made the motion. Alderwoman Beasley seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
2. Chair Smith asks for approval of the agenda for the county. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Mayor Adams asks for approval of the agenda for the Town. Alderwoman Beasley made the motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Hyde seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Manager Cody stated that the purpose of this meeting is to present to the public the details of Project Goldilocks and the proposed Economic Development Incentive Grants.
4. Chair Smith asks for a motion to close the special meeting and open public hearing for Project Goldilocks for the County. Commissioner Williams made the motion as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Mayor Adams asks for a motion to close the special meeting and open the public hearing for Project Goldilocks for the Town. Alderman Hyde made the motion as stated. Alderwoman Beasley seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Josh Carpenter, Director of Mountain West Partnership gave the presentation of details of Project Goldilocks and the proposed Economic Development Incentive Grants. Director Carpenter stated that the reason for the public hearing is to announce that Eco King Solutions, a new subsidiary of a major Chinese manufacturer will establish its first North American production facility to produce disposable, biodegradable paper tableware in Robbinsville. The parent company is Zhejiang Kingsun Eco-Pak Co., LTD, which was founded in 2008 and operates three high-capacity factories in China employing approximately 1,200 people. Director Carpenter stated that they have been referring to this project as Project Goldilocks and the project will create 300 jobs (over 3 years) to produce disposable trays, plates, bowls, forks, knives and spoons with 90% of the product to be sold in the United States. Director Carpenter stated that the company will make an investment of \$80.5 million to convert and modernize the former Stanley Furniture manufacturing facility in Robbinsville. The company will partner with the North Carolina Community College System for the training and other workforce development. Director Carpenter asks for questions. No questions at this time. Director Carpenter stated that the county and the town have a proposed incentive package which ties to job investment prior to funding and is tied to job creations. Director Carpenter stated that the project will create 300 jobs with an average salary of or over \$46,700.00. Director Carpenter stated that Graham County's local incentive will be \$1,577,218.00 over a five-year period and the Town of Robbinsville's local incentive will be \$1,336,625.00 over a five-year period. Director Carpenter stated that the State of North Carolina is committed to supporting this project with a \$9M incentive package to be paid over a 12-year period. Director Carpenter stated that they appreciate all the support from the various partners such as NC Department of Commerce and its Rural and Workforce Divisions; Economic Development Partnership of NC; North Carolina General Assembly; North Carolina Community College System, Graham County, the Town of Robbinsville and the Greater Raleigh Chamber Mountain West Partnership.
6. Manager Cody asks for public comment. Chair Smith asks for public comment or if anyone has any questions. Chair Smith stated that handouts will be available after the public hearing. Mayor Adams asks for public comment or if his board had any comment. No public comment.

7. Chair Smith asks for a motion to close the public hearing and reopen the Special Meeting. Commissioner Cody made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Mayor Adams asks for a motion to close the public hearing and reopen the Special Meeting. Alderwoman Beasley made the motion as stated. Alderman Hyde seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Chair Smith stated that the board needed to accept the incentive package as outlined by Director Josh Carpenter. Chair Smith made the motion to approve the proposed Economic Development Incentive Grant to Eco King Solutions and to direct staff to prepare an Economic Development Agreement between the Company, Town, and County documenting each parties obligations with respect to the Economic Development Incentive Grant. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Mayor Adams asks for a motion to approve the proposed Economic Development Incentive Grant to Eco King Solutions and to direct staff to prepare an Economic Development Agreement between the Company, Town, and County documenting each parties obligations with respect to the Economic Development Incentive Grant. Alderwoman Beasley made the motion to accept the incentive package as stated. Alderman Hyde seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Manager Cody stated that the paperwork with Eco King Solutions and LLC information will be available for the public after this meeting.
10. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Mayor Adams asks for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Hyde made the motion to adjourn. Alderwoman Beasley seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

GRAHAM COUNTY

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

TOWN OF ROBBINSVILLE

Debbie Beasley, Alderwoman

Kenneth Hyde, Alderman

Shaun Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

Vicki Teem, Attorney/Clerk