

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular workshop session. All board was present. Board Chair Meggan Smith joined the meeting by teleconference.

1. Vice-Chairman Cody called the meeting to order.
2. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Vice-Chairman Cody asks Graham Fields, Assistant to the President with Advent Health to give an update on the Advent Robbinsville Health Center.
4. Mr. Fields thanked the board for their time and stated that the Manager Kevin Morgan was unable to attend but he did speak with him at length and hopes to answer any questions or concerns. Mr. Fields stated that there have been some challenges at the beginning with hours of service and this is due to the miscommunication on the internet. Mr. Fields stated that most people search for urgent care, and they are Advent Health Robbinsville Clinic. Mr. Fields stated that they do want to be open as much as possible, but they do have to sustain staff and services. Mr. Fields stated that they have hired (2) new staff members (1) nurse and (1) office assistant, which will allow for extended hours of service. Mr. Fields stated that they have two providers and a backup. Mr. Fields stated that they do plan to extend it to Saturdays soon and it will be open six days a week, but they are not quite there yet. Mr. Fields stated that the goal is to prevent people from having to leave town to get medical care. Mr. Fields stated that they are still trying to bill for the imagery services because most places that have equipment such as Graham County are in hospital settings, so it has been somewhat of a challenge.
5. Commissioner Orr asks how many images have been done daily?
6. Mr. Fields stated that they have not done any CTs during this practice, but they do have staff being put in place. Mr. Fields stated that having the CT and Mammogram are unique to an urgent care setting and they need a way to bill for the service prior to allowing scans.
7. Commissioner Orr stated that the equipment was specifically chosen so that the residents did not have to take a day from work to travel for this type of testing.
8. Mr. Fields stated that they have applied for a Rural Health Clinic and will know within six months if they are approved then they will be able to bill for the imaging services. Mr. Fields stated that they did not fully realize all the guidelines plus the staffing is harder for the program.
9. Commissioner Orr suggested that Mr. Fields speak with Dr. Nathan Williams on the mammogram equipment.
10. Commissioner Nelms stated that we do not know the regulations of how imaging works but feel that the imaging is needed and welcome any input they have on how they vision running the equipment at full capacity. Commissioner Nelms stated that they wanted the equipment utilized but they also understood regulations. Commissioner Nelms stated that there is certificate of need data for their review.
11. Mr. Fields apologized to the board regarding the rent, there was some miscommunication waiting on an invoice but that has been straightened out and they should be on a cycle for payment. Mr. Fields stated that they did look over the contract and they did owe the money.
12. Mr. Fields gave a brief update on the new hospital which will have (129) additional beds and presented a drawing of the plan's for the hospital. Mr. Fields stated that they plan to build a trauma center and specialize in cardiology, dialysis and trauma related emergencies. Mr. Fields stated that they are located eight minutes from Mission Hospital and are very grateful for Graham County's support. Mr. Fields stated that they first thought there would be (93) beds and a medical office building but are proud to show the expansion which will employ around (2000) employees.
13. The commissioners thanked Mr. Fields for the update.
14. Vice-Chairman Cody asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Meggan Smith, Chair

Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman

Jacob Nelms, Member

Connie Orr, Member

Natasha Williams, Member

ATTEST: _____
Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board