

Regular Meeting – September 1, 2026

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. for their regular meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All board was present. Also, present 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 we move (7.e Todd Odom) to Item 5a.; add Stacy Carpenter, Finance Officer as Item 6a, and add Item 7h. Resolution regarding AG Center (Mini Brooks Act) and Item 7i. Appointment of Opioid Settlement Coordinator. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the agenda with the added items as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the 8/20 Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes and the 8/11 Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chair Smith asks Todd Odom to speak. Mr. Odom stated that he was here to present a proposal to the board to honor Graham County Veterans who have suffered from or have passed away to Agent Orange Exposure/Herbicides. Mr. Odom stated that this memorial will stand as a lasting tribute to the men and women of Graham County who answered the call to serve our nation. Mr. Odom respectfully asks that an addition be made to the existing memorial for a different group of veterans whose service continued to affect their lives long after they returned home, those who have suffered or lost their lives from illnesses and conditions associated with Agent Orange and other tactical herbicide exposure during their military service. Mr. Odom stated that these veterans served their country when called upon, many returning home carrying consequences of that service that were not fully understood for years or even decades. Mr. Odom stated that their names deserve a place of honor and this proposed addition would ensure that these veterans, and the families who lived with the consequences of their service are permanently remembered as part of Graham County's military history. Mr. Odom proposes creating a dedicated section immediately adjacent to the existing Graham County Veterans Memorial that would include permanent stone, monument, plaque or engraved memorial wall bearing an inscription such as: In Honor and Memory of the Veterans of Graham County Who Served Our Nation and Suffered From or Later Lost Their Lives to Illnesses Associated With Agent Orange Exposure. Their Service was not forgotten. Their sacrifice was not in vain. Their names will forever remain among those who answered the call to defend our nation. Mr. Odom stated that the names could be listed under the inscription, those names, such as William Snider Jr.; Keith Millsaps; and Dwight Lovin. Mr. Odom stated that bottom of the monument could read: THEY CAME HOME, BUT THE WAR FOLLOWED THEM. Mr. Odom stated that the veterans that would qualify would be individuals that served in Vietnam within the years of service related to Agent Orange; Honorably Discharged with a copy of DD214; Veteran paperwork showing an illness or disability related to Agent Orange/Herbicide Exposure; and a resident of Graham County at the time of enlistment. Mr. Odom stated that the purpose would not be to distinguish these

veterans from those already honored, but rather to recognize the unique circumstances surrounding their service and sacrifice and would remain part of our Graham County Veterans Memorial family. Mr. Odom stated that a veteran's service should not be measured only by what happened while wearing the uniform, for some veterans, the consequences of that service continued for decades after they returned home. Mr. Odom stated that this will honor their families, preserve Graham County History; give a permanent place of remembrance and it teaches future generations that a memorial is more than stone and names, it is a lesson that tells our children that freedom has a cost, that service matters, and that sacrifices of our veterans should never be forgotten. Mr. Odom presented a sample for the board to review and stated that this project will be funded without placing a large financial burden on the Graham County Budget. Mr. Odom stated that over \$4200.00 has been pledged for the construction of the monument and additional monies can be fundraised by the citizens. Mr. Odom asks that the board of commissioners invest with a possible match, allowing the monument to be placed on approximately twenty square feet of real estate at the Graham County Courthouse. Mr. Odom presented a quote of around \$12,735.00 from W.N.C. Marble and Granite. Mr. Odom stated that after completion a dedication ceremony should be held at the memorial and allow surviving family members to potentially participate in the ceremony. Mr. Odom stated that they respectfully request that commissioners create a committee for our Veterans Memorial that will make sure that these men and women's service and sacrifice are never forgotten, WE REMEMBER, WE HONOR AND WE WILL NEVER FORGET. Mr. Odom stated that he is available for questions. Commissioner Nelms asks what timeline is being considered. Mr. Odom stated that he did not believe there is enough time for Veteran's Day but may try to complete by Memorial Day. Commissioner Williams stated that a committee is a great idea and they need to have this organized as quickly as possible. Commissioner Orr stated that she had been a volunteer for the veterans since 2010 and this proposal is a great idea and has been a long time coming. Commissioner Orr stated that all the wars needed to be recognized and the Korean War which was labeled a police state, was one of the bloodiest marches that took place and had a gorge renamed as the Bloody Gorge. Commissioner Williams stated that memorial day would give the committee time and thanked Mr. Odom for the proposal to honor our veterans. Commissioner Orr stated that this is the 250th year and it would be nice to complete this year. Mr. Odom stated the quicker the better and if the board gives the go ahead, he will go full speed ahead. Chair Smith asks about the budget for this proposal. Manager Cody stated that they would finance the project through contingency and that they could make it work. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the proposal for the Veteran Memorial as discussed. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the proposal. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Chair Smith asks that Mr. Odom speak with Manager Cody to get assistance with running ads, get an appointment with Harold Phillips and they will do what it takes. Manager Cody asks for clarification for the record of the amount. Chair Smith stated approximately \$6400.00. Mr. Odom thanked the board for listening and for accepting the proposed memorial.

7. Chair Smith asks for public comment and asks Susan Jenkins to speak. Ms. Jenkins stated that she is here to make comment on the Ordinance, the trash ordinance that she happened upon on Facebook and stated that you all are elected officials for the taxpayers, right, and you are here for our betterment to make sure that you leave the county better than it was before you became a commissioner. Ms. Jenkins stated that she read the work consent which concerned her, she read it, thank god and

asked some what is this, and they didn't know and she wanted it explained. Ms. Jenkins asks if they read it from beginning to end and further stated that we, the taxpayers, ask that you do your jobs. Ms. Jenkins stated that she read the ordinance and she really wanted the county attorney to be present to ask him questions. Ms. Jenkins stated that the person she wanted to ask questions to is not here and she did not like some of the wording that was put in the ordinance such as convenience sites, it is convenient but we are taxpayers and we pay for it and not one time is taxpayer mentioned but the definition of person or individual is in here, we all know what an individual is, right. Ms. Jenkins stated she is a taxpayer, we all voted for you, pay attention people, speak up, pay better attention, read it and don't trust an attorney before you sign something. Ms. Jenkins stated it would have ended bad if one of the sanitation workers tried to search her vehicle, there was no reason for this to be in it and she got mad as well as a lot of other people too. Ms. Jenkins said she was glad that it got changed, glad that someone listened, Meggan Smith paid attention. Chair Smith stated that when she called all of the commissioners they were all for it. Commissioner Nelms stated he believed that most of us read it but he just overlooked it because he knew what the intent was for and there is no doubt in his mind that the board's intent was not to violate anyone's fourth amendment. Commissioner Williams stated that the wording could have been used differently and it did open up the potential for abuse. Chair Smith stated that she was told that if someone brings their trash to the site, they have the right to open the bag if they thought it was something that is not allowed, she did read the ordinance but a lot of the reading is redundant and she will admit and be honest that she missed it. Chair Smith stated that she appreciates Ms. Jenkins for looking at it and getting back to them. Ms. Jenkins stated that she appreciated the board for listening and remember, taxpayers are paying attention.

8. Chair Orr asks for public comment. No further comment.
9. Chair Smith asks Stacy Carpenter, Finance Director, to speak. Director Carpenter stated that she needed approval for the Senior Center General Purpose Funding for FY 2026-2027 in the amount of \$14,667.00 with a \$3,667.00 County Match. Director Carpenter stated that our center is a Center of Excellence and we are able to pull down a higher allocation. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the General Purpose funding as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
10. Director Carpenter stated that she has four budget amendments for the board review and approval. Those amendments are:
 - a. Budget Amendment #15 Transit received addition funding in the amount of \$6,844.00 from EDTAP; NCDOT-EMPL PROG and RGP-NCDOT.
 - b. Budget Amendment #16 Final Supplement Payment for 2023 Dodge Charger in the amount of \$4,363.31.
 - c. Budget Amendment #17 Reallocation of workforce development funds for provider in the amount of \$25,000.00.
 - d. Budget Amendment #18 Funds to cover housing of animals in custody in the amount of \$1,00000 between line items 410-94 and 410-57.
11. Chair Smith requested to be excused from budget amendment #17 due to a conflict. Commissioner Williams made the motion to excuse Chair Smith from Budget Amendment #17. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
12. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve budget amendment #17. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded the motion. Chair Smith was recused from the vote. Vote unanimous.

13. Chair Smith made the motion to approve budget amendments #15; #16; #17.
Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
14. Director Carpenter stated that she needed board approval to surplus a 2018 Ford to be exchanged in our fleet program. Director Carpenter stated that the value is \$3500.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the surplus to fleet management. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Chair Smith asks Manager Cody to give the manager's reporting. Manager Cody stated that he would need approval for the August 20, 2026 Poll for the COPE Architects contract for the Justice Center. Chair Smith made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Manager Cody stated that there were some clarification changes to the Sanitation Ordinance that would need approval. Manager Cody stated that the amendment clarifies the intent of the board in the original ordinance. Those changes were:
 - a. 400.22 Eliminated open burning.
 - b. 500.03 Changed Graham County Solid Waste Division to search any vehicle or container brought onto said property, to Graham County Solid Waste Division to assess the solid waste sought to be deposited.
 - c. 700.06 Added and attached to ordinance as Appendix.
 - d. Section 400 Added on properties owned by or leased by Graham County for the purpose of solid waste disposal.Chair Smith made the motion to approve the Solid Waste Ordinance Amendment – Appendix A. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Manager Cody stated that it is time for the Fontana Lake Cleanup and they are requesting that the board waive the sanitation fees. Clerk Crisp stated that she received a call from Brandon Jones, he stated that they will collect the refuse from early September through October which should make it easier on our sanitation department regarding the tonnage. Chair Smith made the motion to waive the fees for the Fontana Lake Cleanup. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Manager Cody stated that Tracy Jenkins, Transit Director needed approval for a 5311 Certification Form. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the 5311 Certification Form. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Manager Cody asks if the board had reviewed the Board Appointment Applications. The board all agreed that the forms would help the board know who would be interested in serving on county boards. The board wanted admin to publish a list of boards and take applications for those that are interested.
20. Manager Cody stated that the board needed to approve a Resolution Exempting Agriculture Center Construction Project G.S. 143-64.31 which authorized units of local governments to exempt contracts for design services from the qualifications based selection requirements if the estimated fee is less than \$50,000.00. Chair Smith made the motion to adopt and approve the resolution as stated. Commissioner William seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Manager Cody stated that the board needed to appoint an Opioid Coordinator and the recommendation is Gabriell (Sunny) Pringle. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Gabriell (Sunny) Pringle as the Opioid Coordinator. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. 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, personnel and contracts. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

- 23. Chair Smith asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr made the motion as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
- 24. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the 8/18 Closed Session Minutes. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
- 25. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr 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