Special Meeting – June 29, 2026

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, June 29, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. for a special meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC. All board was present. Also, present Manager Brady Cody, Attorney JK Coward, Finance Director Stacy Carpenter and serving as Clerk Katie Beasley.

1. Chair Smith called the meeting to order.
2. Chair Smith asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chair Smith asks Manager Cody to proceed with the agenda. Manager Cody presented a Whistleblower Protection Policy for the Sheriff's Office that is required for grant compliance. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the policy as stated. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Manager Cody presented a proposed position for a Behavioral Health and Community Response Coordinator to address behavioral health issues within the county and to support multiple departments. Manager Cody stated that this position will be in the Health Department beginning December using the funding through the Opioid Settlement Funds and the position is budgeted. Manager Cody stated that the county will maximize the benefit that the position can be to the community. Manager Cody stated that Behavioral Health services through the opioid settlement will provide mental health support to inmates, assist transition to incarceration and after release from detention. Manager Cody stated that this is the new State IVC requirements. Manager Cody stated that behavioral health outreach will be available to EMS for post overdose response, follow up and any issues for EMS Personnel. Manager Cody stated that this position will support the Department of Social Services Child Welfare. Manager Cody stated that the position will need a master's degree; be a practicing counselor and be a Behavioral Health Professional. Manager Cody stated this program gives us an opportunity to use non-county dollars to fund almost all services with Opioid Settlement Funds and the remaining Dogwood Health Funds from last fiscal year. Manager Cody stated that Dogwood Health as a funder is interested in this program. Manager Cody stated that the county can utilize some of the Paramedicine Grant allowing us the combine those funding sources which will allow us to see zero county dollars going into the program. Manager Cody stated that the goal is to have this position funded once the deliverables are in place and the funding sources will be able to see what the county is doing with those funds. Manager Cody stated that there is a potential to bill a portion of those services and will set up a billing system as soon as applicable. Commissioner Cody asks if VAYA Health would be involved. Manager Cody stated that this would serve as a supplemental position along with VAYA Health. Manager Cody stated that the position has not been advertised yet, he is seeking board approval prior to posting this open position. Manager Cody stated that the department heads are onboard and are hopeful of this position. Chair Smith stated that if we are not using additional funds, she is on board, Commissioner Williams agreed. Chair Smith gave a directive to move forward with the advertisement. All board agreed.
5. Manager Cody discussed the proposed Cross Country Trail. Manager Cody stated that some groups had reached out to him about a trail on the P & J Property, one of those being the school. Manager Cody stated that the new elementary school construction is hindering their trial which led to the next group with the community making the same request. Manager Cody stated that the trial at the school cannot

be utilized during school hours and this hinders the community groups. Manager Cody stated that several citizens have agreed to donate material to construct the trail voluntarily. Manager Cody stated that the hope is to create the trail around the property at P and J and the intent is the old airport part being temporary with a mowed path during the development of the trail or a series of trails through the wooded area of the Greene Property which will align with Old Tallulah Road. Manager Cody stated that the plan is in the preliminary phase and will not interfere with future construction at our P and J property nor will it hinder the DHHS services. Manager Cody stated that the groups would like to move forward on the design process but needed board approval. Manager Cody stated that the volunteers are ready to donate the materials from equipment to the construction material. Chair Smith asks that the county make sure that our insurance policy is made aware. Commissioner Orr asks if this relates to Michelle Shiplet. Michelle Shiplet was present and explained her Greenway Project which is downtown to serve as a connectivity pathway.

6. Manager Cody presented the Sanitation Sites Survey which had 336 responses. Manager Cody stated that the results are:
    a. The community site most used to least used is Main Site, Stecoah, Bear Creek and then East Buffalo.
    b. 73% visit a site more than once a week
    c. Most of the responses are from full-time residents
    d. Saturday is the most utilized day
    e. Sunday is the least utilized day
    f. Monday through Friday are similar days in numbers
    g. Time of day most requested is 4:00 p.m. and after
    h. Saturday opening rather than Sunday
    i. Additional hours are most useful in the evenings and Saturday afternoon
        i. Morning times before 8:00 a.m. were not useful
        ii. Sunday's not useful for most part
        iii. Somewhat useful is a mixture of days
7. Manager Cody stated that the goal of the survey was to make sanitation hours match when people use the sites. Manager Cody stated that Stecoah will be open (6) days per week; East Buffalo (5) days per week; Bear Creek (2) days per week and the Main Site is always open.
8. Commissioner Orr asks if the cameras are operational at the sites. Manager Cody stated that the main site has the only operational camera.
9. Manager Cody stated that he has not received any further documentation on the Sanitation Ordinance. Commissioner Williams stated that the Main Site located on Snowbird Road would be a good place to test out the citizens and maybe offer more hours if that process works. Chair Smith asks when the new hours will be implemented. Manager Cody stated that they will be ready this week.
10. Chair Smith acknowledged a question from the audience whether the cameras at the main site are monitored. Manager Cody stated that they are monitored but not 24 hours per day but we are able to go back and review. Manager Cody stated that cameras will be able to get tag numbers. Sanitation Director Colvard stated that they were able to get someone stopped before they illegally dumped this morning. Commissioner Willliams stated that fines will be the best, everyone is not dumping illegally and the ones that do need to be penalized. Director Colvard stated that he will update communication about what can go over the scales and give them the rules and regulations. Director Colvard stated that signage will be installed after the board has finalized the days and hours of operation.

11. Director Colvard stated that he would like to seek sealed bids for the haul at sanitation. Director Colvard requests that the county discontinue picking up the business's garbage, there are other vendors in the county now that can provide this service and they provide cans. Director Colvard stated that the county is losing money picking up business garbage. Chair Smith stated that in the county where we are losing money it is no brainer and we have already lost some businesses. Director Colvard stated that he has over $9000.00 in credit from individuals that will not pay their tipping fees. Director Colvard stated that he will not allow those individuals to dump until the balance is paid in full, but it is not fair to the other taxpayers who do pay their bill. The board agreed. Director Colvard stated that he sends a monthly statement every month but asks if they could put their names in the paper as the tax office does and requests that they tighten up on the credit procedures for sanitation. Director Colvard stated that all his staff take money and this is not good for accounting purposes. Commissioner Williams asks that we get the tag number for the people who do not pay and we can treat this like illegal dumping and fine them along with their bill. The board agreed to cut services to anyone who is delinquent on their fees after two months.
12. Chair Smith stated that she met with the CEO of Advent Health and their business manager and they are trying to apply for a rural health center to allow them to get better reimbursement for seeing patients but the problem is, they could not utilize the CT, Ultrasound or Mammogram unless they constructed two walls and inspections are complete. Chair Smith asks if the walls are constructed, could another company run the equipment and their answer was yes. Chair Smith said that the board would need to decide if they want to find another company to come up with the understanding that the Mammo machine will expire this year and CT is close to expiring, leaving the Ultrasound, which is a newer machine. Chair Smith stated that without the Xray being a part of the equipment another company would not come in for three pieces. Commissioner Orr stated that she has a contact for Chair Smith to reach out to. Chair Smith stated that one alternative is if another company would be willing to purchase the equipment, the county can put the money back into something for the medical facility upgrade. Chair Smith stated that Advent needs approval to construct the walls which would divide the building into two entrances. Commissioner Williams stated that this could open an opportunity to lease out some of the space. Commissioner Orr stated that this is the discussion that we had with Dr. Castor when he wanted to turn the facility into a rural health and he came in and was making changes to the building without approval from the board and if she remembered correctly, that was the issue that caused all the trouble with the closure of the urgent care. Commissioner Orr stated that the reason the equipment was purchased was for taxpayers, our families and friends and other nearby counties to be able to utilize that equipment which those types of equipment save lives every day. Commissioner Orr stated that she would like the board to find a remedy rather than selling the machines. Commissioner Orr asks what the original contract says. Chair Smith stated that as of right now, they cannot bill for CT, Mammo or Ultrasound because you must have an MPI number which requires a radiologist to be on staff at a certain percentage of time. Chair Smith stated that Advent Health is doing those tests for free or very little money because they cannot bill. Chair Smith stated that the rural health destination allows them to get a bigger reimbursement to bill in Xray, but they cannot bill in the other machines. Chair Smith stated that Advent did agree to the original contract to do whatever it takes to do what is necessary to use the equipment, but they are currently paying to rent the equipment. Chair Smith stated that if the board allows for the rural health

designation, then the board would have to start from scratch on the contract. Someone asks if other facilities in the county could share staffing. Manager Cody stated that this could potentially be an opportunity but will be extremely difficult to find a radiologist to be here for a certain number of hours per week.

13. Chase Lancaster spoke and asked if Swain Hospital would be willing to come in and partner for an Emergency Room, he had spoken with Ashley Hynes. Commissioner Cody stated that based on the number of patients they see and Erlanger and Harris did not have time to try and negotiate, our statistics are based off Tallulah Clinic and the population of the number of people who use the services and the data wasn't strong enough for them to invest. Commissioner Cody stated that a doctor from Bryson City wanted to move to Graham County, but the data was not sufficient for him to come here. Commissioner Cody stated that the county even reached out as far as Knoxville Tennessee prior to reaching out to Advent who saw the need more than the data. Commissioner Cody stated that Advent has a remote radiologist that reads the scans, it is transmitted to the cloud and sent back to the clinic. Chair Smith asks that the possible wall construction for Advent be added to the July Agenda for discussion/decisions. Manager Cody stated that he would get Attorney Coward on the contract.
14. Commissioner Orr stated that she spoke with Nathan Williams, who bought the old Asheville Hospital on French Broad and he owns his own Radiology Department and has traveling radiologists and has offered to run the radiation department for six months to see how it goes and he also works with Advent Health and performs his surgeries at the Advent Hospital. Commissioner Orr stated that he gave his contact information to her and further stated that he could do the testing and have the report back the same day. Manager Cody stated that he would reach out to Dr. Willliams and request a meeting with him and the board.
15. Manager Cody discussed Community Linkage for veterans' discussion.
16. Finance Director Stacy Carpenter presented the board with the final year end amendments for FY 25-26 and stated that all line items are in budget, and each department level is within budget constraints. Director Carpenter stated that Amendment #63 includes the Health Department and Chair Smith would need to be recused from the vote. Commissioner Williams made the motion to recuse Chair Smith from the vote on Budget Amendment #63 due to a personal conflict. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Chair Smith made the motion to approve the amendments as stated except for Amendment #63. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #63. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Chair Smith was recused by vote.
19. Director Carpenter stated that she has an invoice from Attorney Coward in the amount of $52,762.50 for over one year of billing and it is above the projected balance that she can approve. Director Carpenter stated that the overage is due to the Ex-Sheriff Brad Hoxit Court Case. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Chair Smith asks for a copy by email prior to approval, the budgeted amount was $35,000.00 and the increase is $18,250.00 and wanted this to be tabled until the next meeting. All board approved to table.
20. Chair Smith asks Shelby Jones, Reigniting Hope representative, to speak. Ms. Jones wants help with the application process to get more funding from the county. Director Carpenter stated that the applications have not been rolled out yet, but she is working on the special appropriations. Director Carpenter stated that she did not have the bandwidth to sit down and do the applications with them and it is a conflict

for her to sit down with them and do it and then review it for approval. Director Carpenter stated that with the Local Government Commission, we must be very careful with the funding that we provide for other entities. Commissioner Cody stated that the LGC requires that all entities track funding and one of the things is special appropriations, places are either profit or non-profit and organizations need to submit to comply with regulations that the state requires and if you do not have those requirements, the county is dinged on the audit. Commissioner Cody stated that the county will be liable for funds if not audited. Director Carpenter stated that this is a state mandated process from the Treasurer's Office, perhaps they can find a resource that can help them with the application process. Director Carpenter stated that the deadline for submitting applications has passed for this year and they can be looking for other ways that the county can help but that process will begin in January. Director Carpenter stated that the process allows the information to become public record, and the taxpayers can see where their money goes.

21. Chair Smith made the motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(3)(6) for privileged or confidential information, attorney client privilege and personnel. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
22. Chair Smith asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Cody made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams 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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Katie Beasley, Deputy HR Director

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board