

Emergency Meeting – January 30, 2026

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Friday, January 30, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Graham County Transit Facility Meeting Room located at 201 West Fort Hill Robbinsville, NC. Board present was Meggan Smith, Lynn Cody, Connie Orr and Natasha Williams. Board absent: Jacob Nelms. Also, present Manager Brady Cody, Attorney JK Coward, Processing Assistant Ashley Potts and Clerk Kim Crisp.

1. Chair Smith called the emergency meeting to order.
2. Chair Smith asks for approval of the agenda. Manager Cody asks for one change to give an overview of what happened concerning the emergency meeting. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated change. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chair Smith asks Manager Cody to speak. Manager Cody stated that today the county was served with a petition for the removal and a motion for the suspension of Sheriff Hoxit. The motion was filed yesterday at 4:04 p.m., there are allegations of misconduct by Sheriff Hoxit within the petition, the petition will then be available at the court system if anyone would like to read that. Manager Cody stated that the request is for an immediate suspension, the order was entered by Judge Tessa Sellers and entered into record at 5:21 p.m., at that point Sheriff Hoxit was suspended from his position as Sheriff of Graham County, North Carolina. Manager Cody stated in the Interim, since having received this information late last night, the goal has been to make sure that we are doing things the way that it should be done, following best practices with what next steps should be for the county. Manager Cody stated he has read the statutes, spoken with representatives specifically with NCACC, and the NC Sheriff's Association to make sure that process was understood by all. Manager Cody gave a summary of all occurrences as of now, Sheriff Hoxit has been suspended due to this order, from here he will remain suspended until a hearing to be held on February 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. and at that time, it will serve as his day in court against these allegations, there will be an order entered to either reinstate him or remove him from his position at that time. Manager Cody stated that there is a statute that deals with what happens next in these situations, so the statute that is applicable to Graham County, the Chief Deputy assumes the duties of the Sheriff, and just to clarify, this was by the Sheriff's Association, the chief deputy does not become the sheriff, he will only assume the duties of the interim sheriff role and because the current sheriff is unaffiliated there is no applicable parties involved in the decision making if a successor needs to be named, it is at the discretion of the board of commissioners. Manager Cody stated that the primary goal for the sheriff's department will be continuity of services, so there is no interruption in services with our sheriff's department. Manager Cody stated that he wanted to provide this brief overview of where things stand at the moment.
4. Chair Smith asks questions. No questions.
5. Chair Smith asks for a 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 Orr made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chair Smith asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chair Smith asks for a motion to recuse Commissioner Jacob Nelms from any meetings, discussions or communication regarding Sheriff Hoxit's suspension and removal from office due to a conflict of interest. Commissioner Orr made the motion to recuse Commissioner Nelms as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Chair Smith asks for a motion to suspend the pay for Sheriff Brad Hoxit due to the court order of removal from office. Commissioner Williams made the motion as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Chair Smith stated that per the statutes of the NC General Assembly Chief Deputy Travis Brooks will assume the duties of the Sheriff at this time.
10. Chair Smith thanked Travis Brooks for fulfilling this role and stated that the board is very appreciative of him in keeping our county safe.
11. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams 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