

Regular Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2026

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All board was present. Commissioner Nelms and Commissioner Orr joined the meeting by phone. Also present, Manager Brady Cody, Attorney JK Coward, 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 led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the agenda. Manager Cody asks that two items be added under the manager's report: Item P. Logan's Run and Item Q. Wage discussion. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chair Smith asks for approval of the March 17th Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes; March 12th, 18th, and 20th Budget Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chair Smith asks for public comment. No public comment.
7. Chair Smith asks Wanda Hill, Senior Center Director, to speak. Director Hill stated that she was here to ask permission to apply for the 2026/2027 HCCBG (Home and Community Care Block Grant) in the amount of \$119,038.00 with a required county match of \$13,227.00. Chair Smith made the motion to accept the grant as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Chair Smith asks Stacy Carpenter, Finance Director, to give the monthly finance reporting. Director Carpenter stated that she did have budget amendments for the board's review and approval. Chair Smith asks to be recused from the vote on the health department amendment. Commissioner Williams made the motion to recuse Meggan Smith from the health department budget amendment. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Director Carpenter asks for approval of Budget Amendment # 24 and # 25. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous with the recusal of Chair Smith.
10. Director Carpenter asks for approval of Budget Amendment #26, 27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34 and 35. Chair Smith made the motion to approve the budget amendments as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
11. Director Carpenter stated that our revenues year to date are \$17,950,302.28 and our expenditures is \$15,820,563.30 for a positive variance of \$2,129,738.98 which is more than our surplus this time last year which was \$1,076,396.39.
12. Director Carpenter stated that our tax collections for the month were \$188,065.55 and our year-to-date collection is \$9,060,854.26.
13. Director Carpenter stated that our collection rate is 95.06%.
14. Director Carpenter stated that our VTS collection for the month is \$78,531.12 with a year-to-date collection of \$568,332.17.
15. Director Carpenter stated that our sales tax collection for February, which is paid in April is \$278,75.31 and our year-to-date collection is \$2,580,199.96.
16. Director Carpenter stated that our sales tax appropriation for the schools was \$47,721.44 and the school has a remaining balance of \$694,911.51.
17. Director Carpenter stated that she did have a request from the school to pay for various items in the amount of \$67,347.92. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the expenditures as requested by the school. Chair Smith made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Director Carpenter stated that our ¼ cent sales tax was \$23,885.78 and our total since inception is \$1,960,610.94.
19. Director Carpenter stated that she updated the Wire Transfer Payment Policy to make it more practicable.
20. Director Carpenter stated that the Local Government Commission received the amended audit contract, and they accepted it with the modification reason being issues with auditor staff/turnover/workload. Director Carpenter stated that they must submit a budget ordinance no later than May 15, 2026.

21. Director Carpenter stated that she received a verbal agreement from the auditor that the FY 23-24 Audit filing would be completed by April 15, 2026, however it has not been filed to date, and the amended contract shows completion date of April 30, 2026.
22. Chair Smith asks for the manager's reporting. Manager Cody stated that David Matheson, Graham County Schools, gave updated information on the new elementary project which has a price of \$42,000,000.00. Manager Cody stated that the costs are coming in at \$39,824,658.00 not including fees to the architect, or the fees to the construction manager at risk. Manager Cody stated that the bids were value engineered and they were able to reduce the costs to \$39,109,942.00 which again is not everything, but it is the actual construction bid. Manager Cody stated that the project does have \$1,000,000.00 in contingency so they are very close to the entire project amount. Manager Cody stated that the school is asking that the board allow them to utilize the sales tax revenue on the project or they may need to make a small loan to finalize. Manager Cody stated that he sent the interlocal agreement for the sales tax to Attorney Coward. Manager Cody stated that with the contingency and the sales tax monies there should be enough funds to cover the entire cost of \$42,000,000.00. Commissioner Cody made the motion to accept the request from the school to allow them to utilize the sales tax monies to complete the new elementary school project. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Manager Cody gave an update on the budget and reiterated that the draft ordinance had been filed with the Local Government Commission Mat 15, 2026. Manager Cody stated that the board would adopt the final budget ordinance in June. Manager Cody stated that some numbers shifted with revenues and expenditures and the board will review these numbers at a budget meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.
24. Manager Cody stated that the Cemetery Commission had requested a copy of their budget, but it is not ready at this time, some of the concerns came up regarding personnel. Chair Smith stated that the board will talk about the concerns at the budget meeting. Commissioner Cody stated that the board did have some concerns that the workload is extreme and they are absent one employee, and he understands that this board is trying not to refill any vacant positions at this time, but this time of the year demands the entire crew. Matt Smith, Cemetery Director stated that the public demands this service for the cemetery's and the workload is greater during decoration. Director Smith stated that they mow, keep the cemetery clean, move dirt and they need the entire crew. Chair Smith thanked Director Smith for coming and stated that this is a very important thing and they have talked about finding other solutions to assist such as our grounds department, who have agreed to assist. Chair Smith stated that the cuts that they are proposing will help the county get through because of the cost of the Justice Center. Chair Smith stated that they did not single out any department, and they are more than glad to work with their board. Director Smith stated that he has always come in below budget every year. Chair Smith stated that all the commissioners were asking is that the department heads work with them on finding possible solutions. Manager Cody stated that they have cut the budget \$1.8M. Chair Smith stated that they are trying to prevent layoffs and they are doing their due diligence and they will be glad to speak with the cemetery board at next week's meeting.
25. Manager Cody stated that the county received a Streambank Stabilization Project Grant through Soil and Water for \$70,000.00 to repair the streambank at the pool. Manager Cody stated that he would need a motion to accept the grant. Chair Smith made the motion to accept the grant as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Manager Cody stated that he needed acceptance of the \$1.4 million DEQ Grant for Sanitation which will be used for upgrades, paving and equipment purchases. Commissioner Williams made the motion to accept the grant as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Manager Cody stated that he had received a request from the Graham County Fire and Rescue Chief Jeff Millsaps to give their appropriation and let them allocate the amounts needed for the satellite departments. Commissioner Williams made the motion to grant the request; the Fire Chief will know the needs of each department. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Cody stated that Stecoah Fire and Rescue is a standalone unit and is no part of this request.
28. Manager Cody asks if the board was ready to accept the Interlocal Agreement with Nantahala Regional Library. Commissioner Cody made the motion to accept the agreement as presented. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Manager Cody asks that the board review the Resolution opposing modifications to County Property Tax Authority. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the resolution as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Manager Cody reminded the board of the Public Hearing on May 8th for Sanitation discussions.

31. Manager Cody asks for the reappointment of Edd Satterfield to the RDA Board. Commissioner Williams made the motion to reappoint as stated. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Manager Cody stated that there is a vacancy on the RDA Board and there is no recommendation for an appointment at this time.
33. Manager Cody asks permission to surplus a 2018 Chevy Amb Vin#3989 with a minimum bid of \$1000.00. Chair Smith made the motion to approve as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Manager Cody asks permission to surplus a 1987 Hummer Vin#2904 with a minimum bid of \$2000.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Manager Cody asks permission to surplus a 2012 Chevy Vin#0444 with a minimum bid of \$1000.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve as stated. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Manager Cody asks permission to surplus a 2015 Dodge Charger Vin#2029 with a minimum bid of \$3500.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Manager Cody asks for approval of the Releases \$282.14 and the Discoveries \$1624.69. Chair Smith made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. Manager Cody stated that Logan's Run will be filing paperwork for grant funding and they are requesting a partnership with the county. Manager Cody stated that they cannot apply for the funding, but the county can and the money would be a pass through only with no county match. The board all discussed with Chair Smith making the motion to allow Logan's Run to apply for the grant funding; allowing the funds to come to the county with Graham County distributing the funds back to them. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
39. Manager Cody stated that he had spoken with Sheriff Moody concerning the Detention pay and he is requesting that we move forward with the pay increases.
40. 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 Williams made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
41. Chair Smith asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
42. Manager Cody gave an update on the Town of Robbinsville's Sanitation Bill. Manager Cody stated that they are three months behind and when he spoke with their Finance Machel Crisp, she stated that they intended to pay the bill but now Shawn Adams is stating that the board will not pay. Clerk Crisp stated that she received a report that now the Town is hiding half of the load that is weighed on Wednesday's to keep from paying the full cost. Manager Cody stated that Graham County relied on the honor system with the town but if in fact this is taking place, this is fraud. Manager Cody stated that the garbage that cannot go across the scales free is commercial and the town collects commercial garbage every day that they provide the service. Manager Cody stated that Shaun Adams felt they were being double taxed. Commissioner Williams stated that is not the county's fault. The board all agreed to stop service until the bill is paid. The board instructed Attorney Coward to write a letter to the Town informing them of the decision.
43. Chair Smith made a motion to increase the pay for the Jail Employees effective April 20th. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
44. Chair Smith asks for a motion to allow extended leave without pay to C. Jennings. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow the extended leave as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
45. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the closed session minutes for 3/17 Regular Meeting; 3/18, 3/20 Budget Meetings. Commissioner Williams made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
46. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Signature page for Regular Meeting Minutes April 21, 2026

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