

Regular Meeting – March 17, 2026

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular monthly meeting. Board present Meggan Smith, Lynn Cody, Connie Orr and Natasha Williams. Board absent Jacob Nelms. 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 Smtih asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chair Smith asks for approval of the agenda. Manager Cody asks that the board add Logan's Run Discussion under the Manager's Discussion and add T.D. Hill, Auditor, with RH Accounting under the Finance Reporting. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda with the stated changes. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chair Smith asks for approval of the February 17th Workshop and Regular Minutes; February 24th; February 26th; March 5th and March 10th Budget Meetings and February 20th; February 23rd and February 24th Continued Meetings. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chair Smith asks for public comment. Chair Smith asks Chase Lancaster to speak. Mr. Lancaster stated that he has a project in mind that will help raise money for the county. Mr. Lancaster stated that it is a Graham County Independence Day Rodeo Event on July 4th. Mr. Lancaster stated that the event will provide a safe, family-oriented celebration while supporting local agencies and organizations through fundraising. The rodeo will feature bull riding, ranch bronc riding, and barrel racing and all events will follow appropriate safety standards. Mr. Lancaster stated that the community fundraising initiatives are 50/50 raffle benefitting Graham County Animal Refuge, Shotgun raffle benefitting Graham County Sheriff's Department and Bicycle raffle benefitting EMS Department. Mr. Lancaster stated that he would like the county to allow camping accommodations, tent, camper, and RV for the participants and the proceeds would go to the Graham County Health Department. Mr. Lancaster stated that the library can set up a booth to sell books and asks that the county set up the concession stand with those proceeds going to the county general fund. Mr. Lancaster stated that he would have insurance provided by Lancaster Rodeo Productions with Graham County Management listed as co-insured. Mr. Lancaster stated that the event will promote tourism, support local services and provide family-friendly entertainment. Mr. Lancaster asks that sanitation provide green cans for the public to use. Mr. Lancaster asks that approval be given so that he can proceed with the planning and execution of this community focused event. Chair Smith stated that a rodeo is a good idea and Mr. Lancaster needed to speak with Thomas Menard, Recreation Director, because he is the one that is familiar with the rodeos being held on recreational properties. Commissioner Williams stated that the date needed to be changed because this would interfere with the Heritage Festival that will be held during July 4th and agrees that Thomas Menard would need to be involved in planning for the recreation properties. Mr. Lancaster stated that he would speak with Mr. Menard and report back to the board.
7. Chair Smtih asks for the finance reporting. Director Carpenter stated that TD Hill is on the phone to present an update on the audit. Mr. Hill stated that the audit is

trending well, and all the team is working on the audit at this time. Mr. Hill stated that he will have the financials completed by the end of this month and plan to file by April 15th with the Local Government Commission. Mr. Hill stated that one member of their team is attending the meeting if the board has any questions. Mr. Hill stated that the audit is doing extremely well and they will dive into the 24/25 audit and get it done as well. Chair Smith asks the time frame for completion. Mr. Hill stated that due to the weather they were a couple of weeks behind but that is on them and not on the Graham County Staff, Stacy Carpenter and her team have been very focused on getting the information to them quickly. Mr. Hill stated that they are in line to complete the 25 Audit and go directly to the 26 Audit and have everything caught up after that. Commissioner Cody asks for a draft. Mr. Hill stated by the end of the month a draft should be ready, and they will be able to file in April. Commissioner Cody stated that he wanted to review the draft. Commissioner Cody asks if they anticipate any findings. Mr. Hill stated that there are zero findings other than the timeliness issue, but the local government commission is aware of this. The board thanked Mr. Hill for his time.

8. Director Carpenter presented the financials. Director Carpenter presented Budget Amendments #18, # 19, 20 and #21 for the board's review and approval. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the budget amendments as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Director Carpenter stated that our revenues were \$16,701,601.09 and our expenditures are \$13,882,044.66. Director Carpenter stated that our year-to-date revenues exceeded our expenditures by \$2,819,556.43.
10. Director Carpenter stated that our current tax collection is \$420,251.15; prior years \$17,098.30 for a total collection of \$437,349.45 with a year-to-date collection of \$8,890,286.15.
11. Director Carpenter stated that our collection rate is 93.27%.
12. Director Carpenter stated that our VTS collection was \$56,988.01 with a year-to-date collection of \$489,801.05.
13. Director Carpenter stated that our sales tax collection for January is \$318,653.37 for a year-to-date total of \$2,301,449.65.
14. Director Carpenter stated that our ¼ cent tax collection is \$27,147.00 for a total since inception of \$1,936,725.16.
15. Director Carpenter stated that her next check-in with the Local Government Commission will be March 31st and our audit filing is expected mid-April.
16. Chair Smith asks Manager Cody to give the manager's report. Manager Cody stated that he had spoken with the architects for the Justice Center last week and they are planning a new design for the Justice Center Courts Facility and then as a second phase they will design a Sheriff/Jail. Manager Cody stated that he requested that the building be nice but budget friendly, which will lower the costs. Manager Cody stated that after the baseball season has ended the site work can begin. Chair Smith stated that this is good news and appreciated that Manager Cody relayed the wishes of the board for a smaller facility.
17. Manager Cody stated that he needed approval for the Releases \$1918.75 and Discoveries \$5328.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the releases and discoveries as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
18. Manager Cody stated that we had received a bid for the 2019 Ford Van with the blown motor. Chair Smith opened the bid, and it was from Barry Adams for \$300.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the bid from Barry Adams. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

19. Manager Cody stated that there is a request to appoint Jessica Ayers and Elizabeth Hooper to the AAA Advisory Council. Chair Smith made the motion to appoint as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
20. Manager Cody stated that the board received a request to participate in the Beaver Management Program for \$6000.00. Chair Smith made the motion to decline the request. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
21. Manager Cody gave a reminder to the public that the county would be closed on Good Friday, April 3rd.
22. Manager Cody presented the Nantahala Regional Library Interlocal Agreement for the board's review and approval. Chair Smith made the motion to table the agreement at this time. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Manager Cody asks for a motion to release Sanitation Bill 4210378 for \$170.00 due to the person being deceased. Commissioner Williams made the motion to release the bill as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
24. Manager Cody asks for a motion to surplus a 2019 Dodge Mini Van with a minimum bid of \$600.00. Chair Smith made the motion to surplus as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Manager Cody asks for a motion to surplus a 2004 Ford Ranger with a minimum bid of \$500.00. Commissioner Williams made the motion to surplus as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Manager Cody stated that he received a call from Logan's Run, a non-profit company that will do spay and neuter and they would like to partner with the county. The board gave a directive to Manager Cody to proceed with the discussions and report back to the board.
27. 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 as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Chair Smith asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Chair Smith asks for a motion to grant leave without pay to K Williams. Chair Smith made the motion as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Chair Smith asks for a motion to grant leave without pay to M Phillips. Commissioner Williams made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Chair Smith asks for a motion to reduce EMS Bill 247812 to \$100.00. Chair Smith made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the Closed Session Minutes for Regular 2/17; Continued 2/20; 2/23; Budget 3/5; 3/10. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the closed session minutes as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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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