

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. The regularly scheduled meeting for Tuesday, May 17, 2022, was postponed due to the Election Board utilizing the commissioner meeting room. All board was present. Also present, Manager Jason Marino, Finance Director Becky Garland, and Clerk Kim Crisp.

1. Chair Orr called the workshop session to order.
2. Chair Orr asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Eller made the motion to approve. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chair Orr thanked Manager Marino, Clerk Kim Crisp and Administrative Assistant Hope Anderson for their help with the Cancer Society move to the community building. Chair Orr stated that they had a seamless transition, and our county employees were the only resources they had to assist.
4. Chair Orr stated that she attended a meeting at the school and saw students in the school parking lot playing cornhole games and after asking questions, learned that our youth has no place to congregate, and we need to have some discussion. Chair Orr stated that in the discussion a suggestion was made that we needed a greenway behind the buildings at the end of Town behind the area where The HUB was located following the creek back into Town to connect with downtown. Chair Orr stated that it was beautiful on paper and our kids need a place to play. Chair Orr stated that they had received (413) responses that the most needed thing was activities for our young people. Chair Orr stated that the lack of activity leads to drug use and drug abuse and our youth need something to do other than to get high. Chair Orr stated that they needed supervised activities and Superintendent Angela Knight is looking for a place for a park in the county. Chair Orr stated that Graham County is the only county in North Carolina that does not have a park nor a museum, but this committee is working on both. Commissioner Wiggins stated that Joe Bonnette has been helping with a lot of ideas. Vice-Chair Eller stated that we needed to speak with HG Holdings on the Stanley property.
5. Chair Orr stated that they did appoint a new Four-Square Director and they have (97) vouchers for housing and no houses available. Commissioner Wiggins stated that they need multi-family homes. Chair Orr stated that a lot of people who allowed HUD renters did not want to repair the houses and the others have gone to renting for short term. Commissioner Wiggins stated that a lot of people took their names off the list because of the long wait. Commissioner Wiggins stated that we would see logging trucks everyday but now you very seldom see one and the forest did not disappear, but our small game is, and our health ecosystem is disappearing, and this is a shame. Commissioner Wiggins stated that 41% of our lands cannot be touched especially for timber harvesting and if the new US Forest Service plan goes into effect, they will add another 52,000 acres to the equation.
6. Chair Orr asks for further discussion. No further discussion.
7. Chair Orr asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eller made the motion. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Connie Orr, Chair

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Keith Eller, Vice-Chairman

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Lynn Cody, Member

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Jacob Nelms, Member

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Dale Wiggins, Member

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board