

## Budget Meeting – May 24, 2023

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. for a budget meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All board was present.

1. Chairman Nelms called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Nelms asks for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Nelms asks Finance Director to continue with the budget discussions. Commissioner Nelms stated that he did not have a lot of questions regarding the sheriff budget, his increase is in salaries only. Commissioner Orr stated that this seemed like a reasonable level. Director Carpenter stated that she did go over the budget request with Sheriff Hoxit yesterday. Commissioner Cody asks if the Sheriff is good on vehicles. Director Carpenter invited Sheriff Hoxit to the meeting, and he stated that they had spoken with Fleet Management yesterday and they were not clear, so they have scheduled another meeting with Enterprise to sit down with them and get their recommendations regarding the mileage and to see what they are spending on vehicles. Commissioner Orr stated that they need to look at the entire county fleet. Director Carpenter stated that she does a spreadsheet by department to show how we are utilizing this program. Commissioner Eller stated that the first year in the program they checked mileages, but the second year was never done. Director Carpenter stated that the departments turn in mileage monthly with their gas reports, but she does not have up to date figures on replacements.
4. Sheriff Hoxit spoke about two additional cars and two additional positions plus grants that he applied for and received. Sheriff Hoxit stated that Congressman Edwards was helping fund the rescue boat and they are asking for \$80,000.00 in the AG Appropriation Committee. Commissioner Orr asks that Senator Corbin be contacted as well. Sheriff Hoxit stated that he will receive a check from Brookfield in the amount of \$25,000.00. Sheriff Hoxit stated that once the county gets a new jail facility, he will work to bring money into the county through housing of inmates.
5. Chairman Nelms asks about the special appropriations. Director Carpenter stated that she will consult with Becky Garland to make sure that she has not missed something on the budget.
6. Director Carpenter stated that the EMS Collections are doing better, and she has had a presentation with Colleton. Director Carpenter stated that DSS has had an increase due to staffing of two extra positions for Medicaid Expansion.
7. The board discussed additional ARPA funds and what funds are not restricted. Director Carpenter suggests a post covid policy for personnel across the board. The board discussed working from home and needed clear definitions on who should be allowed to work at home and why would they be allowed. Clerk Crisp stated that it must be on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Orr stated that the board needed to understand that if we allow one department to be able to work from home, we must allow all our departments.
8. The board discussed having the letters on the Courthouse Monument re-blacked.
9. The board met with Sanitation Director Gavin Colvard. Director Colvard stated that Director Marino had called Municipal Engineering regarding the replacement of the shed, and we will have a Master Plan but this needs to be a priority because the building will fall, and we have a half million-dollar truck parked under this shed. The board agreed that this cannot wait and want pricing now. Clerk Crisp suggests that they call Dirk Cody and speak with him concerning the take down because half of the building is his and he expressed in the past his assistance. The board agreed.
10. Director Colvard stated that there are new laws in the State regarding garbage disposal and the board needed to consider closing some of the sites. Director Colvard stated that we had a steel pipe that was in the green cans burst the windshield of the truck. The board discussed the possibility of closing sites and agreed that Sawyers Creek, East Buffalo, and our Sanitation Site be the sites to remain open. The board discussed manning the sites and the hours that would best serve the public. The board wanted a plan to put in place and presented to the board. The board stated that commercial haulers would have to pay, we would have to control the garbage coming across the scales and into the sites and we may need to charge out of town people who want to utilize the garbage sites.
11. The board agreed that they needed to discuss the fleet, the mil rate, and the sanitation plan.
12. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Jacob Nelms, Chairman

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Natasha Williams, Vice-Chair

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Lynn Cody, Member

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Keith Eller, Member

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Connie Orr, Member

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board