

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville NC for their regular workshop session. All the board was present. Also present Interim County Manager/Clerk to the Board Kim Crisp.

1. Chairman Nelms called the workshop session to order.
2. Chairman Nelms asks Sue Ledford to speak. Clerk Crisp stated that Ms. Ledford was unable to make this workshop session due to a prior obligation and requests to be moved to the June Workshop Session. Clerk Crisp stated that Robert Moody, Assistant Superintendent was here from the school to discuss the Football Stadium and asks that he be allowed to speak at this time.
3. Chairman Nelms asks Mr. Moody to speak. Mr. Moody stated that we have a serious problem with the football stadium home bleachers. Mr. Moody stated that the school's maintenance staff had been noticing a shift in the home side bleachers for a while and had added extra support in the past. Mr. Moody stated that the shift was larger now, so they reached out to two companies who did not want to do the work, so he reached out to Jason Marino. Mr. Moody gave pictures to the board members that show where the shift is at the bottom and the bottom bleachers are barely on the support beam and if this gives way, the entire bleachers will fall. Mr. Moody stated they thought the bleachers could be picked up with a crane and stabilized with metal plates, but the concrete is old and decayed. Mr. Moody stated that he is unsure of the solution at this time, the project is bigger than the school can handle in house. Ms. Tonya Walsh, Athletic Director was present and stated that the school has moved graduation back to the high school and they are trying to set a contingent plan in place for the football program. Ms. Walsh stated that they needed to get the cost and consider the effectiveness of keeping the field here or moving it to the high school. Ms. Walsh stated that they will keep Jason Marino in the loop as they go with the next steps. Chairman Nelms asks if the engineer had given any type of estimated costs or possible design with costs. Mr. Moody stated that they have not and due to the size of this repair they would have to get bids first. Mr. Roger Gibbs, School Maintenance stated that the repair is more than two or three rows at this time, and it will take a big crane to remove the seating. Commissioner Cody stated that Ted Phillips built the stadium in 1981. Mr. Gibbs stated that the retaining walls had been added to other parts of the stadium. Mr. Moody stated that the county had updated the lights because they were outdated but our school is old and hopes we can find a solution together. Commissioner Williams asks if normal wear and tear would be covered under the insurance. Mr. Moody stated that he would have Lester Greene reach out to the insurance company but feels this is natural wear and tear and would not be covered. Mr. Moody stated that the school just spent \$60,000.00 for termites at the gym which was an unexpected cost as well. Mr. Moody stated that he would let the board know the news as it comes forward. Ms. Walsh stated that if we are unable to play home games this will result in a huge loss of revenue for our county. Mr. Moody stated that word is already getting out and some parents are calling. Ms. Walsh stated that if the stadium was moved, it would require a lot of work and cost because the field does not have seating, goal posts or lighting. Mr. Moody gave his contact information to the board. The board thanked everyone for coming and will appreciate the updates as they come in.
4. Chairman Nelms asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Jacob Nelms, Chairman

Natasha Williams, Vice-Chair

Lynn Cody, Member

Keith Eller, Member

Connie Orr, Member

ATTEST: _____
Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board