

Budget Meeting – May 23, 2023

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday May 23, 2023, for a regular budget meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, North Carolina. All board was present.

1. Chairman Nelms called the meeting to order.
2. Chairman Nelms asks for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chairman Nelms stated that we would begin budget discussion. Clerk Crisp stated that she did have an Intergovernmental Agreement by and Between the Cherokee Police Department and the County Sheriff Offices for the board's review.
4. Finance Director Stacy Carpenter presented the board with a spreadsheet of the expenditures through May 2023 to see where the departmental numbers are at this time. Director Carpenter stated that some departments went over due to unexpected repairs or expenses that were unplanned. Director Carpenter stated that she will need to schedule at least three more budget meetings. Director Carpenter asked about the Stadium Bleachers and stated that if these are not repaired it will mean a huge loss in revenue to the sport's program. Director Carpenter stated that this will be an impact to the budget. Director Carpenter stated that the lottery funds could be used to offset the cost due to this being an uncontrolled emergency funding need. Chairman Nelms asks if the departmental budgets were coming in less than last year. Director Carpenter stated that some were coming in around the same amount and she would double check the ones that are showing a less amount.
5. Commissioner Cody stated that he was making a formal request to give the Fire Departments and the Rescue Squads an increase in funding this year because they have not been increased in many years. Commissioner Cody stated that property has been donated on Harris Creek for a Tallulah Fire Station and this will cost a lot of money that has not been budgeted so this will hit hard on the Fire Department Budgets.
6. Commissioner Nelms stated that the board needed to have a conversation about garbage. Commissioner Williams stated that we take trash for free but there are new laws concerning businesses dumping their garbage in our green cans. Commissioner Nelms stated that Sanitation Director Gavin Colvard needed to meet with the board, and we do need to put money in contingency to support this program and look for grants to help.
7. Director Carpenter stated that revenue neutral rate is \$0.45.7 cents.
8. Director Carpenter stated that the NC Forest Service requested \$68,000.00 which is an increase from last year of \$63,520.00.
9. The board had discussion on the Rescue Squad and Fire Departments. The previous allocation for Rescue Squads is \$5,000.00 and the Fire Departments was \$26,850.00. The board agreed to take the Rescue Squad appropriation to \$10,000.00 and the Fire Departments to \$45,000.00.
10. The board discussed the special appropriations funding. Chairman Nelms asks that the same appropriation be made as last year to the ones that we fund every year. The board all agreed.
11. The board discussed the library request, and their request went up from \$89,500.00 to \$125,825.00. The board agreed to \$95,000.00.
12. The board agreed to meet with Sanitation Director Gavin Colvard and Sheriff Brad Hoxit tomorrow.
13. Chairman Nelms asks for a motion to adjourn the budget meeting. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eller 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