

Regular Meeting – February 18, 2025

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for their regular monthly meeting. All board was present. Also, present Finance Director Stacy Carpenter, Project Manager Jason Marino, Attorney JK Coward and Interim County Manager/Clerk to the Board Kim Crisp.

1. Chair Smith called the meeting to order.
2. Chair Smith asks Commissioner Cody to give the Invocation.
3. Chair Smith asks Commissioner Orr to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chair Smith asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chair Smith asks for approval of the minutes for January 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting, January 9<sup>th</sup> Special and Emergency Meeting. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chair Smith asks Wanda Hill, Senior Center Director, to speak. Director Hill stated that she was here requesting permission to apply for the HCCBG Block Grant for \$126,336.00 with a \$14,037.00 county match. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chair Smith asks EM Director Brian Stevens to speak. Director Stevens stated that he had a couple of things to discuss. Last year he made a purchase of a \$78,000.00 Underwater Sonar for recovery purposes and now they need a platform to operate the equipment. Director Stevens stated that he has shopped around, gotten quotes and recommendations and he has located the item needed at Madisonville Marine for \$45,426.00. Director Stevens stated that he has \$49,000.00 in his EMPG Funds for the purchase. Chair Smith made the motion to approve the purchase. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Director Stevens stated that he found a company that can make a remuneration for one of our ambulances and if we do now, we can have another new ambulance within 180 days. Director Stevens stated that he will get the final total to the board but would like permission to have this truck remount completed in this fiscal year. Commissioner Orr made the motion to proceed with the remount. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
9. Chair Smith asks Project Manager Jason Marino for the project manager's report. PM Marino stated that the Justice Center is pending a site selection, and the board is diligently looking for the site.
10. PM Marino stated that the Senior Center and the High School Stadium Project will be coming off the reporting due completion or withdrawal.
11. PM Marino stated that the Jail will be completed with the next budget and is set to begin in July.
12. PM Marino stated that the EMS Paving project is awaiting funds and has reached out to the Tribe to see if they could assist with the funding.
13. PM Marino stated that the Supplemental Neighborhood Revitalization project has begun and is happy to report that they are able to build two more homes. PM Marino stated that the contracts have been awarded to WNC Contracting and they will begin the projects in March. PM Marino stated that he is working with the families at this time on storage facilities, etc.
14. PM Marino stated that the RDA chose Lot #7 to begin the Azalea Home School Project, and they are excited to get this project moving forward in building low to moderate income housing for our community.
15. PM Marino stated that he is seeking grant monies to assist with our sanitation upgrades.
16. Chair Smith asks for the finance reporting. Director Carpenter stated that she did have a Project Ordinance for the Dogwood Trust for the two new homes in the amount of \$536,664.32. Director Carpenter stated that these funds will be dedicated to Construction - \$506,800.00 and Contingency \$29,864.32. Chair Smith made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
17. Finance Director Stacy Carpenter stated that she did have an amendment for review. Amendment #6 which has four appropriation changes about Soil and Water Roof Replacement, Fire/EMS Insurance, Senior Center General Purpose Grant and DSS-Enhanced Medicaid Claiming to Foster Care for Room and Board and the Revenue changes for these mentioned. Chair Smith made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

18. Director Carpenter stated that the board would need to make a motion to use \$10,000.00 of Contingency for Amendment #6. Chair Smith made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
19. Director Carpenter gave updates including an income statement with year-to-date revenues of \$14,950,699.08 and year-to-date expenditures of \$13,118,350.35.
20. Director Carpenter stated that our property tax collections for January are: \$1,691,224.53; prior years \$29,115.95 for a total collection of \$8,382,576.32. Director Carpenter stated that the balance to be collected is \$880,764.12.
21. Director Carpenter stated that our tax collection rate is 90.49%.
22. Director Carpenter stated that our sales tax collection to date is \$1,866,664.24.
23. Director Carpenter stated that our DMV year-to-date tax collections are \$394,478.80.
24. Chair Smith asks for public comment. Jack Gross stated thanked the board for their work and asks that they consider a resolution to protect the Veteran's Benefits and Services.
25. Chair Smith stated that the board would now go into the discussion items. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the Release in the amount of \$1,017.77. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Chair Smith stated that she would like to assist Reigniting Hope with supplies to purchase roof materials for the house that will be used to provide shelter and showers for our homeless. Commissioner Williams made the motion to allow the purchase. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the following polls:
  - a. 2/6 property offer; vote unanimous
  - b. 2/6 purchase kennel for dangerous dogs; vote unanimous
  - c. 2/11 property offer; vote unanimous
  - d. 2/12 withdraw property offer; vote unanimousCommissioner Orr made the motion to approve the polls as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
28. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve leave without pay for A Carringer of 27.70 hours. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Chair Smith asks for a motion to accept the BCBS renewal with a 6% increase. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the renewal as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
30. Chair Smith asks if the board would like to sponsor the Senior Games. The board agreed to sponsor Gold Level at \$300.00. Chair Smith made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Chair Smith reminded the board of the budget schedule.
32. Chair Smith asks for a motion to replace Mary Griffin on the Senior Center Advisory Board. Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Harold Phillips to this board. Commissioner Cody seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Chair Smith asks for a motion to accept the Smoky Mountain Land proposal for a Construction Site Plan for \$5000.00 from the recreation budget. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Chair Smith asks for a motion to reappoint Harold Phillips to the Transportation Advisory Board. Commissioner Orr made the motion. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
35. Chair Smith asks for a motion to reappoint Debbie Beasley to the Travel and Tourism Board effective 1/17/2025 for two years. Commissioner Cody made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
36. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adopt the Resolution for the America's 250 Anniversary in Graham County. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adopt the resolution as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
37. Chair Smith asks for permission to apply for Amateur Sports Grant for \$20,000.00 with no match. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
38. 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 to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

- 39. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
- 40. Chair Smith asks for a motion to allow Mike Phillips to move the mobile home from Heid Property. Chair Smith made the motion. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
- 41. Chair Smith asks for approval of the directive to move forward with prices for office space. Commissioner Cody made the motion. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
- 42. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Meggan Smith, Chair, Graham County Commissioner

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Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Natasha Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board