

Regular Meeting – January 21, 2025

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, January 21, 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 Project Manager Jason Marino, Finance Director Stacy Carpenter 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 Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes for December 17, 2025. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Chair Smith asks Wanda Hill, Senior Center Director, to speak. Director Hill stated that it is time for our annual HCCBG grant funding requests. Director Hill stated that the grant amount is \$11,100.00 with a match of \$3800.00. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
7. Chair Smith asks Project Manager Jason Marino to speak. PM Marino stated that he would be meeting tomorrow on Site 14 with the architect and will give the results to Manager Crisp to poll the board if they want to move forward for the proposed Justice Center Site.
8. PM Marino stated that our Senior Center project is closing out and encourages the board to go view the new expansion.
9. PM Marino stated that the stadium bleacher project is still on hold at this time.
10. PM Marino stated that the numbers have not come in yet regarding the hazmat work for the jail, but the cost could be around \$100,000.00. Finance Director Carpenter stated that an amendment would have to be made prior to any commencement of work.
11. PM Marino stated that he is awaiting a call from the Tribe to see if they can contribute to the EMS Paving Project, and he will continue to look for grant funding.
12. PM Marino stated that our Dogwood Homes are being valued engineered to better suit the project, and we should be receiving those quotes by next week.
13. PM Marino stated that the Azalea Hills project is awaiting review by the Schools Attorney.
14. Chair Smith asks Finance Director Carpenter to give the monthly reporting. Director Carpenter stated that she did have a budget amendment for review.
 - a. Budget Amendment #5 and presented the changes. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the budget amendment as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
15. Director Carpenter stated that she needed permission to pay Southeastern Seating for the stadium bleacher rental for \$35,675.00. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the payments as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
16. Director Carpenter gave the update from the Local Government Commission/UAL follow-ups and stated that we need to have the budget by April 15th submitted to the LGC. The board agreed to begin workshop sessions in the third week in February.
17. Director Carpenter presented the revenues and expenditure to date. Director Carpenter stated that our sales tax collections totals were \$3,060,634.75 for December and for January \$1,330,481.63 with prior years collections of \$31,726.20. Director Carpenter stated that our total collections for 2024 are \$8,020,980.76 with a balance of \$1,242,484.69 yet to be collected.
18. Director Carpenter stated that our tax collection rate to date is 86.59%.
19. Director Carpenter stated that our year-to-date sales tax collections is \$1,798,749.25; our sales tax set aside for the schools is \$334,557.41 and our ¼ cent sales set aside for the year is \$1,556,508.59.
20. Director Carpenter stated that our DMV collections for the month were \$48,886.95 with our year-to-date collection of \$337,813.30.
21. Chair Smith asks for public comment. No public comment.
22. Chair Smith asks for discussion items. Chair Smith asks for approval of the Releases \$785.28 and the Discoveries \$253.70. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
23. Chair Smith stated that she had been speaking with Brittany Holder on Animal Control and needed more information prior to any discussion. The board all agreed to table the discussion.

24. Chair Smith stated that the county had an increase in the cost of disposing of our tires to US Tire Recycling DBA Liberty Tire. Commissioner Orr made the motion to approve the increase. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
25. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the Proclamation for Ronnie Milsap Day. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
26. Chair Smith asks for a motion to reappoint Bob Wehr and Kelsey Cody to the Health Advisory Board. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the reappointment as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
27. Chair Smith asks for a motion to replace Chantal Matheson on the Health Advisory Board. The board agreed to the reappointment at this time.
28. Chair Smith asks for a motion to release EMS Bill 038786 for \$2,041.00 due to the patient being deceased with no estate. Commissioner Williams made the motion to release the EMS Bill as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
29. Chair Smith reminded the board of the fiscal training that needed to be completed by each board member.
30. 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 Cody made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
31. Chair Smith asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Orr made the motion as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
32. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve extended leave without pay for Employee L Moore. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
33. Chair Smith asks for a motion to approve the closed session minutes from the December 17, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Cody made the motion to approve the minutes as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
34. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Meggan Smith, Chair, Graham County Commissioner

Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Natasha Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board