

**OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**April 18, 2022**

The Members of the Honorable Board of Commissioners of Granville County, North Carolina met in a regular meeting on Monday, April 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, Granville Expo and Convention Center, 4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford.

***Present were:***

***Chair:*** Tony W. Cozart

***Commissioners:*** Jimmy Gooch Timothy Karan  
Sue Hinman Russ May  
Zelodis Jay David T. Smith

***County Manager:*** Michael S. Felts

***Assistant County Manager:*** Korena Weichel

***County Attorney:*** James C. Wrenn, Jr.

***News Reporters:*** David Murray – *Oxford Public Ledger*

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At 7:00 p.m., Chairman Tony W. Cozart called the meeting to order. He then recognized Commissioner Sue Hinman for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the consent agenda as follows:

(A) Approved the Summary of Contingency and Use of Fund Balance report that showed the following balances:

General Contingency Balance	\$	14,000
School Bond D/S Contingency	\$	100,000
Environmental Disaster Contingency	\$	10,000
General Fund Appropriated Fund Balance	\$	4,485,783

(B) Approved authorizing the County Manager, Assistant County Manager, Sheriff, Finance Director, and Detention Administrator to serve as grant project contacts and financial reporting contacts for the Detention Center COVID-19 Support for County Confinement Facilities Grant request application RFA #A399, no-match grant, in the amount of \$80,000.

**RECOGNITION OF VERNELL ANDERSON – GRANVILLE HEALTH SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES -HELD**

Chairman Tony Cozart announced that Vernell Anderson was unable to attend the meeting tonight and that the recognition will be held at a later date.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Baba Kerr, 7089 Bayberry Drive, Oxford, NC,** made comments about tutoring at the

Richard H. Thornton Library and an incident involving an employee:

I would like to thank the GC Commissioners for establishing a system of tutoring at Richard H. Thornton Library. This system included setting up tables in the library so that teachers/tutors could assist students in need of academic assistance, especially at improving their EOG testing in Math and Language Arts. The former Children's Services Librarian was committed to this system. In fact, I tutored her grandchild in Math at the library.

Comments continued about an incident that took place at the library involving an employee. Chairman Cozart asked Mr. Kerr to not mention the names of individuals.

Mr. Kerr said that there had been a misunderstanding and that he has only been making copies since the incident. He asked the Board to let new staff know about the tutoring program that has been there for eight years so the matter can be resolved. He gave a copy of the comments to the Clerk.

**BOARD APPROVED RADIO PURCHASE FOR DETENTION OFFICERS**

Chairman Cozart stated that the Sheriff's Office/Detention Center was requesting approval to purchase nine (9) VP5430 Viking Portable Radios with chargers and speaker microphones at a cost of \$16,313.40. These radios are for the officers who are now being hired so these are new purchases. Chairman Cozart noted that the Sheriff's Office/Detention Center recommends the purchase.

Commissioner Sue Hinman made a motion to approve the purchase and Commissioner Timothy Karan seconded the motion.

After clarification that the radios work with the Viper System, have dual capabilities, and in case of emergencies outside agencies can be contacted, the Board voted on the matter.

When Chairman Cozart called for a vote on the matter, it passed unanimously to approve the purchase of nine (9) VP5430 Viking portable radios and related equipment for the Detention Center from Radio Communications Company for an amount not to exceed \$16,313.40.

**BOARD APPROVED RADIOS FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Chairman Cozart requested that the Board consider the purchase of twenty (20) APX6000 Motorola portable radios and sixteen (16) APX4500 Motorola mobile radios so the Sheriff's Office will be compatible with the new Viper System requirements effective July 1,

2025. He stated that the funding for this planned purchase is included in the Sheriff's fiscal year 2021-2022 budget and that the Sheriff recommends the purchase.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner David T. Smith, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of twenty (20) APX6000 Motorola portable radios and sixteen (16) APX4500 Motorola mobile radios for the Sheriff's Office from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$159,541.85.

Sheriff Hardy then introduced Lonnie Lemons, consultant for the Detention Center, and noted that it was his second day with the office.

Chairman Cozart mentioned a recent difficult situation in the Antioch community and told Sheriff Hardy that he was thankful for the partnership with Franklin County and for their assistance.

**BOARD APPROVED STREET NAME FOR TRIANGLE NORTH-GRANVILLE INDUSTRIAL PARK**

Harry Mills, Director of Economic Development, stated that the Triangle North-Granville Industrial Park is located at 5612 Tabbs Creek Road, Oxford. There is a road that goes one mile into the park and will eventually be completed throughout the park. At this point in time there is no name for the road. He said that after consulting with Sandy Woody, Granville County Addressing Coordinator, they came up with the name Triangle North Drive and noted that the name is available. Mr. Mills noted that the Granville County Economic Development Advisory Board agreed with the proposed name for the road.

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the name of the Triangle North Granville Industrial Park street as Triangle North Drive and approved placement of a street sign in the amount of \$135.

**BOARD WAS NOTIFIED OF CHANGE OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

Harry Mills, Director of Economic Development, stated that there were scheduling conflicts with the Economic Development Advisory Board meeting dates and that it would be better to meet on the first Thursday of every other month. He notified the Board of the change of meeting dates included in the agenda packet as follows:

Notice of meeting dates for the Economic Development Advisory Board  
at 5:30 p.m. at the Economic Development Office located at  
310 Williamsboro Street, Oxford.

May 5, 2022  
July 7, 2022  
September 1, 2022  
November 3, 2022

Commissioner Timothy Karan, a member of the Economic Development Advisory Board, thanked Mr. Mills for the change of meeting day. He reported that they were waiting for an announcement by Governor Roy Cooper on the CertainTeed expansion project and noted that Mr. Mills did the work for the project. He commended Mr. Mills and the Economic Development staff and said they are doing a great job.

**BOARD APPROVED UTILITY BILLING AUDIT SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Chairman Cozart stated that the purposed of the next item was to consider an agreement with Utility Management Services, Inc. (UMS) to perform a utility billing audit on Granville County accounts. He stated further that there are no up-front fees or out-of-pocket expenses and, if they do not identify and produce savings, there is no charge for the service. He noted that the Granville County Internal Auditor recommended authorizing the County Manager to execute the attached Utility Billing Audit Services Agreement between Granville County and Utility Management Services, Inc.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved authorizing the County Manager to execute the Utility Billing Audit Services Agreement between Granville County and Utility Management Services, Inc.

**PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

Commissioner May reported that the verdict is still out on the Leandro decision that has been sent back to the courts for a final ruling. The decision will impact education funding throughout the state.

**BOARD APPOINTED BLAINE HOLMES (DISTRICT 5) TO THE GRANVILLE COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Blaine Holmes (District 5) to the Granville County Citizens Advisory Committee for Environmental Affairs.

**BOARD REAPPOINTED MEMBERS TO THE GRANVILLE GREENWAYS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board reappointed Commissioner Timothy Karan, Granville County Representative, and Angela Allen, Tourism Development Authority Representative to the Greenways Advisory Council.

Commissioner Timothy Karan reported that three new trails will be opening in Stem, Creedmoor, and District 6 in conjunction with the partnership with Tar River Land Conservancy.

**BOARD APPOINTED CAROL JO HARRIS (DISTRICT 5) TO THE SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner David T. Smith, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Carol Jo Harris (District 5) to the Senior Services Advisory Committee.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

County Attorney Wrenn stated that he had attorney-client privilege matters for closed session.

**BOARD PRESENTATIONS**

Commissioner Jay announced a clean-up event in memory of the late Marshal Floyd who was on the Environmental Affairs Committee. Those interested will meet on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 a.m. at the Expo Center. He stated that Jason Falls will be giving out directions and that they will be cleaning up Wilton Slopes, down around Tar River and on Highway 96 near where Mr. Floyd lived.

Commissioner Hinman stated it was an honor to be at the meeting today for the presentations of the checks to the different fire departments. She said she hoped everyone had a Happy Easter.

Commissioner May said he had the privilege and honor to attend K-9 Major's memorial service, noting that K-9 Major assisted the Granville County Sheriff's Department and the Franklin County's S.W.A.T. Team at a recent incident. He stated that it is a really touching and profound loss when you are a K-9 handler, and you lose your best partner. He said he hopes that the County will find a way to recognize Major. He stated that he is encouraged by what this Sheriff's Department is doing regarding the Detention Center and for equipping and

creating a sufficient, efficient, and effective SRT (Special Response Team) Team. He stated that it is critical and thanked Sheriff Hardy for his leadership in that regard. He continued that this afternoon when fire department checks were presented, some Commissioners spoke with North Carolina Secretary of Insurance Mike Causey and voiced their concerns about the amount of training that volunteer fire departments have to continue to do, and the mandates placed upon them by the state. He noted that it is unrealistic to think that a volunteer will have to complete the same amount of training and time as a full-time firefighter and that he hopes that the Board can have further dialogue. He stated that if the County intends to maintain volunteer fire departments at the level that ours has to maintain them, as well as other counties throughout North Carolina, then Granville County will have to have assistance from the State of North Carolina in reviewing training standards and regulations as they apply.

Chairman Cozart stated that the Night of Kindness will be this Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Northern Granville Middle School. He said that he has been looking forward to this event as he had missed it the last two years due to COVID issues. He stated that it is a very touching event and that he hopes others can attend as it is very special to hear what our young people have to say about those who make a difference in their lives.

Chairman Cozart stated that he wanted to express his thanks to Vice Chair May for being in Franklin County today for the memorial service for K-9 Major. He also thanked those who could be in attendance for the check presentations earlier to the fire departments. He stated that he wanted to echo again that he has family and a lot of friends in Antioch and there has been nothing but positive comments about the professionalism and concern about the recent incident. He said he wanted to take the moment to say this because he does not care what people say about law enforcement on the national level, he just wanted to say to people here, that our local people are our friends, and they work with us. He noted that it is very gratifying to hear people in our community talk so fondly about the compassion and concern of law enforcement and all of those connecting pieces — 911, firemen, and all the other services and noted that he is proud of that.

**BOARD WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Russ May, and unanimously carried, the Board went into closed session as allowed by G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to

preserve attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board returned to open session.

**BOARD TOOK ACTION REGARDING ZONING AND SOLID WASTE COMPLAINTS**

County Attorney Wrenn stated that he and the County Manager would like to recommend that zoning and solid waste complaints be sent by the Planning Director and Solid Waste/Environmental Programs Director with a recommendation to the County Manager for review and approval before a lawsuit is filed so the matters do not have to be brought back to the Board individually for approval.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved authorizing a process for zoning and solid waste complaints. Complaints will be sent to the Planning Director and/or the Environmental Services/Solid Waste Director depending on the nature of the complaint. If the Director believes the issue needs to be addressed by the County Attorney, he will forward the complaint with a recommendation to the County Manager for review before sending them to the County Attorney to file a lawsuit.

**BOARD ADJOURNED**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra A. Weary, NCMCC, CMC  
Clerk to the Board