

OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA
October 17, 2022

The Members of the Honorable Board of Commissioners of Granville County, North Carolina met in a regular meeting on Monday, October 17, 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 (left at 7:51 p.m.)
Sue Hinman Russ May
Zelodis Jay David T. Smith

County Manager: Drew Cummings (appointed and sworn in at this meeting)

Assistant County Manager: Korena Weichel

County Attorney: James C. Wrenn, Jr.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chairman Tony W. Cozart called the meeting to order. He stated that it was very special to look out and see so much youth power in attendance. He said that it was a special night in Granville County as the Board comes to another chapter in the history of the county. Chairman Cozart had with the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BOARD APPOINTED DREW CUMMINGS AS COUNTY MANAGER
AND WAS GIVEN THE OATH OF OFFICE**

Chairman Cozart stated that as he had mentioned earlier, it was such a special night for Granville County as they were so fortunate to bring on the new County Manager. He welcomed Mr. Drew Cummings. Mr. Cummings was selected as the Granville County Manager and needed to be officially appointed and take the Oath of Office per North Carolina General Statute § 153A-26.

Oath of Office. Each person elected by the people or appointed to a county office shall, before entering upon the duties of the office, take and subscribe the oath of office prescribed in Article VI, Sec. 7 of the Constitution. The oath of office shall be administered by some person authorized by law to administer oaths and shall be filed with the clerk to the board of commissioners.

At that time, Chairman Cozart administered the Oath of Office and asked for a motion to formally appoint Mr. Cummings as the Granville County Manager.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Mr. Drew Cummings as County Manager of Granville County.

Mr. Cummings thanked Chairman Cozart, Vice Chair May, and all the Commissioners for their faith they put in him. He said he intends to earn it many times over. He stated that he is conscious of the trust that the Board was putting in him and hoped that he could live up to it. In speaking to the members of the public and other staff members in attendance, Drew stated that he really believes in the local government's importance and distinctiveness as an engine of democracy. He stated that he really loves this work and while he is not from Granville County, he hopes that and trusts that he will learn to love this county and community. He stated further that as he thought about this night, he thought about all the great many teachers and mentors that he has had along the way in this work; dedicated principals and managers and employees of all different levels of organizations that he has worked in who exemplified the best of professional local government management and leadership. He thanked Doug Logan whom he stated had been a great help to him as he transitioned over in the last couple of weeks. He continued that Doug had been a great part of the warm welcome he has received from everyone. He also noted that he comes from a long line of public servants, teachers of all stripes, Peace Corp volunteers, soldiers, doctors, pastors, farmers, and more teachers — good and faithful servants — and that he intends to leave that chain unbroken with his service in Granville County. He stated that he appreciates the opportunity to serve this great county and he appreciates and understands the trust being placed in him and he looks forward to their work together to make this an even better community and organization. He thanked his wife, Amy and children, Webb, Esa, and Doran for coming and for their support.

Chairman Cozart thanked Mr. Cummings and also noted that the Board would continue to support Mr. Logan's assistance in any way he needed and that at the appropriate time, the Board would acknowledge his contributions more formally. He assured Mr. Logan that he had again answered the call of service to Granville County and thanked him for it.

BOARD APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Timothy Karan stated that as the Board moved forward with the consent agenda, he would like to make a motion that the Board adopt it but asked for the

Chairman's indulgence that he leave early after public comments, and at that time, he would like to make one quick public comment.

Chairman Cozart stated that the Board granted Commissioner Karan's request and understood that Commissioner Karan would be leaving.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

- (A) Approved declaring the following vehicles as surplus and authorized their sale via an online auction platform:

Sheriff's Department:

- 2011 Ford Explorer – VIN #3519
- 2013 Tahoe K-9 Unit – VIN #8892
- 2013 Dodge Charger – VIN #6146
- 2018 Ford Expedition – VIN #5585
- Crown VIC – 4577

Solid Waste

- 2002 Dodge Durango – VIN #4213

- (B) Approved Minutes of the February 7, 2022 and March 21, 2022 Regular Meetings.

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE SERVICE OF MICHAEL K. "MIKE" ALLEN

Chairman Cozart asked Commissioners Jay and May to present the proclamation to Mr. Michal K. "Mike" Allen.

Commissioner Jay acknowledged that Mr. Allen has done a wonderful job in the county, in the school system, and in the church. He stated that anything asked of Mr. Allen to handle, he would simply say, "Okay, do not worry about it. I got it." He stated that he gets the job done and that the Board wanted to express their appreciation to him for the service he has provided to this community.

Commissioner May stated Mr. Allen also served on the Veterans Service Committee and that he is a very genuine person. He then read the following proclamation and presented it on behalf of the Board:

**PROCLAMATION HONORING
MICHAEL K. "MIKE" ALLEN**

WHEREAS, Michael K. Allen, known as Mike, served his country with pride and distinction in the United States Navy from 1980 until 1989; and

WHEREAS, Mike Allen was appointed to the Granville County Veterans Affairs Committee by the Granville County Board of Commissioners on January 19, 2016, to share his knowledge, his experience, and to serve the veterans of Granville County; and

WHEREAS, Mike Allen served as Chairman of the Veterans Appreciation Event that was held on March 3, 2018, and the annual event recognized veterans for their military service; and

WHEREAS, Mike Allen's quiet and pleasant demeanor exhibited the finest character of Granville while representing the thousands of veterans living in Granville County; and

WHEREAS, Mike Allen was elected by his peers to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee from 2019 until 2022; and

WHEREAS, unanimously, on March 15, 2022, Mike Allen was elected by his peers to serve as Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that it is with immense gratitude and appreciation that the Granville County Commissioners acknowledge and celebrate the selfless dedication of service of Michael K. "Mike" Allen to both our country, the United States of America, and our county, Granville County, in the great state of North Carolina.

Chairman Cozart again thanked Mr. Allen for his service to Granville County and the community.

SPECIAL PROCLAMATION OF RECOGNITION OF JIMMY TAYLOR

Chairman Cozart asked Commissioners Jay, May, and Hinman to also present this special recognition on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Jay asked Jimmy Taylor, Volunteer Fire Fighter, to come forward.

Commissioner Russ May read the following proclamation that was presented on behalf of the Board:

**Proclamation Honoring the Heroism of
Volunteer Fire Fighter Jimmy Taylor**

WHEREAS, on Saturday, October 1, 2022, a call came into the Granville County 911 Emergency Communications Center reporting that a CPR course of action was in progress in the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department District; and

WHEREAS, on that day both Jimmy Taylor, a member of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, and his friend Owen Hamlett were walking, talking, and working in the yard; and

WHEREAS, Owen Hamlett had a medical episode that rendered him non-responsive and put him in a state of asphyxiation; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Taylor, a member of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department for over ten years, with 60 plus hours of training, naturally jumped into action, and put in a call to the Granville County 911 Communications Center to get EMS and other First Responders en route; and

WHEREAS, while the emergency teams were being dispatched to the location, Jimmy Taylor was already on a mission to provide life saving measures to his friend Owen Hamlett; and

WHEREAS, when EMS and First Responders arrived, Jimmy Taylor was still focused, as he has done for years in his profession, but this was a "little too close to home;" and once in the ambulance Owen Hamlett regained consciousness, was transported

to the hospital, and was able to receive the care he needed, thanks to the quick actions and lifesaving measures that Jimmy Taylor provided on October 1, 2022; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, THAT the Granville County Board of Commissioners hereby recognize, and give gratitude, for the work and dedication of Jimmy Taylor for being on call for his community, Granville County, every day, and for making the call on October 1, 2022 and doing lifesaving measures, which saved the life of Owen Hamlett, friend and citizen.

Commissioner Jay thanked Mr. Taylor on behalf of the citizens of Granville County for his quick actions to help Owen Hamlett. He stated that he knew he had taken many training classes with the Fire Department and that he had dedicated his services to help others.

Mark Harrison, Fire Chief of the Cornwall Fire Department, also presented Mr. Taylor with a plaque of recognition.

Commissioner Hinman stated that Mr. Taylor works for her at ACIM and thanked him for taking care of her and the staff.

Chairman Cozart thanked everyone for that recognition.

UPDATE ON 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASONIC HOME FOR CHILDREN AT OXFORD

Chairman Cozart asked that Mr. Kevin Otis, Administrator of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, come and update the Board on the upcoming 150th Anniversary.

Mr. Otis thanked Chairman Cozart and the County Commissioners and stated that it was nice to meet County Manager Cummings. Mr. Otis stated that he wanted to share just a little bit about the Home and noted that they currently have 63 kids and provide services to children from birth to 22 years of age. He also noted that the Home is in search of married couples as house parents and made an appeal to those in the audience and explained that they also provide an independent living program for young adults from age 18 to 22 who are struggling as the Home provides care to help them get on their feet. He stated that they are currently working with United Way, Granville Education Foundation, Baptist Children's Home, and Smart Start to hopefully come together and pool their resources to assist families in the community. Mr. Otis shared that next year the Home would be turning 150 years old and that a black-tie event has been scheduled in honor of the celebration to be held on February 11, 2023. He noted that tickets will be sold for the event. Mr. Otis shared several more of the festivities that are being planned throughout the year. He stated that the Home is also looking for sponsors and for anyone who would like to provide gifts for the different events. He noted that Masonic Home is not just 150 years old but 150 years strong. Lastly,

he presented each of the Board members with a pin that resembled an acorn and explained that it symbolized the beautiful oak trees that embellish the campus. He stated that the pin was an illusion of the old Saint John's building from the 1850s and that they are celebrating their history of planting the seeds that represent the young people they are serving and that go on to be strong oaks and assist their families for generations to come.

Chairman Cozart stated that he lived in this county his entire life and how gratifying it has been that the Home has been such a resource and how the facilities have been used. He thanked Mr. Otis for meeting the needs of the community and congratulated him on another successful homecoming.

Commissioner May thanked Mr. Otis for attending and stated that one of the reasons why he wanted him to come was because, unfortunately, some of the folks on the southern end of the county do not get to the northern end as often as they would like and they want folks to know about something that is so authentic and genuine in Granville County and the Masonic Home is in fact that. He thanked him for the services he provides to the children of Granville County and children throughout the State of North Carolina.

Commissioner Hinman thanked Mr. Otis for allowing the ACIM's Turkey Trot walkers to walk through the Masonic Home campus once again.

UPDATE AND INTRODUCTION OF GRANVILLE COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Chairman Cozart noted that the next item on the agenda was to provide updates and introductions of the Granville County Youth Leadership Council. He thanked Commissioner Sue Hinman for assuming leadership and being the Liaison for this Committee and for the excitement she has brought to it. He then recognized her for any comments she wished to make.

Commissioner Hinman stated that she was just so thankful and noted that the Board had spent months looking for adults to be on these committees and how impressive it was for the willingness of these young people to serve. She thanked them again and asked Jermaine Puryear to make his presentation to the Board.

Jermaine Puryear, Jr. thanked the Board for the opportunity to make his presentation to them. He stated that in August, the Board graciously accepted the recommendation to create a Youth Advisory Council. He continued that he wanted to take a few minutes to provide a quick update of their progress. He stated that in September, he met with

Commissioner Sue Hinman and Chairman Tony Cozart as well as Interim County Manager Doug Logan to set up a proposal for the Youth Advisory Council. He stated that he worked with the Advisory's Adult Advisors, Ms. Tiana Jones, Ms. Lina Howe, and Ms. Charissa Puryear to plan a timeline. He stated that they advertised the opportunity through media releases, radio spots, school announcements, social media, word of mouth, etc. Applications were released to the community and numerous students applied and the ones that were chosen, have committed themselves to representing the youth in the community. He stated that it is their goal to start with some of the County boards, conduct service projects, and gain leadership skills. Mr. Puryear then presented his peers and members of the Granville County Youth Advisory Council for the year 2022-2023 and asked them to introduce themselves.

He stated further that they looked forward to working with the Board and that the following agenda has been set:

Official Board Training and Retreat at Camp Oak Hill - November 2022
Board Assignments & Roles – December 2022
Representation on County Boards – January 2023.

In closing, he stated that he was looking forward to working with each of them.

Chairman Cozart thanked the youth for their presentation and stated that he looked forward to their committee assignments and activities. He thanked Commissioner Hinman for all of her hard work as well.

VETERANS' SERVICES PRESENTATION

Mr. Chris Dethmers, Granville County Veterans' Service Office, gave a presentation on the current and on-going activities and accomplishments of the Veterans' Services Office.

Mr. Dethmers spoke from a PowerPoint presentation. He briefly discussed personnel, objectives, challenges, the road map for the future, and any current achievements the office has made. He stated that the objectives are accreditation, which is for the Veterans to have access to the Veterans Benefits System that is not currently in place but noted that they are able to take a chapter a week, test, and submit it to the State of NC. He stated that they would like to establish trust with Veterans and their families in Granville County, establish working relationships with Granville County Government's leadership, and to become Veterans Services Officers. Mr. Dethmers stated that they want their skills crafted and their proficiency to increase every day. He explained that they are going to create a page on their website for Veterans to be able to view and continuously discover resources and programs

for Veterans and begin to support our Vets as a kind of information hub. Mr. Dethmers stated further that some of the challenges that they currently face are them not being able to prioritize resources because there are only two staff members working with the budget that is already in place. He stated that the State and the VA at the Federal level are not very easy to manage and that another challenge is trial and error of best practices and public affairs as they must take every opportunity to get out there and spread the word about what's out there for Veterans. He stated the roadmap consists of how the challenges are addressed and he gave several examples on how they plan to address them. He continued that a few of the achievements was that they have met face to face with over 160 Veterans so far and that the county has pushed the Operation Green Light Resolution and thanked the Board for pushing that project. He noted that they were also able to have a booth at National Night Out with the Veterans Affairs Committee and that they have become members of the committee as well as with the Opioid Advisory Committee. Mr. Dethmers also mentioned Warriors Anonymous, which is for military Veterans and any Law Enforcement or First Responders that struggle with any type of addiction and/or PTSD issues. Lastly, he stated that he also wanted to let the Board know that through the efforts of Kyle Burwell and Vance Granville Community College, they have secured a private office in the southern part of the County and he will be there on Tuesdays all day so that the Veterans on the southern end of the county will not have to make the trip to Oxford and they will reassess their needs as they are presented.

Chairman Cozart thanked Mr. Dethmers for his leadership and noted that the Board is excited about Veterans Services in this community.

Commissioner May stated that he sits on the Veterans Services Committee and considers Chris Dethmers to be a "breath of fresh air." He is a solid warrior and brings to the table a skill set that many do not possess just from an organizational standpoint but also from an experience standpoint. He continued that his presentation was very common sense-oriented, and mission driven and that is essential. He told Mr. Dethmers that he looks forward to him meeting with the County Manager about conference funding and things of that nature because we want to make sure that our services are expanded and improved. He thanked him for being part of the Upward Way Advisory Committee and the Veterans on the Board are appreciative of Mr. Dethmers and his staff.

Commissioner Gooch also thanked Mr. Dethmers and acknowledged that he has scheduled a meeting in December 2022 at the Veterans Life Center followed up by a tour of the Veterans Life Center in Butner. He thanked him for coordinating that meeting and acknowledged that he really appreciates his service to Granville County and its Veterans.

Commissioner Hinman thanked Mr. Dethmers and acknowledged that they now have green lights at Ace Hardware and encouraged everyone to show our appreciation to our Veterans for what they have done for us by participating in the Operation Green Light event in November.

Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Dethmers for his vision of opening a facility in the southern end of the county.

Commissioner Jay thanked Mr. Dethmers and stated that they are pushing for others to purchase the green lights and noted that they can also be purchased at Lowes and Home Depot.

GRANVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION PRESENTATION

Chairman Cozart acknowledged that Dr. Alisa McLean, Granville County Public Schools Superintendent, was at the meeting to make a presentation.

Dr. McLean congratulated Mr. Cummings and stated that Granville County Public Schools looks forward to their partnership with him. She stated that they are grateful that the County Commissioners saw fit to bring him here and they are thrilled about the possibilities of their work with him. Dr. McLean recognized School Board Chair Ms. Glenda Williams, member Dr. Helen Lindsey, and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Stan Winborne and advised that they were there because they wanted to also show their complete support in partnership with Mr. Cummings. She stated further that they also wanted to share a little bit about some of what is to come and to invite the Commissioners to the Student of Merit programs and other upcoming events occurring and encouraged them to be on the lookout for invitations.

Board of Education Chair Glenda Williams stated that on behalf of the Board of Education, she welcomed Mr. Cummings to Granville County and stated that they were looking forward to working with him.

Chairman Cozart thanked them all for coming.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments, but Commissioner Timothy Karan asked if he could make a quick comment and sneak out. He stated that he was asked by his wife Liz to extend to the Board as well as the entire community, her heartfelt thanks for the outpouring of support that they have received concerning Liz having breast cancer. He stated that with this being Breast Cancer Awareness Month, she wanted him to come and remind everyone to make sure they follow up with their mammograms. He continued that she had had a double mastectomy and reconstructive surgery and that he just wanted to thank everyone again for the outpouring of support that everyone has shown. He said that it has been absolutely amazing, and he is beyond blessed to have landed in such a wonderful place as Granville County. He then thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and leave and he noted that he did not want to be the voting delegate for the upcoming NCACC Legislative Conference. Commissioner Karan departed the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Chairman Cozart thanked Commissioner Karan and stated that it was so kind of him to come and give encouragement and much-needed advice to others during this time in their lives, noting that it was a class act.

BOARD APPROVED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM (EMPG) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

Chairman Cozart stated that this was the Board's first opportunity to hear from County Manager Cummings.

County Manager Cummings asked Robin Edwards, Emergency Management Coordinator, to come forth and present this matter.

Ms. Edwards congratulated County Manager Cummings and stated that the first item was to consider the application for and acceptance of the Emergency Management Grant (EMPG). She noted that this grant program provides financial support to the County as a partial reimbursement for funds expended for continuing the development of comprehensive, all-hazards planning, training and exercise programs, and sustainment of critical capabilities for disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. She continued that this is a reimbursement grant that the EM program has received since the beginning of the EM program with the county. She explained that the base amount is \$20,625 and there is an optional supplemental amount that typically runs between \$17,000 and \$18,000 and it is an

in-kind match grant. She continued that the Emergency Management Director does recommend authorization for application and acceptance of the EMPG program grant funds.

Commissioner Sue Hinman asked if there was a matching grant and Ms. Edwards stated that there is a 50% in-kind match.

Chairman Cozart stated that they are happy that they have been able to do this over the years and asked the Board members for a motion on the matter.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Russ May, and carried by a 6 to 0 vote, the Board approved authorization for application and acceptance of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program funds in the base amount \$20,625.00, with an optional amount to be determined and an in-kind match of 50%.

BOARD APPROVED HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

Emergency Management Coordinator Robin Edwards stated that this opportunity was like the opportunity that was brought before the last meeting, the Highway Patrol Grant, that the county accepted and then reverted to Highway Patrol to be able to manage. This item was to consider accepting two Homeland Security Grant Program awards totaling \$215,684.91 authorizing North Carolina Emergency Management to conduct activities on behalf of the County in accordance with the grant requirements. She explained that if accepted, the County would authorize the grant funds to be provided to the State of North Carolina, Department of Public Safety. North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) will conduct planning, make equipment purchases, train, and fund exercises throughout the State during the Period of Performance for the grant. She continued that this grant is very similar to other grants that Granville County and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety have entered into this year and in previous years. She stated that the recommendation from the Emergency Management Director and County Manager is to accept the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) award and authorize the NC Division of Emergency Management to manage the grant and expend the funds in accordance with the grant guidelines. She noted that one grant is \$15,000 and the other is \$200,684 grant. She also noted as a side note that with NCEM, what it does is allow NCEM to meet a 45-day pass-thru requirement and then gives them the ability to distribute the funds to all the counties as needed rather than have the money tied up.

Chairman Cozart stated that if there were no clarifications, was there a motion to approve the recommendation from the Emergency Management Director and County Manager?

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and carried by a 6-0 vote, the Board approved accepting the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) awards in the amount totaling \$215,684.91 and authorizing the NC Division of Emergency Management to manage the grant and expend the funds in accordance with the grant guidelines.

BOARD APPROVED COMPUTER PURCHASES FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

Chairman Cozart noted the agenda item and acknowledged Adonica Hampton, Director of Social Services.

Commissioner May stated that before Ms. Hampton presented, he needed to share a situation with the Board that involved a child that lives in Granville County. He stated that the parent was receiving services in Wake County, and it was a very difficult situation and through the process, they were trying to work with our LME (Local Management Entities) and Vaya to get the child the services he/she needed because the mother felt that, in fact, if the child came back to them, she would be in danger. So, there were many phone calls and work by Social Services. Commissioner May thanked Ms. Hampton for providing guidance to both Vaya and Wake County Social Services and for the effort she put forth. He stated he understood that the child is now receiving the services he/she needs and there has been a bridge gapped because of the work Ms. Hampton did and he appreciated her tenacity and her willingness to advocate on behalf of our children.

Ms. Hampton thanked Commissioner May for his comments. She stated that she was there to request authorization to purchase six laptops with federal funding, the American Rescue Act Plan funding, which is allocated through the State Department of Health and Human Services to counties. The purchase of these six laptops takes their agency to up to 50% mobility within the county. She continued that it is very strategic and that they have purchased over 34 laptops during the pandemic utilizing federal funds and this takes them up to 50% and she is very happy to report that. She stated further that based on the amount of funding, \$16,000 is over the \$10,000 amount that they need to request it through the Board, and she was requesting their authorization. Ms. Hampton stated that this was an investment

in technology and an investment in employees and infrastructure that the state does encourage them to do, and they are happy to do it.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved purchasing laptops, laptop bags, and docking stations from the vendor SHI in the amount of \$16,448.04 using federal funding.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

There were no proclamations or resolutions. However, Chairman Cozart shared that the legislative goals process for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners is in full swing. He admitted that the process on the past Saturday was quite intense, but the beauty of it was that every single goal from any county in the State of North Carolina received full consideration in the process. He commended the association for the process.

BOARD APPROVED VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE FOR THE 2022 NCACC LEGISLATIVE GOALS CONFERENCE

Chairman Cozart stated that the Board needed to appoint a voting delegate and alternate for the 2022 NCACC (North Carolina Association of County Commissioners) Legislative Goals Conference.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Russ May, carried by a 5-1 vote, the Board approved the appointment of Commissioner Zelodis Jay as the Voting Delegate for the 2022 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Russ May, and carried by a 5-1 vote, Chairman Tony W. Cozart was approved as the Alternate Voting Delegate for the 2022 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference.

BOARD APPROVED CONNECT HOLDING II, LLC GREAT GRANT PARTNERSHIP

Chairman Cozart stated that the next item was to confirm Granville County's partnership with Connect Holding II, LLC (aka, CenturyLink/Brightspeed) on a 2022 GREAT Grant award. He recognized Korena Weichel, Assistant County Manager, to make the presentation.

Assistant County Manager Weichel stated that Granville County was recently notified that the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NC DIT) awarded a GREAT Grant funding in the maximum award amount of \$4M for Granville County's proposed partnership with Connect Holding II, LLC. She noted that Connect Holding is now

Brightspeed and it was CenturyLink but all of the names mean the same. She continued that the original project scope that was approved by the Board back in February 2022 and was subsequently submitted on the grant application encompassed approximately 3252 locations; however, following a required protest period, the total eligible locations were reduced to approximately 1914. Given that the provider has informed the county that they need to pass about 600 of those locations in order to access those locations that are in the project award, they would still be providing service even though they are not covered by the grant funding. So, that brings the total number of locations within this project to around 2500. She explained that as a result of the decrease in locations, our requested contribution which was \$2.1M has been reduced and the requested contribution now is \$1,338,876. A map of the award locations was included in the agenda packet for reference and the map is also available on nc1map.com; just filter down to Granville County and the public can go online and click on any of the green dots and it will give the address location of each location within that project area. She continued that the Department of Information Technology is managing the partnership agreements and they have asked Granville County to confirm three pieces of information for them and that information is: 1) they need to know that Granville County is confirming the partnership, 2) that the county is confirming the contribution, and 3) the funding source for the project. She then asked the Board if they had any questions.

Commissioner May asked, for Granville County citizens, if Assistant Manager Weichel could let them know in summary, that this is not the end of the road and that this is just this grant before the Board voted.

Assistant Manager Weichel explained that the GREAT Grant round is not completely finished as they had \$350M to award and so far, they have awarded \$270M. They have informed the county that they have allotted one award per county that has submitted and now they are going to go back and look at applications and those applications that scored highest, those counties may get a second award. She stated further that we did submit a second project with Charter Communications, and she is still waiting to hear whether or not their project was going to score high enough in the second round. In addition, there are other grant opportunities coming down through the state such as completing access to the broadband program that they will be talking through and determining if it is the right fit for Granville County as well.

Commissioner Russ May made a motion to approve the partnership and it was seconded by Commissioner David T. Smith. Before the vote was taken, discussion ensued:

County Attorney Wrenn stated that he wanted to make sure that the County was setting the type of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds that will be used for this for the county's part of the match.

Assistant County Manager Weichel stated that that had been done at a previous meeting so there is the \$10M of revenue replacement funds and the access of the \$10M and \$1.7M was to go toward broadband projects and that is part of the requirement that they need from the county actually at end of this meeting.

County Attorney Wrenn stated that there are some efforts to loosen some of the restrictions around matching funds for ARPA.

Assistant County Manager Weichel stated that yes, and the Treasury has not yet released any further guidance on the UG (uniform guidance) requirements. The state is moving forward with at least getting these GREAT Grant partnership agreements drafted and that is why they need to know the source of the County's funds because the partnership agreement varies obviously based on whether Treasury relaxes those guidelines. So, they have asked this of the county so that they can begin working on those and once that agreement is prepared, it will come back to the Board for approval. She continued that they are going off of the assumption right now that we will have to comply with Treasury's requirements for UG.

County Attorney Wrenn then asked that if Treasury requirements are relaxed significantly, would there be an opportunity at a later date to change the source of ARPA funds?

Assistant County Manager Weichel stated potentially yes, depending on what that looks like, and that they do expect the DIT (Department of Information Technology) office to do a lot of handholding through this as they are aware that many counties are in the same predicament that Granville County is in and we are all beyond hope that something does come down to relax the guidelines. If it does not, the county has identified these funds and will work with the DIT office to ensure that the County is in compliance.

Commissioner May asked if Assistant County Manager Weichel knew if DIT is going to be looking at any satellite-type technology going forward and maybe that would be an

opportunity where we may not be able to achieve the broadband on the basis that are through these grant processes.

Assistant County Manager Weichel stated that that was correct because of the connectivity and the reliability of this connection, but she did not know of anything at the moment, but she has reached out based on the conversation to inquire if they know of anything that is coming up that would qualify for a satellite.

Commissioner May stated that he just wanted the citizens to know that the Board is looking at all technology from Granville County's perspective and we are not just siloing ourselves and will pursue opportunities where opportunities avail.

Chairman Cozart stated that a motion had been made and properly seconded and noted that there had been a lot of people who wanted to see broadband right now. He thanked Assistant County Manager Weichel for her patience and for answering citizens' questions as they have had inquiries along the way.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner David T. Smith, and carried by a 6-0 vote, the Board approved confirming Granville County's partnership with Connect Holding II, LLC for the 2022 GREAT Grant Award and committing \$1,338,876 from ARPA funds, and further directing staff to work with NC DIT to draft a partnership agreement for final approval.

BOARD APPROVED JOINING THE OPIOID LITIGATION LAWSUIT

Chairman Cozart stated that the purpose of this item was for County Attorney Wrenn to provide an update on the Opioid Litigation.

County Attorney Wrenn stated that this matter was discussed at the last meeting and there was an issue about filing an additional suit in the opioid matter and the Attorney representing Granville County in the litigation, Daniel Law Firm, does recommend that we join in this lawsuit. He stated that, again, he would leave that up to the Board. He continued that going off of the information that they received, and this is against McKinsey & Company the Consulting and Advertising Firm, again, their local counsel recommended that Granville County join that suit and County Attorney Wrenn stated that he does not have a position on that one way or the other.

Chairman Cozart stated that he did not know if any of the Board members had any strong feelings either way or if there was an upside or downside.

County Attorney Wrenn stated that he was not aware of there being any downside but that it is similar to the previous lawsuits.

Commissioner Hinman asked if that meant that the Board needed to go along with it to be a part of it.

County Attorney Wrenn stated that yes, the Board needed to let them know that evening if the Board is joining the lawsuit to meet the deadline.

Commissioner Smith asked if County Attorney Wrenn was aware of any other counties doing the same thing.

County Attorney Wrenn stated that the email he received earlier stated that some were, and some had expressed reservations and requested additional information. He said that he did not know if he saw any that were not going to join. He then read some of the other responses from other counties from the email. He stated that there did look like there was a split but that there was not any information provided to him that would allow him to independently evaluate further that joining the suit would be a wise idea as it is just one more effort in the opioid litigation and that there was not a downside to it and that the Board could always dismiss it later if they found out that there was something that they did not like about it.

Commissioner May asked the County Manager if he had an opinion.

County Manager Cummings stated that given the fact that there was no downside, he believed it would make sense for the County to, at least at this point, join.

County Attorney Wrenn stated that the only thing that he would say about this is that he has not seen anything that clearly articulates in full detail what McKinsey & Company did so he did not see anything authorizing the lawsuit to be filed and that they could certainly dismiss it in the future but if he was a policy maker, at some point he would really want to know why we are suing McKinsey & Company.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and carried by a 6-0 vote, the Board approved joining the lawsuit for the opioid litigation complaints against McKinsey & Company, Inc. and requested that the County Manager and County Attorney monitor and track the lawsuit and withdraw at a later time if needed.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney Wrenn did not have anything to report.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Russ May stated that the Convenience Site at Wilton did not get completed due to construction concerns but hopefully, over the next week, it will be all dried up. He said the expansion looks like it is going to be very beneficial, and it was a good cost-preventative measure. He stated further that he did take the opportunity to meet with DOT (Department of Transportation) at their recent open house and to advocate for stop lights in his and Commissioner Jay's community that do not meet the fatality criteria but clearly are going to meet it sooner or later and so they want to take preventative measures and get it taken care. He stated that DOT did articulate that they would be looking at contingency funds possibly so he will be counting on the Planning and Zoning Office to continue that pursuit. He stated further that they are also working on a matter in Creedmoor to assist them with their bay in front of the Fire Station where the storm drain had collapsed and, of course, that is a DOT matter as well. He stated that they are working with the Creedmoor Fire Department and with the City of Creedmoor and only facilitating that for them at no cost to the county. He noted that they are trying to make some DOT changes and they have made a request to Justin Jorgensen, Senior Transportation Planner, and Barry Baker, Planning Director, as well to look at the expansion of Highway 56. He stated that based on the DOT requirement of looking at that is the year 2045 and that is based on the amount of traffic that is existing now and the amount of traffic on US 1 and the growth of Franklin and Granville Counties, we need to reassess it, and open up that corridor because the corridor from Highway 50 is pretty much closed.

Commissioner Gooch stated that he just wanted to make a couple of comments regarding the proclamations for Mike Allen and Jimmy Taylor. He continued that they both exemplify the citizens of Granville County and all the good things that people do here. He also thanked Kevin Otis from the Masonic Home for Children for his presentation. He mentioned the Veterans presentation and for the Granville County Schools Superintendent and others attending the meeting. He stated that the Board appreciated all of them coming and especially the Youth Leadership Council. It is always good to have young people interested in local government and that makes for a very bright future for Granville County.

He also offered a very special thanks to the Board's new County Manager and thanked him for coming in and being proactive and getting ahead of the curve with his new position. Commissioner Gooch stated that he is looking forward to a very bright future.

Commissioner Jay thanked the County Manager Cummings and welcomed him aboard. He thanked him for accepting the Board's proposal and said that they appreciated everything he has done so far and look forward to working with him in the future. He also thanked Doug Logan and said that the Board appreciated him and everything he has done in the community. He thanked Vice Chair May for helping with the presentations earlier in the evening as the Liaison to the Veterans and the Fire Commission. He thanked the Cornwall Fire Department Chief for recognizing Jimmy Taylor and talked about how his mom sets off the alarm at home and Mr. Taylor has shown up every single time. He stated that he appreciated him doing that for his family. He also thanked the Board for appointing him as an NCACC District Director of the 8th District. He stated that all the legislative goals that Chairman Cozart mentioned, they went through all 45 of them but they spent a lot of time discussing broadband and asked our Representatives at the State Legislature for more funding for broadband. He stated that he does not know how it is going to turn out, but they still asked. Commissioner Jay also mentioned that they asked for money for Veterans Services and for more help with the opioid situation and especially regarding the jails concerning Medicaid and for them to pay for whoever delivered the person to be incarcerated. He did not know how that would be worked out, but it was still on the table to be discussed. He stated that the gate at the Oak Hill convenience site still needed to be repaired.

Commissioner Smith stated that he wanted to begin by recognizing Assistant County Manager Korena Weichel for all her hard work for broadband, noting that she has put many hours into it and the Board appreciates all her efforts because that is one of the County's most critical needs. He reminded everyone that the Senior Center in Oxford will have a local vendor craft bazaar on Saturday, November 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They have approximately 23 local vendors signed up and encouraged everyone to come out. Commissioner Smith noted that the four-way stop signs have been placed at Huntsboro and Chewning Roads.

Commissioner Hinman thanked all of the young people that came out on the Youth Leadership Council and for their willingness to be on these committees. She stated that it is so important to have their opinions and she is just excited to have this come to fruition. She stated that Jermaine Puryear who heads the Youth Leadership Council took a budgeting class at ACIM when he was 5 years old and he did better than any adult there. She thanked Commissioner Jay for taking the Voting Delegate position for her this time as she had another responsibility and would not be able to do it this time. She appreciated everyone that attended the meeting and spoke about her appreciation for Jimmy Taylor.

Chairman Cozart stated that it was so good to have a meeting like this one as he felt so much more refreshed this time than he did at the last meeting as the last meeting seemed to have been more stressful. He stated to County Manager Cummings that he believed that the Board was ready to launch into some really good things and that all the stars were aligning for Granville County to go to some good places. He stated that the Board is ready to lean on him for his leadership to carry us to those places and how happy they are to have him as a part of their family. He said that Doug Logan helped to make the transition a seamless one and that his record of service made things go so well. He continued that before Mr. Logan leaves, the Board would like to recognize him and said he has asked Clerk to the Board Weary to set up a time that they can adequately thank him for a job well done. Chairman Cozart stated that he listened to Commissioner Karan, and he did not recall ever hearing him speak the way he spoke earlier. He said that he just recently celebrated being a Pa-Pa again, and this thing called life is to be treasured and it is so fragile. He stated that he served with Mr. Allen in the school system; when he served as Principal at Toler and he was really happy and thankful that the Board was able to honor him at this meeting.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING – ASSET MAPPING FOR RECREATION ASSETS

Chairman Cozart noted that the purpose of this item was to announce a special meeting and read the following notice:

All interested persons please take notice that the Granville County Board of Commissioners will hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Granville Convention & Expo Center, 4185 Highway 15, Oxford, NC. The purpose of the Special Meeting is for Asset Mapping for Recreation Needs.

There will also be a public input session on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 6:00 pm. At the Granville Convention & Expo Center.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Commissioner Jimmy Gooch thanked Doug Logan for all he did for the Board and for the seamless transition.

BOARD WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and carried by a 6-0 vote, the Board went into closed session as allowed by G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and carried by a 6-0 vote, the Board returned to open session.

BOARD ADJOURNED

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and carried by a 6-0 vote, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

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