

OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA
November 21, 2022

The Members of the Honorable Board of Commissioners of Granville County, North Carolina met in a regular meeting on Monday, November 21, 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

<i>Commissioners:</i>	Jimmy Gooch	Timothy Karan
	Sue Hinman	Russ May
	Zelodis Jay	David T. Smith

County Manager: Drew Cummings

Assistant County Manager: Korena Weichel

County Attorney: James C. Wrenn, Jr.

Oxford Public Ledger: Keith Shearon

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:01 p.m., Chairman Tony W. Cozart called the meeting to order. He wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving. He also acknowledged and congratulated the newly elected Sheriff, Mr. Robert Fountain who was in attendance. He stated that he looked forward to working with Sheriff—Elect Fountain. He then recognized Commissioner Jimmy Gooch for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

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

- 1) Approved a refund to Warren Shackelford Thomas PLLC in the amount of \$168.00 for an excise tax paid twice.
- 2) Approved updating the signatures on the following County bank accounts to add Drew Cummings, County Manager:
 - ❖ Truist – 5102467037 –Central Depository
 - ❖ Truist - 5102467053 – Flexible Spending
 - ❖ Truist – 5106317935 – Sheriff’s Evidence
 - ❖ Union Bank – 2080001007 – Sheriff Special
 - ❖ Union Bank – 2080001015 – Sheriff - Drug Forfeiture – Treasury
 - ❖ Union Bank – 2080003318 – Sheriff - Drug Forfeiture – Dept of Justice
 - ❖ Union Bank – 2080001031 – Sheriff - US Marshall

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE – DOUGLAS P. LOGAN

Chairman Cozart asked Mr. Doug Logan to join him at the podium and he stated that it was an honor for him to acknowledge his service as the Interim County Manager who came

in when Mr. Felts announced his departure as County Manager. He continued that it was a very seamless transition and there were a lot of happy people when they learned that he would be filling in during that time. Chairman Cozart stated further that this Board needed him to answer a very special call to come and serve them and noted that during that time, the Board was getting our Fire Commission going and Mr. Logan already had a lot of expertise in that area. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Cozart wished Mr. Logan all the best and then presented him with a plaque of appreciation for his outstanding service.

Douglas P. Logan

Interim Granville County Manager
July 29, 2022 – October 17, 2022

In Recognition and Appreciation of Outstanding Service

to

the Citizens of Granville County

Presented by

The Granville County Board of Commissioners

November 21, 2022

Board members and County Manager Cummings made comments and thanked Mr. Logan for answering the call of service.

**RECOGNITION OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION VOLUNTEERS FOR
THE INCINERATOR DISC GOLF COURSE**

Assistant County Manager Weichel stated that it was truly a privilege to be able to recognize the efforts of David Nicholson and an amazing group of community volunteers who brought disc golf to Granville Athletic Park (GAP). She shared background information about disc golf. Disc golf first came to the GAP in 2018 thanks to the efforts of David Nicholson and several community volunteers. With the assistance of the parks and grounds crew, the volunteers initially built nine holes with an additional nine planned following the completion of the GAP Phase III project. The volunteer group, led by Granville County native David Nicholson, began the final nine holes early in 2022 and completed the bulk of the manual labor by late summer with support from the parks and grounds crew along with minimal County funding. In addition to the actual construction of the course, David solicited assistance from a graphics designer to create a course overview map and individual tee signs for which \$200 sponsorships were sold to local businesses.

The Incinerator Disc Golf Course now boasts eighteen holes complete with tee pads and soon-to-be-installed directional signage. These volunteers succeeded in creating a destination for disc golf enthusiasts from across the state in a uniquely themed course that pays tribute to the rich history behind the park's development.

Volunteers recognized for their outstanding service and efforts on behalf of Granville County along with their areas of contribution are listed below.

Course Design & General Labor

David Nicolson

Graphics Design & General Labor

Jeff Schons

Drone Footage for Sponsor Signs

Davis Slever

Samuel Sirianna

General Laborers

Fermin Calderon

Justin Crow

Russell Davis

Michael Fortlage

Heyward Gignilliat

Dilon Lawson

Ben Lewis

Andy Mathews

Nick Salazar

Parker Schons

Paul Shelton, Jr.

Larry Smith

Joe Tartemella

Sam Taylor

Adam Weisbrodt

Chairman Cozart thanked David Nicholson, for his vision, design, and for leading the construction efforts for the Incinerator Disc Golf Course at the Granville Athletic Park, and Jeff Schons for his design work in creating The Incinerator Disc Golf Course at the Granville Athletic Park.

At this time, volunteers were presented certificates of appreciation as well as 275th Anniversary books and coins.

VAYA HEALTH PRESENTATION HELD

Chairman Cozart stated that Elliott Clark with Vaya was unable to attend the meeting but noted that information was in the agenda packet. He said the Board looked forward to him presenting at a later date.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kate Brady, 1092 Enon Road, Oxford, NC, thanked the Board for the opportunity to say a few words. She stated that she did not have much in the way of comments, but that she had a question. She said that she was new to county government, and she was trying to understand how it works. She then asked where she might be able to find documented land development procedures as it pertains to what a developer had to do to get a major subdivision planted in Granville County such as what would be the timeline, etc. Unfortunately, she stated that she could not wait to get an answer because she had to pack up and go to Greensboro at that time and asked if someone could let her know the answer to her question via a call or by email.

Commissioner Hinman noted that she had Ms. Brady's email address and Chairman Cozart stated that someone would contact her with the answer to her question.

BOARD ACCEPTED AND APPROVED THREE NO-GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Chairman Cozart stated that the next item was regarding grant opportunities. He shared the following background information. Granville County Emergency Management has the opportunity to apply for three no-match grants to assist with sustaining and improving capabilities for disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. He then asked if anyone wanted to make comments on this before the Board acted on it. He noted that it is the type of grant that the Board loves because there is no match and there is everything to win in this situation.

Jason Reavis, Emergency Services Director, stated that they have had the opportunity and are pretty sure about two of the grants, but they are still trying to figure out the amount that the county would be eligible for. He stated that they know that it would be up to a certain amount to apply for three grants. He noted that one of the grants would be a total of \$8,000 and that grant would allow them to hire a vendor that would assist them in planning and executing a Mass Care Shelter Exercise, something that they have been trying to do for the past few years. He continued that the next grant was up to \$25,000 through Duke Energy to fund purchasing AEDs to be placed in some of our more populated county buildings. He stated that also with that grant, they would be able to purchase/replace shelter supplies that were lost when the Red Cross did some reallocation of their equipment throughout the state. He continued that the third grant was for the purchase of two message boards. He noted that Granville County had purchased two boards back in fiscal year 2014 but they are now at the end-of-life phase and parts are no longer made for them. He stated further that one of the boards had been shot with a shotgun in the northern part of the county about a year and a half ago and it took them over a year to get it repaired. He stated that the message boards are used quite frequently by law enforcement and fire departments. In closing, he stated that they would like the opportunity to apply for these no-match grants.

Chairman Cozart commended Mr. Reavis for looking for resources and for finding ways to do things that the county needs to do and asked for the Board's pleasure in this request.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved authorization for application and acceptance of three no-match grants:

- \$8,000- Homeland Security Grant Program, Exercise Grant through North Carolina Emergency Management
- \$25,000- Duke Energy Grant to fund the purchase of AEDs to be placed in some of our more populated county buildings
- 31,854.56- Domestic Preparedness Region Grant through the Homeland Security Grant Program to purchase 2 new message boards

BOARD APPROVED LATE APPLICATION - DISABLED VETERANS EXCLUSION FOR EVELYN NANCE -

Chairman Cozart stated that the purpose of this item was to consider the approval of the untimely filed Application for the Disabled Veterans Exclusion. He then called on Jenny Griffin, Tax Administrator, to share the background of this request.

Tax Administrator Griffin shared the following information with the Board. According to the N.C.G.S. 105-282.1(a1), upon a showing of good cause by the applicant for failure to make a timely application, an application for exemption or exclusion filed after the close of the listing period may be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. This subsection applies only to property taxes levied by the county or municipality in the calendar year in which the untimely application is filed. Evelyn Nance moved to Granville County from Durham County in late 2020. Ms. Nance met with Granville County's previous Veterans Service Officer (VSO) in August of 2021 to discuss reapplying for the Veterans Exclusion that she had been receiving previously in Durham County. The VSO had Ms. Nance fill out the NCDVA-9 and told her that he would send it to the Regional Veterans Office and once they sent it back, he would send it to the Tax Office for approval on the 2022 tax bills. The application period for 2021 had already passed and Ms. Nance did not realize her paperwork had not been turned in to the Tax Office until she received her 2022 tax bill.

Chairman Cozart stated that because of those circumstances, Ms. Griffin was recommending that the Board approve Evelyn Nance's late application.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the late application of Evelyn Nance for the Disabled Veterans Exclusion.

BOARD HELD LATE APPLICATION FOR MILDRED GOSS – ELDERLY EXCLUSION

Chairman Cozart asked Ms. Jenny Griffin, Tax Administrator, to present background history for this request.

Tax Administrator Griffin stated that this was an Application for Elderly Exclusion and shared background information. On October 18, 2022, Mildred Goss left a completed exclusion application with a letter requesting approval from the Board of Commissioners. In Ms. Goss' letter, she claimed the reason she is late is because she was unaware of the program. Tax Administration Griffin noted that Tax administration advertises these programs in the local newspapers, on personal property listing forms, on our website, and on the back of property tax bills.

Chairman Cozart stated that regarding the information that was provided to Ms. Griffin, she recommended that the Board not approve Ms. Goss' late application. He then asked for questions or comments from Board members.

Commissioner Gooch asked how much money was involved in this request.

Tax Administrator Griffin stated that Ms. Goss' tax bill was in the amount of \$1,865 so it would cut it in half to approximately \$900.

Commissioner May stated that Ms. Goss is 93 years old with recent health issues and her adult children no longer live in the county. He stated that he understood that hardships happen, and he also understood that the Board had to be careful of any precedent it sets. He stated further that to his knowledge, Ms. Goss has regularly paid her taxes throughout her lifetime of living in Granville County and therefore, he would like the Board to consider waiving this and allow her to not have to pay the full amount.

Commissioner Karan asked how many late applications the Tax Department receives each year.

Tax Administrator Griffin stated about 10 to 15 per year and that she sends them a letter stating that it is not approved and then it is their responsibility to send a letter back requesting to bring it before the Board for approval.

County Attorney Wrenn stated that he would like the Board to hold the matter until he could research the matter as he was not aware of the Board ever approving a request such as this one in the past.

Chairman Cozart stated that Attorney Wrenn requested that the Board give more time for him to research this request and place it on a future agenda.

**BOARD APPROVED PURCHASE OF HP DESIGN JET T2600DP 36”
PRINTER**

Chairman Cozart stated that the next agenda item was the purchase of an HP DesignJet T2600DR 36” printer. He explained that this will replace the current printer that was installed on September 23, 2008, in the Register of Deeds office. Supplies and maintenance are no longer available for this printer and large format printers are necessary in order to copy and scan plats. When customers bring plats into the office for recording, staff needs the ability to scan them into the permanent records. Customers and staff then have the capability to make copies and view the plats online. Chairman Cozart noted that funds for this request are included in the 2022-2023 budget.

Register of Deeds Kathy Taylor stated that right after she submitted this item for approval, the current machine stopped working and there is no longer service or parts available for that machine, therefore, she would love for the Board to consider her recommendation for approval. She noted that they had the printer for approximately 18 years.

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of an HP DesignJet T2600DR 36” printer and 5-year maintenance contract from Duncan Parnell in the amount of \$16,211.06.

BOARD APPROVED CALEA ACCREDITATION REQUEST

Chairman Cozart stated that the purpose of this item was to receive approval to fund accreditation for the Granville County Sheriff’s Office through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). He then recognized Sheriff John Hardy to come forth and share any information he had with the Board.

Sheriff Hardy acknowledged the Board and stated that Mr. Bob Bailess, a consultant, was also present to answer any questions. He stated that this request was to begin the accreditation process for the Sheriff’s Office. He explained that there was an initial startup fee of \$11,450 and an additional \$4,065 for a yearly continuation fee once accreditation is reached. He noted that they had started the process with the PowerDMS System and noted that this system would give them access to the actual CALEA standards and would help to get the process going even further.

Commissioner Hinman asked how many people needed to get accredited, but then noted that we will not know until December.

Sheriff Hardy stated that it is not per person but for the Sheriff's Office in general.

Chairman Cozart acknowledged Mr. Bailess and asked if he had any comments he would like to make.

Mr. Bailess stated that the overall amount that they would be asking for was \$16,950 and they hoped to have it completed within 24 months. He noted that there would be a fee included for an assessment for an on-site when they would come and speak to Board members during that period and \$4,065 would kick in one year after accreditation is received and they would not need that tonight. He explained that the purpose of the accreditation process would be to set standards that provide best practices related to life, health, and safety procedures for the Sheriff's Office. The standards overseen by CALEA are considered foundational for contemporary law enforcement agencies. The program provides the framework for addressing high-risk issues to ensure deputies are prepared to meet basic community service expectations and manage critical events.

Mr. Bailess stated that the policy would be put in place to meet the standards set forth by CALEA and that this agency would have a foundational port to guide them through the day-to-day operations to help bridge any gap in the community. He said that CALEA is something that is recognized by other law enforcement agencies throughout our area.

Chairman Cozart asked Mr. Bailess if he knew how many sheriff's departments in North Carolina have this accreditation.

Mr. Bailess stated that he did not know the exact amount, but he would say at least 60%, which also includes police departments and Sheriff's offices, noting more police than Sheriff's offices.

Chairman Cozart stated that the Board had been discussing this for nearly a year and that he was happy to see it and stated that with Sheriff-Elect Fountain and Sheriff Hardy still around, this would move the department in a direction that the Board would like to go. He stated further that he was very excited about having this kind of support for our Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner May stated that for the public's information, it would be setting a standard for best practices, and by doing so, it would allow for another set of eyes that the

department must maintain to meet a standard that is above and beyond most other departments and therefore adds another sense of checks and balances which he believes is very important. He continued that he believed it was the right decision at the right time. Furthermore, it is coming out of asset forfeiture funds which is commendable as well. He went on to say that it was a benefit and a part of the county's strategic plan; not only for that but hopefully with the new Sheriff, he would also pursue this accreditation and an accreditation for the Detention Center as well so that they are both operating under best practices. He noted that it would reduce county liability and would benefit the deputies and detention officers and ensure that they would have the best training available or at least be working toward attending and obtaining the best training available to improve the standards across the Board. He then thanked both Sheriff Hardy and Sheriff Fountain for seeing this through.

Chairman Cozart stated that Sheriff Hardy recommended approval to utilize federal asset forfeiture funds to initiate the accreditation contract with CALEA in the amount of \$16,950 and to fund the annual accreditation fee of \$4,065 and asked for a motion to approve.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Russ May, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the accreditation contract with CALEA in the amount of \$16,950 from federal asset forfeiture funds and the annual accreditation fee of \$4,065.

BOARD APPROVED PURCHASE OF A TEK84 INTERCEPT WHOLE BODY SCANNER SYSTEM

Chairman Cozart stated that this next item was a walk-in item to receive approval for the purchase of the Tek84 Intercept Whole Body Scanner System for the Granville County Sheriff's Office Detention Center. The Sheriff's Office was requesting to expend up to \$103,386.00 in Federal Asset Forfeiture funds and \$81,614 in Capital Outlay Equipment funds to purchase a body scanner for screening inmates processed into the detention facility. The purpose will be to reduce and/or eliminate the potential for smuggling contraband into the facility. This acquisition will improve safety for staff and inmates by reducing the flow of drugs, communication devices, and weapons into a secure area. Additionally, the scanning system will provide a temperature reading and record for individuals entering the facility to assist with the mitigation of infectious diseases.

Chairman Cozart then asked Sheriff Hardy if he had anything to add to the request.

Sheriff Hardy stated that the Board was familiar with the request as they had requested it a couple of months ago and since that time, they had gone back and did some research and were able to move some funding around. He stated that they had slightly over \$80,000 of capital funds that they had been designated for some UV lights, but they decided not to purchase those but rather divert that money toward the purchase of the body scanner. He stated that Mr. Bailess had helped them with the DHHS Covid Grant to try and get another \$20,000 for it. He noted that they could possibly get more than the \$103,386 if they could get grant funding through the DHHS Grant and that they hoped to also use DHHS Grant for the UV lights as well.

Commissioner May stated that he believed that this would be a game-changer for the Detention Center as far as security was concerned.

Chairman Cozart stated that he noted Sheriff Hardy's statement in the recommendation that said, "*This acquisition will improve safety for staff and inmates by reducing the flow of drugs, communication devices, and weapons into a secure area.*" He stated that he was thankful for all the work that had been put into this and reiterated what Commissioner Smith stated in that it was really needed and, therefore, the Board was happy to see it come to this point. He then asked for a motion regarding this request.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of the Tek84 Intercept Whole Body Scanner System for the Detention Center in the amount of \$185,000 from federal asset forfeiture funds of \$103,386 and capital outlay equipment funds in the amount of \$81,614.

When asked what was the timeframe for which they could receive the scanner once it was ordered, Sheriff Hardy stated that it would be at least a 30-day process.

Commissioner Hinman thanked Sheriff Hardy for stepping in at a time when the Board desperately needed him.

Sheriff Hardy thanked the Board members for their assistance this past year and he said looked forward to working with the Board as much as possible.

BOARD APPROVED DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE NORTHERN GRANVILLE SENIOR CENTER

Chairman Cozart stated that the next item was Design Services for the Northern Granville Senior Center and stated that a couple of weeks ago, several of the Board members

had an opportunity to attend the groundbreaking ceremony at the site. He stated that they were very excited about it being in the Stovall area. He noted that the purpose of this request was to receive approval to begin fee negotiations with the architectural firm recommended by our Design Services Selection Committee. He recognized Mr. Scott Phillips, Development Services Director, for any comments he wanted to make.

Mr. Phillips stated that on October 10, 2022, Granville County received submittals of interest from qualified architectural firms based upon a Request for Qualifications issued for the design services of the northern Granville County Senior Center. Of the four (4) firms that submitted, the selection committee recommended in-person interviews with two firms. On November 4, 2022, the firms Stephen Baxter Architect and Oakley Collier Architects presented their qualifications. Based on the interviews and review of the firm's qualifications and past project history, the selection committee chose Oakley Collier Architects as the best-qualified firm. He noted that the process was in accordance with the county's contract and purchasing guidelines and North Carolina General Statutes as far as qualification-based proposals.

Chairman Cozart thanked Mr. Phillips and asked if there were any questions and/or comments from Board members.

Commissioner Smith stated that the Board was so thankful that this was finally moving forward after about five years, and it was a 100% unanimous vote and he noted that he was an absentee voter.

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved beginning negotiations with Oakley Collier Architects for design services for the North Granville Senior Center.

If a contract is not negotiated, negotiations should be terminated and initiated with Stephen Baxter Architects.

Chairman Cozart stated to Mr. Phillips that he had been a part of a lot of wonderful things that had happened in Granville County that have his footprint on them and thanked him for all the work that he has done.

Mr. Phillips thanked Mr. Cozart and stated that he was just one small part.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

There were none at this time.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The County Manager did not have a report.

BOARD APPROVED EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR GRANVILLE HEALTH SYSTEM

Chairman Cozart stated that this item was the consideration of approval of an easement for Granville Health System (GHS) and gave background information. An easement agreement is for required City of Oxford utility improvements on GHS property and the County is required to sign off because it holds title to GHS real property. GHS will bear all associated costs with rerouting the utilities outside of the current easement areas. The current city utilities are close to the building and would likely have to be relocated if GHS expanded its footprint. Therefore, GHS requested that the city relocate the lines away from buildings. GHS has approved the easement agreement.

Chairman Cozart asked Attorney Wrenn if he had any comments he would like to make regarding this request.

County Attorney Wrenn stated that there had been a lot of construction in Oxford due to water and sewer improvements and this was an improvement in the area of the hospital. The hospital thought it best to move those improvements out of the current easement area to one that would be located away from the future possible expansion area and so it is paying the cost of that relocation and the City has cooperated in finding a different easement area that works for both parties.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved authorizing an easement agreement for Granville Health System (GHS) that is required for City of Oxford utility improvements on the GHS property.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The County Attorney did not have anything else to report.

PRESENTATION BY COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Gooch asked Attorney Wrenn if he needed more time on the tax matter that was presented earlier in the meeting.

Attorney Wrenn stated that the matter could be carried over to another meeting but was happy to address it at this and that the Board could vote at a later meeting. He continued that to his knowledge the Board had always denied applications unless it was something where a

taxpayer was given incorrect information or there was another mistake on the part of the tax office or if a county official such as with the Veterans Services situation where things were not properly communicated after a taxpayer used all due diligence. He stated that he was not aware of a situation where this county in the past had approved an exemption in considering a late application. He continued that the thing that he would caution the Board about was, like with all things, we have to have a standard that can be applied equally to everyone and if you start accepting these requests from one person, you have to have an articulable reason an articulable standard to apply or you would be in a position where you have to accept late applications from all people. He noted that he had pulled up a model policy from the School of Government that would inform your decision-making process and that might be something that the Board would want to consider at the next meeting and then decide on how to move forward.

Commissioner Jay stated that he was sorry that this was Commissioner Smith's official last meeting with the Board and said that he had enjoyed the ride. He reported that he had attended the Legislative Goals Conference last week and that it was very interesting. He said they worked on narrowing down goals as required in the district meeting. He continued that there were some very interesting broadband discussions and how we keep getting close to having broadband. He talked further about how children that live in areas where they do not have access to broadband except at school are declining. He stated that NCACC is seeking legislation for additional funding so that we can do more to help our children. He then wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Smith reported that Danny Faucette, Granville County's long-time Tax Collector, passed away and that his funeral was earlier today and asked that the Board remember his family. He also noted that a long-time School Board Member and County Commissioner, Mr. James Lumpkins, was having issues with his knee and asked that the Board also remember him in their prayers. He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and hoped everyone would be able to celebrate with family.

Commissioner Hinman stated that she attended the last three meetings of the Fire Commission and noted some awesome men and women are working for Granville County Fire Departments and that they are working for nothing as volunteers. She stated that most all of them are volunteers and when volunteers, and maybe a paid person, are asking for money for equipment so that they can get their trucks out faster, all we can say is, "We'd like to," and

“We want to” but unfortunately the budget is the budget. She continued that we have so many things that we need to worry about and the Fire Department is very important and it is just as important as some of our departments, such as the Sheriff’s Department as they both keep us safe and we do not have any paid fire departments in Granville County (we have the municipal ones but not the county ones), so that is another thing that the Board needs to consider--a way to take care of these volunteers. She continued that it had been very interesting attending these meetings and hearing what they need. She reported that she attended the Stem parade, and she was rather nervous after hearing about the accident at the Raleigh parade. She said it was fun and she could not wait to participate in the other parades. She announced that ACIM would be having its 17th Annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 a.m. and it would be starting at the Oxford Methodist Church and travel down to the Masonic Home and back. She stated that they have always had assistance from the Oxford Police Department (OPD) for the event but noted that this year, OPD did not have the staff to help. She said that she had spoken with Sheriff Hardy and Sheriff-Elect Fountain, and hopefully, some of their staff would be able to volunteer and help.

Commissioner May wished everyone and their families a Happy Thanksgiving. He stated to Attorney Wrenn that he looked forward to reviewing the policy guidance regarding tax late application exclusions and that he did believe that there were unique circumstances concerning this constituent. He added that he wanted to make sure that whatever precedence the Board set, the right precedence would be established. Commissioner May went on to say that he also struggles with broadband because he does not believe that it is the latest/greatest technology and believes that satellite is the direction the county should be going. He noted that everyone wants to put something in the ground and that is where funding is going but that he is not sure it is the best route as far as cost and service. He encouraged the Board to attend the Fire Commission meetings, noting that volunteer fire departments have had representation at each of the meetings. He explained that the Fire Commission is tasked with deciding how the fire tax is going to be spent. The Fire Commission was provided with generalization summaries by the consultant, and now they are making decisions and will make recommendations to the Board. He stated that he believes that it is important that the Board hears discussions about the Fire Commission recommendations so that when they do bring the recommendations to the Board, the Board will not be playing catch up and will understand the

intent behind why and how they want the money, about \$1.87M that has generated. He then wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Karan stated that Commissioner Jay mentioned the Legislative Goals Conference which involved setting priorities for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and noted that it was interesting to see how things work out such as with the opioid crisis and working through the urban/rural divide. He continued that with the Fire Services Committee last week, there were very interesting topics of conversation regarding how they will make recommendations to the Board regarding expenditures this year. He reported that Cooperative Extension had its Volunteer Appreciation Banquet and talked about how important volunteers are to Granville County to keep the wheel rolling. He noted that our 4-H Potshots Shooting Team was going to the nationals this year and it is pretty exciting to think of a fledgling program just from a few years ago and now it has some nationally ranked shooters amongst the youth here in Granville County. He stated that firearm safety is very important for folks to know and should take every opportunity they get to expose youth to the proper handling of a firearm, the more the better. He noted that Commissioner Hinman also mentioned the tragic event in Raleigh that we all saw play out before our eyes on TV and a Granville County family was impacted by that. He said as we celebrate this Thanksgiving season, understand that our life here on this earth is fleeting and every one of us is going to meet our maker someday and he prays for everyone to have a long and prosperous life and do good in our community.

Chairman Cozart stated to Commissioner Smith that he had been someone that the Board always looked up to and he always admired his service. He stated that he had a paper with notes that he had shared at Commissioner Smith's initial swearing-in and not only were the people in the Sheriff's Department excited at that time, but the entire county was excited also. He stated that he just wanted to thank him so much for his friendship and his many years of service to Granville County. He thanked Commissioners Jay and Karan for attending the Legislative Goals Conference and he was excited about where they landed in the goals process and that he hopes some good things will come out of the Legislative session. He continued that he was glad that Sheriff Hardy and Sheriff-Elect Fountain were there at the meeting. He said that he was looking at a paper dated Tuesday, December 10, 2009, and reflected that night, he was fortunate to become Chair of the Board. He said that one of the things that he said that

he wanted the young people to know was that displaying good character traits is okay and they do not have to be cool by doing bad things. He said it was simple things like saying “yes ma’am” to someone old enough to be their parents and just being respectful. He continued that he just wanted to say to the new leadership of the Board that he has been encouraged by events that have happened in recent weeks, to revisit that, it means something different now—that the challenge is so much greater and he just wanted to take some time to think about what we can do in this community to try to change some things that we see. He said it was very concerning for many of those that have grandchildren, as we wonder sometimes what kind of world our grandchildren will live in and noted that having three grandchildren of his own, he wonders what we can do today to ensure a better community for them in years to come. He stated that the newspaper article caused him to refocus on that and what he had on his mind back then does not compare to what he has on his mind today as far as the concerns we now have in our community. He stated that as we enter this Thanksgiving season, let us do as he used to sing when he was a little kid, “Count our many blessings and name them one by one.” He wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Smith recognized County Commissioner District 2 Elect, Mr. Robert “Rob” Williford, who would be taking his place that was in attendance.

Chairman Cozart also stated to Mr. Williford that they all looked forward to working with him.

Commissioner Hinman thanked her “big brother” Mr. Smith and stated that he has always been there for her and she will miss him.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Cozart asked if there were any other matters before they adjourned. There were none.

BOARD ADJOURNED

Upon a motion by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

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