

**GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 20, 2023
GRANVILLE EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTE
4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford, North Carolina**

PRESENT:

Chair Russ May
Vice Chair Timothy Karan
Commissioner Tony W. Cozart
Commissioner Jimmy Gooch
Commissioner Sue Hinman
Commissioner Zelodis Jay
Commissioner Robert Williford

County Manager Drew Cummings
Assistant County Manager Korena Weichel
County Attorney James C. Wrenn, Jr.

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chair Russ May called the meeting to order. Commissioner Jimmy Gooch had the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the consent agenda as follows:

A. Approved budget amendment #4 for fiscal year 2022-2023:

**Budget Amendment 4
March 20, 2023**

Be it ordained, the FY 2022-2023 Annual Budget Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

GENERAL FUND

Expenditures: Increase/(Decrease)			
Community Services		253,652	
Construction Projects			
Human Services		(109,611)	
Social Services			
Education		500,000	
Granville County School System			
Revenues: Increase/(Decrease)			
<i>Total Expenditures</i>			
Restricted and Intergovernmental		144,041	
Appropriated Fund Balance		500,000	
<i>Total Revenues</i>			
			644,041
General FundDSS			644,041
Expenditures: Increase/ (Decrease)			
10 5300 609 ASP Essentials	*	\$7,579	7,579
10 5300 624 Wake Electric Round-Up	#	-\$2,869	3,131
10 5300 622 Crisis Intervention Program	*	\$11,406	203,883
10 5300 622 Crisis Intervention Program	*	-\$58,639	145,244
10 5300 650 LIEAP	#	-\$134,771	147,479
Revenues: Increase/ (Decrease)			
10 3538 332 Public Assistance	#	-\$177,294	142,834

Description: DSS #4 - Utility aid

General Fund/DSS					
Expenditures: Increase/ (Decrease)					
10	5300	639	LIHWAP	83,788	169,199
Revenues: Increase/ (Decrease)				\$83,788	403,916
10	3538	332	Public Assistance		
<i>Description: DSS #5 - LIHWAP- Consolidated Appropriations Act</i>					

General Fund/School System					
Expenditures: Increase/ (Decrease)					
10	5911	581	Capital Outlay	500,000	500,000
Revenues: Increase/ (Decrease)					
10	3990	991	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$500,000	6,408,925

Description; To carry over budget amendment approved May 2022 but not yet paid to Granville County School Systems for Capital Outlay funding of replacement of Butner-Stem Elementary School fire alarm system and the FCS/CIP Roofing Program.

General Fund/GV Health

Expenditures: Increase/ (Decrease)					
10	4251	600	G V Health Water Damage	\$253,652	253,652
Revenues: Increase/ (Decrease)					
10	3836	850	Insurance Reimbursement	\$253,652	273,652

Description: Insurance proceeds to fund repair of water damage to Granville Vance District Health

B. Approved tax refunds, releases, and write-offs:

- Refunds January 2023: \$ 6,693.68
- Releases January 2023: \$ 1,730.03
- Write-offs (\$2 and less) January 2023: \$ 27.70

- Refunds February 2023: \$ 1,561.00
- Releases February 2023: \$ 8,224.47
- Write-offs (\$2 and less) February 2023: \$ 5.02

C. Approved authorizing the Finance Director to make the following changes to the Sheriff's Inmate Trust account at Union Bank, now First National Bank:

SIGNATURES TO ADD TO ACCOUNT:
Robert Fountain, Jr.
Fred Robertson
Steve McNally
David Yancey

D. Approved the 2023-2024 Plan to Further Fair Housing.

F. Approved the response to fiscal year 2022 financial audit findings letter to include the following information:

Finding 2022-001- Net deficit position of \$1,754,765 due to estimated closure and post-closure estimates.

Corrective Action: This post-closure estimate adjustment of \$2,185,930 (for FY 2021) was communicated by NC DEQ to the County in calendar 2022. The County will attempt to get timely responses from DEQ regarding corrections for post-closure estimates so that necessary budget amendments can be made in a timely manner.

Finding 2022-003 – Prior Period Adjustments

Corrective Action: The County will review financial documents throughout the year; however, for FY 2022, the County was not made aware of corrections warranting prior period adjustments until after the close of the previous year's financial statements.

For example, the County was not notified of the FY 2021 adjustments of \$12,762 by the Department of Justice, the FY 2021 adjustment of \$25,000 for unallowable expenditures from the NC E-911 board, and the post-closure adjustment from the NC DEQ (mentioned above) until after the approval of the FY 2021 annual report.

Furthermore, the change from a two-month to a three-month accrual of Local Option sale tax (\$1,004,593) and franchise tax (\$15,604) was the result of LGC directive to

our auditors to enforce this rule for FY 2022 reporting, though the auditors had not been required to apply it in previous years.

Annual Consolidate Financial Report Preparation

Granville County Finance department (a staff of four, including the Finance Director) lost a key employee at the beginning of the FY 2022 audit process. The Finance department will have additional staff this year to expedite the audit and annual report preparation process. Granville County will also remind our auditors of the need to have all their requests for audit information to the County by the end of September.

G. Approved minutes:

- May 24, 2022 Special Meeting
- May 31, 2022 Budget Workshop
- June 6, 2022 Regular Meeting

INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

Julia Gates, a freshman at J.F. Webb High School, won the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest and presented her speech at the Granville County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Event in January. The event is held annually at Northern Granville Middle School. Her essay was selected by Colonel Skip Lewis, Senior Army Instructor of the JROTC program at J.F. Webb High School, and was chosen from approximately 60 essays.

Miss Gates gave her winning speech. Chair May and Commissioner Cozart presented her with a 275th Anniversary Coin and a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark C. Griffin, 1629 Tally Ho Road, Oxford, NC, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He said that Stem has decided to try to have an ETJ (extraterritorial jurisdiction) to extend its boundaries. He asked what the ETJ will do for his neighbors, citizens, and him. He said they want to increase their tax base and he already has the services he needs and they just want a foothold to tax him. He noted that he farms and is retired and works a part-time but doesn't need to pay more taxes. He thanked the Board for their consideration.

C. Paul Blalock, P.O. Box 119, Stem, NC, said he was here for the same reason as Mr. Griffin. He said he received a letter from the Kerr-Tar Council of Government and went to the meeting about the ETJ. He talked about attending the meeting and what they were told. He said they do not want to be a part of Stem but want to live their life and be left alone.

Rosalyn Green, 4181 Shock Overton Road, Oxford, NC, asked about county policy on making a basement and a private home residential neighborhood into a rentable event, center, nightclub or party central. She asked where to file a formal complaint as this is happening in her neighborhood and mentioned 60 plus cars, loud music, noise, and disruptions.

**Chair May advised Ms. Green to reach out to the Sheriff or County Manager or go to the Granville County website for information.

James Taborn, 1106 Jerome Road, Durham, NC, introduced his partner and said they are the current owners and project managers for the old Harrisburg and Plummer Cheatham Cemetery. He said they want to not only invest but also enhance the quality of the community. He talked about the condition of the Harrisburg Plummer Cheatham Cemetery and said they want to enhance the appearance of the area and highlight the historic character of the area and be a positive part of the community.

Christy Campbell, 3108 Tump Wilkins Road, Stem, NC, spoke about Stem annexation, noting that the Wilkins family has been in Stem over 100 years. She noted that Tump Wilkins was her grandfather, noting that her road is named after him as he was a big part of the development of Stem's original community but lived outside the city limits. She asked who is going to protect them from Stem and asked about resources for development on Brogden Road. She said they like the simple life. She mentioned with concerns about noting being able to vote for Stem commissioners and being told what to do without representation.

Amber Carey, 2030 Carewoods Drive, Stem, NC, said she was speaking on behalf of many who oppose Stem's ETJ. She said they are hardworking and enjoy rural life free of constricting regulations. She said they are under county zoning and adequate for how they want to live and then read Granville County Code of Ordinances section 32-62 for Agricultural residential district 40. She noted that Stem's UDO is more restrictive and talked about differences. She urged the Board to drive around to see how much of the proposed ETJ area will be affected. Time ran out but she was allowed to finish later.

Cyndi Wilkins, 3145 Tump Wilkins Road, Stem, NC, said that she has lived in her home for 27 years and she is opposed to Stem's ETJ. She said that many agree with her and that feels Stem wants control over their lives and property. She said she agreed with her sister-in-law Christy that they would live somewhere else if they wanted to be in a town or city with apartments and shopping areas. She said she does not want it to change and be controlled unnecessarily.

Chair May exercised his discretion as chair and allowed Ms. Carey to finish her comments.

Amber Carey, 2030 Carewoods Drive, Stem, NC, continued her comments by saying that in the public meeting with Stem on March 15th, they were informed of the proposed ETJ and told it was to protect them and preserve them, but she feels it is not true as she feels their ordinances are discriminatory against lower income citizens to have a higher monetary class in the community. She talked about regulating the growth at Owen's Ridge. She said she feels they are trying to drive out the people who derived from and created this area and they want to be in control. She asked the Board to listen to the citizens that it will affect as they do not want to be under regulations by Stem where they have no representation as they want to maintain their rural life.

Cheryl Keith, 7031 Cornwall Road, Oxford, NC, said she is a business owner and resident of Granville County and active in the community. She talked about how law enforcement was appreciated and had a sense of pride in what they did when she moved here. She said that things had shifted since former Sheriff Wilkins left office and so she decided to jump on board and support law enforcement. She talked about her known support for a candidate who ran for Sheriff and her concerns with the current Sheriff's Office with having certified staff. She said she cares and knows many are scared to speak out but feels we could find ourselves in a point of crisis. She noted that there are the same number of deputies patrolling as there were in 1995. She said law enforcement deserve more and better and the problem did not just start in November. She asked what price can be put on the safety of our county with an office that is hiring people. She asked for training and better pay for the sheriff's office employees. Time ran out but she was allowed to continue later in the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE TO FRANCHISE AMBULANCE SERVICE DELAYED

Chair May said the purpose of the public hearing was to receive comments from the public on the need for an additional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) franchise in Granville County. He then recognized Jason Reavis, Emergency Management Director, for a brief overview.

Emergency Management Director Reavis provided the following information. Currently, we have one BLS (basic life support) Franchisee that operates inside Granville County. (North Central Medical Transport) Their franchise operates during regular business hours Monday through

Friday. The Granville County Emergency Management Director, County Manager, EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Director, Granville Health System CEO (Chief Executive Officer), CNO (Chief Nursing Officer) and EMS Medical Director met on January 4, 2023, and discussed the need for an additional franchise in Granville County. The consensus of the group was that we indeed need another franchise in Granville County. Frequently patients have to stay longer in the hospital than required waiting on transport back to their residence. At times this can be over 48 hours. Emergency Management fields calls regularly from citizens of the county trying to figure out how they are going to get to their medical appointments because they made attempts, and all slots are full.

The Emergency Management Director / EMS Administrator reviewed the application for Bertie Ambulance Service and found it to be complete. To note, Bertie Ambulance Service is willing to relocate their Warren County operations to Granville County to better serve us. They also are going to operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

All required notices of the public hearing, as outlined in N.C.G.S. 153A-250, have been accomplished. Copies of the application are available upon request in the County Administration Office. He noted that Carol Atkins, General Manager of Bertie Ambulance Service, Inc was available this evening to provide comments about the ambulance franchise application and Granville Health System Interim CEO Adam McConnell was also present to answer questions.

At this point, Chair May declared the public hearing open.

Jesse Currin, 604 North Country Club Drive, Oxford, NC, said that he and his wife Carrie have run North Granville Medical Transport in Granville County for 16 years. He said the franchise agreement has been reviewed and accepted with the provision of services from Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and has worked so far. He said they do not participate in the \$18.39M Granville Health System budget or \$17.4M 911 budget as they bear all expenses of their operation and gained nothing by not transporting and losing revenue. He said they are having problems hiring qualified and credentialed employees. Approval has been granted to allow companies like them to bridge the gap and put trucks on the road as this is a problem. He said they have interviewed two people who did not meet insurance requirements, but they have equipment but no one to drive it.

Carol Atkins, Bertie Ambulance Service, said she is the general manager for Bertie Ambulance Franchise and does not live in Granville County, but in Bertie where the corporate office is located. She said they have been in business since 1996 and had an office in this area since 2008. She said they served Vance County but moved to Warrenton now and want to branch out into this area. She said they are franchised in Person County and have been since 2016 or 2017. They have served both BLS and ALS (advanced life support) capacities and are interested in returning to ALS status if they are able to relocate to Granville County. She said it will be contingent on being able to hire people to serve ALS services. She said they have a number of employees who drive from Oxford to Warrenton to work with them as well as some from Vance County who say they may rejoin them if they move to this area. She said they have 18 employees in the Warrenton office who have all indicated they will come to this area to work with them. She said they have been informed that managed care brokers that set up appointments have problems setting up transport for patients in this area.

Chair May asked if the Board had questions.

Commissioner Hinman asked how many ambulances they have.

Ms. Atkins said they work 24/7 and have seven (7) ambulances staffed in Warrenton and they would move here and they hope to add at least two (2) more ambulances. She said they also provide wheel chair transportation and have two (2) vans for that.

When asked, Emergency Management Director Reavis talked about BLS service that transports citizens to the appointments rather than utilizing ALS trucks. He talked about issues especially

after hours when ALS ambulances are tied up with transport to other hospitals and issues with patients after hours and weekends waiting for transport.

Granville Health System Interim CEO Adam McConnell said he is excited to have an additional provider for BLS services as there are times that patients have to wait to be transported and it is a valuable service.

When asked, Emergency Management Director Reavis said Mr. Currin would continue his services and Bertie Ambulance would be additional services operating 24/7. Mr. Currin's franchise is Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the Bertie contract will be 24 hours a day that will assist with after-hours and weekend calls.

Mr. Currin was asked if his hours were selected by him, and he said no.

County Manager Cummings said he could fairly say that if any franchise BLS services would want to operate 24/7, the county would be happy to have more than one.

When asked, Mr. Currin said he has four vehicles for transport and Ms. Martin said they have seven.

When asked who would get calls, Emergency Management Director Reavis said some nursing homes or businesses have contracts so a business or the citizen who needs the service can contact who they chose.

County Manager Cummings said the ordinance has been left off the agenda, so if the Board wants to move forward, the item will be brought forward at the next meeting. He said he wanted the conversation to take place.

Chair May read the recommendation from the agenda.

County Attorney Wrenn said he was unaware that the matter was before the board and needed to review it. He asked that formal action be delayed in order to be sure it is compliant with the ordinance. After direction from County Attorney Wrenn, Chair May closed the public hearing.

TAX MATTERS

GRANVILLE COUNTY ASSESSOR AND TAX COLLECTOR APPOINTMENT AND OATH OF OFFICE

This request was to reappoint the County Assessor and Tax Collector. County Manager Cummings recommended the reappointment of Jennifer Griffin as Assessor and Tax Collector.

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reappointment of Jennifer S. Griffin as the Granville County Assessor and Tax Collector for a four-year term.

At this point, Chair May administered the oath of office for Ms. Griffin.

PURCHASING

BOARD APPROVED THE CEI COPIER CONTRACT UPDATE

This request was to update the countywide CEI copier contract.

Granville County has a long standing lease contract with CEI Digital Office Systems out of Raleigh, NC. The County's CEI customer service representative conducted the annual review of the County's equipment, as well as accumulated requests from various departments for possible copier replacements and upgrades. Based on the review, the representative recommends changes to the copier line-up. With the recommended changes, the monthly charge for the lease

of 35 copiers would increase from \$3,880.36/month to \$4,516/month, or a county-wide annual increase of \$7,632.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the CEI Copier Contract for the lease of 35 copiers, at the cost of \$4,516 per month.

BOARD APPROVED LINKEDIN ONLINE LEARNING SUBSCRIPTION

This item was to consider approval of a one-year subscription agreement to access online video training courses through LinkedIn Learning.

LinkedIn Learning is a valuable resource to add to the Granville County Library system's suite of databases available to our patrons. Additionally, it would be our most comprehensive standalone database focusing on topics to improve skills for work, which is a large part of all library missions.

The value goes beyond our patrons and extends to Granville County employees, aligning with Objective #9 from the County's Five-Year Strategic Plan which includes several strategies related to providing employee and supervisor training opportunities. Employees would merely need a library card to access LinkedIn Learning's expansive catalog of over 5,000 streaming online courses covering business, design, and tech for professional development. The courses are also interactive with online quizzes and exercise modules available to assess new knowledge gained via the platform.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a one-year agreement with LinkedIn Corporation for access to video training courses for library card holders in the amount of \$13,125.

ETJ INFORMATION

Commissioner Gooch noted that there is valuable information on the UNC School of Government Coates Canon blog about ETJ (extraterritorial jurisdictions).

PUBLIC COMMENTS BY KEEGAN RAPP

Chair May called on Keegan Rapp for comments as he had signed up on the public hearing sheet instead of the public comments sheet.

Keegan Rapp, 203 Grove Street, Oxford, NC said he is a Lead for North Carolina Fellow and spoke about offerings at the Granville County libraries. He noted that he started work at the Granville County Administration office and is working at the library now. He updated the Board on outreach he did to help implement the Farm to Fridge initiative for farmers to provide fresh produce for those with food insecurities. He said that he promoted the Oak Hill Express Library noting that you can call to have books delivered there to cut down on commute time. He commended Library Director Will Robinson for mentoring him and then mentioned the Granville Athletic Park sponsors mural. He also thanked Assistant County Manager Korena Weichel for the opportunity to be a Lead for North Carolina Fellow and thanked the Board for allowing him to speak.

BRIEF BREAK AND PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

Chair May said they need to take a brief pause for Commissioner Hinman to take care of something and then allowed Cheryl Keith to continue with her public comments.

Cheryl Keith, 7031 Cornwall Road, Oxford, NC, continued by saying we now find ourselves in a crisis and talked about only three deputies to a shift covering 60,000 residents and 563 miles. She noted that she did not vote for the Sheriff that is in office and does not always agree with his methods, but agrees we need to support those who work for him and said the problem started long before the end of last year. She talked about supporting the veteran officers who have stayed and been the backbone of the agency, building a place where people feel safe, and

retaining and paying veteran officers who have stayed and carried the burden for the last few years. She urged the Board to fund raises for the agency as it carries a great responsibility and stand behind those that stake their life and neck on the line every day.

SHERIFF MATTERS

BOARD APPROVED AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF TACTICAL EQUIPMENT - SUPPRESSORS

Sheriff Robert Fountain requested approval for the purchase of suppressors to be utilized as tactical accessories with the Granville County Sheriff's Office weapons request. He noted that they have four suppressors that fit the new rifles they have. The Sheriff's Office requested to expend \$19,385.80 in Sheriff's Office Capital Outlay funds to purchase ten (10) Sig Sauer Silencers and ten (10) Sig Sauer Suppressors from Lawmen's Distribution, LLC.

The Granville County Sheriff's Office is requesting funding to outfit long guns with suppressors to be utilized by the Sheriff's Office Tactical Team. The utilization of suppressors will reduce recoil and muzzle flash, which can be a tactical advantage for law enforcement when encountering potentially deadly force situations. Suppressors offer reduced recoil that can assist with shot accuracy and lower decibels to a more hearing-safe level. This can aid in communicating with team members during critical situations.

Chair May noted that the County Manager confirmed that funds are available for this purchase and that the Sheriff's Office represents that its procurement complies with Granville County's Purchasing Policy and applicable law.

Chair May called for a motion. Commissioner Cozart made a motion to approve the recommendation of Sheriff Fountain to approve the purchase. Commissioner Jay seconded the motion.

After comments, questions and clarifications on the funding and purchase, the Board voted.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and carried by a vote of 6-1, the Board approved the availability of funds for the purchase of the equipment below in the amount of \$19,385.80, utilizing the Sheriff's Office Capital Outlay funding source:

• 10 - Sig Sauer MODX-9 Suppressor 9mm	\$ 6,990.00
• 10 - Sig Sauer SLX556C-QD Suppressor SLXC 5.56mm	<u>\$11,170.00</u>
	Taxable: \$18,160.00
	Tax: \$ 1,225.80
	Total: \$19,385.80

Commissioner Hinman voted nay.

Commissioners asked Sheriff Fountain questions about staffing and pay plan other matters.

County Manager Cummings said they will be addressing these matters in the budget. Board members noted they support law enforcement and want to do address the matters as needed.

At this point, comments continued by Sheriff Fountain and Board members.

SOLID WASTE MATTERS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NCDOT SPRING 2023 COUNTY EMPLOYEE LITTER SWEEP

Environmental Programs Director Jason Falls reported that the County has taken an active stance to help address litter issues in the County. Twice each year, County employees and Commissioners are provided an opportunity to participate in a litter cleanup program in conjunction with the NCDOT Litter Sweep program. The NCDOT sponsored Spring 2023 Litter

Sweep begins April 15th and concludes April 29th. Mr. Falls requested volunteers within county government to help clean a section of road(s) within the county on Friday, April 21, 2023, with a rain date scheduled for the following Friday, April 28, 2023.

For County employees participating, and as an incentive, once participants are finished picking up litter from the selected road(s), employees will have the option of not returning to work (without using leave) as approved by the County Manager and/or employee's supervisor. Additionally, employees can earn 20 points towards wellness activities by participating.

This was an information only item.

BOARD APPROVED THE REVISIONS TO THE GARRETT-MOORE CONTRACT

The purpose of this item was for:

1. Board approval of County Attorney Review/Revision/Amendment to Garrett and Moore Contracts.
2. In addition to this request, staff is seeking approval to execute a contract with Garrett and Moore for preparing a permit application of a NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) AND STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN (SWPPP) for the Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (MSW).

County Attorney Wrenn explained this item.

Purpose 1

Within the last year, both county managers, county attorney, and staff have worked in trying to bring all task orders/agreements for the MSW cell construction/annual operating tasks in agreement with local/state legal and purchasing policies.

The landfill cell project began with the first agreement/task order with Garrett and Moore being approved by the Board of County Commissioners on December 7, 2020. To date, there have been a total of 10 different task orders mostly associated with the construction of the new cell which are now completed. Two of these ten task orders are conducted and budgeted for annually to satisfy state requirements.

Rather than this project/work being approved as one or two documents/agreement(s) over the last two years, the various task orders have resulted in confusion for both the county attorney/managers, staff and engineer in the execution of these contracts.

Purpose 2

Staff was seeking approval from the Board to execute the contract (Task No. 11) for the preparation of the permit application of a NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) AND STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN (SWPPP) for the MSW Landfill. The cost proposal for this work is \$14,155.00. Based on information provided by Garrett and Moore, this is a required permit in connection with landfill operations. A fact sheet and example permit with additional information regarding this permit were included in the agenda.

Motioned by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the amended and restated contracts with Garrett-Moore and Task No. 11, preparing a permit application of a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the Municipal Solid waste Landfill (MSW), for an amount not to exceed \$14,155 from the current operating landfill budget.

EMERGENCY SERVICE MATTERS

BOARD APPROVED CAPACITY BUILDING COMPETITIVE GRANT

Emergency Management Director Jason Reavis said that Granville County Emergency Management/Fire Marshal's Office was requesting approval to apply for a no-match grant on behalf of Granville County to help us better prepare and respond to disasters. The Granville

County Expo and Convention Center has been identified as one of our shelters in Granville County. One issue that we have identified is that there is no back-up power source at any of our three major shelters. He explained that there is an opportunity to apply for the fiscal year 2023 Emergency Management Capacity Building Competitive Grant (CBCG) in the amount of \$250,000 to place a permanent mount diesel powered generator with automatic transfer switch on the side of the building. This would allow us to have one shelter that will have heat as well as cooling in the event of widespread power outages.

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved applying for the no-match fiscal year 2023 Emergency Management Capacity Building Competitive Grant (CBCG) in the amount of \$250,000 for a permanent mount diesel powered generator at the Granville Expo Center, as it has been identified as a shelter in Granville County.

BOARD APPROVED THE FIRE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR USE OF FIRE TAX FUNDS

Chair May noted that he is the liaison to the Granville County Fire Commission and provides advice but not decision making so he wanted to remain neutral during discussions.

Emergency Management Director Jason Reavis said that the Granville County Fire for fiscal year 2023-2024 that would provide for the 12 volunteer fire departments to have a part-time firefighter in their station 5 days a week, 10 hours a day. They will be in the stations during the day where some departments are finding it tough to get members that are able to respond to the fire calls. This recommendation was approved by the Fire Commission on March 13, 2023 and will give each of the 12 volunteer departments an additional \$20,000 each for the purpose of obtaining equipment or making building modifications to be able to get this part-time staff going. Oxford Fire Department and Butner Public Safety are excluded from this additional \$20,000.00 funding. Total funding will be \$240,000.

When asked, Emergency Management Director Reavis and Andy Culbreth, Chair of the Granville County Fire Commission, explained what the \$20,000 for each department may purchase and that part-time fire fighters will start after July 1st.

Board members asked other questions. Commissioner Gooch noted that he wanted to be sure the proper documentation is received for expenditures for audit purposes.

County Manager Cummings thanked the members of the Fire Commission for their efforts and also the volunteer firefighters for their service and asked those in attendance to stand. He then made the following comments.

County Manager Cummings thanked the Fire Commission for their efforts to incorporate input from the fire chiefs, from regionally and nationally recognized fire experts, and from talking to many different counties in the state of North Carolina to find out more about how they operate their fire tax districts and fire protection service. He explained that they have been working hard to figure out how we can best fund, organize and optimize the efforts of volunteer fire districts being funded with local fire tax dollars. There are important operational needs and local government principles at play here. High-quality fire protection here in Granville County is needed and providing fire protection is becoming both more difficult and more expensive every year. He said he believes that they are both key reasons why the Fire Commission and fire district tax were instituted.

He noted that the Granville County Commission is a good steward of public money and that we never spend public money, certainly not millions of dollars of it, without ensuring that it will achieve an important public purpose and that that public purpose cannot be achieved without those funds. He noted that all of the volunteer fire departments who receive funds from the fire district tax have received their base funding for this year and that leaves a little over \$700,000 in the current year dedicated to additional fire protection purposes, either in the current year or to be saved for future needs. In addition, the group has spent many months developing a standard fire contract, which we hope can be finalized in the next month or so, and have also been

spending a lot of time looking at the format and types of budget and operational information that will help inform future and additional allocations of fire tax funds. The Fire Commission has now recommended approval for two potential uses of fire tax funds in the current year. The first, as noted, was a proposal that was unanimously supported by all the chiefs and the Fire Commission to agree to pay for the daytime weekday fire drivers at each of the stations. He noted that he thinks that is important and will do a lot to improve the response times across the county. Secondly, a proposal was passed last week to offer each department \$20,000 in the current year to purchase additional equipment, radios, turnout gear, and other furnishings required for those daytime paid staff.

County Manager Cummings said now it is the job of the Board of County Commissioners to consider this proposal and to consider whether it would like to approve, reject, or modify it. He said that from his vantage point, there are clearly current needs and also a great number of future needs.

He continued that we need to complete the contracting process. That's something we're continuing to work on and we need detailed departmental, operational, and budget information to ensure that ongoing expenditures of these fire tax funds are as targeted and as effective as possible to offer the best protection possible to our growing population. So my recommendation is that you approve this expenditure and that additional fire tax funds be made available up to a maximum of \$20,000 per department.

County Manager Cumming stated that his recommendation was that except in cases of demonstrable cash flow issues, this funding be allocated on a reimbursement basis for equipment, radios, turnout gear, and other furnishings reasonably needed to accommodate and equip new daytime fire drivers. He recommended also that any additional allocations of fire tax money in the current year be conditioned on having a signed fire contract with a department and that moving forward into next fiscal year that allocations of fire tax money be conditioned on having both a signed contract and the submittal of detailed annual budget information deemed substantially complete by a majority of the Fire Commission members.

He clarified that he was not attaching any strings to the \$20,000, except that it be his recommendation that it be paid out on a reimbursement basis for known and acceptable expenditures and that only additional expenditures of fire tax money in this year would require assigned fire contract and that next fiscal year we would need both the signed fire contract and detailed budget and operational information from each department.

At this point, there were comments and questions. Mentioned concerns were that fire departments need to follow the process to comply for auditing purposes and what needs to be done for citizens in the gray areas outside the fire districts as they pay taxes also.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the expenditure of fire tax funds for 12 volunteer fire departments for an amount up to \$20,000 for each department, for a total of \$240,000, to be allocated on a reimbursement basis, except in cases of demonstrable cash-flow issues, for equipment, radios, turnout gear and other furnishings to accommodate and equip new daytime fire drivers. Any additional expenditures of fire tax money in fiscal year 22-23 will require a signed fire contract; and next fiscal year and thereafter, allocations of fire tax funds will be conditioned on having both a signed contract and submittal of detailed annual budget information deemed substantially complete by a majority of Fire Commission members.

APPOINTMENTS

BOARD APPROVED THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair May requested that Dr. Lori Scappino be moved from the District 5 position to the Veterinarian position and that Robin Alsop be appointed to the District 5 position.

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Dr. Lori Scappino (Veterinarian) and Robin Alsop (District 5) to the Animal Control Advisory Committee.

Motioned by Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Dakota Beck (District 7) to the Animal Control Advisory Committee.

BOARD APPROVED REAPPOINTMENT TO THE CREEDMOOR PLANNING BOARD – EXTRATERRITORIAL MEMBER

Motioned by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board reappointed Mitchell J. “Mike” Allen to the Creedmoor Planning Board – extraterritorial member.

BOARD APPROVED APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE FUNDING PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AGING SERVICES

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Jimmy Gooch (elected official) to the Funding Plan Advisory Committee for Aging Services.

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board reappointed members to the Funding Plan Advisory Committee for Aging Services as follows:

Leroy Anderson – Consumer	District 1
Wanda Garrett – Consumer	District 3
LaVerta Cooper – Consumer	District 4
JoAnn Deshane – Consumer	District 5
Toni Anne Wheeler – Consumer	District 7
Vickie Smoak – Consumer	District 7
Kathy May – Provider	District 2

BOARD APPROVED REAPPOINTMENT TO THE GRANVILLE COUNTY ABC BOARD

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reappointment of Robert “Rob” Williford to the Granville County ABC Board as Chairman.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

County Manager Cummings had no additional items.

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

BOARD APPROVED RESOLUTION REGARDING SUPPLEMENTAL OPIOID SETTLEMENTS

County Attorney Wrenn said he had one matter on the agenda and needed to add two additional matters for consideration. He asked the Board to consider authorizing execution of opioid settlements and approving the supplemental agreement for additional funds between the state of North Carolina and local governments on proceeds relating to the settlement of opioid litigation.

The North Carolina Department of Justice recently announced five new opioid settlements with CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Allergan, and Teva. These settlements will result in an additional \$600 million to North Carolina state and local governments. This is in addition to the first round of settlements which resulted in \$750 million being distributed to North Carolina state and local governments, with 85% going to local governments.

The distribution formula will mirror the original MOA allocation model outlined in the first settlement agreement, which Granville County signed in 2021. To receive the settlement funds, several actions are needed. The estimated allocations for Granville County are as follows:

- Projected for Wave 1 (Distributors, J&J) Settlements (2022-2038) - \$3,801,006.52
- Projected for Wave 2 (Teva, Allergan, Walmart, CVS, Walgreens) Settlements (2023-2036) - \$3,042,621.22
- TOTAL ESTIMATED ALLOCATION - \$6,843,627.74

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following *RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF GRANVILLE AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENTS AND APPROVING THE SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS BETWEEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON PROCEEDS RELATING TO THE SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID LITIGATION*; and approved the amendment of the current settlement agreement for the opioid matter and authorized the County Manager and County Attorney to finalize the documents.

**RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF GRANVILLE
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENTS AND APPROVING THE
SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS BETWEEN THE STATE OF
NORTH CAROLINA AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON PROCEEDS RELATING TO
THE SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID LITIGATION**

WHEREAS, the opioid overdose epidemic had taken the lives of more than 32,000 North Carolinians (2000-2021);

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the opioid overdose crisis, increasing levels of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS, the overdose death rate in Granville County was 17 out of 100,00 people in 2020 which represents 10 people, and the overdose emergency department visit rate in Granville County was 139 out of 100,000 people in 2020 which represents 84 emergency department visits by Granville residents; and

WHEREAS, certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of local governments across the country to file lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical distribution companies, and chain drug stores to hold those companies accountable for their misconduct; and

WHEREAS, settlements have been reached in litigation against Walmart, Inc., Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Allergan Finance, LLC, Allergan Limited, CVS Health Corporation, CVS Pharmacy, Inc., and Walgreen Co., as well as their subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, and directors named in the these Settlements; and

WHEREAS, representatives of local North Carolina governments, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Department of Justice have negotiated and prepared a Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds (SAAF) to provide for the equitable distribution of the proceeds of these settlements; and

WHEREAS, by joining the settlements and approving the SAAF, the state and local governments maximize North Carolina's share of opioid settlement

funds to ensure the needed resources reach communities, as quickly, effectively, and directly as possible; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to all North Carolinians for local governments, including Granville County and its residents, to sign onto the settlements and SAAF and demonstrate solidarity in response to the opioid overdose crisis, and to maximize the share of opioid settlement funds received both in the state and this county to help abate the harm; and

WHEREAS, the SAAF directs substantial resources over multiple years to local governments on the front lines of the opioid overdose epidemic while ensuring that these resources are used in an effective way to address the crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Granville County hereby authorizes the County Manager or County Attorney to execute all documents necessary to enter into opioid settlement agreements with Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Allergan, and Teva, to execute the SAAF, and to provide such documents to Rubris, the Implementation Administrator.

BOARD TOOK ACTION REGARDING BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN GRANVILLE COUNTY AND FRANKLIN COUNTY

County Attorney Wrenn said the next matter for consideration was regarding the legal boundary line between Granville County and Franklin County and noted the information on the matter was received after the agenda was printed. He then read the following background information and referred to a draft bill of legislation handed out.

The legal boundary line between Granville County and Franklin County was described in a session law of the 1874-1875 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly. In the many years since the boundary was last legally described, the exact location of the boundary line became uncertain. Pursuant to General Statute (G.S.) 153A-18, entitled "Uncertain or Disputed Boundary," both county boards of commissioners passed resolutions (Franklin County, March 7, 2016 and Granville County, April 4, 2016) to request that the North Carolina Geodetic Survey ("NCGS") perform a survey of the legal boundary line and present a proposed map for consideration by both counties. NCGS completed a proposed survey map of the legal boundary line. The boundary line is substantially different than the boundary currently observed between Franklin and Granville Counties. If observed, the NCGS survey would result in the reorientation of a significant number of citizens and a substantial amount of property, primarily from Franklin County to Granville County.

Pursuant to G.S. 153A-18(a), if the NCGS survey map is not ratified by the counties requesting the survey within one year from its receipt by the counties, the NCGS survey map will become conclusive as to the location of the legal boundary line, and the Chief of the NCGS must record the survey map in the Register of Deeds of both counties and the Secretary of State's Office, and notify the affected counties' governing bodies and affected property owners in writing of the reestablished boundary line. After carefully reviewing the matter, the County Manager and County Attorney recommend that the Board vote to authorize the County Manager to send a letter to Representative Matthew Winslow in support of the draft legislation handout. The legislation would delay the implantation of the NCGS boundary to allow time for the currently observed GIS boundary to be surveyed and agreed upon by the counties.

County Attorney Wrenn stated that the County Manager and County Attorney also recommend that the County enter into an interlocal agreement with Franklin County pursuant to which Franklin County will have the boundary surveyed along GIS (Geographic Information System) lines at its cost. Granville County will have the chance to reasonably review the surveyed boundary to confirm that it follows the current GIS lines currently recognized by the counties as the boundary between the counties. This agreement will be brought back to the Board for final approval at a later date.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved authorizing the County Manager to send a letter to Representative Matthew Winslow in support of the draft legislation for a Bill entitled *AN ACT TO STAY THE CONCLUSIVENESS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GEODETIC SURVEY MAP OF THE COMMON BOUNDARY BETWEEN FRANKLIN COUNTY AND GRANVILLE COUNTY TO ALLOW FRANKLIN COUNTY AND GRANVILLE COUNTY TO SURVEY THE CURRENTLY RECOGNIZED COMMON BOUNDARY*; and approved entering into an interlocal agreement with Franklin County pursuant to which Franklin County will have the boundary surveyed along GIS lines at its cost. Granville County will have the chance to reasonably review the surveyed boundary to confirm that it follows the current GIS lines currently recognized by the counties as the boundary between the counties. The agreement will be brought back to the Board for final approval at a later date.

**Chair May stepped out of the meeting for a few minutes and Vice Chair Karan took over.

BOARD APPROVED SUBSCRIPTION FOR RAVE MOBILE SAFETY

County Attorney Wrenn stated that this is a contract to provide better service for a mass notification platform to replace the Code Red notification system.

Emergency Management Director Jason Reavis explained that this system does everything that Code Red does but has unlimited emergency minutes and also has the IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning System) feature. He said there is a tight timeline to make the change and lock in the proposed price.

After questions and clarifications including that a media push will be done to get the information distributed, the Board took action.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a 5-year subscription with RAVE Mobile Safety in the amount of \$49,875 from Emergency Management grant funds for a mass notification platform to replace the CodeRed emergency notification system that is currently used; and authorized the County Manager and County Attorney to execute the contract.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Williford reported that he enjoyed the Veterans Appreciation event including the recognition of the family of a Veteran killed in action and reading of essays by students.

Commissioner Hinman reported that she also enjoyed the Veterans Appreciation event and especially the reading of letters written by people while serving in combat during different wars. She also said she has attended two meetings in Stem regarding the ETJ and also attended Fire Commission meetings. She said this is our county and thanked staff for getting information to them.

Chair Russ May said he is appreciative of all of the public servants in the county, noting that the deputies have a difficult job. He said he was eager to look at compensation for deputies and detention officers. He said he had a matter to bring up for a vote.

EQUITABLE SHARING PROGRAM

Chair May said there was an investigation into the handling of the equitable sharing program of the past Sheriff's Office. He noted that there have been a lot of difficulties in the last few years, and we now have new leadership in the Sheriff's Office. He said that procedures need to be put in place to be sure that the County Manager and county government are protected and aligned. He then read an excerpt from County Attorney Wrenn's investigative report and made further comments.

Chair May then made a motion that the Board require a yearly audit of the Equitable Sharing program to ensure that when the County Manager signs it that he is not solely responsible for what is there.

County Attorney Wrenn recommended that he and the County Manager come back to the board with a recommendation, noting that he has the same concerns about other federal grant programs in the county and that those need to be inventoried also.

Chair May noted that the Sheriff Fountain and his staff are adhering to the processes and procedures that were put in place while working with a consultant. It was noted that the consultant is still working with the Sheriff's Office.

Chair May withdrew his motion with the understanding that a recommendation will be brought back at later date.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board went into closed session as allowed by N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (3) for attorney-client matters.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board returned to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

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