

**GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**October 16, 2023**  
**GRANVILLE EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTER**  
**4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford, North Carolina**

**PRESENT:**

Chair Russ May  
 Vice Chair Timothy Karan  
 Commissioner Zelodis Jay  
 Commissioner Robert Williford  
 Commissioner Sue Hinman  
 Commissioner Jimmy Gooch

Commissioner Tony W. Cozart was absent.

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

Chair May noted that Commissioner Cozart was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. He then made comments regarding the violence and terror attack in Israel. He then led a moment of silence said a prayer.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, 6-0, the Board approved the consent agenda as follows:

**A. Approved declaring the following vehicles as surplus to be sold via online auction platform or by Enterprise Fleet Management if they choose to accept them for sale:**

VIN	Year	Department	Make	Model	Mileage	Condition
4666	2013	Landfill	Ford	F150	179,555	Body good.
8577	2011	Senior Services	Ford	Fusion	56,893	Good, some motor issues
4667	2013	Landfill	Ford	F150	169,456	Poor - tires, windshield, transmission issues
8654	2008	Emergency Communications	Ford	Expedition EL	173,418	Poor -power steering pump and transmission issues
5639	2014	Inspections	Ford	F150	104,000	fair condition
7798	2016	Inspections	Ford	F150	118,000	fair condition
4620	2005	Soil & Water Conservation	Chevrolet	Silverado	118,474	Fair condition.
8553	2012	Parks and Ground	Ford	F250	89,086	Good condition
4430	2013	Parks and Ground	Ford	F150	66,778	Good condition

6833	2004	Parks and Ground	Chevrolet	Silverado	154,799	Poor condition
3028	2012	Animal Control	Ford	F150 4x4	79,799	Good condition
4128	2016	Animal Control	Ford	F150	165,249	Fair Condition
9385	2012	Animal Control	Ford	F150 4x4 4 door	130,854	Good condition
9609	2019	Animal Control	Ford	F250	113,071	Good condition
3462	2005	Animal Control	Chevrolet	1500	201,270	Body damage, needs battery
8658	2014	Animal Control	Ford	F150 4x4	158,954	Good condition
7181	2016	Economic Development	Honda	Pilot	54,582	Good condition

**B. Approved declaring the following kitchen items as surplus to be sold via online auction platform:**

Quantity	Property Description	Estimated Value	Condition
1	Stainless griddle	\$500	Good
1	Commercial Water Heater 250 Gallons	\$1000	Good
1	Commercial Dish Washer	\$750	Good
1	Commercial Deep Fryer (natural gas)	\$750	Good
1	Commercial double oven range & griddle (natural gas)	\$1500	Good
1	Commercial 2-door refrigerator	\$1,650	Good
1	Commercial 3-door refrigerator	\$1,850	Good

**C. Approved the following tax refunds, releases, and write-offs:**

- Refunds September 21, - October 4, 2023: \$ 354.05
- Releases September 21, - October 4, 2023: \$ 255.35
- Write-offs (\$2 and less) September 21, - October 4, 2023: \$ 12.02

**D. Approved a refund of excise stamp tax to Madison Title Agency in the amount of \$1041.00 as it was paid twice.**

**E. Approved minutes:**

- June 19, 2023 Regular Meeting
- July 10, 2023 Regular Meeting

**INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Introduction of DSS Director LaToya Davenport Toussaint**

County Manager Drew Cummings introduced the new Director of Social Services LaToya Davenport Toussaint, MM, MPA. He highlighted that she rose to the top of a nationwide search that included dozens of qualified candidates. He read the following background information.

Granville County is pleased to announce that Mrs. LaToya Davenport Toussaint has been hired as the Social Services Director. Mrs. Toussaint has over 17 years of experience in Human Services in North Carolina and Florida, both in the public and private sector. As

the Senior Deputy Director of Health and Human Services with Wake County, she oversaw administration and operations. Previously, she was the Human Services Administrator with Broward County, Florida where she was responsible for the development and oversight of the \$20 million county-funded children's services system of care. Mrs. Toussaint held various leadership roles in the private sector across Florida within child welfare, early childhood education, and mental and behavioral health programs. Mrs. Toussaint has been a National Peer Reviewer with Council on Accreditation (COA) since 2018, was recognized by Nonprofits First of Palm Beach County as a Rising Leader in 2016, and was honored on Legacy Magazines' 40 Under 40 list of recognized professionals from across Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties in 2017. She holds a bachelor's degree in Health Science and a dual master's degree in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. She recently relocated to North Carolina in 2022 with her husband and son.

Mrs. Toussaint was appointed and sworn in on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at a special meeting of the Granville County Board of Social Services.

Mr. Cummings emphasized that the role of DSS director is an awesome responsibility in which one assumes some if not all the responsibility for the most vulnerable people and it is hard to imagine a more serious and weighty position.

Commissioner Hinman said we searched high and low, and Mrs. Davenport does have the skills that we need, and she is proud to have her as our new director.

Commissioner Jay welcomed her to Granville County and said we look forward to working with her.

Social Services Board member Wilma Moore welcomed her and said that they know that she will do well.

Chair May noted that her credentials are impressive and added that we have made impressive hires as of late and are shifting to a robust county government that can meet the needs of a growing and needy county. He expressed the Board's sentiment that they are looking forward to helping in any way that they can.

Mrs. Toussaint. thanked the Board for the opportunity and said that she is excited to work with everyone and to continue the good work of Granville County.

County Manager Cummings read a comment sharing congratulations from Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, the third member of the DSS board.

Please accept my apologies for not being present for your swearing-in. Thank you for assuming leadership of our DSS. I'm confident that your skills and experience will help make our department even stronger than it is today. You have my full support as you begin this awesome journey. Best wishes.

#### **Board Updated on Granville ABC Board**

Granville ABC General Manager Connie Smith presented a report based on the PowerPoint presentation below.

As a commentary on the 'Gross and Net Sales by Fiscal Year' slide, she provided the following percentage increases from year to year.

- FY 2018-2019 up 9% from the previous fiscal year
- FY 2019-2020 Up 13% from the previous fiscal year
- FY 2020-2021 Up 14 from the previous fiscal year

- FY 2021-2022 up 15% from the previous fiscal year
- FY 2022-2023 up 7% from the previous fiscal year

As a commentary on the 'Total Revenue Transferred to Granville County By Fiscal Year' slide, she made the following points:

- There are 9 full-time and 10 part-time employees.
- They are in the process of building a new Oxford store with a March 2024 projection.
- Due to construction, project revenue is not expected to increase much this fiscal year.
- There are further plans for a new location in the southeast corner of Granville County.
- She said that there was a study done in North Carolina and Granville County is projected to show great growth in the next few years and explained that is why they feel the need to place a new store in Granville County.

When asked about alcohol education funds, she explained that it is a set 7% of profits and added that law enforcement is a set 5%.

When asked about Talk It Out she explained that Talk It Out is part of the alcohol education money.

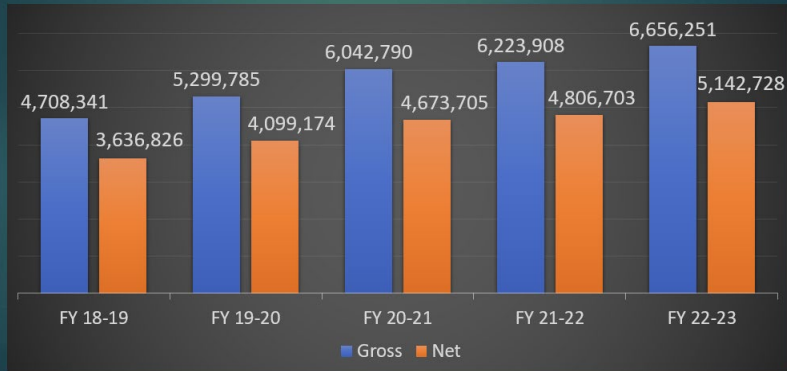
Commissioner Hinman thanked her, and she replied that they appreciate the thank you as they are trying hard to make sure they follow the rules and make as much profit for the county as they can.

Chair May asked if there has been a discussion about the pending new ABC location. She replied that the Board has discussed various locations but would rather not say at this time as it has not been decided.

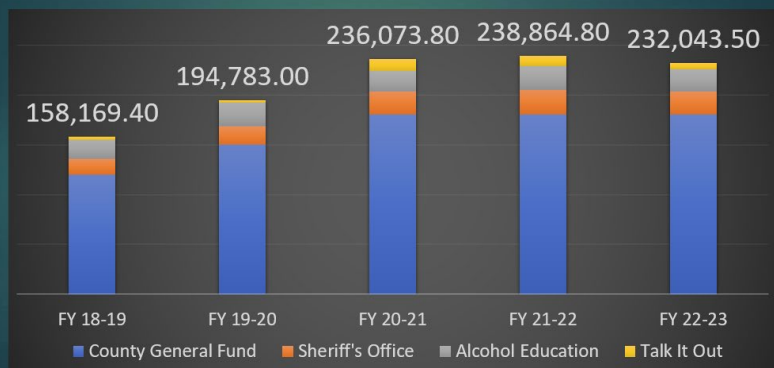
Commissioner Williford said that it was mandated four to five years ago that a percentage of ABC proceeds goes to the schools. Funds are transferred from the County to the School Board who are then responsible for spending and documentation. He mentioned that Ms. Smith came from Durham eight (8) years ago and has done an excellent job for the county.



## Gross and Net Sales by Fiscal Year



## Total Revenue Transferred to Granville County by Fiscal Year



### **Board Updated on Veterans Affairs Committee and Veterans Services**

Veterans Services Director Albert "A.J." Spiess presented a list of previous and upcoming events and highlighted Community Relations efforts based on the following PowerPoint Presentation.





## Previous Veteran Affairs Events

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- November 2022 – Float in the Veterans Parade
- December 2022 – Float in the Christmas Parade
- March 2023 - Veterans Appreciation day
- June 2023 - Booth at the Butner Summer Festival
- September 2023 - Booths at the Hot Sauce Festival and Creedmoor Music Festival
- October 2023 Veterans Health and Resource Fair

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## Upcoming Veteran Affairs Events

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- October 28, 2023 - Military History Show
- November 04, 2023 - Booth and Float in the Veterans Parade
- December 2023 - Floats in the Oxford, Creedmoor, and Butner Veterans Day Parades
- March 09, 2024 – Veterans Appreciation Day

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## Veteran Affairs Community Relations

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- Pantry donations: ACIM, Granville County Senior Center, and Butner National Guard
- Veteran visitations throughout various nursing homes
- Two support groups (6 times a month) for Veterans and spouses
- Help Veterans throughout the community with referrals

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### **Board Approved Adopting Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans**

Veterans Services Director Albert “A.J.” Spiess continued his PowerPoint presentation by sharing an update on Operation Greenlight for Veterans which he explained is in its second year. He presented based on the following background information:

This coming Veterans Day, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) invite the nation’s 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs to join Operation Green Light and show support for veterans by lighting our buildings green from November 6 to November 12, 2023. By shining a green light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported.



## Operation Green Light for Veterans



Granville County will participate in Operation Green Light from November 6 to 12 by shining green lights to let veterans know they are seen, appreciated, and supported.

The City of Oxford in Conjunction with Granville County Veterans Services will host an Operation Green Light Event from 12 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 4 in downtown Oxford followed by a Veterans Parade at 3 p.m.

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He emphasized that less than 1% of the population serves in the military and emphasized that though the percentage is small the sacrifice is great.

Mr. Spiess recommended that the Board approve the associated resolution.

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, 6-0, the Board approved adopting the following resolution Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans.

### Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans

WHEREAS, the residents of Granville County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Granville County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, and civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability, and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Granville County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; therefore be it

RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Granville County hereby declares from October 16, 2023 through Veterans Day, November 11, 2023 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service; therefore, be it further

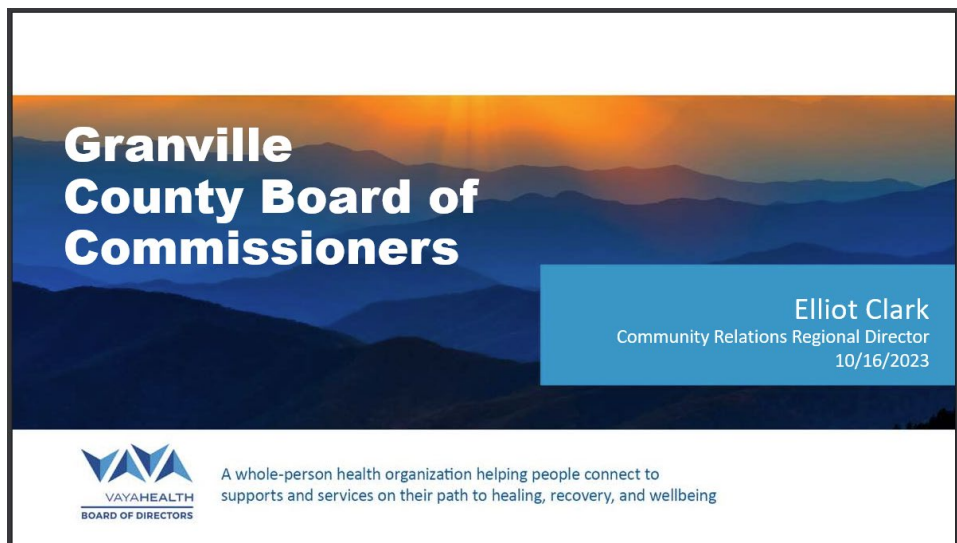
RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Granville County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 6<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The Board and Mr. Spiess commented on the service of Sergeant Leon Thornton, a Veteran from Granville County who gave his life to save his platoon commander as well as a few other soldiers. He was from Berea and was a graduate of Joe Toler School. His nickname was Little Bull. Due to Chair May's diligence, the Silver Star was presented to his remaining siblings, nieces, and nephews, totaling about 40 family members. The Silver Star must be corroborated by more than one person, and because of that, the family knows how their loved one died. Board members who attended the private presentation were grateful for the opportunity and said that it was a high honor to be in attendance and that it was a very emotional moment.

### **Elliot Clark Updated the Board on Vaya Health**

Elliot Clark, Regional Director of Community Relations for Vaya Health, updated the Board. Mr. Clark explained that Vaya is a local management entity and managed care organization that manages behavioral healthcare for the citizens of Granville County who depend on the public system for that service. Vaya operates solely within the state of North Carolina and covers 31 counties. His regional focus is Granville, Vance Frankin, and Person counties and he has been working in Granville County for eight years.

Mr. Clark provided updates on various projects and priorities in Granville County. He mentioned the expansion of Medicaid and the implementation of a tailored plan that will allow for a more comprehensive approach to healthcare. He also discussed the improvements in the crisis system, including the addition of a new mobile crisis provider and plans for a regional diversion center. Additionally, he mentioned the Back@Home Grant, which aims to help individuals transition from mental health institutions to independent living situations. Finally, he highlighted the need for more Innovations waiver slots to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Mr. Clark presented based on the following PowerPoint presentation.





## Vaya Health Updates and Local Efforts

Elliot Clark, Community Relations Regional Director

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Cell: 919-608-7894

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## Tailored Plan and Legislative Updates

- Significant state investments in NC Budget for Mental Health, Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Disorder Services.
- Medicaid to expand in NC effective December 1, 2023
- Healthy Opportunities Pilot – NCDHHS established 3 pilot regions, does not include Granville County BUT Vaya applied for and was awarded a Back@Home grant to offer housing support in 7-9 additional counties, including Granville County

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## Tailored Plan and Legislative Updates

- Tailored Plans delayed until July 1, 2024, note that Vaya's Tailored Plan will be called "Vaya Total Care"; focused on integrating Behavioral Health, Physical Health, and Pharmacy Benefits.
- Vaya will be ready to launch when the Department gives the go-ahead
  - Top LME/MCO on most recent Tailored Plan scorecard
  - Meeting network adequacy and operating system requirements

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## Value Added Services – Vaya Total Care Perks

- ✓ Designed to support Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), includes:
  - ✓ Post hospitalization meal delivery
  - ✓ WW (formerly Weight Watchers)
  - ✓ GED support (inclusive of tutoring, practice tests, real test, etc.)
  - ✓ Breast Pump and Lactation Course for pregnant or recently postpartum mothers
  - ✓ Vaccine gift cards
  - ✓ Non-Emergency, **Non-Medical** Transportation (to places like grocery stores, local gyms, prenatal classes, etc.)
  - ✓ \$100 discount off a safety equipment product for individuals with an I/DD to help them live more independently in the community
- ✓ <https://www.vayahealth.com/benefits-services/vaya-total-care-perks/>

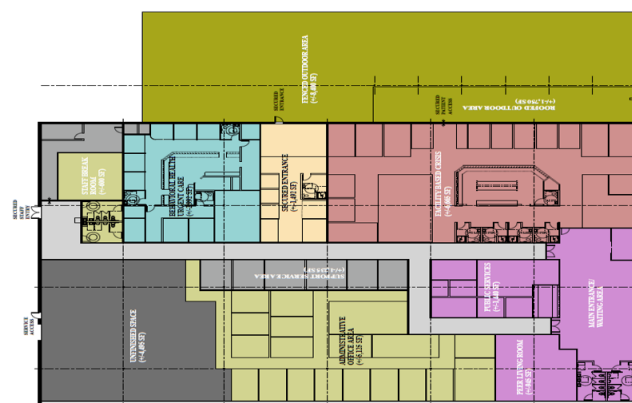
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## Vaya Health Local Updates

- Current Priority Areas of Focus for Granville County
  - Crisis System Continued Improvement
    - Mobile Crisis Management Team through RHA Health Services
    - Facility Based Crisis needs
      - Regional Diversion Center prospective site at Dabney Drive in Henderson
        - Status: Goal is lease to be finalized and state funding identified in October 2023.
    - Supporting local Walk-In Center (Vision Behavioral Healthcare)
    - Crisis Response Collaborative Monthly Meetings for Systemic Improvements.

## Regional Diversion Center Project Proposed Layout



- 31,500 Sq. Ft.
- Programming based on available funding
- Proposed: Staged upfit

- Facility Based Crisis (16 Beds)
- Behavioral Health Urgent Care (6 Chairs)
- Walk-In Clinic
  - Open 24/7 for adults and children with all disability groups.
- Pharmacy
- Peer Living Room

## Vaya Health Local Updates (cont.)

- Enhancement of Service Continuum for Youth in Foster Care / Child Welfare
  - Pathways to Permanency Project
  - Addressing access to behavioral health services during placement
- Enhancing continuum of services for school aged youth
  - School Based Mental Health Focus
  - Need for Supportive Services for Students with I/DD

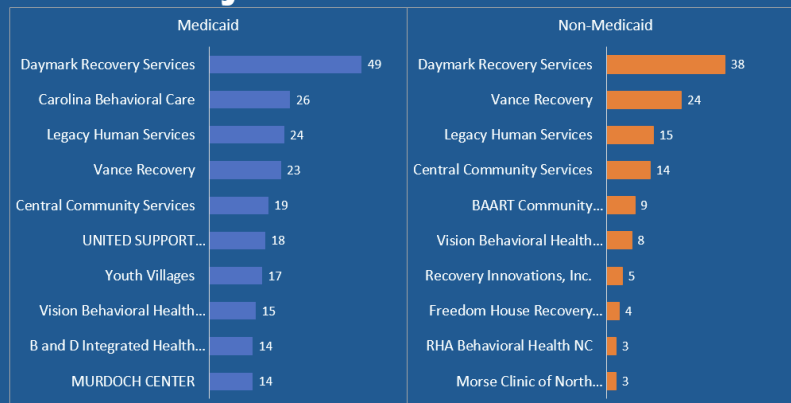
## Key Local Partnerships

- Granville County Schools
  - Engagement with System of Care Collaborative
    - Identify programming within the schools and networking within provider network
- Granville Vance Health Department
  - Recent award of THRIVE Grant
    - Partnership to improve integrated service continuum and prevention resources for youth
  - Opioid Settlement
  - Stepping Up Initiative
  - NC Integrated Care for Kids (NC InK)
  - Integrated Care Outreach Network (ICON)

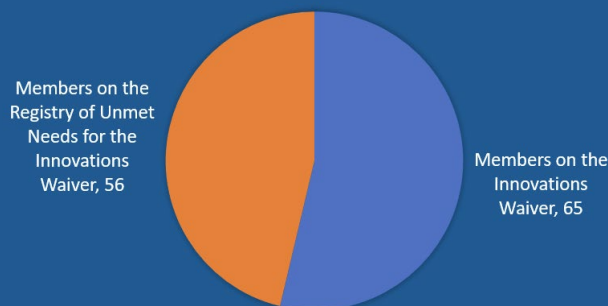
## Key Local Partnerships (Cont.)

- Granville County DSS
  - Continued Support through embedded Vaya Health Care Manager
  - Support for Youth in Custody and Child Welfare
  - Single Portal for Assessments of at-risk youth

## Providers by Members Served



## Members Eligible for Innovations Services



When asked what the average waiting time is for the Innovations waiver, he replied that people have waited over 10 years for that waiver. Mr. Clark explained that the Innovations waiver is when the state waives the financial eligibility to qualify for a Medicaid program, and then he further expounded.

When asked regarding the upfit for the facility, Mr. Clark replied that they are estimating about a year for the entire project. He added that in the meantime they plan to lease a building in January to provide some services while they build out the facility.

When asked, Mr. Clark explained that Vision Behavior Health Services in Hilltop Village in Oxford operates a walk-in center with core and enhanced benefit services. Core services include medication management, psychiatric services, and outpatient services. He highlighted one enhanced service, the peer service that includes a large roster of peer support specialists.

Chair May emphasized that they are hoping to expand some services to the southern end of the county along with working on some transportation solutions. Mr. Clark confirmed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **Public Hearing – Granville County Land Development Code Text Amendment Petition**

Chair May said that the purpose of the public hearing is to hear public comments on proposed amendments to the Land Development Code (LDC) that would increase the minimum lot size in a rural cluster subdivision to 40,000 square feet, require a minimum lot width of 85 feet per lot and change the minimum setbacks in proposed rural cluster subdivisions.

Chair May declared the public hearing open and recognized Planning Director Barry Baker for an overview.

Mr. Baker stated that the proposed text amendment would increase the minimum lot size in a rural major cluster subdivision to 40,000 square feet, require a minimum lot width of 85 feet per lot, and change the minimum setbacks in those subdivisions to 50 feet street yard, 15 feet side yard, and 25 feet rear yard. He also mentioned that the amendment aligns with the recommendations in the county's comprehensive plan for flexibility and the use of cluster conservation subdivisions in suitable soil areas. He said that all public notice as required by state law had been accomplished for the hearing, and he emphasized that the text amendment would not apply to a minor subdivision zoned. He presented based on the following background information.

Rural cluster subdivisions have been allowed by subdivision regulations since 2019. In a review of all major subdivisions reviewed and approved since the adoption of the regulations, all of the major subdivisions approved have been cluster/conservation subdivisions. To add to the discussion, please find below all of the subdivisions that have been submitted to the Planning Board since rural cluster subdivision adoption with average lot sizes, smallest lot in the subdivision, and whether the subdivision has indicated a community well.

1. Sherron Estates – Average lot size is 41,382 square feet with smallest lot 30,478 square feet. No community well indicated. January 2020 Planning Board.
2. Ironwood, Phase 3 – Average lot size is 53,578 square feet with smallest lot 40,008 square feet. No community well indicated. March 2021 Planning Board.
3. Providence – Average lot size is 33,976 square feet with smallest lot 30,001 square feet. No community well indicated. May 2021 Planning Board.
4. Sadiebear – Average lot size is 44,866 square feet with smallest lot 30,332 square feet. Community well indicated. June 2021 Planning Board.
5. Swanson – Average lot size is 64,294 square feet with smallest lot 26,629 square feet. Community well indicated. June 2021 Planning Board.
6. Magnolia Terrace – Average lot size is 40,349 square feet with the smallest lot 31,174 square feet. No community well indicated. June 2021 Planning Board.

7. Browning Place – Average lot size is 42,374 square feet with the smallest lot 35,021 square feet. No community well indicated. December 2021 Planning Board.
8. Northern Falls – Average lot size is 38,077 square feet with smallest lot 29,531 square feet. Community well indicated. January 2022 Planning Board.
9. Blue Ash – Average lot size is 39,160 square feet with smallest lot 29,091 square feet. Community well indicated. March 2022 Planning Board.
10. Hugh Davis – Average lot size is 38,478 square feet with smallest lot 33,372 square feet. No community well indicated. March 2022 Planning Board.
11. Forest Ridge – Average lot size is 30,709 square feet with smallest lot 22,251 square feet. Community well indicated. May 2022 Planning Board.
12. Preserve West – Average lot size is 49,368 square feet with smallest lot 30,171 square feet. No community well indicated July 2022 Planning Board.
13. Broad Point Estates – Average lot size is 49,368 square feet with smallest 29,238 square feet. No community well indicated. September 2022 Planning Board.
14. Parrott Farms – Average lot size is 47,480 square feet with smallest lot 44,211 square feet. No community well indicated. September 2022 Planning Board.
15. The Oaks – Average lot size 39,988 square feet with smallest lot 19,287 square feet. Community well indicated. September 2022 Planning Board.
16. Murphy’s Ridge – Average lot size is 68,065 square feet with smallest lot 44,211 square feet. No community well indicated. October 2022 Planning Board.

For additional commentary, there have not been any major subdivisions on the Planning Board agenda since the December 2022 adoption of the 30% open space requirement for rural cluster subdivisions. Looking back at the last ten years including calendar year 2022, these are just statistics for the number of preliminary approved lots in Granville County zoning/subdivision jurisdiction:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Lots</u>
2022	772
2021	154
2020	23
2019	89
2018	51
2017	58
2016	125
2015	44
2014	82
2013	0

Mr. Baker emphasized that there were 772 lots approved in 2022 and that number was more than the prior nine years combined. He said the large number got the attention of the planning board, and that the planning board, like the commissioners, had individuals advocating for subdivision changes. He mentioned that when the cluster subdivision regulations were amended, they had tied the lot standards and setbacks to the plan unit development (PUD) table. The displayed information indicated that the smallest lot available was 6,000 square feet with a lot width of 60 feet, accompanied by various setbacks. Typically, cluster subdivisions had used single-family detached lots with an area of 12,000 square feet. However, these dimensions were impractical

in rural areas lacking public water and sewer infrastructure. In such areas, where well and septic systems were necessary, the lots did not meet the specified minimums.

He continued that actually the smallest lot was an 18,000-square-foot lot in one subdivision on Bruce Garner Road. The average lot size had been 44,208 square feet, but practically subdivided lots had been as small as 28,000 square feet up to 65,000 square feet.

Mr. Baker noted that the Planning Board had conducted a public hearing and that five or six speakers at the meeting spoke in favor of the proposal. He noted that excerpts from the Planning Board minutes were included in the agenda packet as attachments and that the Planning Board recommended the adoption of the text amendment unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

When asked by Commissioner Williford what is considered suitable soil, Mr. Baker replied soil that perks. When asked to clarify regarding permitting, he explained that an initial perkable site and an alternate, secondary site are both required to obtain a permit, adding that the secondary site may or may not ever be used but both must be approved as part of the septic permit.

Commissioner Karan asked whether the current regulation in the rural area had a 30,000-square-foot minimum lot size. Mr. Baker's response to Commissioner Karan's question regarding lot size was that the current regulation does not have a specific minimum lot size tied to it. The practical side of the small-sized lots is generally around 30,000 square feet, but the cluster subdivision standards allow for lots as small as 6,000 square feet. However, in practice, smaller lots are not common due to the need for well and septic tank sites. The proposed 40,000 square foot minimum was based on the practicality of having an individual well and septic tank on a lot of that size.

Mr. Baker expressed concerns about the use or potential establishment of community wells. In the examination of the 16 subdivisions, six of them had stated their intention to have a community well. Generally, larger subdivisions with a higher number of proposed lots tended to opt for community wells. Mr. Baker, acknowledging his lack of expertise in water matters, pointed out that the larger number of lots often corresponded with the use of community wells. He mentioned the possibility of having individual wells and septic tanks for lots with 40,000 square feet but emphasized the challenge of completely eliminating the need for a community well.

Commissioner Karan inquired whether the concerns raised were based on facts or emotions.

Mr. Baker responded by stating that he could not speak for those who expressed their views and acknowledged the possibility that some of them might be present at the meeting. He asserted that the concerns were rooted in the observation and experience that community wells were not common in subdivisions with lot sizes of 40,000 square feet or more. Mr. Baker considered this observation as the most significant fact available on the matter.

As a follow-up question Commissioner Karan asked if this would eliminate the PUD.

Barry Baker stated that the Planned Unit Development (PUD) section of the ordinance still exists as a major special use where there is public sewer. He mentioned that PUDs are typically found around areas where there is public water and sewer, such as the Village of Applewood. The proposed regulations would not remove the PUD as a land use.

When Chair May asked for clarification regarding WSII, Barry Baker stated that WSII refers to the strictest water supply and watershed regulation in effect since the mid-1990s. It has a stricter lot size minimum and generally includes areas running from Person County to the town of Stem. He also mentioned WSII.1 areas that are closer to Falls Lake or Lake Holt and have even stricter

regulations. However, he noted that there are not many areas in North Carolina that fall under WSII or WSII.1 regulation.

When Chair May asked Mr. Baker to talk about easement rights regarding septic fields, Mr. Baker mentioned that in some cases, a septic system may have an offsite area designated for it, which could be on a neighboring lot or an adjacent open space. This offsite area would be included in the septic tank permit and would serve as a secondary or redundancy area for the septic system.

Chair May asked what the benefit is of a cluster subdivision in the watershed. According to Barry Baker, the benefit of a cluster subdivision in the watershed is that it provides flexibility and maintains the option to pursue a cluster subdivision in rural areas, while also allowing for conventional subdivisions. Cluster subdivisions allow for proper maintenance of stormwater control devices and open areas owned by homeowner's associations, which can prevent improper maintenance in conventional subdivisions where individuals own the land, including stormwater control devices.

Commissioner Karan revisited the question about septic system easements. Mr. Baker gave an example that in some conventional subdivisions it is possible for a 40,000-square-foot lot to not have a perkable site, but still have deeded access to a nearby perkable site on someone else's lot. This means that the owner of the lot would have permission to use the septic system on their neighbor's lot. Commissioner Williford said there was one of those in his neighborhood where someone was permitted to run 75 yards into another property.

When Commissioner Gooch asked for clarification on the possibility of an 18,000-square-foot lot size in one of the subdivisions, Mr. Baker mentioned that the smallest lot size in one subdivision on Bruce Garner Road was 18,000 square feet. He said he listed the smallest that he could find in each subdivision, and that there was only one that size in one subdivision. He explained that it would need to get a septic tank permit eventually. He added, cautiously, that it may have to get an offsite permit.

When Commissioner Gooch mentioned the secondary site being designated for future use, Mr. Baker said that it could not be used as a part of the septic tank. He then gave the following example. If someone adds onto their home or adds an accessory structure or a pool, they must go and get their septic tank reviewed and get a recertification from the health department to make sure they do not damage what their approved septic tank permit allowed. Commissioner Gooch added that they do not damage the leach field or the designated area for future leach fields.

Chair May stated that a benefit of a larger lot could be enough spacing if there is suitable soil, to have the three things required for permitting: distance between the well, the septic field, and the repair field.

When Chair May asked Mr. Baker if he had received any information as to why community wells are used, Mr. Baker said that no one had answered the question why. He then referred to the list of subdivisions and explained that out of the 16 subdivisions approved since 2019, six of them have indicated the use of community wells. He added that the only relationship he could see is that community wells are in the larger, for example, 100-lot, subdivisions. Commissioner Jimmy Gooch clarified that Mr. Baker said that is the larger subdivisions with a larger number of lots. Mr. Baker said that is how it appears.

Commissioner Gooch asked if it could be economy of scale when they are looking at the cost of the lot and they are looking at the cost of putting a well on each lot versus a community well with the infrastructure to get to each house. Mr. Baker replied that he did not know the answer.

Commissioner Karan if it could be in these cluster subdivisions that they are considering the cost of installing individual wells on each lot versus a community well with infrastructure to each house. Mr. Baker replied that that is a possibility.

Commissioner Karan asked if a community well could be placed on a set aside for open space. Mr. Baker replied that it could if it is not damaged by a recreation facility.

Commissioner Karan gave an example of siting a community well on an eight-acre set-aside for environmental preservation. He said that the State requires a set footage circumference around the well, and asked if it would behoove the choice to have available land to put such resources. Mr. Baker replied that there may be available land in cluster subdivisions that could be used for open space and still meet a 40,000-square-foot minimum.

Chair May asked those wanting to speak to come to the podium.

**Teresa Gilreath, 915 Williamsboro Street, Oxford, NC,** expressed her concerns about cluster subdivisions and their potential impact on water supply in neighboring communities. She said they had a family meeting and looked at the information. She emphasized the importance of protecting valuable resources and being good stewards of the limited resources available. She also requested that clear-cutting of land and deforestation be limited to prevent erosion and water runoff issues. She respectfully requested that all responsible parties assure that supporting documents are available to ensure transparency and education are available to all citizens.

**Vanessa S. McMillan, 3203 Bruce Garner Road, Creedmoor, NC,** expressed support for the proposed text amendment and cluster subdivisions. She mentioned that she owns land and is interested in building a daycare center in southern Granville County. She stated that she hopes the community can work together to find a solution that balances the interests of the community and the proposed amendment. She also mentioned that she opposes any regulations that would impact the practical use of land due to the layout of the lot.

**Karen Holding Jordan, 6711 Rockglen Way #418, Raleigh, NC,** said that she had attended along with family members to understand and make sure that they would have the full benefit of their property inheritance. She then yielded the balance of her time.

There was no one else wishing to speak and no other questions.

Chair May closed this portion of the public hearing.

Commissioner Karan requested that the public hearing be continued and then made a motion.

Motioned by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, 6-0, the Board continued the public hearing on the Granville County Land Development Code text amendment petition to November 20, 2023 that would increase the minimum lot size in a rural cluster subdivision to 40,000 square feet, require a lot wide of 85 feet per lot, and change the minimum setbacks in a proposed rural cluster subdivision until more information is received from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), legal review of general statutes, and from the National Standard Plumbing Code (NSPC) to better understand how wells work and the required pump rates and flow rates.

Chair May encouraged citizens to attend and make comments at the upcoming meeting.



## PLANNING MATTERS

### CAMPO Presentation for Area Study Proposal

Barry Baker explained that CAMPO (Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization) is a transportation planning regional entity primarily based in Wake County. He also stated that Granville County joined CAMPO approximately 20 years ago and that CAMPO has not conducted a detailed study of any area in Granville County. The proposed study that he discussed would be submitted to CAMPO for consideration. Mr. Baker spoke from a PowerPoint presentation that included the following background information.

Thinking maybe that southeastern Granville County area in CAMPO might be called the Northwest Area Study, it would incorporate (1) NC 56 from I-85 to US 1 in Franklinton, (2) NC 96 from CAMPO boundary to US 1; continued residential growth pressures in southeastern Granville that primarily occurs in the CAMPO boundary; and water resource issues from continued residential growth in the CAMPO area in Granville.

Reason for Study: the older NC 56 Study was only for the western portion of NC 56 from Creedmoor to Butner and never included from Creedmoor to Franklin County. Also, the entire southeastern portion of Granville County has never been studied in detail or included in any of CAMPO's Regional Area Plans. There are several areas of continued and anticipated growth, such as Bruce Garner Road, Lawrence Road, NC 96, and NC 56. There are several intersections in the area that are seeing increased congestion and safety issues. CAMPO has identified a few projects in the southeastern portion of the county but has never studied any of them in detail. An area study in this area would complete the only area of CAMPO that is not covered by an existing area study and help prepare the county for the anticipated growth. In addition, there are five (5) schools (1 high school, 1 middle and 3 elementary) that contribute to traffic and safety concerns.

If CAMPO chooses to conduct the study, they will pay for the cost of the transportation component of the study and any land use component that directly impacts transportation in the area. Land use studies that look at water issues and economic development would have to be paid for by Granville County in full to be included.

If CAMPO selects the study for the next fiscal year, there will be an opportunity to determine the costs of the local match and decide whether to proceed with that component of the study.

During the discussion, Commissioners expressed concerns about the transportation needs and highway problems in Granville County. Commissioner Gooch specifically mentioned that Interstate 85 has reached or is reaching its advised capacity, and there are problems with Highway 56 and Highway 96 as well. Chair May emphasized the need for DOT (Department of Transportation) help and that the County Manager and legislators are working on addressing these concerns. He also mentioned that the corridor from Butner-Creedmoor to US 1 is slated to be widened or some type of significant work done by 2040, but he expressed that 2040 is too long of a wait. He noted that Granville County is in DOT District 5 with Wake County and Durham County.

Board members expressed hope that the study would come to fruition. Additionally, Commissioner Karan brought up the Highway 50 corridor and expressed the need to study that area as well.

Mr. Baker said that the CAMPO application is due at the end of the month, and in response to the Board's request, he said that he would add Highway 50 to the application.

Chair Russ May announced that Representative Frank Sossamon had organized a transportation forum on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at the Granville County Convention and Expo Center at 3:00 p.m.

## TAX MATTERS

### Board Approved Proposed Real Property Appraisal Manual

Tax Administrator Jenny Griffin submitted the schedule of values, standards, and rules of appraisal for 2024. She presented the following PowerPoint presentation and presented information.

# Submission of Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules



October 16, 2023  
2024 Revaluation

## Overview

-  • Brief description of revaluation and why it is required
-  • Submission of Schedule of Values, Standards and Rules (SOV) to BOC
-  • Request to BOC to schedule a public hearing

## What is Revaluation?

The process of updating Granville County's **real property values** to reflect **fair market value**.

The revaluation process is well underway for the January 1, 2024, effective date.



## Why Perform a Revaluation?

- All 100 North Carolina counties are required to conduct a general reappraisal at least once every eight years however the NCDOR recommends reappraising once every four years.
- April 20, 2020, the North Carolina Department of Revenue recommended Granville County move from an eight-year to a shorter cycle due to our sales changing so quickly.
- Granville County is currently on a six-year reappraisal cycle by resolution adopted by the BOCC.
- Revaluation ensures property values accurately reflect their market value, so that the property tax burden is spread equitably across all taxpayers.



**MOST PROPERTY VALUES WILL INCREASE FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES.**



**A COUNTY-WIDE AVERAGE INCREASE BETWEEN 60-95% IS PREDICTED. ACTUAL CHANGES IN VALUE FOR INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES MAY BE OUTSIDE THAT RANGE.**



**THERE HAS BEEN RAPID GROWTH IN THE REAL ESTATE MARKET SINCE 2020.**

### Schedule of Values Presentation to the Board of Commissioners



Required by state law



Schedule of Values must be approved by the BOC before January 1 of the year applied (revaluation effective date)



Statutes include provisions for review, public hearing, approval

## What is the Schedule of Values (SOV)?

- A manual that describes the rules, methodology, and procedures for appraising real property. It is very detailed and complex.
- Establishes the base rates and ranges for all types of property which will be in effect until the next Revaluation.
- Includes adjustments that may be used for various types of construction, adjustment for market conditions, and valuation schedules for land.

## Why Have A SOV?

- To determine **land value** the manual takes into consideration each tract, parcel, or lot at its advantages and disadvantages as to location, zoning, quality of soil, adaptability for agriculture, timber producing, commercial, etc.
- In determining **building** or other improvement value it considers the location, type of construction, the age of the building, total square feet, heated square feet, number of bathrooms, whether it is residential, commercial, or industrial.
- To ensure same standards are applied to all property in the County to keep values equitable.

## Board of Commissioners Requested Action

- Accept the proposed SOV.
- Schedule a public hearing on the proposed SOV at the next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioner meeting on November 6, 2023.
- Direct the Tax Administrator to advertise the submission and the date/time of the public hearing.

When Commissioner Karan asked how much the schedule of values changes from revaluation, Ms. Griffin said that the prior valuation was not as drastic as this valuation will be. She also confirmed that the parameters of land types, such as soil quality and building grades, do not change, but the assessed value of each of those is what changes. Commissioner Karan gave an example that a B building grade would still be a B building grade, the value is a percentage of the price. Ms. Griffin confirmed.

When Commissioner Jay asked if the next board meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> would allow for sufficient time, Mr. Cummings said that the product is almost finalized unless there are any major changes to it based on specific facts. Ms. Griffin referred to Emmett Curl who was present at the meeting from Pearson's Appraisal Service and explained that he will be doing sales studies until the end of December. Ms. Griffin added that there have not been many sales recently, but the prices are steady.

When Chair May asked if we would be able to shift quickly based on significant market change, she said that adjustment factors can be added quickly. Mr. Curl confirmed. Mr. Cummings noted an important distinction, that factors can be tweaked up to the point that the valuation is finalized. He said if sales prices are far off from official values, then the State Department of Revenue could come in and request to move up the timeline on the next revaluation. He emphasized that it is important to remember that a revaluation is a reset to a revenue-neutral tax rate. If a property had an average amount of appreciation, the tax bill would be close to the same the following year as it was the current year.

Commissioner Hinman mentioned that this is difficult for citizens to understand. Ms. Griffin said they are going to get more information out to the public.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, the Board approved receipt of the proposed schedules, standards, and rules for appraising real property at its true market value and its present use value and authorized the Tax Administrator to publish the notice of public hearing for the November 6, 2023, Board of Commissioners' meeting.

### **SHERIFF MATTERS**

#### **Board Approved Grant Application with North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program**

Sheriff Fountain said this matter is to ask the Board to adopt a resolution and approve the application with the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP). He stated that they have applied for a grant fund of \$30,000 with no match required. The funds would be used to promote public safety, specifically by purchasing three radar units and two mobile deploy radar displays. The deployment of the displays is scheduled for November 2023. The goal is to increase safety, reduce drunk driving, and address traffic issues in the county.

When Chair May asked about the 2023 statistics, Sheriff Fountain mentioned that the statistics for 2023 were not reflective of the actual numbers for that year. He stated that the first quarter of traffic enforcement in 2023 showed over 103 traffic stops, 53 citations, 40 people driving over 15 miles per hour, and two DWIs. Chair May explained that the numbers on the application are not reflective of the increase in enforcement actions, and Sheriff Fountain confirmed. Sheriff's Department Consultant Robert Bailless mentioned that they would have a more comprehensive report by the end of the fiscal year as their initiative had begun in July.

When Commissioner Williford asked about breathalyzers, Sheriff Fountain and Mr. Bailless explained that the Sheriff's Office has two breathalyzers in the jail. There was also discussion about potentially purchasing more breathalyzers with grant funds from the Governor Highway Safety Program.

Sheriff Fountain said that their approach to public safety is to take a more aggressive approach in enforcing speeding and DWIs with an increased presence on the southern end which he said had been overlooked for far too long by the office of Sheriff. He emphasized the importance of promoting and ensuring public safety and highlighted four-wheelers specifically. Commissioner Hinman commended him for having a deputy at the commissioners' meetings.

Commissioner Karan noted that the grant application had two funding options, federal or local, and federal funding was selected. He expressed curiosity about the funding source and Sheriff Fountain explained that some grants originate at the federal level and are then distributed to the state, and that he believes this is the case for this grant as well.

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, 6-0, the Board approved adopting the attached resolution and application with the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program for a \$30,000 no-match grant.

North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the GRANVILLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (herein called the "Agency")  
(The Applicant Agency)  
has completed an application contract for traffic safety funding; and that GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
(The Governing Body of the Agency)  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (herein called the "Governing Body") has thoroughly considered the problem identified and has reviewed the project as described in the contract;

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN OPEN MEETING ASSEMBLED IN THE CITY OF OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA, THIS 16TH DAY OF October, 20 23, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the project referenced above is in the best interest of the Governing Body and the general public; and
2. That DREW CUMMINGS, COUNTY MANAGER is authorized to file, on behalf of the Governing Body, an application contract in the form prescribed by the Governor's Highway Safety Program for federal funding in the amount of \$ 30,000.00 to be made to the Governing Body to assist in defraying the cost of the project described in the contract application; and  
(Name and Title of Representative)  
(Federal Dollar Request)
3. That the Governing Body has formally appropriated the cash contribution of \$ 0.00 as required by the project contract; and  
(Local Cash Appropriation)
4. That the Project Director designated in the application contract shall furnish or make arrangement for other appropriate persons to furnish such information, data, documents and reports as required by the contract, if approved, or as may be required by the Governor's Highway Safety Program; and
5. That certified copies of this resolution be included as part of the contract referenced above; and
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DONE AND ORDERED in open meeting by Russ May, Chairperson  
(Chairperson/Mayor)

ATTESTED BY Debra Weary SEAL  
(Clerk)

DATE 10/16/2023

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

**Board Approved Studebaker Control Solutions, Inc. Service Contract for Geothermal Building Automation System Repairs and Upgrade at Granville County Cooperative Extension**

Development Services Director Scott Phillips said that this request considers awarding a fixed-price contract for the needed repair and control system upgrade of the geothermal heating and cooling center. He presented the following background information.

The geothermal system, providing heating and cooling for the 125 Oxford Loop Road facility, needs system control repairs and automation updates. The system's control system which monitors the space temperatures, controls inline duct dampers, and activates the geothermal heat pumps and associated fan units is outdated, and currently partially inoperable due to a failed controller on unit #5. The system was designed and installed in the early 2000s and the software control system platform is no longer supported by Microsoft operation technologies. The base price of the attached proposal replaces the unit 5 TAC controller and control sensors that are currently inoperable. It also includes updating the system's operational control platform and integration with the existing building equipment controls. Option #1 replaces the TAC controllers on the remaining eight (8) units, as well as the unit operating sensors and space area temperature sensors throughout the building.

This request complies Section II, Informal Bids (NCGS 143-131), and 2023-24 fiscal year funding can accommodate the Base and Option 1 cost request.

Mr. Phillips recommended awarding the service contract to Studebaker Control Solutions, Inc. for a fixed price not to exceed \$27,950.00 unless approved by an authorized change request.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, 6-0, the Board approved awarding a service contract to Studebaker Control Solutions, Inc. for the geothermal building automation system repairs and upgrade for Granville County Cooperative Extension for a fixed price not to exceed \$27,950.00 unless approved by an authorized change request.

**Board Approved McGill Associates Contract for Engineering Evaluations for the Sewer Lift Station at Triangle North Granville Business and Industrial Park**

Development Services Director Scott Phillips said this request is to consider awarding a fixed-price service contract for the needed evaluations of the existing sewer lift station, gravity outfall, and force-main for the Triangle North Granville Park. He presented the following background information.

The Triangle North Granville Business and Industrial Park (Phase I) was developed in 2007 and contains approximately 1.6 miles of roadway, a 1,000 GPM pump station, 6,100 LF of gravity sewer outfall, and 4,700 LF of 12-inch force main. In 2019, Granville County entered into an agreement with McGill Associates to evaluate the public water needs and condition of the existing sewer infrastructure. To date, the water infrastructure has been designed and permitted with an anticipated bid date for construction set for January 2024. This request continues the sewer system evaluation and forthcoming recommendations for compliance and acceptance by the City of Oxford.

This request is a continuation and update of an existing professional service contract and complies with Section V, Architectural, Engineering, and Surveying Services (NCGS 143-64.31) of the County's Contract and Purchasing Policy. The Triangle North Granville Project Ordinance 33-4000-000 can accommodate the cost request.

Mr. Phillips recommended awarding the service contract to McGill Associates for a fixed-price service agreement of \$74,250.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, 6-0, the Board approved awarding a service contract to McGill Associates for engineering evaluations for the sewer lift station at Triangle North Granville Business and Industrial Park for a fixed-price service agreement in the amount of \$74,250.00.

Commissioner Karan asked about the working conditions of the solar array panels on the cooperative extension building. Mr. Phillips replied that he is aware of the panels on the roof, knows that they are operational, and thinks that the power goes to the grid. He said he probably last looked at it with Paul Westfall when they confirmed it was generating power, but he had not delved into the design plans to see how it works or where the power is going. Commissioner Karan was concerned that they had been there since the building was constructed, and Mr. Phillips confirmed that they are aged, and added that there are likely better ones on the market now.

Commissioner Jay asked him to check the Cooperative Extension sign because it is not visible due to the hedges blocking its view.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Board Approved Appointments to Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Committee**

Chair May said that this item is to make appointments to the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Committee.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, 6-0, the Board appointed David Fellerath for the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Committee District 2 seat.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, 6-0, the board appointed Sandra Bowden to the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Committee At-Large seat.

### **Board Approved Appointments to the Animal Control Advisory Committee**

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, 6-0, the Board appointed Lisa Wilson to the Animal Control Advisory Committee District 5 seat.

Motioned by Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, 6-0, the Board appointed Natalie Rowntree to an Animal Control Advisory Committee District 1 seat.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, 6-0, the Board appointed Colleen Fitzgerald to the Animal Control Advisory Committee District 3 seat.

### **Board Approved Appointments to the Granville County Jury Commission**

This item was added to the agenda as Commissioner Gooch said that he had a nomination for the Jury Commission.

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, 6-0, the Board appointed Adlia Pem Woodlief to the Granville County Jury Commission.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **County Manager's Report**

County Manager Drew Cummings said that he had two quick items. He noted that the fourth County Manager Listening Session would be held the following evening at Camp Oak Hill at 6:30 p.m. He highlighted that on this date it has been exactly one year since he began working at Granville County. He thanked the commissioners for their support and expressed gratitude to the staff for their expertise and hard work that helps keep Granville County afloat. He said that he appreciates their support during this time of significant change in our county government and that together, we are making the Granville County government a better place to work and improving the quality of life for our citizens. He also thanked the community for welcoming, challenging, and supporting him.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

### **County Attorney's Report**

County Attorney Jim Wrenn did not have anything to report.



## **PRESENTATIONS BY COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS**

Commissioner Karan mentioned a story in the National Association of Counties (NACo) County News about counties reaching out to diverse recruits to shore up firefighters. He highlighted an interesting fact from the article, stating that the population in the United States has increased by 93 million people from 1984 to 2020, but there are 200,000 fewer volunteer firefighters today compared to 1984. He emphasized the need to address the shortage of firefighters and mentioned innovative ideas such as a high school firefighter program and basic lifesaving classes for high school students.

Commissioner Jay recalled that he saw Mark Pace from the Richard H. Thornton Library and Ms. Helen C. Amis on a television segment about the Granville Street Colored Library.

Chair May mentioned the Granville County employee appreciation dinner on Saturday, October 21 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Vance Granville Civic Center. He mentioned a discussion at Altec about their CTE (Career and Technical Education) apprentice program and how it may potentially opens the door to other apprenticeship programs such as junior firefighters.

## **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

There were no other matters.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Upon motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried 6-0, the Board went into closed session as allowed by North Carolina General Statute 143-381.11(a) (3) and(6) for attorney-client and personnel matters.

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Upon motion by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board returned to open session.

## **Board Updated on Audiovisual Upgrade at the Granville County Expo and Convention Center Auditorium**

County Manager Cummings presented two options for the audiovisual upgrade: placing monitors on the back wall or using flush-mounted monitors in front of each commissioner. Commissioners discussed the options and expressed their preference for the monitors on the back wall, as it would provide a better view for the audience and allow them to use their laptops for presentations. County Manager Cummings also mentioned the possibility of integrating Bluetooth technology for improved audio.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman seconded by, Commissioner Robert Williford and unanimously carried, 6-0, the Board adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

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