

GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 17, 2024
GRANVILLE EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTER
4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford, North Carolina

PRESENT:

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

County Manager Drew Cummings
Deputy County Manager Korena Weichel
County Attorney James C. Wrenn, Jr. (arrived 7:09 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:01 p.m. Chair Timothy Karan called the meeting to order. Commissioner Jimmy Gooch had the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Karan noted that Budget Amendment #13 (FY 2023-2024) was added to the consent agenda as a walk-in item.

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

A. Approved Budget Amendment #12 for fiscal year 2023-2024.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #12				
June 17, 2024				
Legal Document				
Be it ordained, the FY 2023-2024 Annual Budget Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:				
GENERAL FUND				
Expenditures	Increase		Decrease	Total
General Government				\$ 1,133
IT	\$	120,133	\$ 117,600	
Board of Elections	\$	21,500	\$ 21,500	
Finance	\$	-	\$ 3,700	
Internal Auditor	\$	2,300	\$ -	
General Services	\$	43,000	\$ 43,000	
Public Safety				\$0
Emergency Management	\$	5,200	\$ 5,200	
911 Operations	\$	70,000	\$ 70,000	
Addressing / GIS	\$	2,500	\$ 2,500	
Community Services				\$1,400
Soil Conservation Program	\$	1,400	\$ 1,400	
Jonesland Park Operation	\$	4,800	\$ 4,800	
Tourism Development Authority	\$	1,400	\$ -	
Human Services				\$0
Social Services	\$	23,000	\$ 23,000	
Oxford Senior Center	\$	8,600	\$ 8,600	
Senior Center - North	\$	950	\$ 950	
Senior Center - South	\$	2,000	\$ 2,000	
Creative Lifetime Learning	\$	-	\$ -	
Total Expenditures				\$2,533

B. Approved Budget Amendment #13 for fiscal year 2023-2024.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #13			
June 17, 2024			
Legal Document			
<i>Be it ordained</i> , the FY 2023-2024 Annual Budget Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:			
GENERAL FUND			
Expenditures	Increase	Decrease	Total
General Government			\$ (30,000)
General Government	\$ -	\$ 5,000	
Finance	\$ -	\$ 25,000	
Public Safety			(25,000)
Animal Control	\$ -	\$ 25,000	
Community Services			(26,500)
4-H Best	\$ -	\$ 9,500	
Economic Development	\$ -	\$ 17,000	
Area Projects and Other Appropriations			(125,000)
Non-Departmental	\$ -	\$ 125,000	
Contributions to Other Funds & Contingencies.			\$413,000
Contributions & Transfers	\$ 413,000	\$ -	
Total Expenditures			206,500
HEALTH PLAN			
Expenditures	Increase	Decrease	Total
Claims	\$ 206,500		
Total Expenditures			\$ 206,500
Revenues			
Transfers	\$ 206,500		
Total Revenues			\$ 206,500

C. Approved Project Ordinance #4 for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Project Ordinance Budget Amendment			
GAP Phase III Project			
Budget Amendment #4 (1st during Fiscal Year 2024)			
June 17, 2024			
LEGAL DOCUMENT			
<i>Be it ordained</i> , the FY 2023-2024 GAP Phase III Project Budget Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:			
REVENUES	Increase	Decrease	Total
USTA Grant		(\$50,000)	\$ (50,000)
Fifteen for 15 Campaign		(\$13,502)	\$ (13,502)
Transfer from General Fund		(\$136,500)	\$ (136,500)
Total Revenues			\$ (200,002)
EXPENDITURES			
GAP Phase III	\$90,335		\$ 90,335
Transfer to General Fund		(\$290,337)	\$ (290,337)
Total Expenditures			\$ (200,002)

D. Approved Project Ordinance #5 for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Project Ordinance Budget Amendment			
Law Enforcement Center			
Budget Amendment #5 (1st during Fiscal Year 2024)			
June 17, 2024			
LEGAL DOCUMENT			
<i>Be it ordained</i> , the FY 2023-2024 Law Enforcement Center Budget Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:			
REVENUES	Increase	Decrease	Total
Interest on Investment	\$102,692	\$0	\$102,692
Transfer to General Fund	(\$102,692)	\$0	(\$102,692)
Total Revenues			\$ -
EXPENDITURES			
	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures			\$ -

- E. **Approved correction to realignment of assigned fund balance for economic and physical development to reflect \$1,116,000 for the Vance-Granville Community College’s advanced manufacturing center and \$484,000 set aside for economic development incentives.**
- F. **Approved the following tax refunds, releases and write-offs:**
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| • Refunds | May 21, 2024 – June 5, 2024: | \$ 4,230.36 |
| • Releases | May 21, 2024 – June 5, 2024: | \$ 1,046.78 |
| • Write-offs (\$2 and less) | May 21, 2024 – June 5, 2024: | \$ 17.62 |
- G. **Approved request to refund tax over-payments to Michael Scott Rigney for tax years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 due to a clerical error that incorrectly listed the year of the doublewide mobile home as 2019 instead of the actual year, which is 2004.**
- H. **Approved early termination of Memorandum of Agreement and Easement for the Benny and Vivian Overton pond lease easement agreement at the Granville Athletic Park.**
- I. **Approved Agreement for School Resource Officer (SRO) for Oxford Preparatory School for fiscal year 2024-2025 for a grand total of \$93,748.**
- J. **Approved minutes:**
- May 6, 2024 Regular Meeting
 - February 19, 2024 Retreat Day 1
 - February 23, 2024 Retreat Day 2
 - May 8, 2023 Budget Work Session Day 1
 - May 11, 2023 Budget Work Session Day 2
 - February 20, 2023 Retreat Day 1
 - February 24, 2023 Retreat Day 2

INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Board Presented Proclamation Honoring Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown

Chair Karan invited Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown and her spouse, Kevin Brown, to come forward. Commissioner May read the following proclamation:

Proclamation Honoring Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown

WHEREAS, Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown stands among an exclusive group of only 17,000 individuals worldwide who have completed the six World Major Marathons, embodying resilience and determination both on and off the racecourse; and

WHEREAS, a native of North Carolina, Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown graduated from North Carolina A&T State University with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and obtained a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix; and

WHEREAS, she boasts a rich professional background in the corporate and public sectors, currently excelling as the Smart Collaboration Manager for Partner Sales at Lenovo, with a notable career that includes roles such as Implementation Project Manager at Allscripts Healthcare and Online Experience Transformation Program Manager at Dell Technologies; and

WHEREAS, Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to public service as the former Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tempore of Creedmoor, NC, and through her involvement with the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, her passion for fitness and wellness, inspired by her personal journey with Sarcoidosis, has driven her to complete all six Abbott World Major Marathons while raising over \$18,000 for

each race to support organizations such as New York Road Runners Team for Kids, American Cancer Society, HelpAge, Sports Legacy, and Smile Train; and

WHEREAS, Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown initiated the Creedmoor Cruisers, a beginner walk-run group that successfully transitioned to a virtual strength training boot camp during COVID-19, fostering a supportive and healthy community environment for four years; and

WHEREAS, her journey with Sarcoidosis, an inflammatory disease that can affect multiple organs, particularly the lungs, has shown her resilience in the face of significant health challenges, and her determination to continue running marathons serves as an inspiration to many; and

WHEREAS, Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown's commitment to fitness, philanthropy, and community well-being transcends her personal achievements and reflects her desire to make a significant difference in the lives of others;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Granville County Board of Commissioners hereby honors and commends Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown for her outstanding achievements, leadership, and dedication to the community, expressing heartfelt gratitude for her exemplary service and wishing her continued success in all her future endeavors.

Commissioner May invited John Tayloe, Regional Director for United States Senator Ted Budd, to come forward.

Mr. Tayloe said that he was honored to attend on behalf of Senator Budd, and highlighted Senator Budd's visit to Altec in Granville County the prior year. He explained that the Capitol Flag Program is a tradition in the legislature in Washington, D.C. that started in 1937 and that today more than 100,000 flags are awarded annually to communities, organizations, and individuals that have achieved beyond what has been expected. He presented Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown with a Capitol flag and accompanying certificate which he read as follows:

The flag of the United States of America presented to Kechia Brustmeyer-Brown in recognition of completing six world marathons, Ted Budd, United States Senator.

Mr. Tayloe read the following letter from Senator Budd:

Dear Kechia,

Congratulations on completing six world marathon majors following your diagnosis with sarcoidosis of the lung in 2010. When you crossed the finish line in London, your dream was realized, and it stands as a testament to your determination and courage in overcoming adversity. Your story is an inspiration to all facing challenges. The power of faith and having clear goals cannot be underestimated. Thank you for bringing honor to Granville County, the state of North Carolina, and our country. I present you with our nation's flag with best wishes, and may God continue to bless you.

Senator Ted Budd

Board Presented Plaque in Recognition of Service to Stephen A. McNally

Chair Karan invited Stephen A. McNally and his spouse, Debra McNally, to come forward for his retirement from his tenure as Granville County Finance Director.

Commissioner Williford made the following remarks:

Steve McNally started his 21 years in public service with the City of Oxford where he served for 10 years, and then in 2013 he became the Finance Director for Granville County. During Steve's tenure with Granville County, he played a crucial role in the successful completion of numerous projects. A few key projects were:

- the Granville Central HS expansion;
- construction of Doctors' Offices for the Granville Medical System;
- Granville County School System HVAC & Roofing projects; and
- the Law Enforcement & Detention Center and Animal Control project.

During his time with Granville County, Steve achieved several significant accomplishments. He maintained the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting throughout his tenure. He updated the Purchasing Policy and assisted the Tax Department in selecting and implementing new software. Steve also increased the County's S&P rating and worked with Davenport Financial Consulting to identify refinancing opportunities, saving County taxpayers money. He advocated for additional Finance Department staff until the positions were approved and filled. He implemented Cemetery Management Software for South Granville Memorial Gardens. Steve was instrumental in securing grants, such as the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grant for Phase III of the Granville Athletic Park, and he played a key role in the Budget Team.

Steve served most of his Granville County tenure under our former County Manager Michael Felts. On behalf of Mr. Felts, our Current County Manager Drew Cummings, our Deputy County Manager Korena Weichel, and the entire Board of Commissioners, I'd like to share a few words about Steve.

Steve's professionalism and dedication were always evident during work hours. During Steve's downtime, he was always energetic and very sociable. Steve loves golf and frequently represented the County or Rotary Club of Oxford on sponsored golf teams. He is very active in the Rotary Club of Oxford and participates in most of the club's service activities, particularly enjoying the Take-a-Kid to the Ballgame event, which involves 6-10 Rotarians and their spouses taking 30-40 underprivileged children to a Durham Bulls baseball game. Despite the summer heat, Steve loved every minute of it. He was also one of the first to volunteer whenever the County called on employees for their twice-a-year Litter Sweep cleanup.

Steve, your upcoming retirement is well-deserved. I hope you and Debra enjoy your time together whether that be taking short trips, traveling or playing golf. It is my privilege to present you with this plaque which reads:

Stephen A McNally
 Granville County Finance Director
 September 16, 2013 – July 31, 2024
 In Recognition of Outstanding Service
 To The Citizens of Granville County
 Presented by
 The Granville County Board of Commissioners
 June 17, 2024

Mr. McNally expressed gratitude towards the Board for their dedication to the County's interests over personal ones, acknowledging their collaboration as positive and productive. He highlighted the administrative staff for their significant contributions, mentioning County Manager Cummings' work on the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and Deputy County Manager Weichel's effective management of various projects and budgets. He also thanked County Attorney Wrenn and Clerk Weary for their outstanding work, particularly praising the Clerk's excellence in her role. He extended appreciation to the staff and department heads he had worked with over the years, emphasizing their professionalism and dedication, expressing gratitude for their contributions

and noting Jennifer Baird as his successor, recognizing her capabilities. He concluded by thanking his Finance Department team—Denise Holmes, Karen Gillis, and Diane Cash—as well as Internal Auditor Monique Heggie, for their hard work. He likened their efforts to essential, behind-the-scenes work, quoting a phrase from the opening of the show "Dragnet": "It's a glamorous, thankless job."

Board Presented Plaque in Recognition of Service to Debra A. Weary

Chair Karan invited Debra Weary and her spouse, Randy Weary, to come forward and be recognized for her retirement from her tenure with Granville County as Clerk to the Board and Executive Assistant to the County Manager. He emphasized Mrs. Weary's preference for staying out of the limelight despite her prominent role, acknowledging her humility and highlighting her significant contributions to Granville County. He presented her with a plaque recognizing her service from January 1, 2010, to June 30, 2024.

Representative Frank Sossamon presented the following Certificate of Appreciation for her 25 years of service to Granville County:

This certificate of appreciation is awarded to Debra A. Weary in sincere appreciation for 25 years of service to Granville County, North Carolina. Your dedication to serving as Clerk to the Board and Executive Assistant and promoting economic development is beyond exemplary. Your accomplishments and personal integrity have made Granville County a better place to live and work. On behalf of a grateful County and State, we thank you for your service and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Chair Karan invited John Tayloe, Regional Director for United States Senator Ted Budd, to come forward.

Mr. Tayloe, on behalf of Senator Budd, presented Debra Weary with the flag of the United States of America in recognition of her 25 years of faithful service to Granville County, North Carolina, and then read aloud the following letter:

Dear Debra:

Congratulations on your retirement from Granville County. Your service as Clerk to the Board and Executive Assistant for 14 years, Executive Assistant to the Granville County Economic Development Commission for six years, and Receptionist and Bookkeeper with the Granville County School System for five years has marked many significant milestones. The residents of Granville County are the beneficiaries of your hard work and dedication, and as a result of your legacy, the county is well positioned to thrive into the future.

In recognition of 25 years of faithful service to Granville County, I present to you our nation's flag. Best wishes and may God continue to bless you.

Sincerely,

Ted Budd
United States Senator

Mrs. Weary expressed deep gratitude and heartfelt sentiments. She emphasized how working for the citizens of Granville County had been an honor and privilege for her. She regarded her colleagues, commissioners, and department heads as family, underscoring her strong bond with everyone she worked with. She mentioned specific colleagues like County Manager Cummings, Deputy County Manager Weichel, and former county managers Mike Felts and Brian Alligood, highlighting the positive experiences she had with them.

Mrs. Weary also acknowledged the sacrifices made by her husband, parents, brother, children, and grandchildren, who supported her throughout her career. She reflected on the meaningful aspects of her job, particularly the satisfaction she derived from helping citizens with their questions and concerns. She said that the interactions with citizens were among the most fulfilling aspects of her role. She concluded by expressing her love and appreciation for all her colleagues and the enjoyable tenure she had with them.

Commissioner Jay expressed gratitude to Mrs. Weary, highlighting her invaluable contributions as not just a Clerk to the Board but a trusted friend. He emphasized her role in guiding the Commissioners effectively and wished her well in retirement.

Commissioner Williford recounted how Mrs. Weary's advice and support were crucial to him during his early days as a Commissioner. He appreciated her understanding and wished her and her husband, Randy, the best for the future.

Commissioner Gooch acknowledged Mrs. Weary's exceptional care and attention to detail in ensuring that all Commissioners were well-supported. He expressed gratitude for her dedication and described her as a wonderful person whom he deeply appreciates and respects.

Commissioner Hinman shared a heartfelt appreciation for Mrs. Weary, recounting moments of personal connection and support over the years. She emphasized Mrs. Weary's impact on her professional confidence and thanked her for always being there, describing her as a friend.

Commissioner Cozart expressed mixed emotions about Mrs. Weary's retirement, reflecting on her unparalleled suitability for her role and the profound impact she had on the commissioners and their families. He thanked Mrs. Weary for her unwavering support and wished her health and happiness in retirement.

Commissioner May expressed heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Weary for her exemplary service, emphasizing her Christian testimony, kindness, loyalty, integrity, and fairness. He credited her with raising the standard for the clerk's role and expressed confidence in Clerk Evans' training under Mrs. Weary's guidance. He acknowledged Mrs. Weary as part of their extended family and thanked her and her family for their unwavering support and dedication, noting that she never saw her job as a typical 8-to-5 commitment.

County Manager Cummings reflected on Mrs. Weary's extensive contributions before his tenure, acknowledging her indispensable role in supporting Commissioners, citizens, and employees. He highlighted her deep institutional knowledge, understanding of community dynamics, and her protective nature towards the organization.

County Attorney Wrenn expressed gratitude for Mrs. Weary, acknowledging her professionalism and reliability in keeping him and others on track. He praised her and prior clerk Bobby Wilson as two of the most professional people with whom he has worked, highlighting their longstanding commitment to maintaining order and continuity in Granville County over many years, contributing to the County's stability and success.

Clerk Evans, expressing her gratitude and admiration, acknowledged Mrs. Weary's influence on her career and pledged to uphold Debra's high standards as she transitioned into her new role.

Board Presented Proclamation Honoring Commissioner Tony W. Cozart

Chair Karan invited Commissioner Cozart and his spouse, Jackie Cozart, to come forward.

Commissioner Gooch expressed deep gratitude to Commissioner Cozart for his mentorship and

support since the beginning of his tenure. He highlighted Commissioner Cozart's role as a mentor who provided guidance and prompt answers to his questions, emphasizing Commissioner Cozart's significance not only to him personally but also to the entire Board. Commissioner Gooch read the following proclamation.

Proclamation Honoring Commissioner Tony W. Cozart for His Dedicated Service to Granville County

WHEREAS, Commissioner Tony W. Cozart has faithfully served as a Granville County Commissioner since June 5, 1989, demonstrating unwavering dedication and commitment to the residents of Granville County through multiple re-elections in November 1992, November 1996, November 2000, July 2004, May 2008, May 2012, March 2016, 2020, and 2024; and

WHEREAS, Tony W. Cozart, as an ordained pastor at Cooks Chapel Church of the United Shiloh Missionary Baptist Association, has been a pillar of the community, providing spiritual guidance and support to his congregation and beyond; and

WHEREAS, he is recognized for his exceptional public speaking, organizational skills, and his remarkable ability to connect with people of all backgrounds, ages, races, and genders, fostering unity and understanding within the community; and

WHEREAS, his leadership and advocacy have significantly contributed to the betterment of Granville County, promoting the well-being and prosperity of its citizens through his tireless efforts and visionary approach; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Cozart's enduring commitment to public service exemplifies the highest standards of civic duty and community involvement, serving as an inspiration to all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Granville County Board of Commissioners hereby honors and commends Commissioner Tony W. Cozart for his outstanding service, leadership, and dedication to Granville County, expressing heartfelt gratitude for his many years of exemplary public service and wishing him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Commissioner Cozart expressed profound gratitude for the recognition received. He thanked his family, acknowledging their support despite the long hours he spent away from home in service. He also expressed gratitude to his extended family at Cook's Chapel Church and highlighted the immense support he received from his community over the 20 years of his service. Reflecting on his recent campaign experience for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners leadership role, despite not winning, he appreciated the unwavering support of his fellow commissioners and staff, which showcased their special bond. Commissioner Cozart concluded by expressing his pleasure in serving the people of Granville County and attributing his journey to the support of his parents and the blessings from God.

Board Received Presentation on Commercial and Consumer Horticulture Program

Johnny Coley, NC Cooperative Extension Area Agent, Agriculture - Consumer and Commercial Horticulture, delivered a presentation on the Consumer and Commercial Horticulture Program. A copy of the slide deck presentation was included in the agenda packet. Key points from the presentation included:

Commercial Horticulture:

- Highlighted several crops grown in the county: blueberries, pumpkins, and peppers.
- Noted the significant focus on peppers due to Bailey Farms and other local growers.
- Covered landscaping and lawn maintenance aspects, including lawn care, pruning techniques, and pest management recommendations.

Consumer Horticulture:

- Discussed involvement in site visits related to lawn care, landscape plants, vegetable gardens, and wildlife.
- Mentioned conducting educational programs and participating in community events.

- Highlighted programs like the pruning workshop and guest appearances on WPTF-AM's Weekend Gardener radio talk show.

Extension Master Gardeners:

- Expressed gratitude for the Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners.
- Detailed projects initiated: demonstration orchard, succulent workshops, and wreath making at the Senior Center.

Chair Karan mentioned Mr. Coley's volunteer work in the federal prison program which aims to equip inmates with employment skills. Jeffrey Drowns was acknowledged for his day-to-day leadership in the program. It was noted that the community garden managed by inmates contributed significantly to the local community.

Board Received Presentation on Farmland Loss and Preservation

Kim, NC Cooperative Extension Area Agent, Agriculture-Animal Science, delivered a presentation on the farmland loss preservation. A copy of the slide deck presentation was included in the agenda packet. Key points from the presentation included:

Granville County Agriculture Snapshot:

- Presented data from the 2022 Agriculture Census.
- Shared total number of acres in the county, number of farms, and breakdowns into cropland, pastureland, woodland, and other categories.

Demographics:

- Highlighted that approximately 62% of Granville County farmers are male and the rest are female.
- Age distribution: 57% are aged 35-64, 36.5% are over 65, and 6.5% are under 35.
- Racial demographics: 94% of producers are white, 4.7% are black or African American, 0.3% are American Indian, and 0.5% indicate more than one race.

Farmland Loss Statistics:

- From 2017 to 2022, Granville County experienced a 13% loss in farms and an 18% loss in farm acreage, equating to approximately 4,500 acres lost per year.
- American Farmland Trust projected a loss of 21,500 acres over 26 years (2016-2040), equating to approximately 900 acres per year. The actual rate of farmland loss is about five times greater than projected.

American Farmland Trust:

- Described the organization's mission to conserve farmland by reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, and enhancing soil health.

Farmland Preservation Methods:

- Suggested several methods for preserving farmland, including:
 - Present use value tax incentives.
 - Voluntary agricultural districts.
 - Conservation easements.
 - Planning with agriculture in mind.
 - Enhancing market opportunities for farmers.
 - Smart growth and compact growth strategies to reduce sprawling subdivisions.
 - Mitigation for land conversion.
 - Utilizing county and municipal land for farming.
 - Matching landowners with potential farmers.

Cost of Community Services Study:

- Presented data from 2016 showing that agricultural land requires 37 cents in services for every dollar of tax revenue generated, while residential land requires \$1.16 for every dollar of tax revenue generated.

Board Received Update on Agricultural Advisory Board by Kim Woods

Kim Woods, speaking as a member of the Voluntary Agricultural District Board (VAD board), provided an update on its activities during the meeting. A copy of the slide deck was included in the agenda packet. Key points from the presentation included:

Purpose and Function:

- The main purpose of the VAD Board is to review and approve applications from landowners in the county.
- The Board can also advise the commissioners on agricultural-related issues.

Background:

- The VAD program is an agricultural land preservation program, approved by the board in 2017.
- It is completely voluntary, allowing landowners to sign up and withdraw at their discretion.
- The program encourages keeping land in agricultural production, such as corn, tobacco, cattle, hay, peppers, blueberries, tomatoes, or forestry.

Benefits:

- Landowners enrolled in the program can display signs indicating their land is in agricultural production.
- The program can decrease the likelihood of legal disputes such as nuisance actions from neighbors.

Board Members:

- The Board consists of representatives from all seven districts and four ex-officio members from Extension, Soil and Water, and Forestry.

Current Enrollment:

- 15 landowners with 45 parcels totaling 2,443 acres are currently enrolled.
- Four additional parcels totaling 45 acres are in the process of being enrolled.

Past and Future Focus:

- The past focus was on approving parcels and advertising the program.
- Future focus includes updating the county voluntary Ag district ordinance due to state statute changes, specifically the bonafide farm designation and how record notices are handled.

Upcoming Events:

- **Keeping the Farm Workshop** on October 29th at the Expo Center, aimed at providing information for landowners to keep their land in farming.
- **Legislative Farm Tour** on August 7th, in collaboration with the Cooperative Extension Advisory Leadership Council, to showcase agriculture in Granville County and discuss obstacles faced by farmers.

Commissioner May inquired about how individuals seeking to remain in agriculture but needing more land could find assistance. Kim Woods explained that North Carolina Cooperative Extension offers a program called FarmLink, which functions like a dating service for landowners and potential farmers to connect. She mentioned that the program could benefit from more advertising and plans to promote it at an upcoming workshop. Commissioner May then asked if the county could help with advertising, and Woods agreed to explore this possibility.

Commissioner May also asked about the farmland preservation funds mentioned on page 156. Woods described how these funds, managed by the Soil and Water office, assist farmers with projects like fencing livestock out of creeks, preserving stream banks, and installing erosion control measures. She noted that farmers enrolled in the voluntary Ag District program might receive higher cost shares for these practices.

When asked if Ag Board members were aware of these programs and promoted them, Woods confirmed that board members were well-versed in the benefits and actively promoted them within the community.

Commissioner May then highlighted North Carolina's rapid population growth and asked about the state's farmland loss compared to similar states. Woods acknowledged that North Carolina is the second fastest state in losing agricultural land, following Texas, and expressed concern about the high rate of land loss relative to the state's size.'

County Manager Cummings expressed gratitude to Mr. Coley and Ms. Woods for their presentations, highlighting the importance and impact of the farmland loss data on the county's history. He emphasized the significance of being informed about these issues and the ongoing efforts to address them. Cummings also mentioned the upcoming "Keeping the Farm Day" event, encouraging thorough advertisement to ensure landowners and farmers can learn about available resources. He introduced the interim cooperative extension director, Mr. Bo Freeman, and acknowledged his commitment to the role.

Kim Woods added that farmland loss is not only a county issue but also a state and national problem. She hoped that Representative Saman would convey this information to Raleigh and wished for federal representation to take it to Washington, D.C., stressing the need for collaborative efforts to curb farmland loss.

Representative Sossamon noted that protecting farmland is a top priority for Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler and mentioned plans for an agriculture forum in Granville and Vance Counties to educate the public on the diverse aspects of agriculture beyond traditional farming.

Commissioner Hinman thanked everyone for organizing the NC State tour, expressing her fascination with the plant sciences building and the ongoing research at NC State and NCA&T State University. She highlighted the impressive research at the Butner Beef Cattle Field Lab in Granville County.

Chair Karan shared an interesting discovery from the NC State tour, noting that Granville County had more map tiles on the map wall than any other county in the state. This detail was well-received by the attendees.

Board Received Update on Vaya Health by Elliot Clark

Regional Director for Vaya Health, Elliot Clark, addressed several critical issues related to substance use disorders and healthcare access in Granville County. He highlighted the alarming presence of Tianeptine, often referred to as "gas station heroin," which mimics opioid effects and is sold in locations like vape shops and gas stations. Mr. Clark emphasized its dangerous effects, including overdoses and fatalities, underscoring the urgent need for regulatory action to ban its sale. He mentioned efforts at the state level, including discussions on reclassifying it as a narcotic or outright banning its sale, echoing similar measures in nine other states.

Regarding healthcare accessibility, Mr. Clark discussed the significant backlog of individuals awaiting Medicaid Innovations Waivers, crucial for community-based care. He pointed out the challenges in meeting the demand despite recent increases in waiver slots, highlighting the need for continued legislative attention and resources to support individuals transitioning into community settings. Additionally, he touched upon transportation challenges faced by vulnerable populations in accessing medical services, acknowledging the ongoing discussions about transportation services provided by organizations like KARTS, and emphasizing the need for enhanced resources to address these critical gaps.

Board Received Presentation of Medal of Valor to Deputy Jonathan Massey by Sheriff Robert Fountain

Sheriff Robert Fountain expressed gratitude on behalf of the Granville County Sheriff's Office for the opportunity to be present that evening, saying that the community had requested a special recognition for one of their deputies. He invited Mr. Massey to come forward and asked Chiefs Buster, Clements, Newman, and other deputies to join him.

Sheriff Fountain read the following remarks in honor of Deputy Jonathan Massey:

Valor refers to great courage in the face of danger. The quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face danger with bravery, courage and determination.

On June 4th, 2024, Deputy Jonathan Massey, responded along with other deputies to an attempted suicide call. Upon his arrival Deputy Massey made a quick assessment of the situation and was able to remain calm under pressure. He exercised sound judgement and took control of the situation without resorting to lethal force. This was not only commendable but also lifesaving. By swiftly disarming the individual and securing the scene, he not only prevented a tragic loss of life but also provided vital time for Emergency Medical Services to intervene and deliver necessary care. Deputy Massey's exceptional bravery contributed to saving a life and offering hope for a brighter future to someone in need.

Deputy Jonathan Massey actions have demonstrated the true essence of heroism and exemplify the highest standards of law enforcement.

Deputy Massey is now lovingly known to us as "The Hero of The Sterling Creek Incident"

Sheriff Fountain read an email from Sterling Creek resident Bradley Ryan. A summary email that recounts the incident is as follows:

The incident involved responding to a desperate situation where an unnamed individual had barricaded himself in a bathroom, attempting self-harm with severe lacerations to wrists and other injuries. Deputy Massey arrived swiftly, calmly assessed the scene, and managed to disarm the individual without resorting to lethal force. His decisive actions bought crucial time for medical personnel to intervene and potentially save the individual's life. Mr. Ryan commended Deputy Massey for his professionalism, control of the situation, and the calming influence he had on everyone present, earning him the admiration and gratitude of the Sterling Creek community.

Sheriff Fountain asked Mr. Ryan to come forward and present the Medal of Valor to Deputy Jonathan Massey. The daughter of the unnamed individual came forward to commend Deputy Massey for his swift response and compassionate handling of the distressing situation involving her father. She expressed gratitude for his empathetic approach and the calm he brought to a chaotic moment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sheriff Fountain was the only person who signed up for Public Comments, and Chair Karan waived the three-minute speaker time limit for him.

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, Board moved Sheriff Fountain's comments to the "Introductions, Recognitions, and Presentations" section of the agenda.

BREAK

At: 9:00 p.m. there was a short break.

PURCHASING MATTERS

Board Approved Funding for Automatic Renewal of Election Equipment & Software (ES&S) Maintenance and Support Agreement

Board of Elections Director Tonya Burnette acknowledged the following Board of Elections members who were present at the meeting: Chairman Sharyn C. Alvarez, Debby Butler, Teresa Gilreath, and Doug Smith.

Elections Director Burnette said that the purpose of this item is to approve and provide funding for automatic renewal of the Election Equipment and Software Maintenance and Support Agreement with Election Systems & Software, LLC (ES&S). She explained that the contract includes the firmware, hardware software and warranty agreements on voting machines, and then read the following background information:

North Carolina General Statute (N.C.G.S.) 163-165.9(b){2} requires County Boards of Elections to annually maintain software license and maintenance agreements necessary to maintain the warranty of its voting system. Election Systems & Software, LLC (ES&S) is our current equipment and software vendor for voting equipment. This agreement automatically renews each year, unless terminated. Granville County's existing agreement expires on June 30, 2024.

Ms. Burnette explained that the contract, which is an update of the contract from 2017, has been forwarded to the County Attorney who is making revisions. She recommended approval of the maintenance and support agreement with Elections Systems & Software, LLC (ES&S) and funding in the amount of \$30,417.76 from the FY 2024-2025 budget.

County Attorney Wrenn added that the contract should be subject to attorney review.

When asked, Ms. Burnette explained that the contract is currently annual as the State now requires annual contracts and no longer allows multi-year contracts such as the five-year contract that had been in place in the past.

County Attorney Wrenn further clarified that the original contract had expired and had not been brought forward for attorney review.

When asked if this was the only elections company, Ms. Burnette clarified that while there is another election company, ES&S is the only one meeting their specific requirements, including being bonded to afford a new election if needed.

Chair Karan read the recommendation.

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the automatic renewal of the Election Equipment and Software Maintenance and Support Agreement with Elections Systems & Software, LLC (ES&S) in the amount of \$30,417.76 and authorized the County Attorney to finalize the contract and the County Manager and Elections Director to execute the contract document.

Board Approved Landfill Operations Contract

Environmental Services Director Jason Falls said that the purpose of this item is to approve and execute a landfill operations contract. He read the following background information:

On March 4, 2024, the Granville County Board of Commissioners granted staff the authority to enter into negotiations for a landfill operations contract with Huff Soil Conservation to begin in FY24-25. The County Manager and Environmental Programs Director, with extensive input from the County Attorney and the County's landfill consultants, have negotiated a contract for two (2), five-year terms. The contract shall be for a period of five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2024, and terminating June 30, 2029 (the "Initial Term"). Unless either party terminates this Agreement by three hundred sixty-five (365) days' advance written notice prior to the expiration of the first term, this Agreement shall renew for an additional term of five (5) years.

Mr. Falls recommended approval of the attached draft landfill operations contract with Huff Soil Conservation, Inc., for annual fees of \$1,320,000.00 for landfill operations and \$76,200.00 for ancillary services. He further recommended that the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Manager to execute the contract prior to June 30, 2024, once finalized by the County Attorney.

Commissioner May asked when the enterprise fund would start recovering its costs. County Manager Cummings explained that solid waste services in North Carolina are meant to operate as enterprise funds, where revenue collected from convenience center fees and landfill tip fees is intended to cover operational costs. Historically, these revenues have not fully covered expenses. However, starting in FY 24-25, after extensive analysis during the RFP process, it was determined that the new fee structure would not only cover operational costs but also set aside funds for future capital needs. This adjustment, along with the new contract and adopted fees, positions the solid waste operations on a stronger financial footing.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the draft landfill operations contract with Huff Soil Conservation, Inc for annual fees of \$1,320,000.00 for landfill operations and \$76,200.00 for ancillary services; and authorized the County Attorney to finalize the contract and the County Manager to execute the contract prior to June 30, 2024.

PURCHASING MATTERS

Board Approved Asbestos Abatement and Demotion of the former Granville-Vance Public Health Building – 101 Hunt Drive, Oxford

Development Services Director Scott Phillips explained that this request considers awarding a single prime, fixed-price construction service contract for the asbestos abatement and demolition of the former Granville Vance Public Health building at 101 Hunt Drive in Oxford, NC. He provided the following background information:

Vacant since 2021, the approximately 10,000 square foot building has been slated for demolition. The single-story masonry structure, originally built in the 1950s, is not suitable for reuse and will be demolished to facilitate future site and facility development. As part of the demolition process, asbestos abatement is necessary, covering approximately 4,000 square feet of floor tile and adhesive mastic, window glazing, and flashing materials. The proposed contract includes provisions for these abatement services.

Development Services Director Phillips said that Granville County Development Services received five sealed bid proposals on May 30th, and he noted the list was included in the agenda packet. He said it was important to note that landfill fees, estimated at \$55,000, are not included in the pricing of this proposal.

Mr. Phillips recommended awarding the single prime, fixed-price construction service agreement to Webb-Harrell Construction Services Corporation for a total price capped at \$73,800, with provision for additional costs only through approved change requests. The recommendation included authorizing the County Attorney to finalize the contract and the County Manager to execute it. Additionally, Mr. Phillips recommended a contingency of \$5,000 for unforeseen abatement needs and \$55,000 to be reserved for landfill costs billed directly to the County.

Commissioner Williford asked about the disposal location for asbestos in the landfill. Mr. Phillips responded that their landfill accepts asbestos materials and added that Environmental Services Director Jason Falls could address technical inquiries. When asked if asbestos posed a risk at the landfill, Mr. Phillips indicated it did not.

Commissioner Gooch asked if this was the building with the cracked foundation. Mr. Phillips confirmed, stating that the building had structural issues, which prompted Granville-Vance Public Health to relocate to its current location behind the hospital.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved awarding the single prime, fixed-priced construction service agreement to Webb-Harrell Construction Services Corporation for asbestos abatement and demolition of the former Granville Vance Public Health Building located at 101 Hunt Drive, in Oxford, NC, for a price not to exceed \$73,800 unless authorized by an approved change request; Board authorized the County Attorney to finalize the contract and the County Manager to execute the contract document; and Board further approved a contingency for unforeseen abatement needs in the amount of \$5,000.00 and reserving \$55,000 in landfill cost that will be billed directly to the County.

Board Approved Preventative Maintenance and Repair Services for the South Branch Library / Early College High School – 1551 South Campus Drive, Butner

Development Services Director Scott Phillips explained that this request considers awarding a fixed-price / unit-price service and repair contract needed for the maintenance and repairs of the HVAC systems located at the South Branch Library and Early College High School. He provided the following background information:

The South Branch Library and Early College High School building utilize four (4) VRV (variable refrigerant volume) compressor units and twenty-six (26) air handlers to heat and cool the interiors. This, combined with two (2) rooftop economizers and an automated energy control system, provides an economical and efficient means of conditioning the interiors. However, the maintenance requires technical expertise and manufacturing certifications not readily available from local service providers. Hoffman Mechanical Solutions has been providing preventive maintenance and needed repairs since the building became operational, demonstrating quick and professional responsiveness.

Development Services Director Phillips stated that the request was for the renewal of their annual contract agreement to extend their services into the upcoming fiscal year. He recommended extending the fixed-price / unit-price preventive maintenance and repair service agreement to Hoffman Mechanical Solutions for a cost not to exceed \$13,648. He further recommended, authorizing the County Attorney to finalize the contract and the County Manager to execute the contract document.

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board approved extending the fixed-price / unit-price preventive maintenance and repair service agreement to Hoffman Mechanical Solutions for the maintenance and repairs of the HVAC systems located at the South Branch Library and Early

College High School for a cost not-to-exceed \$13,648 and authorized the County Attorney to finalize the contract and the County Manager to execute the contract document.

APPOINTMENTS

Board Approved Appointment to the Granville County Board of Adjustment

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, Board appointed David Sella to the Granville County Board of Adjustment District 3 seat.

Board held District 7 appointment.

Board Approved Appointments to the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Committee

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, Board appointed Gary Kuhn to the Parks, Greenways, and Recreations Committee District 5 seat.

Board Approved Reappointments to the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board / Private Industry Council

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board reappointed Hal Muetzel to the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development / Private Industry Council Private Industry seat and reappointed Norma Wilson to the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development /Private Industry Council Labor Organization seat.

Commissioner Robert Williford noted that Allen Winston's Private Industry seat will expire June 30, 2024, and that seat will be addressed at a later meeting.

Board Approved Appointments to the Research Triangle Regional Partnership Board

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Russ May, and unanimously carried, Board reappointed Allen Winston to the Research Triangle Regional Partnership Board; and Board appointed Joe Stallings to the Economic Development Director seat.

Board Approved NACo Voting Delegate

Chair Karan stated that the purpose of this item is to choose a voting delegate for the National Association of Counties (NACo) annual conference, which will be held from July 12-15 in Hillsborough County, Florida. The delegate will represent Granville County at the conference's annual business meeting.

association business. Motioned by Commissioner Robert, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, Board appointed Commissioner Sue Hinman as the National Association of Counties (NACo) voting delegate.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager's Report

County Manager Cummings did not have any further items to report.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney's Report

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

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Tony W. Cozart expressed sincere gratitude to the Board for the unexpected recognition that evening. He shared reflections from recent high school graduations, emphasizing the poignant moments he witnessed. In particular, he noted the touching display of empathy and support shown by Granville Central students towards a fellow student confronting physical challenges.

Commissioner Gooch thanked everyone for attending the meeting and acknowledged the transitions in leadership with the retirements of Steve McNally and Debra's Weary. He expressed both sadness at their departure and happiness for their upcoming chapters in life without the obligations they had shouldered for many years.

Commissioner Jay extended heartfelt wishes to Steve McNally on his retirement and expressed similar sentiments for Debra Weary, acknowledging her departure with appreciation. He also shared details of his recent tour with Randy Cantor, Executive Director of Kerr Area Transportation Authority (KARTS), where he highlighted transportation needs in the southern end of the county. Commissioner Jay underscored the need to secure future grant funding for transportation initiatives in that area.

Commissioner Williford thanked Steve McNally for his service and wished him a happy retirement. He acknowledged Debra Weary's retirement with appreciation for her guidance. He expressed confidence in Clerk Evans.

Commissioner Hinman expressed gratitude towards Steve McNally and Debra Weary. She mentioned attending all graduations except for Southern Granville High School. Commissioner Hinman shared that she was deeply moved by witnessing a student with mobility challenges walk across the stage at J. F. Webb High School. She also expressed joy in witnessing all the young graduates and expressed hope that they would contribute significantly to the County's future success. Commissioner Hinman concluded by noting the enjoyable Stovall Fun Day held on Saturday, January 8, 2024.

Chair Karan mentioned the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) and Present Use Value (PUV), expressing interest in reviewing next year's tax roll to determine how many properties still qualify for PUV. He explained that the loss of farmland in Granville County does not mean every unused farm becomes residential; many go dormant. He highlighted the [NC Farmlink](#) website as a solution for matching farmers with dormant farms. He emphasized the misconception about acreage conversions and noted that solar farms and non-farming uses also impact farmland availability. He pointed out that the aging farming demographic, with 40% over 65 years old, contributes significantly to farmland reduction without necessarily converting it to development. Chair Karan expressed gratitude for Debra Weary and Steve McNally's service, wishing them well in enjoying their retirement with hopes they would have many years ahead to enjoy their accomplishments.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters for open session.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Karan noted there was no need for closed session for personnel matters (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)).

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, after an eight-minute bio break that began at 9:41 p.m., the Board went into closed session as allowed by North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3),(4) for attorney-client and economic matters at 9:49 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch and unanimously carried, the Board returned to open session at 10:08 p.m.

Board Authorized County Attorney and County Manager to Transfer Lot 1-A of the Triangle North Property to Vance-Granville Community College

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, Board authorized the County Attorney and County Manager to take the necessary steps to transfer Lot 1-A of the Triangle North Property to Vance-Granville Community College, subject to the restrictive covenants of record and the condition that Granville County can unilaterally amend the restrictive covenants. Furthermore, Board authorized that once Granville County and Portman LLC have agreed to the terms of the covenants, or Granville County has decided to impose covenants of its own, this will also be subject to approval by the Kerr-Terr Regional Economic Development Board.

Board Authorized County Manager to Execute Contract Amendments with Additional Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) Agreeing to Offer Medical First Responder Services in Granville County

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman Board authorized County Manager to execute any contract amendments needed for any additional Volunteer Fire Department agreeing to provide Medical First Responder services in Granville County.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board