

GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 7, 2024
GRANVILLE CONVENTION AND EXPO 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.

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:06 p.m. Chair Timothy Karan called the meeting to order. Commissioner Tony W. Cozart had the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Approved Budget Amendment #4 for fiscal year 2024-2025

BUDGET AMENDMENT No 4
October 7, 2024
Legal Document

Be it ordained, the FY 2024-2025 Annual Budget Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

GENERAL FUND			
Expenditures	Increase	Decrease	Total
General Government			\$ 16,376
Finance	\$ 8,188	\$ -	
Human Resources	\$ 8,188	\$ -	
Public Safety			118,549
Sheriff's Office	\$ 20,000	\$ -	
Emergency Management	\$ 98,549	\$ -	
Community Services			(74,682)
4-H Best	\$ -	\$ 89,862	
County Library System	\$ 15,180	\$ -	
Human Services			9,478
HCCBG & Transportation	\$ 9,478	\$ -	
Area Projects and Other Appropriations			73,486
Pass Thru Funds	\$ 73,486	\$ -	
Total Expenditures			143,207
Revenues			
Restricted and Intergovernmental	\$ 133,729	\$ -	
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 9,478	\$ -	
Total Revenues			\$143,207

- B. **Approved the renewal of the Motorola Solutions Service Agreement in the amount of \$74,297.53 and authorized the County Manager to execute the contract once finalized by the County Attorney.**
- C. **Approved the renewal of the Mobile Communications America (MCA) Inc. Communication Equipment Maintenance Service Agreement for the Vesta 911 phone system in the amount of \$17,118.15 and authorized the County Manager to execute the contract once finalized by the County Attorney.**
- D. **Approved the purchase of 911 CAD console replacement equipment from SHI in the amounts of \$19,105.49 for the primary center and \$15,760.09 for the backup center for a total purchase of \$34,865.58.**
- E. **Approved the following tax refunds, releases, and write-offs:**
 - Refunds August 22, 2024 – September 25, 2024: \$ 6,298.78
 - Releases August 22, 2024 – September 25, 2024: \$ 6,166.21
 - Write-offs (\$2 and less) August 22, 2024 – September 25, 2024: \$ 15.23
- F. **Approved revisions to Granville County Travel Policy.**
- G. **Approved update on Revision to Granville County Blasting Permit as an information item only.**
- H. **Approved minutes:**
 - September 3, 2024 Regular Meeting

INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Board Introduced to Assistant Finance Director Lindsey Davidson

Finance Director Jennifer Baird introduced Lindsey Davidson, the new Assistant Finance Director for Granville County. Davidson began her role on July 8, 2024. She had previously served as the Controller for Granville Health System where she oversaw accounting, financial reporting, and supported payroll and staff accountants. Prior to that, she worked as a Financial Analyst and Staff Accountant with Granville Health System. Davidson, a Warren County native, resides in Vance County with her husband and daughter.

Assistant Finance Director Davidson expressed her honor in serving as Assistant Finance Director and her commitment to managing County funds responsibly and transparently. She emphasized her dedication to supporting the County's financial health and appreciated the leadership she has observed.

Board Introduced to Deputy Clerk Jessica Todd

Clerk Karen Evans introduced Jessica Todd, who began her role as Granville County Deputy Clerk to the Board on September 18, 2024. Todd had previously served as an Economic Development Specialist in Vance County and held leadership roles in education and corporate environments. She serves on the boards of Vance Charter School Foundation and McGregor Hall/Embassy Square Foundation. Todd, a Henderson native, holds a Bachelor of Arts from NC State University and resides in Henderson with her daughter, Harper.

Deputy Clerk Todd thanked the Chairman and the Board and expressed her enthusiasm for working with them.

Board Presented Proclamation Recognizing National 4-H Week

Cooperative Extension Agent Lina Howe spoke before the official proclamation for National 4-H Week, highlighting the celebration of members' achievements at various levels. She announced the second annual 4-H Livestock Show scheduled the following evening on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at the Granville County Expo, inviting the Board to attend. Howe noted that Granville County 4-H serves nearly 2,000 youth annually and expressed appreciation for the Board's continued support. She also mentioned that two longtime volunteers' children, now in college, had written something to share if time permitted.

Shannon Owens, the mother of twins Gavin and Reagan, read letters from them sharing their 4-H experiences. Reagan recounted joining Granville County 4-H in 2019 as a founding member of the Pop Shots shooting sports club. For over six years, she participated in various disciplines, discovering her passion for black powder shooting. In 2023, she represented Granville County at a national tournament in Nebraska and expressed gratitude for the supportive instructors and friendships formed through the program.

Gavin's letter discussed his personal growth in social and leadership skills as a member of the Pop Shots club, where he served as treasurer and secretary. He mentored young shooters and contributed to club management through technology. Gavin was also selected to represent the NC State Archery team at the national tournament in Nebraska. Now in college, he continues to build on his 4-H experiences by joining the archery club.

Chair Karan presented the following proclamation:

Proclamation Recognizing National 4-H Week

WHEREAS, 4-H is America's largest youth development organization, serving more than 6 million young people across the United States through hands-on learning experiences in agriculture, science, citizenship, and healthy living; and

WHEREAS, for over 100 years, 4-H has empowered young people with the skills and confidence needed to lead for a lifetime, fostering leadership, independence, and responsibility through its engaging programs; and

WHEREAS, 4-H in North Carolina reaches over 260,000 youth annually, including hundreds of young people in Granville County, helping them to reach their fullest potential while contributing positively to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the 4-H Youth Development Program in Granville County, through the Cooperative Extension, provides invaluable learning opportunities for young people to explore their interests, develop life skills, and serve their community; and

WHEREAS, National 4-H Week, observed the first full week of October, highlights the remarkable efforts of 4-H members, volunteers, and supporters who make a lasting impact on the lives of youth and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the theme of National 4-H Week 2024, "Beyond Ready," celebrates the preparedness, determination, and resilience of 4-H youth as they tackle real-world challenges and pursue their future goals; and

WHEREAS, the success of the 4-H program relies on the dedication of volunteers, the commitment of 4-H youth, and the support of families, educators, and community leaders;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Granville County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 6-12, 2024, as National 4-H Week in Granville County, and urge all citizens to recognize and celebrate 4-H for its contributions to our county and its role in developing tomorrow's leaders.

Commissioner Hinman thanked the 4-H participants and informed them that the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford (MHCO) was offering 7-year-old oak and elm trees for rehoming. She encouraged anyone interested to contact her or MHCO.

Commissioner Williford shared that 4-H significantly impacted his life, recounting how he met his wife when she became the Granville County 4-H agent in 1980. He expressed his special connection to 4-H and the role it played in their lives.

Board Received Update on CAMPO by Senior Transportation Planner Kenneth Withrow

Chair Karan introduced Kenneth Withrow, the Senior Transportation Planner for Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), who presented an update on phase one of the Campo Regional Transportation and Safety Action Plan, along with a discussion on the next steps.

CAMPO Senior Transportation Planner Kenneth Withrow introduced the Blueprint for Safety, highlighting engagement activities from phase one. He spoke from the slide deck presentation included in the agenda packet.

- Discussed road safety planning in response to significant growth in the Triangle area over the past 30 to 40 years.
- Noted over 195,000 crashes in North Carolina from 2018 to 2022, with specific impacts on pedestrians, bicyclists, and fatalities.
- Presented an infographic on Granville County crash statistics from recent outreach events.
- Urged the need for a national roadway safety strategy and highlighted U.S. DOT grants for local safety initiatives.
- Emphasized integration of safety planning into "Destination 2055," the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- Outlined components of a transportation safety plan, including data-driven metrics and community involvement.
- Used NC 96 near Wilton as an example to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.
- Discussed local engagement events and the NC 540 Fest, emphasizing community input and safety concerns.
- Announced phase two of the safety project, including a safety summit scheduled for October 16.
- Detailed NCDOT's transportation improvement process and funding distribution among statewide needs, regional impact, and divisional requirements.
- Noted Division 5's funding challenges and encouraged questions about NCDOT funding.
- Acknowledged potential impacts of Hurricane Helene on future project funding.

Commissioner May indicated that he is a member of the CAMPO Executive Board, and he expressed concern about Granville County's competitive position within District 5, particularly against larger counties like Durham and Wake. He highlighted the challenges in securing funding for critical safety improvements, such as intersection upgrades and lighting, due to competitive standards that disadvantage Granville County. Noting that Creedmoor, to his knowledge, is the only municipality in the area, he pointed out frustrations with citizen input being overlooked in favor of larger projects. He emphasized the County's struggle to get recent projects on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) list and indicated a need for legislative support to address these challenges. He underscored the rigid nature of DOT funding formulas, questioning how the County can manage its growing congestion and safety issues without more flexibility in securing resources.

Withrow addressed the importance of staying engaged in the planning process, emphasizing that collecting and analyzing data is crucial for prioritizing projects. He acknowledged local

frustrations in Granville County regarding project funding, noting that competition is intense, even among larger cities, due to limited financial resources. Commissioner May added that public understanding of this competitive landscape is essential, as larger municipalities often have greater tax bases to supplement funding. He highlighted that the lack of funding, rather than a lack of effort, is the main barrier to securing necessary safety projects in Granville County, which faces challenges when competing against much larger budgets.

Commissioner Cozart Presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Representative Frank Sossamon on behalf of Governor Roy Cooper

Chair Karan invited North Carolina Representative Frank Sossaman and Commissioner Tony Cozart to join him on stage. Representative Frank Sossaman honored Dr. Tony Wayne Cozart for his extensive public service, highlighting his 34 years in North Carolina public schools and his transformative impact on struggling schools. Dr. Cozart has held various roles, including Kindergarten Readiness Coordinator and Executive Director of Franklin Granville Vance Smart Start since 2016. Additionally, he has served as pastor of Cook's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church since 2004 and as a Granville County Commissioner since 1989. Representative Sossaman praised Dr. Cozart's leadership in multiple community boards and initiatives, recognizing him as a friend and presenting him with the Order of the Longleaf Pine on behalf of Governor Roy Cooper.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Catherine Chrisp, 4278 Belltown Road, Oxford, NC, accompanied by her sister **Crystal Chrisp,** requested a non-exclusive access easement from their property on Tally Ho Road to the end of Thad Carey Road. Catherine explained that the easement, approximately 600 feet long and needing a width of 20 feet to meet County standards, was essential for them to fully utilize their property. She mentioned that the current access route via Haven Lane is approximately 2,900 feet, while the proposed easement would significantly shorten it to around 500 feet, allowing for clearer access.

Crystal further clarified that the current access through Haven Lane, which includes several other properties, poses challenges, as the neighbors have expressed they are unable to assist with funding. She emphasized that the proposed easement would provide a more efficient route to their property and reduce the need for repairs on Haven Lane. Catherine reiterated her willingness to pay for the surveying and clearing costs associated with the easement to ensure compliance with County requirements.

Chair Karan thanked them for their presentation and requested they pass their materials to the County Manager for further review.

Commissioner Hinman asked whether any additional steps were needed for the request, and County Attorney Wrenn confirmed that it was not a planning issue.

County Manager Cummings acknowledged familiarity with the request and stated they would review the additional materials and follow up with the Board for further discussion.

SHERIFF MATTERS

Recognition of Deputy Sergeant Craig Williams

Sheriff Robert Fountain recognized Lieutenant Todd Wilkins and former Sheriff David Smith who were in attendance and asked that they assist him with this presentation. Wilkins and Smith

each presented to Deputy Sergeant Craig Williams, marking his legacy of service, along with best wishes for his semi-retirement.

Smith first expressed gratitude for Dr. Cozart's service. Smith noted his long-standing connection with Craig Williams, whom he hired 26 years ago. He highlighted Williams' remarkable career progression through the ranks, particularly in investigations, and acknowledged his significant contributions to the Granville County Sheriff's Office and its community.

Lieutenant Wilkins expressed his deep appreciation for Sergeant Williams, honoring him with an achievement award on behalf of the Granville County Sheriff's Office. Having worked alongside Williams since he began his law enforcement career in 1998, Wilkins highlighted Williams' unwavering commitment and dedication, noting his extensive experience in various divisions and his role as police chief in Stovall. He thanked Williams for his professionalism, leadership, and mentorship of fellow officers, acknowledging the impact he has had on both colleagues and the community. Wilkins also recognized the crucial support of Williams' family and friends throughout his career, emphasizing the sacrifices made due to the demands of law enforcement. In closing, he congratulated Williams on his 26 years of service and presented him with the award, affirming that he will always be a valued member of the Granville County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Robert Fountain announced the presentation of a new deputy sheriff's badge to Williams, having previously taken his sergeant badge. He emphasized Williams' ongoing leadership, knowledge, and willingness to offer valuable insights, which have greatly benefited both the deputies and the Sheriff. Sheriff Fountain stressed the importance of being open to learning from others, stating that recognizing contributions from team members fosters growth and humility. He concluded by expressing his gratitude to Williams for his service.

Williams gave brief comments to the Board, reflecting on the 26 years he dedicated to the law enforcement profession. He thanked God for the opportunity to serve and his mother for instilling strong values in him. Williams acknowledged former Sheriff David Smith for believing in him and giving him his start in law enforcement, along with gratitude to all the sheriffs who supported his journey, including Sheriff Fountain for allowing him to continue his service. He expressed appreciation for his fellow officers, both past and present, for their camaraderie and support. Williams concluded by affirming his lasting love for Granville County and those he served with throughout his career.

Williams then asked to make two requests regarding employee benefits: he urged a review of policies allowing employees to use sick time towards retirement for health insurance purposes and suggested evaluating the transfer of healthcare costs to retirees. He expressed his gratitude for the consideration.

Board Approved Aramark Contract Extension for Meal Services at the Granville County Detention Center

Chair Karan introduced a walk-in item related to the approval of a two-year contract extension with Aramark Correction Services, LLC for meal service for the Granville County Detention Center.

Sheriff Robert Fountain confirmed that the necessary channels were followed for the contract review, involving discussions with County Manager Drew Cummings and Aramark. He noted that a three-year agreement was initially proposed, but the decision was made to opt for a shorter two-year contract to maintain flexibility for future plans that may involve consolidating services.

Commissioner Williford inquired whether County Attorney Wrenn had reviewed the contract. Wrenn confirmed that the document before them appeared to match the one he had previously examined and stated that everything was in order.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, Board approved two-year extension of the Aramark Operating Agreement for meal services at the Granville County Detention Center in the amount of an estimated annual cost of \$350,000.00 from Detention Center Line-Item 10-4320-220 and authorized the County Manager to execute the contract once finalized by the County Attorney.

PLANNING MATTERS

Board Approved the East Cost Greenway Feasibility Study

Chair Karan asked Planning Director Barry Baker to come forward and speak about the potential adoption of the East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study.

Planning Director Baker requested the adoption of the East Coast Greenway feasibility study, funded by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and prepared by consultant Alta. This study aims to explore options for a 17-mile paved trail connecting downtown Oxford to the Virginia state line, which is part of a broader vision to create a continuous trail from Maine to Florida. He noted that greenway advisory committees in Granville County have been advocating for this project for years, and the Parks, Greenways and Recreation Advisory Committee recommended its approval in August.

Baker spoke from the slide deck presentation included in the agenda packet:

- The proposed trail aims to be a tourism destination and economic development catalyst, connecting Kerr Lake, Falls Lake, and communities along the East Coast Greenway from Maine to Florida.
- It includes a segment from downtown Oxford to the Virginia state line, potentially linking to a recommended trail on Belltown Road.
- The trail will offer recreation opportunities and a safe route for walking and biking.
- The feasibility study began in the summer of 2023, guided by a diverse steering committee including DOT, Granville County, and community representatives.
- Three main alternatives were considered: the Norfolk Southern rail corridor, a US 15 side path, and a scenic rural roadway; the rail trail was preferred after public participation.
- The project will be divided into four phases, with the acquisition of the rail corridor expected to take several years. The construction is expected to start with the Lake Devon Trail connection to downtown Oxford.
- The feasibility study includes detailed engineering designs and identifies potential funding sources, primarily from external grants in the future.

Commissioner Williford questioned if Norfolk Southern would be willing to give property for the Greenway. Baker indicated that it would have to be purchased. The Parks, Recreation and Greenways Advisory Committee (PGRAC) was told that when there is a serious offer at some point in the future, Norfolk Southern would be willing to listen.

Commissioner Williford inquired about the impact on property owners who have access across the rail line. Baker clarified that the existing driveways would not be disrupted, as the trail would accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists, with rural areas primarily used by cyclists and more urban areas catering to pedestrians and bicycles, particularly around the lake.

Commissioner Cozart asked if the study would provide a better understanding of potential matching funds for grants after completion, to which Baker confirmed that any funding sought would be presented to the commissioners.

Commissioner Russ May inquired about the guarantee of connecting the north to south trails. Baker noted that while there is no guarantee, it is a planned effort involving ongoing communication with the East Coast Greenway representative for North Carolina. He explained that obtaining the necessary right-of-way and easements is a lengthy process.

Commissioner May asked about potential matching funds, which are generally around 20%, shared by cities. Baker clarified that the County's involvement would depend on specific projects, such as the one in Oxford.

Commissioner Jay questioned the use of railroad tracks, and Baker indicated that the trail would primarily follow roads rather than tracks. He emphasized that the plan is subject to change and aims to establish the East Coast Greenway in Granville County, a concept discussed for many years.

Commissioner May asked about the timeline for completion and Baker estimated it could take 3 to 5 years to connect to Virginia, with the entire project potentially taking two decades or more.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and carried, 6-1, Commissioner Russ May dissenting, Board approved the adoption of the East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study for a potential greenway path from Oxford to Virginia.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS MATTERS

Board Approved Purchase of Laundry Trailer with Capacity Building Competitive Grant (CGCG) Funds

Emergency Management Director Jason Reavis provided an update on the aftermath of the storm in Western North Carolina, emphasizing the significant challenges faced in mountainous areas compared to flat coastal regions. He highlighted the importance of having the necessary equipment for both response and recovery operations.

Reavis presented a proposal for the purchase of a laundry trailer using Capacity Building Competitive Grant (CBCG) funds. He explained that the state initially appropriated \$3 million, followed by another \$5 million, and most recently, \$1.9 million for this program. Granville County was awarded \$115,000 toward the purchase of the trailer, which will have eight washers and dryers. The trailer will assist responders and provide services to citizens in areas lacking water.

After obtaining multiple quotes, the lowest bid, which included an onboard generator, came from Propac, Inc. at \$109,377.80. Reavis recommended the purchase of the laundry trailer from Propac, Inc. for a price not to exceed \$115,000.

Commissioner Williford asked for clarification on whether the generator was included in the quote for the laundry trailer. Reavis confirmed that the generator is included and stated that a 7 kW propane generator would power the trailer.

Commissioner Gooch inquired if the generator was appropriately sized to run all washers and dryers simultaneously. Reavis confirmed that it was, explaining that since the dryers are propane-powered, they would not require as much electricity.

Commissioner Hinman asked for confirmation that no County funds would be used for the purchase of the laundry trailer. Reavis assured the Board that this was a no-match reimbursable grant, meaning no County money would be required for the purchase.

Commissioner Williford asked if, in situations like the disaster relief efforts in Western North Carolina, the County would send personnel with the laundry trailer if it were loaned out. Reavis confirmed that the County typically sends someone to train others on the equipment. Once the equipment is in place and the team is trained, it would be left for use, and then retrieved when no longer needed. He noted that the County currently has several pieces of equipment deployed in Western North Carolina, including a generator, light tower, and a trailer for companion animals.

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, Board approved the purchase of a laundry trailer, equipped with 8 washers and dryers, from ProPac, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$115,000.00, using Capacity Building Competitive Grant (CBCG) funds to support shelter operations in the event of a manmade or natural disaster.

Board Approved Purchase of HVAC Unit Purchase with 2023 Local Emergency Shelter Capacity Grant Program Funds

Emergency Management Director Jason Reavis presented a second item for approval, which is a no-match reimbursement grant for the purchase of a portable HVAC unit. This unit is part of the 2023 Local Emergency Shelter Capacity Grant Program, funded through state appropriations.

Reavis shared a personal experience from his recent deployment to western North Carolina for Hurricane Helene relief efforts, highlighting the challenges of managing temperatures in a shelter environment, especially at night. He described how the temperature can become uncomfortably warm while trying to sleep among hundreds of people in a warehouse, only to wake up to chilly mornings in the mountains.

The HVAC unit is intended for use in situations where a shelter loses power, allowing for heating or cooling as needed to ensure the comfort of those sheltered. The grant awarded a total of \$62,600 for the purchase of this trailer-mounted unit.

Reavis noted that the unit would not only be valuable in emergencies but could also be used for other purposes within the county. He recommended purchasing the 25-ton HVAC unit from TRS-SESCO, LLC, which provided the lowest bid after soliciting quotes from a minimum of three vendors.

In response to a question from Commissioner Williford about his prior dealings with the company, Reavis stated that while he had not previously worked with TRS-SESCO, he had dealt with similar units. He emphasized that the quality of the units provided by this vendor appeared superior to those from local HVAC companies he had encountered before.

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, Board approved the purchase of a 25-ton HVAC unit from TRS-SESCO, LLC for \$62,600.00, using 2023 Local Emergency Shelter Capacity Grant funds to support shelter operations in the event of a manmade or natural disaster.

Commissioner May thanked Jason Reavis for his work in acquiring emergency management equipment and requested that the County Manager compile a bullet-point list of all the different pieces of equipment obtained through no-match grant funds over the past three to five years. He emphasized that Reavis's efforts have positioned the county well for potential emergencies and acknowledged the Board's recognition of his contribution.

SOLID WASTE MATTERS

Board Approved Contract Extension Request for Solid Waste Franchise Agreement(s)

Environmental Services Director Jason Falls presented a request for a one-year extension of the GFL agreements for convenience site operations and curbside waste collection. Falls noted that there had been relatively few complaints regarding service since the initial award in January 2020, with most issues addressed and resolved by the contractor. He highlighted that GFL had not passed any increased costs to curbside customers, despite significant increases in the County's tipping fee over the last two years. The general manager of GFL assured that the company would continue to honor the 3.5% CPI cap increase, effective January 1, 2025.

Falls explained that the existing contract allowed for two one-year extensions, and this request was for the first extension. He confirmed that funding was available in the FY24-25 approved budget, with purchase orders approved for expenditures through June 30, 2025, covering site administration, container transportation, and waste disposal within Fund 59. He recommended approving the one-year extension for both agreements, which would become effective on January 1, 2025, and end on December 31, 2025.

Commissioner Williford inquired whether the County Attorney had reviewed the contract and if he was satisfied with it. County Attorney Wrenn confirmed he had reviewed the original contract and anticipated drafting the amendment to reflect the renewal term. Environmental Services Director Jason Falls confirmed that the amendment had not been drafted. Wrenn assured that it would be a straightforward amendment.

Commissioner May expressed concerns about the contractor's performance, specifically regarding complaints related to a compactor that had been out of service for five to six months. He asked if assurances had been obtained from the contractor to minimize such issues in the future. He noted that the lengthy downtime for the compactor caused significant inconvenience for the convenience center, and he emphasized the need for stronger contractual provisions to address equipment failures promptly.

Falls responded that the contractor had ordered backup equipment that would be installed if the primary compactor went down again. County Attorney Wrenn acknowledged that while he believed the existing contract included language to address these concerns, he agreed that more proactive legal measures might be necessary if problems arose. Commissioner May reiterated his desire for specific provisions to ensure timely repairs and backup availability to prevent future service disruptions. Falls concluded by stating that the contractor had been made aware of the County's concerns and was taking steps to address them.

Commissioner Cozart thanked the Chairman and raised a non-contractual concern, suggesting that provisions be made for portable handwashing facilities.

Commissioner Jay asked Falls whether he was contacted about changes before they were communicated to the public. He mentioned that he had previously inquired with the County Manager about this issue. Falls acknowledged that communication could be improved, stating that while major news is sent to him, there are instances where communication is lacking. Falls assured him that he would look into the matter and provide feedback.

Commissioner May expressed concern about ensuring that the contract included provisions for the timely repair of a compactor, emphasizing that repairs should not take four to five months. County Attorney Wrenn noted that, based on his recollection, there was an issue with the availability of the equipment. He explained that while the contract required the service provider to supply necessary equipment, it did not guarantee immediate solutions for equipment failures. Wrenn indicated that without legal action, they could not verify the vendor's claims regarding the delays.

Commissioner May pointed out that the costs associated with delays exceeded the cost of repairing the machine, to which Wrenn responded that the vendor had claimed difficulty in obtaining the necessary parts for the older equipment. Falls confirmed that the vendor ultimately managed to locate the required part after an extensive delay.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and carried, 6-1, Commissioner Russ May dissenting, Board approved a one-year GFL contract extension for the convenience site operations and the curbside, waste, collection franchise agreements and authorized the County Manager to execute the contract once finalized by the County Attorney.

APPOINTMENTS

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

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, Board appointed Lauren Holden to the Kerr-Tar Private Industry Council/Workforce Development Board Private Industry seat.

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 reported that he had one matter for closed session for attorney-client privilege.

County Attorney Wrenn expressed gratitude to everyone who attended his father's funeral the previous day, emphasizing the significance of their presence and thanking them sincerely.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Williford expressed pride in the County's response to disaster relief efforts in Western North Carolina following Hurricane Helene. He noted that the County had been actively sending help. He commended the efforts of local churches, volunteer fire departments, and the community for organizing and sending supplies to affected areas. Also, Commissioner Williford extended condolences to County Attorney Wrenn and his family, acknowledging Wrenn's father as a respected man and commending Wrenn's heartfelt remarks at the funeral. Lastly, he congratulated Commissioner Cozart on receiving the Order of the Longleaf Pine, describing him as a deserving recipient who has served the County with distinction for decades.

Commissioner Hinman reflected on a busy few weeks, attending several events. She praised the Boys and Girls Club for their impressive new building addition and commended the ABC store for generating significant revenue for the County. She highlighted the Cooperative Extension volunteer banquet, noting the dedication of volunteers, especially in 4-H programs, and appreciated the well-attended Library Board of Trustees lunch thanking employees. At the Kerr-Tar COG banquet, she congratulated Commissioner May on receiving an award. She acknowledged Commissioner Cozart's Order of the Longleaf Pine.

Commissioner Cozart reflected on attending recent events, including the ABC store dedication and the North Granville Senior Center groundbreaking ceremony. He expressed admiration for

the community's response to natural disasters, highlighting the efforts of people of all ages in relief activities. Commissioner Cozart emphasized the importance of helping others, even without direct personal benefit, as a testament to collective humanity. He also encouraged support for the Granville County Board of Education's upcoming decisions on consolidation, noting that it could lead to new opportunities, such as repurposing buildings for other county needs. He concluded by expressing gratitude to the community and his colleagues.

Commissioner May began by thanking County employees and the County Manager for their efforts. He expressed support for continued aid to western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene. He congratulated Commissioner Cozart on his Longleaf Pine Award. He then discussed the challenges facing the Granville County Board of Education regarding efficiency and consolidation, emphasizing the importance of supporting decisions made in the best interest of children and educational effectiveness. He also addressed the ongoing concern over School Resource Officers (SROs), noting plans to seek equitable funding for SROs in Granville County.

Commissioner Gooch congratulated Commissioner Cozart on his career and leadership. He recognized the challenges faced by Granville County Public Schools due to declining enrollment and welcomed new County staff members, Assistant Finance Director Lindsey Davison and Deputy Clerk Jessica Todd. Commissioner Gooch expressed gratitude to Emergency Management Director Jason Falls and his team, especially for their work in western North Carolina. He also thanked Sheriff Fountain and community volunteers for their disaster relief efforts.

Commissioner Jay expressed gratitude to Commissioner May and Commissioner Cozart for their achievements and thanked County staff and volunteers for their dedication. He highlighted the community spirit of Granville County, noting how residents came together to provide aid during recent disaster relief efforts in western North Carolina. He commended those who donated and transported supplies, emphasizing the county's generosity. Commissioner Jay also thanked Development Services Director Scott Phillips for addressing water issues at the Health Department and commended the staff for their hard work.

Chair Karan expressed deep gratitude to County staff, volunteers, and emergency responders who supported western North Carolina during recent disaster relief efforts. He highlighted the collaboration among local public agencies as well as private citizens who provided equipment and assistance. Chair Karan emphasized the unity and dedication of county employees who work tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to support others. He acknowledged October's many observances, including Domestic Violence Awareness and Breast Cancer Awareness Month, sharing a personal note about his wife's recovery from breast cancer. He urged women to prioritize self-exams and early detection. Chair Karan also commended the Board for modernizing by enabling livestreaming of meetings, thanking viewers for participating.

Commissioner Hinman asked everyone to keep Florida in their prayers, sharing that she has family—two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren—directly in the storm's path.

Chair Karan echoed Commissioner Hinman's sentiments, reminding residents of the importance of preparedness during hurricane season. He emphasized that individuals should take responsibility for their safety and that of their neighbors, likening it to the airline safety mantra of putting on your own mask first before assisting others. Chair Karan encouraged everyone to be proactive in their emergency planning, especially as some may not be as prepared for potential disasters.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters for open session.

CLOSED SESSION

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, Board went into closed session as allowed by North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) for attorney-client privilege, North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) for economic development matters and North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) personnel matters at 9:27 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board returned to open session at 12:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board