

OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA
October 4, 2021

The Members of the Honorable Board of Commissioners of Granville County, North Carolina met in a regular meeting on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, Granville Expo and Convention Center, 4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford.

Present via Zoom were:

- Chair:** Sue Hinman
- Commissioners:** Tony W. Cozart Jimmy Gooch
Zelodis Jay Timothy Karan
Russ May David T. Smith
- County Manager:** Michael S. Felts
Assistant County Manager: Korena Weichel
County Attorney: James C. Wrenn, Jr
- News Reporters:** Shawn Taylor – *Butner-Creedmoor News*
David Murray – *Oxford Public Ledger*

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:01 p.m., Chair Sue Hinman called the meeting to order and recognized Commissioner Jimmy Gooch for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay and unanimously carried, the Board approved the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Approved the Summary of Contingency and Use of Fund Balance report that showed the following balances:
- | | |
|--|--------------|
| General Contingency Balance | \$ 111,450 |
| School Bond D/S Contingency | \$ 100,000 |
| Environmental Disaster Contingency | \$ 10,000 |
| General Fund Appropriated Fund Balance | \$ 6,140,088 |
- (B) Approved Minutes of the February 17 and March 18, 2021 Retreat and May 10 and 11, 2021 Budget Workshops.
- (C) Approved the Tax Refunds, Releases and Write-offs for August 2021 as follows:
- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| Refunds | \$142,292.80 |
| Releases | \$396,075.18 |
| Write-offs | \$41.90 |
- (D) Approved the request from KARTS for submission of the 5311 Designation Certification Form for fiscal year 2023-2027 per grant requirements from NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division as follows:

Resolution authorizing the filing of applications with the North Carolina Department of Transportation– Integrated Mobility Division for grant years FY 2023– FY 2027, for federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. 5311, United States Code, other federal

statutes administered by the Federal Transit Administration or state statutes administered by the State of North Carolina.

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has been delegated authority to award federal financial assistance for transit projects as allocated throughout North Carolina by County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY GRANVILLE COUNTY,

1. That the Executive Director of Kerr Area Transportation Authority is authorized to execute and file an application for federal assistance on behalf of Granville County with the State of North Carolina for federal assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 5311 United States Code, other federal statutes or state statutes authorizing a project administered by the Federal Transit Administration.
 2. That the Executive Director of Kerr Area Transportation Authority is authorized to execute and file with its applications the annual certifications and assurances and other documents the State of North Carolina requires before awarding a federal assistance grant or cooperative agreement.
 3. That the Executive Director of Kerr Area Transportation Authority is authorized to execute grant and cooperative agreements with the State of North Carolina on behalf of Granville County.
- (E) Approved the following *Proclamation Recognizing the Human Relations Commission on Complete Count Work* to presented at a later date:

**Proclamation Recognizing the Granville County Human Relations
Commission for their Efforts to Ensure a Complete Count
during Census 2020**

WHEREAS, an accurate and complete Census count is important to Granville County and its communities in determining Federal dollars for health, education, transportation, child and elder care, emergency preparation and response, public and social health programs; and

WHEREAS, establishing a Census 2020 Complete Count Committee allowed Granville County to obtain the most accurate and complete population count for the decennial Census in 2020, and the Granville County Human Relations Commission was appointed to assist with the 2020 Census on March 18, 2018, and would be called the Granville County Complete Count Committee; and

WHEREAS, in July 2019, the Granville County Complete Count Committee started raising awareness about the upcoming Census through civic groups, churches and neighborhoods, despite Covid-19 setting the Census date back to September 30, 2020, the Granville County Complete Count Committee's persistence resulted in Granville County being the 12th highest reporting county in North Carolina by July 2020; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Granville County Board of Commissioners expresses appreciation and gratitude to the Granville County Human Relations Commission for their hard work and dedication as the Granville County Complete Count Committee to get an accurate count of the citizens of Granville County.

****Public comments held before Animal Control presentation.**

**DURING PUBLIC COMMENTS, TWO SPOKE ABOUT EQUAL ACCESS AT
THE GRANVILLE ATHLETIC PARK FOR BASKETBALL**

Michael Muhammed, P.O. Box 593, Oxford, NC, stated that he is a representative

for the Granville County NAACP and local organizing committee and spoke on recreational

disparity and equal access at the Granville Athletic Park (GAP). He referred to an inquiry he sent to County Manager Michael Felts about public parks and access to recreation. He said the arrangements of the basketball goals at the GAP do not include an inclusive environment as extra measures must be taken to utilize the basketball goals. The goals are attached to the canopy at the sports pavilion, so you have to call to get the goals pulled down and have to compete with other events that are held there. He said soccer, baseball and tennis are more easily accessible. He said this is a culturally sensitive matter and believes that the basketball goals should be in a stand-alone area. He asked for a written response to these concerns.

Scotty Brooks, 104 Smith Street, Oxford, NC, stated that he is the captain of the FIST group (Fighting Inequity Standing Together) and also spoke about basketball goals at the GAP. He said that he and Harry Mills shot basketball in front of his house growing up. He said there used to be neighborhood basketball goals everywhere, but there aren't any today except at Hicks court on Belle Street in Oxford. He said the GAP is great if you own a car, but if you do not have a car, it is hard to access. He said to do the most for the least of us and provide equal access for everyone at the park facilities. He suggested building a basketball court with four goals at the GAP in a stand-alone area for those of all economic levels.

PRESENTATION BY ANIMAL CONTROL

Matt Katz, Animal Services Director, gave a presentation on Animal Control service expansion items and operations. Mr. Katz reported that they have been at the new facility just over a year and spoke from a handout with the following information:

2021 Animal Shelter Numbers

- 1663 animal in
- 1539 animals out
- 204 (13.2%) animals adopted
- 110 (7%) euthanized
- 748 (49%) animals pulled by rescue organizations
- 303 (20%) cats trapped, neutered/spayed, vaccinated and released back to community cat caregiver
- 162 (11%) animals returned to owners

2021 Animal Control Numbers

- 1778 calls for service

We have been operating in the new Granville County Animal Shelter for a year. We have a need for more staff to operate the animal shelter and maintain our level of service for animal complaints. We are asking for 2 Animal Control Officers and Granville County Sheriff Deputy Animal Control Liaison. The ACOs can fill in for shelter attendants when needed and run animal control calls for service and complaints. The Sheriff Deputy Liaison position will greatly increase Animal Control's ability to enforce dangerous dog, animal cruelty, and support the other local Law Enforcement Agency's request for animal related issues.

Mr. Katz explained that Animal Control Officers cannot do certain things as they are not sworn officers. He said that it is his belief that adding a sworn officer to his department will bring a level of professionalism and will allow his department to operate more efficiently.

Mr. Katz then took questions and heard comments from Board members. When asked, Mr. Katz said that the shelter is open six days a week and they are considering closing on Mondays to the public and open Tuesday – Saturday to the public. He noted that they would still be there on Mondays to clean and run calls.

County Manager Felts said that the Board would be hearing an update from the Sheriff's Office at the next meeting and after that evaluate the request from Mr. Katz.

Chair Hinman thanked Mr. Katz and his staff for their hard work and dedication.

BOARD APPOINTED TERESA MCCABE (DISTRICT 6) TO THE GRANVILLE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Teresa McCabe (District 6) to the Granville County Economic Development Advisory Board.

BOARD APPOINTED GERARD SEIBERT (DISTRICT 7) TO THE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Russ May, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Gerard Seibert (District 7) to the Veterans Affairs Committee.

BOARD APPROVED AWARDING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT FOR GRANVILLE VANCE PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDINGS AT NEW LOCATION

Scott Phillips, Development Services Director, explained that Granville County is in the final process of completing the interior alterations needed for Granville Vance Public Health offices. In order to protect this capital investment, new roofs are recommended for each of the three buildings. A Request for Bid was issued on August 30, 2021 and included a three-tab asphalt shingle with a 25-year limited warranty and an add alternate to upgrade to an architectural asphalt shingle with a limited lifetime warranty.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved awarding the Construction Contract to Paul Williford Builder, LLC in the amount of \$90,060, to include \$1,500 for potential roof sheathing

replacement for the new Granville-Vance Public Health buildings located behind Granville Medical Center in Oxford.

BOARD REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION REGARDING OPIOID LITIGATION MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Chair Hinman said the next item was to review, discuss, and consider the North Carolina Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which would govern how NC would use the proceeds of any future national settlement related to the litigation around opioid manufacturers and distributors.

The Board discussed the matter and received input from the County Attorney and the County Manager. They also reviewed the list in the agenda packet of surrounding counties that had already signed on to the agreement as of October 1st. After discussion of deferring to the attorneys hired to address the matter, the risks and consequences of not signing the agreement, timing and impact of signing the agreement and how the agreement will be worked out, the Board took action to hear more information on the matter being that the deadline is December or January.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board requested presentations on the Opioid Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by the attorney representing Granville County in the settlement and by representatives from the NCACC (North Carolina Association of County Commissioners) at the first available upcoming meeting in order to meet deadline.

DURING COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, BOARD HEARD UPDATE ON LAND PURCHASES FOR FUTURE SENIOR CENTER PROJECT IN STOVALL

County Attorney Wrenn reported that the County has closed on five (5) lots in Stovall for the future Senior Center project. He also reported that the remaining issues are a condemnation matter and closing of the alleyway that need to be completed for the future project.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Smith apologized for not attending the Nifty 90s event due to a conflict, but reported that he did attend the Fun Day at the Stovall Senior Center. He said that the Senior Center will hold a drive-thru event for the recognition of Veterans on November 10th and to call the Senior Center to sign-up.

Commissioner Cozart said he appreciated the opportunity to tour school facilities as a group recently and that he hopes that enough teachers can be hired as soon as possible to fill the vacancies in the school system. He said an event will be held on Thursday, October 21st to honor retirees of Granville County Public Schools and maybe some will return to help.

Commissioner May reported that the Fire Services Subcommittee continues to make progress and move forward. He said that in regard to touring the schools, there is some work to do. He also mentioned his concerns about loss of learning during Covid, the end of the year test results, and how we can improve our children's' education.

Commissioner Karan said that he pointed out a deficiency to the County Manager and within six hours it was fixed. He reported that the tree growing in the gutter at Mount Energy has been removed and praised Granville County staff.

Commissioner Gooch reminded everyone of National Night Out at 5 p.m. on October 5th at the Butner Athletic Park and Alive After Five on October 6th at 5:30 p.m. at the Butner Gazebo Park.

Commissioner Jay congratulated Chair Hinman on her graduation from the 1st Citizens Academy sponsored by the Sheriff's Office. He also reported he attended the Culture Fest in Oxford and apologized that he was unable to make the Harvest Show in Butner.

Chair Hinman thanked the Sheriff's Office for sponsoring the Citizens Academy and urged others to participate. She reported that she attended Culture Fest in Oxford and the Lord Granville Agricultural Heritage Association Harvest Festival in Butner. She met Katie Haynes, Miss Granville County Agriculture, and her sister at the Harvest Festival and said they will be representing Granville County at the State competition and that they requested 15 Granville County 275th Anniversary coins for goody bags. She said it was good to get out and see people in person at recent events and then thanked those that came and spoke during public comments.

Commissioner May added that the 20/40 Plan was presented Friday night in Creedmoor and that you can do a survey online or go by Creedmoor City Hall for more information. He also reported that he attended the South Granville High School football game Friday night.

Chair Hinman also thanked the Maintenance team for their assistance at the Administration parking lot recently.

Commissioner Jay said that he will be at the NC Cycle event tent on Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. to welcome the 800 cyclists passing through. He then thanked Angela Allen, Tourism Director, for her efforts and coordination of the event.

COMMISSIONERS ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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