

GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 7, 2023
GRANVILLE EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTER
4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford, North Carolina

PRESENT:

Chair Russ May
Vice Chair Timothy Karan
Commissioner Sue Hinman
Commissioner Tony W. Cozart
Commissioner Jimmy Gooch

Commissioner Zelodis Jay and Commissioner Robert Williford were absent.

County Manager Drew Cummings
County Attorney James C. Wrenn, Jr.

Deputy County Manager Korena Weichel was absent.

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:01 p.m., Chair Russ May called the meeting to order. Commissioner Tony W. Cozart had the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair May noted that he worked with the Clerk to amend item #8 of the consent agenda, the minutes from the November 21, 2022 meeting located on line one of page 194 in the agenda packet has been corrected to read \$1.87 million, and not \$7.8 million.

Commissioner Karan shared that he had received an application for an economic development vacancy and requested to appoint the candidate. Chair May asked the clerk to inform him when they reached the appointments item on the agenda so the appointment could be added.

Motioned by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried 5-0, the Board approved the consent agenda as follows:

A. Approved Project Ordinance: National Opioid Settlement Budget Amendment #1:

Capital Project Ordinance
National Opioid Settlement Project Ordinance
Budget Amendment # 1 (during Fiscal Year 2024)
(Budget Amendment # 1 for project ordinance)

Be it ordained, the National Opioid Settlement Project Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

Expenditures: Increase/(Decrease)		
Collaborative Strategic Planning	<u> </u>	\$105,000
Opioid Settlement Expenditures		\$2,961,921
Total Expenditures		\$3,066,921
Revenues: Increase/(Decrease)		
Opioid Settlement Revenues		\$3,066,921
Total Revenues		\$3,066,921

(For Reference Only)			
National Opioid Settlement Project Ordinance			
Revenue Increase/ (Decrease):		Entry	Balance
28-3000-000	Opioid Settlement Revenues	\$3,066,921	\$6,867,284
Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):			
28-4000-000	Opioid Settlement Expenditures	\$2,961,921	\$6,762,284
28-4000-001	Collaborative Strategic Planning	\$105,000	\$105,000

Description: 1.) Recognize the additional (Wave II) settlement funding for Granville County as projected by the National Opioids Settlement Fund Trust

2.) Implementation by the Granville Opioid Advisory Committee of Option A, Exhibit A - Strategy #1 – Collective strategic planning – Authorizing \$100,000 in expenditures for creation of a full time staff position to manage the Opioid Settlement funds and \$5,000 in expenditures for printing public engagement materials, as approved by the Granville County Board of Commissioners on July 10, 2023.

National Opioid Settlement Project Ordinance			
Capital Project Ordinance Budget Levels			
(For County Auditors Reference)			
Expenditures		Revenues	
Collaborative Strategic Planning	105,000	Opioid Settlement Revenues	6,867,284
Opioid Settle. Exp's	6,762,284		
Total Expenditures	6,867,284	Total Revenues	6,867,284

	Opioid Settlement Project Ordinance		
	Original Budget Ordinance - Undesignated funding		\$3,800,363
8/7/2023	Addition of Tier II Opioid Settlement Revenues		+ 3,066,921
	Updated Ordinance -Undesignated Funding		6,867,284
8/7/2023	Board Approved Strategy Funding - Opioid Administrator		- 100,000
8/7/2023	Board Approved Strategy Funding - Funds for published materials		- 5,000
	Updated Undesignated funding		6,762,284
	Ending Balances -8/7/23		
	Revenue		
	Opioid Settlement Revenue - Total		6,867,284
	Expenditure		
	Collaborative Strategic Planning		105,000
	Opioid Settlement Undesignated Funding		6,762,284
	Total		6,867,284

B. Approved declaring the following vehicles as surplus to be sold via online auction or by Enterprise Fleet Management if they choose to accept:

Sheriff's Office				
VIN	Year	Make/Model	Mileage	Condition
1293	2014	Dodge Charger	130,000	Running rough
9236	2016	Ford Expedition	111,387	Transmission issues
0896	2014	Ford Expedition	135,021	Motor problems
9235	2016	Ford Expedition	108,750	Motor problems
6633	2016	Dodge Charger	100,000	Motor blown

C. Approved establishing a dedicated payroll checking account with Truist Bank.

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

- Refunds June 2023: \$17,625.83
- Releases June 2023: \$ 438.45
- Write-offs (\$2 and less) June 2023: \$ 8.53

E. Approved accepting the Tax Collector settlement for fiscal year 2022-2023 and charged the Tax Collector with collecting fiscal year 2023-2024 taxes.

F. Approved authorizing the County Manager to execute a contract with Keeps Clean, LLC at a cost of \$1200 per month to provide cleaning services three times per week at the Granville County Convention & Expo Center.

G. Approved Minutes:

- Retreat Day 1 February 21, 2022
- Retreat Day 2 February 25, 2022
- November 2, 2022 Special Meeting
- November 7, 2022 Regular Meeting
- November 21, 2022 Regular Meeting
- December 5, 2022 Regular Meeting

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Chair May said that the Board would like to take a moment of reflection to remember former Commissioner Ernie Anderson who passed away on July 21, 2023. He gave the following background information. Ernie Anderson was appointed as a County Commissioner on September 8, 2020, and sworn in on September 16, 2020, to fill the vacancy due to the death of Commissioner Owen Roberts. He served until December 7, 2020.

Chair May said that Ernie was a wonderful man and that it was a pleasure to call him a friend. He was also a city commissioner for Creedmoor. He had a love for others and a willingness to serve.

The Board held a Moment of Silence in his memory.

INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Dennis Lester for His Service to Granville County

Chair May said that the Board would like to recognize Mr. Lester for all he has done for Granville County. He then read and presented the following proclamation on behalf of the Board:

Recognition of Dennis Lester

Whereas, Dennis Lester, graduated from South Granville High School in 1966 and the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill in 1970, majoring in Health and Physical Education. Meanwhile, his beloved wife Rayna also graduated from South Granville High School and the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill in 1970.

Whereas, the Lesters are known to be legendary for their love, support, teaching, and mentoring of literally hundreds of students who passed through the halls and played on their fields and courts of dreams at South Granville High School. Dennis and Rayna were married for 52 years and have two children Cecily and Neal. Recently, Rayna passed away and this has left a void that will never be filled.

Whereas, Dennis began teaching in 1970. His tenure with the Granville County Public School System began in 1974. He taught Physical Education at both Creedmoor Elementary and Hawley Middle Schools before accepting a coaching position at South Granville High School.

Whereas, Dennis was an outstanding coach and achieved great success. His baseball teams won four conference championships, a 1982 Regional Championship, and were a Regional State Runner-Up. Three of his players went on to play professional baseball. One of them was Jeff Johnson, who played for the New York Yankees and the Cleveland Guardians.

Whereas, Dennis wore many coaching and teaching hats while at South Granville High School. This included and was not limited to, coaching football, basketball, baseball, and teaching driver education.

Whereas, for Dennis' many coaching successes, his character, and his lasting impression upon South Granville High School, he was inducted into South Granville High School's Hall of Fame, Class of 2017.

Whereas, Dennis retired from the Granville County Public Schools in 1999. However, his public service was not complete. He served on the Creedmoor Planning Board for 15 years. Dennis' faith, love of family, former students, and community is second to none. Dennis exemplifies then and now all the finest values and character to make him a Viking legend.

NOW, AND THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, THAT the Granville County Board of Commissioners acknowledges Dennis Lester's many years of dedicated service to the children of our great county, the City of Creedmoor, and to all those touched by his desire to help others reach their life's goals. Today there are many former players and students who will testify that many of their successes are a result of Coach Lester's impact on their lives.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair May extended the time for public comments as there were many speakers present.

Paul Blalock, 1593 Tally Ho Road, Stem, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ (extraterritorial jurisdiction). He said he found out about the matter in early March and has been at every Board meeting since March stating his opposition to it. He asked the Board to vote no to the town of Stem's ETJ request.

Cynthia Griffin, 1641 Tally Ho Road, Oxford, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. She said she has voiced her opposition many times and emphasized that if the ETJ were to pass, those within the ETJ would have no ability to vote in the town of Stem as it would basically take away property rights. She noted that an appointed position, a non-voting position, on the Planning Committee, is no substitute for the removal of those rights in her opinion. She said that with State Bill 675 pending in the North Carolina Legislature, in her opinion it would be inappropriate to approve with legislation still pending. She asked the Board to vote no to the town of Stem's ETJ request.

Ingrid Darius, 3226 Tump Wilkins Road, Stem, NC, asked the Board to vote no to the town of Stem's ETJ request.

Dorothy Boyd, 3595 Deerfield Road, Stem, NC, said that the Stem ETJ would be unfair to the people in the community because the ETJ would not allow them to vote in the town of Stem. She asked the Board to vote no to the town of Stem's ETJ request.

Timothy Kitts, 4053 Maple Lane, Stem, NC, stated his opposition to the Stem ETJ and asked the Board to vote no to the town of Stem's ETJ request or at least postpone it.

Michael Boyd, 1673 Stony Rock Road, Stem, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. He referenced the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Independence Hall where Granville County's John Penn had signed the Declaration of Independence. He said that to his knowledge, of the elected bodies in Stem, only one is originally from Granville County. He mentioned the number of votes with which they were elected (31, 32 and 35 votes in recent elections). He noted emails that he had sent to commissioners. He disputed the legality of the Stem ETJ and encouraged the Commissioners not to pass the Stem ETJ and to do the will of the people. **(Heather Barbour yielded her time to Mr. Boyd)**

Mark Griffin, 1629 Tally Ho Road, Oxford, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. He said that he has lived at his address for 62 years, has raised a family, and served his community and state government. He noted he had not heard anyone speak for Stem ETJ. He asked the Board to do the right thing when voting on the Stem ETJ.

Mark Tilley yielded his time to Eric Miller, 2029 Care Woods Drive, Stem, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. He said that he has been trying to figure out what kind of impact it would have on him and his neighbors and that he is unable to do so. He said they have formed STAND, Stem Area Neighborhood Defense, and have retained Calhoun, Bella, and Seacrest of Durham as counsel

since the week prior. He said that they have not been shown a document that lists every address and parcel within the Stem ETJ and questioned whether that document can be produced. He also said that the STAND legal council recommended that they point out that failure to provide sufficient detail on the ordinance is grounds for having the ordinance nullified if it does pass.

Katelyn Sellgren, 1098 Lake Ridge Drive, Creedmoor, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. She read a prepared 3-minute speech that mentioned the Founding Fathers, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution expressing her concerns about the democratic process and the board's decision-making. She reminded the board of their obligation to represent the opinions, ideas, and concerns of the citizens they serve, rather than making decisions based on personal bias. She mentioned the limited time given to citizens to express their views and suggested the implementation of regular, informal forums for more comprehensive dialogue and the need for equality in conversations. She continued that it is time for Granville County to set the standard on the value of rural life, and asked the Board to consider the origins of our government and the Constitution as well as the happiness of their citizens when they make their vote. **(Denise Klatt yielded her time to Ms. Sellgren).**

Tim Hosford, 1582 Easy Street, Stem, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ and asked the Board to vote no to the town of Stem's ETJ request.

Cheryl Blawusch, 3109 Tom Wilkins Road, Stem, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. She said that she has spoken before the Board before and has sent out information and reached out. She asked the Board to vote no to the town of Stem's ETJ request.

Krista Burton, 3611 Crosswinds Drive, Stem, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. She said that she was speaking on behalf of her mom, Cookie Reynolds who was there at the meeting, and her husband Donald Burton who could not attend. She said that they are all three opposed to the ETJ, and she asked the Board to vote no to the town of Stem's ETJ request.

Cookie Reynolds said that Krista Burton spoke for her and that she would donate her time to someone else.

Christy Wilkins Campbell, 3108 Tom Wilkins Rd, Stem, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. She said she came from a family who raised tobacco for a living and that she lives on that same land now. She said that the town of Stem has been vague, inconsistent, and incomplete with the information they have presented, and she asked that the Board delay its decision on the ETJ until Stem answers their concerns and complies with NC laws on ETJs. She then referenced a petition that she said had over 100 signatures and presented a copy to the Clerk.

Tim Carolan, 3145 Tump Wilkins Road, Stem NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and said that he was speaking on behalf of himself and his fiancé Michaela Wilkins and her family. He said that they all live in Stem and asked the Board to vote no to the town of Stem's ETJ request.

Lori Spruill, 1695 Mineral Springs Road, Stem, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. She said that she and her family are against the Stem ETJ and asked the Board to vote no to the town of Stem's ETJ request.

David Carey, 2030 Care Woods Drive, Stem, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. He said that he believes it is an injustice to the unincorporated property owners in the county and noted that the Stem ETJ would mean they would not be able to vote for Stem officials.

Tish Thompson, 1183 Little Mountain Road, Stem, NC, said that the community was informed about the Stem ETJ in March and that at the first meeting at the Stem Firehouse, a commissioner said that there were about 20 more people at that meeting than usually attend. Regarding the spike in attendance, she asked rhetorically if the proof was in the pudding.

Jamie Harr, 3230 Serenity Drive, Stem, NC, said that he is opposed to the Stem ETJ and asked the Board to vote no to the town of Stem's ETJ request.

Julie Frund, 3257 Tump Wilkins Road, Stem NC, said that she is opposed to the Stem ETJ, saying that it is regulation without representation and that an appointed representative is not a true representation. She asked the Board to vote no to the town of Stem's ETJ request.

Jaycee Georgiev, 1174 Smith Creek, Stem, NC, updated the Board on the south Granville six-part petition for (1) restoring the one-acre minimum lot size, (2) banning community wells, (3) a building moratorium, (4) adopting well interference ordinance, (5) no use of explosives to grade land (6) and equitable fire tax. She said that at the prior board meeting, they had over 100 signatures and at this meeting, they were approaching 300 signatures. Also, she said when speaking with state legislature since the last month's meeting, she was told that in an ETJ it depends on who is the mayor if chickens are allowed, or roads have to be paved as it depends on getting an ordinance in jurisdiction so they have a say and applies to any future ETJs.

Betse Noble, 1295 Woodland Church Road, Wake Forest, NC, said that she was there on behalf of her neighborhood in Wake Forest and that several neighbors were at the meeting. She said that they are worried about their wells and are in support of the petition Jaycee Georgiev mentioned. She added that they hope the Board understands that there needs to be a new groundwater survey. She said we need to slow down the growth to get the infrastructure in place first before we have an explosion of neighborhoods.

Barbara Meadow, 3178 Serenity Drive in Stem, NC, said that she does not want the Stem ETJ.

Shannon Fleming, 1991 Idlewood, Drive, Stem, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. She said that she is Chair of the Democratic Party of Granville County, and when asked, clarified that her comments are on her behalf and not on behalf of the Granville County Democratic Party. She read from page five of the Democratic Party values regarding ETJs. She said that it is her understanding that Mayor Dover has had voluntary discussions with people about annexation and she believes he knows how to work the process without utilizing an ETJ. She mentioned regulation without representation.

Don Baker, 1171 Little Mountain Road, Stem, NC, spoke against the Stem ETJ. He thanked the County Commissioners and said that he does not think they need to be beaten up about this issue, but he does think that they need to listen. He said that the people of Stem are against the Stem ETJ.

Mark Kwasnick, 3641 Pine Needles Drive, Wake Forest, NC, spoke regarding the Falls Watershed petition. He said that he thinks the Falls Watershed is a great place to live in Granville County because of the large one-acre lots, private wells, and lack of commercial development. He stated his concern about bringing in more industrial measures like community wells and packing more houses in the smaller areas because he thinks there will be a risk of depleting the water resources needed to live there.

REQUEST FROM TOWN OF STEM TO ESTABLISH ETJ (EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION)

Board Declined Request from Town of Stem to Establish Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ)

Chair May said that a letter and resolution adopted unanimously on July 17, 2023, was received from Paul "Casey" Dover, Mayor of the Town of Stem on or about July 26, 2023 requesting that pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 160D-202(C) that the Granville County Board of Commissioners approve the extension of an extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction for the Town of Stem. He then gave the following background information:

North Carolina State Statute provides guidelines for the creation of municipal extra-territorial jurisdictions (ETJs). In areas or situations where ETJs are allowed but where County zoning and subdivision regulations already applies, the municipality, after following all the other rules

associated with the creation of an ETJ, must request that the County's Board of County Commissioners approve the transition of the area in question from County zoning jurisdiction to municipal zoning jurisdiction. To our knowledge, the procedural requirements have been met by the Town of Stem for their proposed creation of an ETJ area and the item is thus being brought forward for consideration. Town of Stem officials will be available to answer questions.

Mayor Casey Dover of Stem explained that the town seeks to establish an extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) within one mile of the town's corporate limits as granted by North Carolina General Statute 160D-202. He explained that an ETJ would empower Stem to manage and regulate development zoning activities in the surrounding area, ensuring the protection of the environment and maintaining the character of Stem and that it would allow Stem to manage issues related to water quality, open spaces, and natural resources, while also advocating for amenities, services, and infrastructure that benefit residents and neighboring municipalities. He emphasized that the proposal is a step towards securing Stem's future and shaping its growth in line with the town's values and aspirations. Mayor Dover urged the Board to consider the significance of the proposal and join him in creating an ETJ for Stem.

Mayor Dover made the following additional comments. The Town of Stem has five commissioners, a mayor, a town clerk, a zoning administrator, and four police officers. They are self-sufficient and he expressed their hope to continue to be so without depending on the county. The Stem Planning Board of six community volunteers created a plan that was adopted in 2020. The Planning Board laid out the ETJ, not the Board of Commissioners. The town took two years to develop the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance), which replaced the outdated zoning. Mayor Dover thanked the Board and welcomed any questions.

Commissioner Hinman inquired about the benefits of Stem passing the ETJ. Mayor Dover explained that it is important for Stem to preserve its southern border to prevent encroachment from neighboring municipalities. Stem has received requests to annex neighboring municipalities, but they have declined. The ETJ proposal was made to control the development along the backside of Otho Mangum Road, which is the backside of Tar River, they want to preserve that so they can maintain Ledge Rock Creek which is a gem for Stem. The UDO provides for trailheads and parking pads if the area is developed, but the main goal is to control growth in the area.

Commissioner Hinman asked what the benefit of the ETJ is to the people who live in the ETJ. Mayor Dover responded by saying that the plan restricts growth and limits developers to building only two houses instead of four and they want to control that. He added that farms and other similar areas would not be included in zoning.

Commissioner Hinman asked when the current UDO was passed. Mayor Dover responded that it was passed in 2022 and updated in May of 2023 to include the agricultural zoning district.

Commissioner Hinman inquired about the process of changing a UDO and whether it can be changed again. Mayor Dover explained that the original UDO was based on Granville County's land use map from 2018, which had the surrounding areas around Stem listed as R-1 which is why the agricultural exemption was left out. After public information sessions brought attention to the AR-40, the Planning Board added it to the UDO, which was passed on May 24, 2023 after a 30-minute public hearing that lasted an hour.

Commissioner Hinman inquired about the voting rights of residents in the ETJ regarding the election of officials in the town of Stem. In response, Mayor Dover stated that the statute does not allow for such voting rights and that the appointment of an official would be made by the Granville County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Hinman inquired of Granville County Planning Director Barry Baker if an ETJ would prevent another city from annexing the same area. Mr. Baker responded that it would not.

Commissioner Hinman posed a question to Mr. Baker regarding voting rights for those in the ETJ in relation to town elections. Mr. Baker responded that they would not have the right to vote.

Commissioner Hinman inquired of County Attorney Wrenn if an ETJ would prevent another city from annexing the same area. Attorney Wrenn responded that he had no reason to question Mr. Baker's statement and that, to his knowledge, the ETJ does not stop an annexation.

Commissioner Hinman posed a question to County Attorney Wrenn about the voting rights of those in the ETJ for town elections. Attorney Wrenn responded that as per his knowledge, they would not be able to vote in town elections.

Commissioner Gooch asked how the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) would affect the people in the proposed ETJ who already live there. Mayor Dover replied that the people would not have to change anything unless they decided to develop their property. Attorney Wrenn clarified that compliance with the UDO would only be necessary if a change was made to the property. Stem Town Attorney Bob Hornick explained that the agricultural operations would not be affected by the Stem regulations, and any existing use would continue in its current form without being affected by any of the regulations which is called grandfathered. Commissioner Gooch asked if someone added on to their house if they would be required to pave their driveway. County Attorney Wrenn and Attorney Hornick made clarifications noting that you would have to go to the county for the building permits and the town for the zoning compliance for changes and it would mirror Granville County's ordinance.

Stem Town Attorney Hornick acknowledged objections to the ETJ but emphasized that the ability to form an ETJ was created by the legislature sixty years ago. He believes that the discussion is necessary, and if passed, people will be glad in ten to fifteen years because it is inevitable.

Commissioner Gooch inquired about Stem's compliance with legal requirements. Attorney Hornick expressed confidence that Stem had met all requirements but noted that the process was not yet complete. If the Board of Commissioners approves the ETJ, an ordinance must be adopted, and zoning implemented for the area.

Commissioner Cozart inquired about the involvement of those in the proposed ETJ in the development of the plan. Clarification was made that Stem's Planning Board does not have an ETJ membership like other nearby towns and has never had an established ETJ, thus they have no representation on Stem's Planning Board.

Commissioner Karan said that in 2006 the City of Creedmoor attempted an involuntary annexation, not an ETJ attempt, but an involuntary annexation of an urbanized area. He talked about the history of the County's role in previous development where water and sewer were extended into an unincorporated sanitary district at the request and expense of landowners. He emphasized the importance of property owner rights and noted that the creation of the Town of Butner and SGWASA were positive results of Creedmoor's 2006 history. He suggested that the time for ETJ establishment may have come to an end and emphasized the need for legislative and democratic processes. He acknowledged the consternation of affected parties but encouraged them against going backward. He expressed his opinion on extending water and sewer services into unincorporated areas, saying that it should only be done under extreme circumstances and not for subdivisions on the border of a city or town.

During a discussion about farmland and the ETJ, Chair May expressed concerns about whether farming and bona fide farms can still exist in the ETJ. Attorney Hornick explained that Chapter 160 D of the statutes allows for the existence of bona fide farms, which are exempt from zoning regulations if certain criteria are met. The creation of the ETJ does not affect the status of existing bona fide farms.

During a discussion between Chair May and Mayor Dover, Chair May requested clarification on whether the most recent UDO aligns with the County's ordinances. Mayor Dover confirmed that it did and restated that the date of the most recent UDO is May 24, 2023.

Chair May also inquired about the agricultural section, which was not included in the original information provided to residents. Mayor Dover explained that the changes were posted on the Town of Stem's website and highlighted in red, as required by legislation. Additionally, two informational sessions were held, along with one public hearing.

Commissioner Gooch offered a motion to table the vote on this matter until all Board members were present as the Board has had a long-standing position of not addressing ETJ issues and he believed all Board members need to be present to act. The motion failed due to the lack of a second. Chair May announced that the motion failed.

Chair May guided the Board and clarified that there is no statutory requirement for them to act or adhere to any timeline.

Commissioner Sue Hinman made a motion to decline Stem's request to extend its ETJ (extraterritorial) powers, which was seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart. The Chair then invited the attendees to share their thoughts on the matter.

Commissioner Hinman explained that her vote was not influenced by any threats and that she voted based on her conscience. She made it clear that she does not tolerate threats and will not be swayed by them in the future.

Commissioner Gooch offered a substitute motion that the Board take no action because two members were absent. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Chair May stated that they would proceed with Commissioner Hinman's motion.

Chair May read the following statement:

I have carefully reviewed the Town of Stem's request. The Mayor and his board view their actions as those they were elected to act upon. The Town of Stem has worked on and talked about establishing an ETJ for some time now. The County Board of Commissioners supports the growth and prosperity within the town of Stem, as we do with all the county's municipalities. I also know Mayor Dover to be a good and decent man, who seeks to better the quality of life for the residents of Stem and their neighbors.

I have heard and appreciate the concerns of the residents within the proposed ETJ. The fear of uncertainty and changes to the life they desire has brought about much anxiousness. It is clear that those who oppose the ETJ want no part of it, regardless of the newly adopted UDO by the Town of Stem, which aligns with the County's ordinances.

As I considered how I would vote, my vote is not influenced by innuendos or negative comments, but influenced by my principles, values, and what I believe to be in the best interest of the County. County Commissioners serve all residents of the county, those in municipalities as well as those in unincorporated areas.

Today we live in a very different era than when a Municipal Government Study Commission was formed in 1958 to study ETJs. For instance, annexation in almost all cases is now voluntary. Health and safety concerns are managed by more robust legislation, regulations, and agencies than existed in the late 1950s when this study occurred. Furthermore, Granville County has had county-wide zoning since 1989. There is no threat that development will occur adjacent to Stem in an unregulated matter; the current Stem UDO adopted in May of 2023, mirrors that of the County. County zoning adequately protects the municipal borders from unregulated growth. Water and sewer infrastructure may be delivered through voluntary annexation.

We now live in the third fastest-growing state in the union, a suburb of RTP, and real overt growth has arrived, and much more is likely to come if, and when, the economy improves. I believe to maintain our rural character, allow our municipalities to thrive, and have a win-win, government and citizens must come to a consensus on how the two can merge to maintain the desired character of the community. I admit this is not easy, but for our County, it is my desire that we find the right arrangements and agreements so we may protect property rights and the ability of our towns to responsibly grow without creating an atmosphere of infringement.

This commissioner believes in limited government. Those citizens who wish to live in a rural setting with few amenities take on greater personal responsibilities, a lower tax burden, and less dependence upon the government. That is an individual decision. In turn, those who live in a municipality seek most often to have greater amenities and services. They can expect a greater tax burden, greater regulations, and more government interaction. Again, an individual decision.

Those living in the proposed ETJ may feel that they have limited representation or influence in local government decisions, as they do not have voting rights for town officials despite being impacted by town regulations. Stem Officials will offer ETJ residents places on boards to include the Planning Board, but still, these ETJ residents will not be permitted to vote in municipal elections. ETJ residents may also feel their rights are being infringed upon because the town may impose additional regulations and restrictions on their property/land, if not today at some point in the near or distant future.

I want to make this clear, my vote will be based on my conscience, my values, my principles, regardless of individuals who disagree or don't agree with it. I hope we can come together as a community and treat each other with mutual respect even when we disagree.

I want to make this clear, my vote is not an anti-growth vote, but a principled vote based on my views and values as it relates to limited government, the right to representative government, and the current era of zoning and ordinances which is very different today than 1958. Lastly, my vote on this matter is not solely related to the Town of Stem but would be the same should another municipality request the expansion of its ETJ. This Board member will not treat Stem any differently than any other municipality that would make this request.

Commissioner Gooch said that the Board has opened the door for Butner, Creedmoor, and Stem to request expansion of their ETJs and that if the Board would remain consistent then they would have to vote no for all, and that by not taking up the issue they would avoid having to vote no.

Chair May respectfully disagreed, contending that no action in his view is inaction and that Stem residents would like a response and a vote.

Commissioner Hinman said the only reason she made the motion is because she feels everyone has the right for a vote on the matter.

Chair May called for a roll call vote and asked Commissioner Hinman to restate the motion. Commissioner Hinman restated the motion that the Board decline Stem's request to extend its ETJ (extraterritorial) powers.

Chair May clarified that they are voting to decline so if they are against, then that would be a yes vote, and Commissioner Hinman confirmed.

Clerk to the Board Debra Weary called the roll for a vote.

District 3, Commissioner Sue Hinman: Yes

District 4, Commissioner Tony W. Cozart: Yes

District 6, Commissioner Timothy Karan: Yes

District 7, Commissioner Jimmy Gooch -abstained

District 5, Chair Russ May: Yes

The Board declined the Town of Stem's request for an ETJ by a vote of 4-0, with Commissioner Gooch abstaining from the vote.

Chair May expressed his gratitude towards Mayor Dover for his hard work and dedication towards the town, as well as the residents who shared their thoughts. He said he hopes the community can progress positively. He reread the following portion of his previous statement.

We now live in the third fastest-growing state in the union, a suburb of RTP, and real overt growth has arrived, and much more is likely to come if, and when, the economy improves. I believe to maintain our rural character, allow our municipalities to thrive, and have a win-win, government and citizens must come to a consensus on how the two can merge to maintain the desired character of the community. I admit this is not easy, but for our county, it is my desire that we find the right arrangements and agreements so we may protect property rights and the ability of our towns to responsibly grow without creating an atmosphere of infringement.

County Attorney Wrenn cited the North Carolina General Statute on abstention, which allows for members only to be excused from voting on matters that may involve their own financial interest or official conduct on matters which members are prohibited from voting under GS 14-234 and 160.D-109. He noted that abstention is something that cannot be done in this case.

District 7, Commissioner Jimmy Gooch: No.

The board declined the Town of Stem's request for an ETJ, 4-1 (Commissioner Gooch voted no).

Mayor Dover invited members of the community to attend the town meeting held every third Monday.

RECESS

At this point, the Board took a brief recess and resumed at 8:44 p.m.

TAX MATTERS

Board Approved Late Exclusion Application

Chair May said that this item is to consider the approval of the untimely filed application for age exclusion.

Tax Administrator Jenny Griffin provided the following background information. Lewis and Maryann Dull turned in their exclusion application on June 23, 2023, with a letter explaining why their application was late. However, the cut-off time for elderly exclusion is June 1st. According to the North Carolina General Statute 105-282.1(a1), upon a showing of good cause by the applicant for failure to make a timely application, an application for exemption or exclusion filed after the close of the listing period may be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. This subsection applies only to property taxes levied by the county or municipality in the calendar year in which the untimely application is filed. The letter sent to the Tax Administration explained that Mr. and Mrs. Dull suffered a traumatic event that left them incapacitated for a period. The

letter was not included in the agenda to protect their privacy but was made available for the Commissioners to view.

Chair May clarified that both husband and wife are in their 80s and still managing their affairs. Ms. Griffin replied that was correct and recommended that their application be approved.

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board approved the late exclusion application for Lewis and Maryann Dull.

SHERRIFF MATTERS

Presentation and Update by Sheriff Robert Fountain on Crime Statistics, Trends, And Other Public Safety Matters

Chair May said that the purpose of this item is for the Sheriff of Granville County to provide information about crime statistics and trends and other information relevant to public safety in Granville County. He said that the Board had asked the Sheriff to report every quarter on information regarding statistical data, crime data, programs, and funding concerns so that the Board could hear from the Sheriff’s Office throughout the year and residents could be kept up to date. Chair May said that Sheriff Fountain had agreed to make quarterly presentations, and he thanked Sheriff Fountain for coming before the Board on this date.

Sheriff Robert Fountain said that the Granville County Sheriff’s Department is doing exceedingly well. The Sheriff’s Department responded to 4,586 calls for service. They served 784 civil orders, 105 protective orders, 146 criminal summons, and 342 CCW (carrying a concealed weapon) permits. He then referred to the following crime analysis and emphasized that crime in Granville County has not exploded.

Granville County Agency by Agency Crime Analysis

PROPERTY CRIME TRENDS					
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Dept.	Total Reported Property Crime	Total Reported Property Crime	Total Reported Property Crime	Total Reported Property Crime	Total Reported Property Crime
Butner	177	122	151	147	N/A
Creedmoor	93	55	76	39	N/A
Oxford	411	231	216	182	N/A
GCSO	467	316	287	357	N/A
County Agency Total	1,148	724	730	725	N/A

VIOLENT CRIME TRENDS					
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Dept.	Total Reported Violent Crime	Total Reported Violent Crime	Total Reported Violent Crime	Total Reported Violent Crime	Total Reported Violent Crime
Butner	33	33	24	24	N/A
Creedmoor	6	10	13	12	N/A
Oxford	68	91	91	70	N/A
GCSO	55	57	41	59	N/A
County Agency Total	162	191	169	165	N/A

Sheriff Fountain continued, saying that as of the prior week, they started taking on federal inmates and that they are in conversations with the Bureau of Prisons and US Marshal Service to become a hub for the Bureau of Prisons and US Marshals to store inmates and transport them to other facilities.

Regarding staffing, he said that there are 72 positions of which six are admin which leaves 66 sworn positions. There are five bailiffs and three part-timers. He noted that of the 66 sworn positions, 60 are filled which leaves six vacancies.

Three federal agencies want to renew partnerships with Granville County: US Marshal Services, DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), and FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation). He mentioned a recent Granville County investigation which led them to work with the FBI, an assistant US attorney, and Avis Rental Car in a joint operation to recover as many of the 200 vehicles that they can find. A missing vehicle was first recovered in Granville County, and they are also working with counties where other vehicles were found.

Sheriff Fountain mentioned patrolling in the southern end of the County due to complaints of speeding. He said they are looking into having their own CAD (computer-aided dispatch) system so that they can access their data. Currently, they utilize the 911 Communication Center CAD system, and information must be requested from them.

When asked, he said that 48 of the 60 officers are certificated, not including the jail. Sheriff Fountain explained BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) certification and timeframes. He reported that all seven SRO (School Resource Officers) positions are filled.

When asked, Sheriff Fountain answered further questions regarding scanners, radiation badges, UVC (ultraviolet-C) lighting, patrol staffing and supervision, the drug enforcement unit, CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) accreditation for law enforcement, detention center, a timeframe on new uniforms, benefits of the new compensation package, ways the Sheriff's Department is reducing costs, an accounting of radios, and an inventory of all equipment.

Sheriff Fountain emphasized how the new compensation package is attracting experienced officers from other agents. He mentioned working with County Manager Drew Cummings and HR Director Angela Miles. He commended the board for their due diligence in this area.

Board Approved Purchase of High-Capacity Incinerator with Contingency

Chair May said that the purpose of this item is to approve the purchase of one (1) Destructor S/C Incinerator for the Granville County Sheriff's Office for incinerating evidence.

Sheriff Fountain said that currently, we transport evidence to other counties to be destroyed. He would like the Granville County Sheriff's Office to be self-sufficient. Sheriff Fountain presented this item based on the following information in the agenda packet:

1. The Sheriff's Office is requesting to expend \$14,335.00 in federal asset forfeiture funds to purchase an incinerator to destroy hazardous material obtained through investigations and community drug disposal. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office will make the equipment available to Granville County Animal Control for carcass disposal as needed.
2. The Destructor S/C Incinerator has a capacity of 500 lbs. with a burn rate of 125 lbs. per hour allowing for the disposal of 1,000 lbs. in 8-hour period of operation. The process will turn contraband and paraphernalia into sterile, inert ash leaving the material harmless and disposable without risk.

The Sheriff's Office requires the ability to destroy drug evidence after judicial proceedings and/or the destruction of other hazardous items. The Sheriff's Office cannot independently destroy large amounts of drug evidence and on occasion is required to dispose of more than 1000 pounds of marijuana. Additionally, the incinerator will be used to assist with the destruction of prescription drugs and medical items seized during the Drug Take Back Initiative. The Sheriff's Office will partner with Animal Control to make the equipment available for the destruction of deceased animals as needed.

US Global Resources will be the authorized sole-source vendor for this purchase:

Destructor S/C Incinerator -	\$13,300.00
Shipping -	\$ 1,700.00
5% Rebate -	<u>\$ 665.00</u>
Total:	\$14,335.00

Funds are available for this purchase from the U.S. Treasury Asset Forfeiture Account and is deemed an acceptable utilization of funds per “The Guide to Equitable Sharing for State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies.”

Chair May explained to the Board that the Board may desire to approve this process so that when the Sheriff’s Department destroys evidence, it is at the Sheriff’s Office, it would be under constant surveillance, and there would be a mechanism in place where two or more deputies are present. He clarified that this would be an incinerator solely for narcotics, and Sheriff Fountain confirmed. Sheriff Fountain added that a clerk would be present as well.

When asked if the Sheriff’s Department had previously purchased an incinerator, it was answered that they do have the ability to incinerate a small number of narcotics, but it is a time-consuming process, and that it cannot handle a large amount.

Discussion ensued about the possible usage of the incinerator by Animal Control.

County Attorney Wrenn asked if Mr. Rob Bailess knew if this purchase was on a state contract. Mr. Bailess said that he did not know. Attorney Wrenn advised the Board to make sure that approval is contingent on making sure it meets purchasing requirements since this is a use of federal funds. Chair May restated that the caveat would be to get DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) approval and meet state purchasing requirements.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board approved the purchase of the Destructor S/C Incinerator using \$14,335.00 in federal asset forfeiture funds from the U.S. Treasury Account contingent upon meeting purchasing requirements and DEQ approval.

Board Approved Surplus and Sale of AR-15 Rifles

Sheriff Fountain said that this request is for approval to surplus sixty-two (62) AR-15 Rifles and exchange the firearms for store credit with a federal firearms license dealer (FFL). He presented based on the following background information:

1. The Granville County Sheriff’s Office (GCSO) is requesting to surplus and then sell sixty-two (62) AR-15s to Cross Creek Outdoor Supplies at fair market value in exchange for store credit. Cross Creek Outdoor Supplies is an FFL and will assume responsibility for the functionality of the weapons at the time of transfer.
2. Pursuant to North Carolina General Statue 160A-271, a county government may exchange any real or personal property belonging to the county for other real or personal property by private negotiation if the county receives full and fair consideration in exchange for its property (attachment in agenda packet). Property shall be exchanged only pursuant to a resolution authorizing the exchange adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners upon 10 days' public notice. Notice shall be given by publication describing the properties to be exchanged, stating the value of the properties and other considerations changing hands, and announcing the council's intent to authorize the exchange at its next regular meeting (notice included in the agenda packet).
3. This is a request for surplus weapons purchased with federal asset forfeiture funds. The request meets the requirements for the disposal of property as outlined in the U.S. Department of Justice and Treasury Guide to Equitable Sharing for State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies.

On March 20, 2023, the Sheriff’s Office received approval from the Board of Commissioners to upgrade the existing weapons inventory with the purchase of fifty (50) 5.56 semi-auto rifles and

ten (10) 9mm sub-guns. As a result of this action, the Sheriff’s Office is now prepared to surplus the older inventory of AR-15s to make way for the new weapon platforms. All weapons will be checked through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) database to ensure the accuracy of the serial number and ownership by the Sheriff’s Office. An inventory list was included in the agenda packet. An estimated value of the weapons was provided by Cross Creek Outdoor Supplies and a store credit will be provided to the Sheriff’s Office.

Sheriff Fountain emphasized that deputies have the first choice to purchase.

When asked, Sheriff Fountain explained that the guns were put together as a kit, with no brand names, and that they were bought from a local gun store as a kit.

County Attorney Wrenn asked Sheriff’s Office Consultant Rob. Bailess confirm that the store credit meets federal requirements and that anything purchased under that store credit will be tracked under equitable sharing programs.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board approved the surplus and sale of sixty-two (62) AR-15 Long Guns valued at \$300 each for a total of \$18,600 in exchange for store credit at Cross Creek Outdoor Supplies of Henderson, NC.

Board Approved Sheriff’s Office Migration to AT&T FirstNet

Sheriff Fountain explained that Granville County currently provides stipends for deputies to use personal cell phones for County purposes, which could result in personal phones being subpoenaed for extra information. It was discovered that some funds are being paid to individuals who are not eligible for stipends or no longer work for the County. Chris Brame, the Information Technology Director, is researching and tracking the assigned stipends.

Sheriff Fountain explained the following background information:

Due to communications challenges during the response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, it was recommended by the 9/11 Commission to create a single, interoperable network for public safety. In 2012, Congress established the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to meet the mission needs of public safety professionals. FirstNet has created a nationwide broadband network tailored specifically to meet the needs of first responders to save lives and protect communities. The Sheriff’s Office does not currently have an integrated mobile telephone network and the addition of FirstNet will address several gaps in communication and the investigative process. Predominantly, the need for Sheriff’s Office personnel to operate on a secure network that permits deputies to communicate during both routine and critical incidents. FirstNet provides a dedicated communications network that will give the Sheriff’s Office the ability to operate effectively in all environments.

- 1. The Sheriff’s Office will acquire FirstNet mobile telephone service and deploy 85 Apple iPhones and 10 Sonim XP5 Plus tactical phones. This initiative will provide Sheriff’s Office personnel with a dedicated communications platform to operate efficiently and share data in critical situations. FirstNet is a nationwide broadband network dedicated to First Responders that provides a secure and effective communication capability.
- 2. FirstNet is different from other carriers in that it has a dedicated public safety core that provides routing priority during emergencies. Additionally, FirstNet encrypts network traffic internally, creating a highly secure communications environment required by public safety.

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>	<u>One-Time Cost</u>
Apple iPhone 12	85	\$0.99	\$84.15
Sonim XP5 Plus	10	\$.099	<u>\$ 9.90</u>
Total:			\$94.05

<u>Rate Plan</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Monthly Cost</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>
FirstNet Unlimited	85	\$3,569.15	\$42,829.80
Push-to-Talk Plan	10	\$ 179.90	\$ 2,158.80
PTT Enhancement	85	\$ 170.00	<u>\$ 2,040.00</u>
		Sub-Total:	\$48,028.60
		Estimated Tax:	<u>\$ 3,140.76</u>
		Annual Cost:	\$50,169.36

Sheriff Fountain explained that FirstNet offered them the ability not to use cradle points, which would cost \$250,000 to outfit vehicles with cradle points. He then invited Chris Brame to speak.

Information Technology Director Chris Brame said that FirstNet is a priority network. It allows the county to have true priority regardless of what is going on in the network. FirstNet is currently being used in Emergency Management and is offering a lower rate than the stipends, which would save the county money. He said when they audited their Verizon bill, they noticed that there were multiple MiFis and multiple connections that were named under certain employees who were no longer employed, and those devices were closed off. He explained that utilizing the Apple iPhones allows the Sheriff's Department to have full remote-control access, and full ability to pull backups of the phone at any given time.

When asked, both IT Director Chris Brame and County Manager Drew Cummings said they agree with the move to FirstNet.

When asked, Sheriff’s Office Consultant Robert Bailess explained the benefits of having FirstNet in the event of a true crisis.

When asked about requesting additional lines, Sheriff Fountain explained that he is planning for when they are fully staffed and added that he is requesting ten push-to-talk phones for the jail. Any additional phones would be stored with IT who can get them online as needed.

Chair May stated that the Sheriff has the funding in his budget.

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the board approved the migration to AT&T FirstNet public safety priority network carrier for the Sheriff’s Office for 85 Apple iPhones and 10 Sonim XP5 Plus cellular devices at an estimated annual cost of \$50,169.36 and transition of the Verizon data plan for MiFi hotspots for laptops to the Granville County IT Department as part of their data connectivity initiative.

APPOINTMENTS

Board Approved Appointments to the Granville County Human Relations Commission

County Manager Drew Cummings explained that there were vacancies on the Human Relations Commission, one from District 5, two from District 6 and one from District 7.

Chair Russ May mentioned that the staff is aware some committee members have exceeded their term limits dated in the current bylaws. He noted that a review of the current bylaws and terms limits is in process and asked when that can be expected to be completed.

County Manager Drew Cummings said that he will review what the interns completed this summer when reviewing boards and committees and will use that to bring back some across-the-board recommendations. He noted that he supported that we get in line with what the current by-laws state.

Chair May said that it is important to allow all citizens to serve.

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board appointed Clint Owens (District 5) to the Granville County Human Relations Commission

Motioned by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board appointed Ed Gleason (District 6) to the Human Relations Commission District 5 seat.

District 7 appointment was held as Commissioner Gooch said he did not have an appointment at this time. Commissioner Hinman, District 3, said she needs to review when the terms for the appointments from her district expire.

Board Held Appointments to the Granville County Planning Board

Chair May said that the terms of Howard Tyler, District 4, and Justin Milstead, District 7, have expired. Commissioner Cozart, District 4, said that he hopes to have a name at the next meeting. Commissioner Gooch, District 7 said that he is still working on finding a recommendation.

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

Chair May said that this item is to make appointments to the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Committee for District 1, District 2, District 3, District 4, District 5, District 6, District 7, and At-Large as the names on the agenda document are all up for reappointment.

Commissioner Cozart said that Commissioner Jay had asked him to make a motion to appoint Reverend Reggie Royster for District 1.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board appointed Reverend Reggie Royster (District 1) to the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Committee.

District 2 appointment was held as Commissioner Williford was not in attendance. District 4 appointment was held as Commissioner Cozart did not have a recommendation at this time.

Commissioner Karan said that the terms of Mr. Williams (District 3), Mr. Averette (District 5), Mr. Washburn (District 6), Mr. McFadden (District 7), Ms. Shaeffer (At-Large), as well as Mr. Rote (At-Large), are set to expire, and they would all like to serve and again and need reappointment.

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board reappointed Glenda Williams (District 3), Joshua Averette (District 5), Ivan Washburn (District 6), Michael McFadden (District 7), April Shaeffer (At-Large), and Richard Rote (At-Large) to the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Committee.

Board Approved NCACC Voting Delegate

Chair May announced that Board members are scheduled to participate in the 116th annual NCACC (North Carolina Association of County Commissioners) Conference August 24-26, 2023 in Wake County. A voting delegate and alternate voting delegate need to be selected to represent Granville County during the business session to vote on items that are presented before the membership. The business session will be held on Saturday, August 26, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board approved Commissioner Sue Hinman as the NCACC voting delegate.

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board approved Commissioner Timothy Karan as the NCACC voting delegate alternate.

Board Approved Appointment to the Economic Development Advisory Board

Motioned by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board appointed Charles Noblin, Jr. (District 2 appointed by 6) to the Economic Development Advisory Board.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Expo Center Audiovisual Upgrade Request for Proposal Update

Chair May said that the purpose of this item was to modernize our audiovisual system at the Granville Convention and Expo Center.

Information Technology Director Chris Brame explained that in April of this year, the IT Department issued their first RFP, request for proposal, on the modernization of the Expo Center audio and visual system to add the ability to live stream and record video of each meeting. Due to some time constraints, as the original proposal asked for a tight timeline, an amendment has been added to extend the timeline to get better bids.

Mr. Brame provided the following background information. In June 2023, the Information Technology Department issued a request for proposal to design and implement next-generation audiovisual technology for the Granville County Expo Center. The scope of key requirements include: upgrading the video system to support modern high-definition hardware connections and optimize video and text content; upgrading the audio system to digital, allowing for one-button presets and HD audio quality within the auditorium and meeting room; and installing high-definition camera system to support recording and/or live streaming of public meetings. The request for proposal closed on July 31, 2023, with multiple bids received. To ensure the selection of the proposal meets Granville County's needs now and into the future, the Information Technology department has contacted references and scheduled site visits to evaluate bidders' previous work on similarly scoped projects to provide insight into the quality of the design, implementation, and equipment. Upon completion of this process, the Information Technology Department will provide a recommendation to the Board for the proposal that best aligns with the County's needs. The recommendation is planned for the next Board of Commissioners meeting on September 5, 2023.

Mr. Brame explained that this was presented as an informational item. When asked, he said he had not reviewed any of the locations yet, and that reviews are scheduled for Monday, August 14th. He added that he has reviewed the proposals in detail but wants to be able to visit the sites to demo the equipment being proposed.

County Manager Cummings said that he appreciates the due diligence as this is an important upgrade and we must select the best bidder. He said he thinks that it is a good idea to take a few more weeks.

Chair May wanted to make sure that we are not just looking at cost, but also looking at the long-term solution for the technology.

PLANNING MATTERS

Board Updated on Proposed Text Amendment to Land Development Code

Planning Director Barry Baker said that the purpose of this item was to update Commissioners on a possible change to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and to answer any questions they may have. He provided the following background information. 3

The Granville County Planning Board has directed Planning staff to craft an amendment to the Land Development Code that would increase the minimum lot size in a rural cluster subdivision to 40,000 square feet, require a minimum of 85 feet of road frontage per lot, and change the setbacks for the proposed cluster subdivisions.

Prior to 2007, the minimum lot size for conventional subdivisions was 40,000 square feet which could facilitate on-site wells and septic systems. The cluster subdivisions that have been approved in recent years have generally had lots as low as 30,000 square feet which has led to some of the subdivisions creating community well systems. These well systems may create some challenges and have some benefits, but staff believes that limiting the construction of additional community well systems for the time being and observing the ones under construction may improve our understanding of those costs and benefits. It is believed that the 40,000 square foot lot minimum will reduce the need for community well systems while preserving the positive development impacts of cluster/conservation subdivisions such as open space preservation, water quality improvement in the Falls Lake watershed, sensitive land preservation, and farmland preservation. It should be noted, however, that developers may still request community well system permits from the state regardless of what local lot size limitations exist.

Mr. Baker referenced attachments/illustrations from the county's Comprehensive Land Use Plan of the Creedmoor and Wilton East Concept that were identified during the comprehensive planning process. He said that it is anticipated that the amendment will go to the Planning Board next week to ask the Planning Director to sign an amendment, and it would then be scheduled for a public hearing in September, and likely be before the Board in October.

Commissioner Gooch inquired about the number of approved community well systems. Mr. Baker confirmed that only three, possibly four, subdivisions with community wells have been approved that were identified during the preliminary plat process.

Commissioner Gooch inquired about the status of the process and approval of preliminary plats. Mr. Baker confirmed that the preliminary plats have been approved, and those in the Falls Lake watershed are awaiting stormwater plan approval. Some of the plats may begin grading and land preparation in the next 6 to 9 months.

Commissioner Gooch inquired about the progress of the permit and process with the state for community wells. Mr. Baker stated that he did not have that information yet as they have not yet received final plat approval.

Commissioner Karan asked Mr. Baker if the change would affect the cluster/conservation subdivision practice. Mr. Baker said he thinks it will continue, citing two recent subdivisions, and specifically mentioning Ironwood phase three. He explained that the benefit of this practice is open space preservation and that 30% of a tract is left for that purpose, which the commissioners have approved.

Commissioner Karan noted that this month's county quarterly from the NCACC highlighted that Buncombe County invested \$40 million through a bond to solve their shortage in housing and affordability, adding that Orange County had invested through a bond in 2016 that had set the bar quickly at \$5,000,000. Investments are being made by our county cohorts to try and stave off some of the unaffordability of homes while the price is skyrocketing, but he said that he knows when the county does its tax revaluation it will cause a bunch of heartburn for a lot of people, including himself. He said that with population growth and urban sprawl, he would not like to get away from a cluster/conservation subdivision.

Mr. Baker mentioned that the County has made significant progress in implementing the Comprehensive Land Use Plan that was adopted in late 2018. He explained that the plan includes open space and buffer standards along state roads to maintain the benefits of a cluster/conservation subdivision. Mr. Baker noted that the plan was developed with extensive public outreach and input.

Chair May inquired about the regulation of community wells in the county. Mr. Baker explained that the Planning Department does not regulate this area and that the responsibility falls on the State, with support from the County Health Department.

Discussion ensued about the county's regulatory authority over community wells and the limitations they face in preventing developers from placing community wells in Granville County.

It was mentioned that there is a need for a legislative fix to address this issue and the possibility of working with legislators to find a solution. Board members touched on the topic of regulating the use of blasting agents in development and mentioned ongoing discussions and reviews on this matter. They emphasized the importance of balancing the needs of residents with limited government resources and the responsibility that comes with living in certain areas. Board members also acknowledged the concerns of citizens and assured them that the county is committed to addressing these issues and finding appropriate solutions.

Board Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Granville County Public Schools Supporting Additional School Resource Officers

County Manager Drew Cummings proposed approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Granville County Public Schools (GCPS) to have a School Resource Officer (SRO) in each GCPS school. He said that funding is a challenge, but a joint resolution by both boards could help secure some state funds. The MOU was approved by the school board earlier the same evening.

Mr. Cummings mentioned the need for updated legal agreements regarding School Resource Officers (SROs) but did not want the process to delay a simple MOU expressing a mutual desire for an SRO in each school. The MOU was drafted by the school board's attorney, Ms. Eva DuBuisson, and has been agreeable to all parties involved.

Chair May said that we are hopeful that through an MOU such as this, we will be able to obtain the funding under the Safe Schools Act, along with other grants available through the Justice Department, to be able to place an SRO at every school and work with local jurisdictions along with the Sheriff's Department to place the right SRO at the right school.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board approved the following Memorandum of Understanding with Granville County Public Schools that states the mutual goal of having a School Resource Officer (SRO) in each traditional public school in Granville County:

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
REGARDING
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**

The GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION ("BOARD") and GRANVILLE COUNTY ("COUNTY") hereby agree to the Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the parties' commitment to cooperating in the provision of additional School Resource Officers for Granville County Public Schools:

WHEREAS, the Parties mutually recognize the potential outstanding benefits to the citizens of Granville County, North Carolina, and particularly to the students of the public school system of Granville County, North Carolina, of assigning law enforcement officers to provide security services in the public schools in Granville County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that it would be in the best interest of the County and its public schools to have a school resource officer assigned to each of the 15 traditional public schools within the Granville County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that such resource officers may be employed by the Granville County Sheriff's Office or, where possible, any municipal law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction a particular school falls;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and covenants of the parties hereto herein contained, the Board and the Agencies do hereby agree as follows:

1. The County and Board of Education agree to seek grant funding from the State of North Carolina and other available sources to fund up to seven (7) additional SRO positions, with the goal of providing a dedicated SRO for each school campus within the Granville County Public Schools.
2. The Superintendent and County Manager or their designees will communicate in advance of submitting any application for additional SRO funding, and each party will promptly notify the other of any grants received or funding opportunities available for additional resource officer positions.

3. The Parties agree to enter into specific funding agreements with local law enforcement agencies for the employment of up to seven additional resource officers should funding be secured.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Cummings updated the Board on a meeting held on this date with representatives from CertainTeed that involved County staff, representatives from the Granville-Vance Public Health Department, and City of Oxford staff. CertainTeed's draft air quality permit was discussed. The new plant being built off Industry Drive has the potential to emit hazardous compounds, so they asked DEQ (Division of Environmental Quality) to extend the public comment period. They met with them for about an hour and a half and asked questions regarding permits and the correct procedures in place. County Manager Cummings said that they learned a lot, especially about the historical practices of meeting with, for example, Granville County Emergency Management and the City of Oxford Fire Department, to make sure that emergency planning is in place. Chair May thanked Mr. Cummings for his due diligence and expressed trust in his handling of the matter.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Board Approved Request from Granville Health System to Purchase of 101B Professional Park Drive, Oxford and Granville County Hold Title to the Property

County Attorney Wrenn said that this matter is regarding the Granville Health System (GHS) purchase of 101B Professional Park Drive in Oxford. He mentioned that the GHS Interim CEO Adam McConnell was in attendance. County Attorney Wrenn provided the following background information. This matter pertained to the downstairs unit of 101 Professional Park Drive as last year the upstairs unit was purchased. The upstairs unit is a condominium so by buying this we will be able to combine the 2 units and could choose to do away with the condominium structure. The purchase price for the property is \$925,000 to be paid all with internally generated Granville Health System funds. GHS is not asking for financial support; however, real property owned by the GHS is to be titled in the name of the county. GHS asked that the county agree to accept and hold the title to the real property. The unit is 5466 square feet and owned by Motts Ridge LLC of Raleigh.

County Attorney Wrenn recommended that the Board approve holding the title to 101B Professional Park Drive and noted that GHS has already approved the acquisition subject to the Board's approval.

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, second by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board approved the request from Granville Health System to purchase the property at 101B Professional Park Drive, Oxford consisting of a 5,466 square feet condominium space from Motts Ridge, LLC at the cost of \$925,000 using existing Granville Health System funding and approved Granville County to hold title to the property.

Commissioner Karan commented that Granville Health System is a four-star hospital under CMS guidelines for Overall Quality Ratings and has done outstanding work.

Chair May commented that three new Granville County ambulance units have arrived.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney Wrenn said that he has one economic development matter for closed session privilege pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §143-318.11(a)(4).

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Hinman reported that she recently attended the NACo conference in Austin where she met many commissioners, and she also attended the DSS conference in Hickory. She

mentioned the pending Medicaid expansion program and expressed concerns about the changes it will bring to DSS (Department of Social Services) workers.

Chair May predicted a significant impact on Child Protective Services and Vaya. County Manager Cummings said that he had tasked Interim Director Dana Mustain-Lyles with preparing a memo outlining the department's preparations for the new responsibility and that the county office will review the DSS plans.

Commissioner Cozart expressed his agreement with Commissioner Hinman's concerns about the pending Medicaid expansion and its likely effects on the staff at DSS.

Board Approved Purchase of Sign for Toler-Oak Hill Community

Commissioner Cozart stated that Commissioner Jay had requested a recommendation to purchase a sign for the Toler-Oak Hill Community's 200-year celebration for a maximum of \$600.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board approved the purchase of a sign for the Toler-Oak Hill Community commemorating its 200th anniversary for an amount not to exceed \$600 from the commissioners' discretionary fund.

Board Presentations Continue

Commissioner Cozart noted that Commissioner Karan previously mentioned the successes of the Granville Health System, and he added that the hospital going from a two- to a four-star CMS rating did not happen by chance. He commended Interim CEO Adam McConnell and the hospital staff for their work.

Commissioner Karan asked Emergency Services Director Jason Reavis about the next Fire Commission meeting. Mr. Reavis informed him that the meeting is on Tuesday, August 8th at 6:00 p.m., noting that this is a special called meeting and that the Fire Commission meetings are held quarterly. Commissioner Karan mentioned concerns expressed regarding equitable fire tax distribution for Brassfield and urged citizens to voice their opinions at the Fire Commission meeting.

Chair May said that the Fire Commission has been in place for a year and has focused on contracts, operational budgets, and placing a firefighter on every fire truck in the county volunteer departments. They exhausted the \$1.8 million in funding, with \$1.2 million going to operational funding for 12 volunteer fire departments and two full-time departments. They are now looking at equitable funding and going through the current budget. The Fire Commission hopes to address the matter next year with ample funding to include everyone on a fire truck. The amount of operational funding has increased per fire department, and the Board hopes that the Fire Commission brings recommendations for equitable funding.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

No further matters were reported.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board went into closed session as allowed by N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) for an economic development matter.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board returned to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, 5-0, the Board adjourned at 10:49 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Russ May, Chair