

GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JULY 10, 2023
GRANVILLE EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTER
4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford, North Carolina

PRESENT:

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chair Russ May called the meeting to order. Commissioner Zelodis Jay had the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Russ May read the following excerpt from the Declaration of Independence.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Chair May said that after reading our declaration he was reminded that freedom is not free, and reminded of a quote by author, P. McCree Thornton, "For those who have fought for it, freedom has a flavor the protected will never know."

He explained that the cost of freedom requires great sacrifice, and then read the following fact about some of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and

burned. Two lost their sons in the revolutionary army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

He said that he hopes that each person took the time in the past week to think about the greatness of our land, and the sacrifices of those so that we can enjoy our freedom and the liberties our great country provides to us all. He lived and served abroad and said that he can attest that there is no greater nation, that we are exceptional and still the envy of the world. He added that we are not perfect, and we have and will continue to work to improve our great union, but we are truly blessed to live in America and to be called Americans.

Commissioner Cozart commented on saying the Pledge of Allegiance as a child when he probably did not know what it truly meant at that time, but as an adult, he knows America has truly been a land of opportunity for him and he is grateful for the opportunity.

Chair Karan said that in preparation for the meeting, he re-read Frederick Douglas’ Rochester, New York speech given in 1852 and was moved to think how some classes were not considered in the Constitution. He said that whether you are talking about any despot, past and present, it is time to start reading, rereading, and teaching those quotes, and teaching our children about the soiled parts of our history so that they can better understand our present and better prepare for our future.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair May asked that the mileage and condition of vehicles be added to future surplus vehicles agenda items.

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

A. Approved declaring the following vehicles as surplus to be sold via online auction platform:

Sheriff’s Department

- 2011 Dodge Charger - VIN # - 0100
- 2010 Ford E-350 Van - VIN # - 6839
- 2015 Dodge Charger - VIN # -2971

B. Approved tax refunds, releases, and write-offs:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| • Refunds | May 20223: | \$ 559.83 |
| • Releases | May 2023: | \$5,644.22 |
| • Write-offs (\$2 and less) | May 2023: | \$ 33.44 |

C. Approved the following *Resolution to Revise the Granville County Personnel Policy* that adopts revisions to the Granville County Personnel Policy dated July 10, 2023 effective immediately upon adoption.

RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE GRANVILLE COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY

WHEREAS, the Granville County Board of Commissioners (the “County Board”) recognizes the importance of employees in meeting the needs of Granville County residents; and

WHEREAS, periodic updates to personnel policies are necessary in order to address the County’s changing needs, to provide additional clarification on the application of specific policies, and/or to reflect the most current employment law legislation; and

WHEREAS, personnel policies may be adopted and amended at the discretion of the County Board, subject to applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of personnel policies is to provide guidance regarding the fair and consistent administration of personnel, but neither any contract nor implied contract rights are created hereby; and

WHEREAS, proposed revisions to the Granville County Personnel Policy for Articles III, V, VI, VII, and IX have been prepared and/or reviewed by county administration, human resources, and the county attorney; and

WHEREAS, County employees were given an opportunity to review the proposed amendments and to submit comments during the period of April 17 – 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the county manager recommends that the Board of County Commissioners adopt revisions to the Granville County Personnel Policy dated July 10, 2023 effective immediately upon adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS THAT THE RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO THE GRANVILLE COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY ARE HEREBY ADOPTED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

D. Approved minutes:

- October 3, 2022 Regular Meeting
- October 17, 2022 Regular Meeting
- October 26, 2021 Emergency Meeting

INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Recognition Of Vivian Oney for ACIM Volunteer Service

Commissioner Hinman, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, presented Vivian Oney the following proclamation. Ms. Oney recently received a Governor’s Award for her volunteer service. Ms. Oney made comments.

**Proclamation in Recognition and Appreciation of
Volunteerism for Vivian Oney**

Whereas, the words loyal, trustworthy, reliable, hardworking, and selflessness are just a few of the words to describe the outstanding strength of a Stalwart Volunteer, but these are the exact words that summarize the character of Vivian Oney. Her caring nature and steadfast spirit have been unshakable in her work for ACIM; and

Whereas, since 1985, the mission focus of the nonprofit organization Area Congregations in Ministry (ACIM) has been the welfare of the community, but in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created unimaginable challenges. However, contributors and supporters of ACIM rose to the challenge with their generous contributions, and ACIM was glad to already have Vivian Oney on board; and

Whereas, Vivian made it her self-appointed task to ensure all contributors and supporters knew how much their kindness was appreciated, even down to her personally buying the stamps and stuffing the envelopes. Dedicated, she sent letters and thank you acknowledgments to assure them that their donations were helping those with food insecurities, and others with unforeseen challenges; and

Whereas, Vivian’s simple gesture of “pitching in” one day to help in a time of need, turned into a span of over ten years. Her push to make sure the contributors and supporters were acknowledged, no doubt helped keep the donations coming into ACIM, because it is human nature to feel appreciated, and Vivian’s goal to let them know, put the ACIM Board at ease; and

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NOW, AND THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, THAT the Granville County Commissioners with indebted gratitude and appreciation, give recognition to Vivian Oney for her tireless and diligent service to the Area Congregations in Ministry (ACIM) and the people of Granville County.

Board Approved JCPC County Plan and Membership List for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Reverend Tolokun Omokunde thanked the Board for the recent proclamation presented to him at his retirement celebration. As Chair for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Rev. Omokunde made the following comments. He referred to the executive summary included in the agenda packing, stating that they funded the same organizations as they did last year. He said that the organizations all demonstrated very extreme work and held the care and concern of our youth as their main standard, which is why they funded them for this year. He then referred to the membership roster as well.

Chair May asked how many SRO referrals JCPC received last year. Rev Omokunde replied that they know that the SROs increased last year due to the network that was put together with the Sheriff's office as well as the school system, and they will get the exact figure to the Board.

Chair May asked how many referrals were received from Granville County Public Schools. Rev. Omokunde replied that approximately 40 referrals were received based on the reports presented to them at their meetings.

Chair May asked if there are any areas in the referral process that need to be improved. Rev. Omokunde replied that they worked diligently on getting the referrals to be a lot faster, how the information is received and reported; and that those matters were improved. He added that they were able to work on that matter by filling vacancies on their council which allowed them to have people focus on certain areas. In particular, he mentioned that the county school board sent Dr. Norfleet who then charged her social workers to get moving faster which resulted in faster SRO and social worker referrals from the school system and social workers, adding that the social workers developed a good relationship working relationship with court counselors.

Chair May asked if they had received any assistance and if so if they were happy with the assistance from Vaya. Rev. Omokunde said addressing challenges of drug substance abuse and mental health are new for them, and that they are working through that. He added that they have village programs that go into the homes and do psychological assessments of students and gather new information. He emphasized that they are going to work with Vaya more in the future, in addition to school social workers and the village program.

Chair May remarked that he hopes that we can see more referrals from both our SROS and Granville County Public Schools, in addition to working with Vaya on collecting the low-hanging fruit so that we can get more mental health treatment and substance abuse awareness activities ongoing within our schools from available resources that are there. He thanked the JCPC for their hard work.

Chair May clarified that the Board accepted the proposed budget in a prior meeting and emphasized that this matter was for approving the funding plan and the membership list.

Chair May recommended that the new Creedmoor Police Chief Troy Willis be added to the recommended list in the agenda packet.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the addition of Creedmoor Police Chief Troy Willis as a JCPC member in the Chief of Police position.

Commissioner Karan noted that as a representative of the Cooperative Extension, he knows and wants to make the public aware that this is a quarter-million-dollar entity and that the county puts in about \$30,000, most of which comes through the 4-H Best which encompasses those JCPC programs such as 4-H Best, He Matters, and She Matters programs. He thanked Cooperative Extension Director Charissa Puryear.

Chair May thanked Mr. Eddie Crews for his work with JCPC.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the JCPC County Funding Plan in the amount of \$180,837, with a County match of \$37,772, an in-kind match of \$28,060, and other funds in the amount of \$2,347 for a total of \$249,016; and the following membership roster for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council for fiscal year 2023-2024:

**JCPC Committee Members
2023-2024**

Laquitia Cozart	System of Care Coordinator	Managed Care
LaJuana Norfleet	Director of Student & Support Services	School Superintendent or Designee
Benji Laws	School Resource Officer	Local Sheriff or Designee
Nicole Grant	Chief Court Counselor	Chief Court Counselor or Designee
Dana Mustian-Lyles	Interim DSS Director	Director DSS or Designee
Vacant		County Manager or Designee
Alvin Downing		Member of Faith Community
Robery Williford	County Commissioner	
Samantha Branch	Guardian Ad Litem	GAL Supervisor
Gina Reyman	Legal Aid Attorney	Juvenile Defense Attorney
Katherine Burnette	District Court Judge	Chief District Judge or Designee
Tina Cheek	Oxford Parks & Recreation	Rep. Parks and Recreation
Leroy Anderson	County Commissioner Appointee	District 1
Alex Fonvielle	County Commissioner Appointee	District 2
Elliott Carver	County Commissioner Appointee	District 3
Dr. Tolokun Omokunde	County Commissioner Appointee	District 4
Jessica Laws	County Commissioner Appointee	District 5
Eduardo Sosa	County Commissioner Appointee	District 6
Vacant	County Commissioner Appointee	District 7
Yolando Oxendine-starting August	Substance Abuse Professional	Substance Abuse Professional
Jenelle Brizendine-starting August	Families Living Violence Free	Families Living Violence Free
Vacant	Member of Business Community	
Vacant	Social Worker	Local Health Director of Designee
Vacant	Two Persons under age 21	
Vacant	Two Persons under age 21	
Troy Willis	Chief of Police Creedmoor	Chief of Police
Vacant	District Attorney	
Vacant	Substance Abuse Professional	
Staff		
Eddie Crews	NC Dept. of Public Safety Juvenile Justice	
Drew Cummings	Granville County Manager	
Melissa Averett	JCPC Administrative Coordinator	

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Blalock, 1593 Tally Ho Road, Stem, NC, said he received a letter from Kerr-Tar COG regarding the public information hearing at the Stem Fire Department about the Stem ETJ, which he attended. He said that at the meeting he asked who gets to make the final decision regarding the Stem ETJ and learned that it would be in the hands of this board. He noted he has attended five meetings against the ETJ. He stated his opposition and asked the Board to vote no when it comes before them.

Mark Tilley, 1601 Tally Ho Road, Stem, NC, expressed his opposition. He said that there are people who have lived there for generations and people who have moved there to get away from city life and that the people do not want the Stem ETJ. He asked the Board to consider that the people do not want it.

Nathan Frund, 3257 Tump Wilkins Road, Stem, NC, quoted Stephen Hopkins who when signing the Declaration of Independence said, "My hand trembles, but my heart does not." Mr. Frund then posed the question, "What if you were told that when it comes to the Stem ETJ there is a crisis of trust?" He yielded the rest of his time.

Tim Hosford, 1582 Easy Street, Stem, NC, said that he has been helping against this ETJ, has talked to numerous people about it, and said that many do not know what it is about. He said a lot of people are clueless about what it actually means.

Lori Spruill, 1695 Mineral Springs Road, Stem, NC, thanked the Board for allowing time to speak. She said they live in the area where they want to do the ETJ. She said Stem has done a poor job of informing people in the last four months and said that residents have not had time to get their information together and understand what it is. She said that while listening to the Board

meeting, she noticed that the Board is informed, does its research, and listens. She thanked the Board again for the opportunity to speak, stated her opposition, and said she hoped the Board would vote against it.

Carolyn Kearney, 1687 Mineral Springs Road, Stem, NC, said that she has lived at her address for 37 years. She said when you are older it is hard to move around. She said she is against Stem ETJ.

Carsyn Woelk, 2047 Stoneridge Drive, Stem, NC, said that this would cause harm to their small lawn care business as they would have to pave the road. She asked the Board to consider small businesses when making their decision.

Jaycee Georgiev, 1174 Smith Creek Way, NC, said that she wanted to make the board aware of a six-part circulating petition and explained: (Part 1) restore the one-acre minimum lot size in the watershed; (Part 2) ban community wells in Falls Lake watershed and other areas with existing private wells; (Part 3) a building moratorium for health and safety assessment as allowed North Carolina General Statute § 160D-107; (Part 4) adopting of a well interference ordinance; (Part 5) no use of explosives to grade land for new development; and (Part 6). equitable fire tax distribution for Brassfield Fire Department.

Shannon Fleming, 1991 Idlewood Drive, Stem, NC, said that she is opposed to the Stem ET J. She said that she is a Democrat and is the Third Vice-President of the Granville County Democratic Party. She said she comes to the commissioners' meetings often to keep up with what is going on. She said that she had heard people talk at this meeting and at the Stem Town Hall and other community meetings. She mentioned that a portion of the Declaration of Independence was read earlier in the meeting, and she said that it was based on the indisputable rights that every person deserves. She noted that the Stem ETJ would not give those within the ETJ the right to vote. She encouraged the Board to vote against the Stem ETJ and every other ETJ that comes before them.

Jamie Harr, 3213 Serenity Drive, Stem, NC, said he has been a resident for over 25 years and he and his wife are veterans. He said he is opposed to the Stem ETJ. He thinks it would put an extreme burden on retirees. He mentioned the road provisions.

Paul Willis, 1190 Little Mountain Road, Stem, NC, said he is within one mile of the ETJ. He said he has a lot of animals. He said people vote for commissioners and said he is strongly opposed to the Stem ETJ. He said he does not want to pave his driveway and his barn is bigger than a modular. He said people need more time to be informed.

Brad Oldenburg, 6588 Huntsboro Road, Oxford, NC, said he comes to most meetings and thanked people for participating in the process and making their voices known. He challenged those present to stay and find out what is going on in the County. He noted that Board members may address matters later in the meeting.

Benjamin Sanders, 2042 Stoneridge Drive, Stem, NC, opposed the Stem ETJ and expressed his frustration with the difficulties he faced as a small landowner in the United States. He shared his experiences of struggling to build a house due to numerous laws and regulations, and his belief that these obstacles are designed to discourage small landowners. He also shared his experience with a squatter who stole his tools. Sanders also spoke about his love for nature, his efforts to preserve endangered plants on his property, and his belief that the government wants to make land ownership so expensive and discouraging that only the wealthy can afford it. He urged others to raise their voices against these injustices, comparing the situation to the displacement of Native Americans.

Howard Bullock, Route 1, Stem, NC, said his land was left to him and he has lived there for 73 years. He said he is opposed to the Stem ETJ as he will be told what to do with his land and he will not have any representation.

Casey Dover, 312 Coachmans Trail, Mayor of Stem, NC, said had not intended to speak, but that he has listened to the comments and that they are all incorrect. He said if you look you will see that most of the driveways in Stem, they are gravel driveways. Stem's UDO extends paving to concrete, asphalt and stone which is rock and acceptable. He said that Railroad Street is about to be paved by NCDOT because they are under contract to do so. He said they want to encourage small businesses. He said they want to protect the borders and keep the developers from going crazy. He said they held information sessions. He said they mailed about 600 notices and 58- 60 were returned. He said that the Stem ETJ aligns with the County in many areas and people need to check the facts. The UDO aligns with the County unless you decide you want to build or develop. He announced that there is a public hearing on Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. at the Stem Ruritan Club

Commissioner Karan asked for clarification about the modular homes, single-wide trailers, and animals in the ETJ.

Mayor Dover said they will be able to continue with gravel driveways, chickens, goats, and hunting in the ETJ. He said phasing out of single-wide trailers is for town limits and those already in the town limits will be grandfathered in. Rural life as it exists will continue as such.

GRANT MATTERS

Board Approved Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Parks, Greenways, And Recreation Mini-Grants

Deputy County Manager Korena Weichel presented the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation mini-grants on behalf of the Parks and Grounds Department. She provided the following background information. The Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Advisory Committee (PGRAC) conducts an annual mini-grant program with a maximum award of \$25,000 per application for projects that align with the goals of the Recreation Master Plan. The program's objective is to provide recreation to as many residents as possible, especially in areas of the county that are underserved by recreation opportunities or those that have not received prior grant funding. For fiscal 2023-2024, six applications were received for a total cost of approximately \$61,500. The PGRAC reviewed each application in detail to determine if the proposed project fit within the program goals and grant guidelines. From that review, the PGRAC selected four projects to recommend for complete or partial funding at a total cost of \$38,795.96. She read the recommended list of projects and explained that Funding is available in the FY 2023-2024 Budget Mini-Grant Program budget line.

When asked about the application timelines, she said that she believes it is open for a month between December and January, and that they are due at the end of January. She stated she could get the exact dates for the Board.

When asked about the 2022-2023 disbursements, Deputy County Manager Weichel provided the following background information. Last year the town of Butner applied for almost \$15,000 and they built an ADA set and put rubber matting at the Butner Athletic Park. The City of Creedmoor received \$25,000 for a community sports plaza for a concrete pad that they've installed at the Memorial Park for outdoor basketball, pickleball, and outdoor fitness; the City of Oxford received \$5,000 to purchase new equipment and replace the outdated equipment; the Town of Stem received \$25,000 for playground equipment at their park; Hawley Middle School received almost \$5,600 for baseball/softball field improvement; and South Granville High School received \$7,500 for softball field improvements and to purchase some equipment.

Commissioner Karan provided the following historical references. The mini-grant program started about fifteen to twenty years ago. Historically, just about all the applications brought forward were approved. A couple of applications had been tabled because they were for projects that were already being planned for elsewhere in the budget. Much of the money has gone to school system play areas.

Commissioners made multiple comments about the advantages of the mini-grants that can be seen in parks across the county, walking paths, shelters, playgrounds, and more. They encouraged the community to apply.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the applications and funding for the fiscal year 2023-2024 Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Mini-Grants as follows:

Applicant	Project	Amount
Town of Butner	Playground shade structure at Butner Athletic Park	\$15,000.00
City of Creedmoor	Improvements to Creedmoor Memorial Park (soccer goals and fencing around multi-purpose field)	\$7,925.40
Town of Stovall	Picnic tables and benches for Stovall Community Park	\$6,263.00
Treasures of Joy	Trail and community garden with street access at 222 Granville and 312 Sycamore Streets in Oxford.	\$9,607.56
Total		\$38,795.96

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Board Approved Wireless Technology Infrastructure Installation Granville County Courthouse

Scott Phillips, Development Services Director, stated this request considers awarding a fixed-price service contract for the installation of CAT6 cabling needed for wireless technology within the Granville County Courthouse. He provided the following background information. In March of 2023, the North Carolina Administrative Offices of the Courts (NCAOC) conducted a radio frequency study of the Granville County Courthouse to determine the design objectives needed to support a wireless technology system (Wi-Fi) to accommodate their virtual court system platform, also known as WAVE Solution. NCAOC is responsible for deploying the WAVE solution in all courthouses statewide. NCAOC’s project will fund the hardware, installation, configuration, and integration services needed to activate the new wireless network within the courthouse; however, NCAOC requested assistance in funding the CAT6 cable installation. NCAOC’s preferred master service agreement contractor, Presidio Networked Solutions, LLC, conducted the radio frequency assessment and has provided NCAOC with a not-to-exceed price proposal of \$20,100.00 for the CAT6 cable installation. Mr. Phillips recommended awarding the fixed-price service contract to NCAOC in the amount not to exceed \$20,100.00 unless by authorized change order. Funding exists in the 2023-24 fiscal year to accommodate this request.

When asked, Mr. Phillips confirmed this is the latest technology.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board approved awarding the fixed-price contract to North Carolina Administrative Offices of the Court for an amount not to exceed \$20,100.00 unless by authorized change order for wireless technology infrastructure installation at Granville County Courthouse.

APPOINTMENTS

Board Held Appointment of Members to the Granville County Planning Board

Commissioner Cozart, District 4, and Commissioner Gooch, District 7, did not have recommendations and the appointments were held.

Board Approved Appointments to the Oxford Planning Board – Extraterritorial Members

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board reappointed Tony Woodlief (at-large Northwest) and appointed Neil Gresham (District 1) to the Oxford Planning Board as extraterritorial members.

Board Approved Appointment to the Vance-Granville Community College Board Of Trustees

Chair May said that the purpose of this item is to make an appointment to the Board of Trustees of Vance-Granville Community College. He provided the following background information. Keith Shearon (District 6) was appointed at the June 19, 2023 meeting to fill the vacancy created by Deborah Butler’s resignation. The statute says Trustees cannot have worked full-time for the

college in the past 5 years. Keith Shearon had worked full-time within the past 5 years and thus was ineligible to serve.

Commissioner Williford stated that he received an application from Ms. Sabine Stovall.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the appointment of Sabine Stovall to the Vance-Granville Community College Board of Trustees.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Board Approved the Expenditure Authorization for the Opioid Settlement

Terry Hobgood Granville County staff member and member of the Opioid Advisory Committee presented this agenda item. He provided the following background information. Granville County created an Opioid Advisory Committee in 2018 to advance a comprehensive response to opioid and other drug use and its harmful impacts on the community. In 2021, Granville County signed on to Wave I of the National Opioid Settlement resulting from a lawsuit filed against the major manufacturers and distributors of opioid products in the United States. Wave II was approved in 2023 and the combined funding from both waves will direct \$6,867,284 to Granville County through 2039 to fund programs and services. Granville County began receiving payments in 2022 and we have already placed \$492,696 in a separate revenue fund. An additional \$939,133 is expected during fiscal year 2023-2024.

All funding received because of the National Opioid Settlement is subject to guidelines included in the North Carolina Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The MOA states that the Board of Commissioners must allocate all funds through a formal board action and stipulate a dollar amount and timeframe for each allowable funding strategy.

Before a recommendation could be made to the Board of Commissioners, the Opioid Advisory Committee conducted its due diligence and evaluated best practices and advice from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and other peer counties. As stipulated in the MOA, the Opioid Advisory Committee has sought significant public input with a survey and two public engagement sessions held in Oxford in March and Creedmoor in May. Officials from all Granville County municipalities were invited to attend and share their priorities for funding as well.

As a result of these public engagement efforts, the Granville County community has led the Opioid Advisory Committee to the next step of allocating funds for this critical work. In acknowledgment of the considerable time and energy necessary to implement or expand programs and manage millions of dollars of regulatorily complex grant funding, the committee has recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve initial funding of \$105,000 for a full-time employee to manage the oversight of revenues and expenditures associated with the National Opioid Settlement, implement and monitor programs, develop and administer regular Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to potential sub-recipients, develop and ensure contract requirements are being met, and manage the ongoing community education and engagement efforts necessary to properly and effectively utilize this funding. County Administration staff recommend that this position be housed at Granville-Vance Public Health and GVPH Director Lisa Harrison is supportive of this model. This will provide a future opportunity to cost-share funding for this position with Vance County in upcoming fiscal years in service of the entire regional public health district.

In addition to the proposed Opioid Coordinator position, the committee has also recommended the allocation of \$5,000 in settlement funds to develop a public education effort to inform residents of the existing programs and services in place to prevent, treat, or aid in recovery from opioid use disorder. Additional authorization of funding will be needed for future expenditures as the Opioid Advisory Committee proposes eligible projects and issues and reviews RFPs for services and programs.

After comments and discussion about this important issue, the Board took action.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following resolution to direct the expenditure of Opioid Settlement funding in the amount of \$105,000 to provide initial funding for a full-time employee to coordinate and implement strategies and programs to combat the opioid epidemic in Granville County during the settlement funding's life cycle and to fund additional public engagement efforts.

**RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF
OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS BY THE GRANVILLE
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS Granville County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals;

WHEREAS the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and certain bankruptcy resolutions ("Opioid Settlement Funds") are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation ("MOA");

WHEREAS Granville County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA;

WHEREAS section E.6 of the MOA states:

E.6. Process for drawing from special revenue funds.

- a. Budget item or resolution required. Opioid Settlement Funds can be used for a purpose when the Governing Body includes in its budget or passes a separate resolution authorizing the expenditure of a stated amount of Opioid Settlement Funds for that purpose or those purposes during a specified period of time.
- b. Budget item or resolution details. The budget or resolution should (i) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; (ii) state the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy, and (iii) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in alignment with the NC MOA, Granville County authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

1. First strategy authorized:
 - a. Name of strategy: **Collaborative Strategic Planning**
 - b. Strategy is included in **Exhibit A**
 - c. Item number in Exhibit A to the MOA: **Strategy 1**¹⁰
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: **\$105,000**
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date July 10, 2023 through End date June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: The Granville County Opioid Advisory Committee supports and recommends the creation of a full-time staff position to manage the Opioid Settlement funds, develop and evaluate programs for services that may utilize current and future funding streams, work with community partners and providers, and develop new strategic partnerships throughout the funding lifecycle. Initial funding for the first fiscal year is estimated to not exceed \$100,000, Additional funding (*no* more than \$5,000) will also be utilized for printing public engagement materials at the direction of the Opioid Advisory Committee.
 - g. Provider: Granville County Government Administration and Granville-Vance Public Health Department

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$105,000.00.

The Board asked the County Manager to expedite this process as quickly as possible.

DEQ Requests for Comments on Proposed CertainTeed Expansion

Chair May stated that this matter is to inform the public of a request for public comment on a draft air quality permit request for CertainTeed LLC's Oxford Facility. He read the following background information. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's (NC DEQ) Division of Air Quality is now accepting public comment on a draft air quality permit for CertainTeed LLC – Oxford Facility, a new fiberglass mat manufacturing facility in Granville County. The public comment period will end on July 27, 2023. This information is being distributed to churches, local governments, health care facilities, childcare centers, multi-family housing, and community centers in the area who may be interested in posting or sharing this information in the community. The Granville County Board of Commissioners wants to make sure the public is aware of this permit request. The County Commissioners are seeking expert input on this matter and will submit comments of their own but want to make sure the public has the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed permit as well.

County Manager Drew Cumming provided more information. He explained that when the County Office received this request for public comment, it was forwarded to our Emergency Management Department, and to the Granville-Vance Public Health Department, for them to also consider any comments they might independently want to submit. Due to the significance of a potential air quality issue and change in potential air quality, the County Office wanted to bring it to the attention of the community beyond what the NCDEQ's own efforts might achieve. Copies of the press release and the information sheet were shared with the County and would be made available to the public in other ways as well. Any citizen, or any organization, is entitled to submit comments. He encouraged people to check out the fact sheet, read up on the information, and consider what questions or thoughts they might have about it.

Chair May asked to clarify that we will be providing, through the County Office and the County Manager's interaction, some questions regarding emissions and fallout and things of that nature, questions that provide us with reasonable responses that all the necessary mitigation and necessary DEQ matters are resolved to meet the permitting. County Manager Cummings confirmed.

Chair May stated that no action is needed on this item other than the Board agrees that they will take the necessary steps to interact with the county office to put together public comments and will also get together with the City Manager of Oxford to get some feedback from them to see if they have any concerns and to work with others as well. He noted that CertainTeed is a valuable resource to Granville County and wants to make sure that voices are heard and that appropriate response is made to DEQ.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

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County Manager Cummings did not have any further items.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney Jim Wrenn did not have any items.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Karan said that the Historical Society at the Harris Exhibit Hall is featuring a local artist named Elizabeth Donahue who lives in District 5 now. He encouraged people to visit the exhibit. He said that District 6 has three committee appointments, the Economic Development Commission and Human Relations Commission, available and encouraged interested people to

visit granvillecounty.org to view those committees, and others that the county offers, and to submit their applications.

Commissioner Gooch thanked everyone for coming out and speaking their mind. He said that the opioid problem has really weighed on his mind heavily as there does not seem to be any clear-cut solution to a crisis that is so wide and varied. He said that is very frustrating, but if we can save one life, it will be worth the effort. He said he wants to be sure that we spend the money in a way that's most effective, and that it is a tough road for the people who are addicted.

Commissioner Jay thanked everyone who came out and spoke in public comments. He said that the Board is truly listening, and he thanked them for what they are doing. Regarding the opioid settlement, he said that more money is coming down but every day we wake up and somebody has overdosed. He also mentioned that he has committee openings including the Animal Control Advisory Committee. He thanked everyone for their work on the budget.

Commissioner Williford did not make any comments.

Commissioner Hinman asked everyone to keep our Library Director's teenage son in their prayers as he is dealing with cancer. She said that she would be at the Wednesday night Stem ETJ meeting. She said that she would be going back to Austin, Texas for the NACo (National Association of Counties) conference and that she learned a lot in the past meetings. She said it is important that the people come to the meetings and speak their minds so that the commissioners know what the people are thinking. She added that in the time she has been on the Board, she has not seen the room as full except for one other time.

Commissioner Cozart greeted everyone in attendance. He expressed the Board's condolences to the Mount. Vernon Baptist Church, Pastor Eric Morgan's family, and his congregation. He explained that Pastor Morgan had very suddenly passed away and noted that he had been so nice to invite public service officials out to church services for about the last ten years or so. He commended the library staff on having well-planned educational activities for kids during the summertime. He offered prayers for the Library Director and his son.

Chair May said that we have made a lot of progress in our volunteer fire department fire contracts as well and that contracts will allow for additional funding based on the equitable distribution recommendation made by the fire consultant. He said that he, Commissioner Karan, and Commissioner Cozart met with the Sheriff in the past week, and the Sheriff believes that by the end of July, he would have most of his detention officers and deputy positions filled or close to being filled. He said that the Sheriff credited the County for working out the process to raise funding for public safety personnel. He congratulated new Granville County Public School Superintendent Stan Winborne and noticed that Danielle Hayes, a Board of Education member, was in attendance. He said that they are working with the School Board on a commitment to gain additional funding from the legislature regarding the School Safety Act in hopes of ascertaining more funding for School Resource Officers for Granville County. He noted that Stem ETJ has not come before the County and said that he makes a point to listen and he knows that the people do not want the ETJ. He said that he hopes the people can trust the Board to make an informed decision. He said that hopefully soon the building will be wired up to livestream the meetings. He expounded on how the opioid crisis has personally affected his two nephews and said that as someone who worked in law enforcement for 32 years, he has never seen anything quite as possessive as opioid addiction. He emphasized that opioid addiction affects every family and that one out of four families will have an interaction with this addiction. He mentioned that Board of Education member Ms. Hayes will be joining him to work with Vaya, Granville County Public Schools, and state legislature in developing a task force that will look at individual education plans for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He noted that there was a discussion with Altec Industries regarding expanding the CTE (Career and Technical Education) Program there.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board went into closed session as allowed by N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6) for personnel matters.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Russ May, Chair