

GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 17, 2023
GRANVILLE EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTER
4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford, North Carolina

PRESENT:

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

County Manager Drew Cummings
Assistant 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 Robert Williford had the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Approved the purchase of 11 Phillips Heartstart FRX AEDs (automated external defibrillators) from Bound Tree Medical at a cost totaling \$16,172.79 from Duke Energy Foundation grant funds.**
- B. Approved the rescission of the Computer Refresh/Replacement Program that was previously adopted August 8, 2022.**
- C. Approved Minutes:**
 - June 20, 2023 Regular Meeting
 - June 30, 2023 Emergency Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rusty Corley, 1533 Lawrence Road, Creedmoor, NC, said that Brian Ward also signed up for public comments. Mr. Ward yielded his time to Mr. Corley. Mr. Corley made the following comments and presented a copy to the Clerk:

I live in the Brassfield Community. I'm a lifelong citizen of Granville County and this community.

I know most of you personally but for those of you that I do not, a little bit about myself and my family:

I'm married to a wonderful wife for almost 13 years, and we have two young boys. I've previously served Granville County for over 15 years as a Deputy Sheriff, I've served on Granville County Search and Recovery for over 13 years as a Board member and Squad Captain, I've been a member of the Creedmoor Lyon's Club, I've served on 7 different boards or commissions, some of which were elected, or County Commissioner appointed. All were public safety related except for one.

I've most recently served on the Emergency Services Committee, the Fire Service Sub-Committee and as Secretary for the Fire Tax Commission. I've been a Volunteer Firefighter for Brassfield Volunteer Fire Department for 18 years. My wife has been a Paramedic for Granville County for 18 years and her father was a longtime volunteer Fire Chief.

So you can clearly see that service to Our citizens and Public Safety in Granville County, is something My family very dearly appreciates.

I am here tonight to speak to you on behalf of Brassfield Volunteer Fire Department. We recently held a community meeting at our station, as Our Bylaws suggest we try to at least once a year. I am extremely proud of the effort by members to organize the meeting and the professionalism shown throughout conducting the meeting. Our goal of the meeting was to use fact based only material that We complied, to educate the citizens of our Fire District of the new Fire Tax and the future needs of Our Department.

We as I am sure each of you constantly get asked questions regarding the Fire Tax and often the information is not correct. We are often asked questions such as: what took you so long to get here, especially at the further ends of Our district. We have citizens that think Our Department is fully staffed with paid members because a Fire Tax is now in place. We get asked questions concerning infrastructure, such as when does Our Department plan to build a station in the further southern part of the district. Many were shocked to learn; we cannot afford to. Many were also shocked to learn that our newest first out Fire Truck is a 2008 model and following that the second out Fire Truck is a 1994 and Our Tanker is a 1998. All three would respond to a structure fire and that's what we must use. It is recommended by the NFPA that after 15 years if a truck is still in usable service, it be placed in reserve status. But we clearly cannot do that with current fire trucks and to equipment them, costing anywhere from \$550,000 to \$800,000 dollars, depending on what type of truck you need to replace.

We have been very good financial stewards with the limited resources we've had to work with for many years. We cannot sustain but for so long and cannot keep up with the growth and demand of Our Fire District and Community. All it takes is for something to happen to one of those Fire Trucks, for example. Numerous times we have had to borrow Fire Trucks from other Departments due to break downs, just to keep coverage and safety to our community. We have been fortunate that trucks were available to be borrowed during those times.

We however in a county with around 62,000 residents have 11,400 citizens give or take, living in Our six-mile district alone. We by far have the most populated fire district, even exceeding municipalities in Our County. We ran 502 calls for service last year alone and we have had years we ran 600 or more calls for service, prior to changes with dispatching calls at the 911 center. We were already aware and told during Our last State Insurance Inspection, we needed a second station to be built in the further southern part of Our district. This would help improve response times, help homeowners with insurance coverage rates but most importantly further help save lives/property and keep Our community safe.

I want to be clear in We are not trying to be unreasonable and understand the current struggles to change much as things currently stand. We are aware of the struggles of establishing a Fire Tax and getting it implemented to start providing a slight increase in funding and one paid personnel at each participating station. As the largest district in the County, along comes the largest need. The citizens are expecting it of us and the County, and we expect it of ourselves because we know the needs that are there and as volunteers, it hurts us to not be able to provide what is needed. We personally feel that equal funding across the board in the long-term picture, cannot work. We will never be able to keep up with the growth if things remain that way.

We just simply ask that as things do change in the coming future with increased revenue and/or future Fire Station projects, that the above be taken into consideration by this Board. We'd request to be a part of that conservation, as We now have 4 of the 7 County Commissioners representing part of Our district.

We are very appreciative of all that the Board of Commissioners does for Our County, Community and specifically appreciative to the current leadership's willingness to communicate with us.

Paul Blalock, 1593 Tally Ho Road, Stem, NC, stated his opposition to Stem's proposed ETJ. He said Stem will be meeting tonight and asked that when the matter comes to the Board of Commissioners, the Board does what is best for the citizens affected by the ETJ and not Stem.

After public comments, Chair May noted that citizen input is vital, the Board listens, evaluates, and educates itself on matters and tries to do the right things.

SHERIFFS MATTERS

BOARD APPROVED THE EXCHANGE OF SURPLUS WEAPONS

Sheriff Fountain requested consideration of approval to surplus twenty-four (24) shotguns that have exceeded their service life and exchange the firearms at fair market value with a local vendor. He noted there no money will be exchanged, but a store credit will be issued and that all requirements including an advertisement have been met. The request was follows:

- The Granville County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) is requesting to exchange twenty-four (24) surplus shotguns to Cross Creek Outdoor Supplies fair market value for store credit. Cross Creek Outdoor Supplies is a federally licensed firearms dealer and will assume responsibility for the functionality of the weapons at the time of transfer.
- Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 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 a full and fair consideration in exchange for its property (refer to attachment – State Procedures for Exchange). 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 consideration changing hands, and announcing the council's intent to authorize the exchange at its next regular meeting (refer to attachment – Public Notice Memorandum).

The Sheriff's Office is in the process of identifying older model service weapons for surplus and upgrading the existing inventory. The twenty-four (24) shotguns proposed for transfer are approximately twenty-five years old on average and have reached their expected performance lifespan. All the weapons have been 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 (refer to attachment – Inventory of GCSO Surplus Shotguns). Additionally, federal asset forfeiture funds were not used to purchase the surplus shotguns. 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.

Chair May noted that Sheriff Fountain has met all standards and requirements and is in compliance with local ordinances and statutes.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried by the board surplusing twenty-four (24) shotguns and exchanging them at fair market value for store credit at Cross Creek Outdoor Supplies of Henderson, NC.

Sheriff Fountain said he had to leave as he is working on a case and then read a statement about the case.

SOLID WASTE MATTERS

BOARD APPROVED THE LANDFILL OPERATIONS CONTRACT CONTINUATION/CLARIFICATION FOR FUEL SURCHARGE COMPONENT

Environmental Programs Director Jason Falls reported that County staff failed to include the fuel surcharge component to the Landfill Operations Contract presented to the Board at their regular meeting on April 3, 2023. Due to the uncertainty of fuel prices within the next 14 months, the County Attorney and Manager recommended bringing this to the board for approval. The existing agreement with Landfill Contractor, a draft amendment to the current contract prepared by the County Attorney which was approved by the Board at their regular meeting on April 3, 2023, (minus the fuel surcharge component), and an attachment showing any escalating fuel surcharges the county would be responsible for was included in the agenda. The Board approved a 14-month extension to the current contractor which is set to expire on June 30, 2024 at their regular meeting on April 3, 2023. All contract and purchasing policies will be followed by staff upon approval by the Board of County Commissioners. Per local and state contract and

purchasing requirements, county staff is working on developing an RFP within the next few months with a new contract to be executed prior to July 1, 2024.

Funds are available within this year's budget to cover any fuel surcharges. Funds for this line item as budgeted and proposed in fiscal year 2023-2024 would allow us to cover overage costs for fuel up to \$5.26/gallon. As of the date of this letter, local off-road fuel cost was quoted at a rate of \$3.499.

After clarification on the surcharge and fuel cost base rate, the Board took action.

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a fuel adjustment clause to be included in the Landfill Operations Contract with Huff Soil Conservation, Inc. that was approved at the April 3, 2023 board meeting, to cover overage costs for fuel up to \$5.26 per gallon.

APPOINTMENTS

BOARD APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT TO THE GRANVILLE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the appointment of Bryon Goff (District 2) to fill an unexpired term on the Granville County Library System Board of Trustees.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

BOARD APPROVED THE RESOLUTION CONVEYING PERSONAL PROPERTY TO A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Assistant County Manager Weichel said the purpose of this item was to consider approval of a resolution for conveyance of personal property determined to be surplus, obsolete, and/or unused to non-profit organizations pursuant to G.S. §160A-280.

The County owns numerous office furniture and other related items stored at various locations which have been determined to be surplus, obsolete, or no longer able to be used in County service. County staff previously attempted to sell items that had any perceived value on the GovDeals platform but without results. Those unsold items and other miscellaneous items determined to have little, or no value are currently taking up much needed storage space. The County has determined that the public will benefit from the conveyance of the property described above by enabling governmental units or non-profits to continue to serve the citizens of Granville County, the citizens of the State of North Carolina, and the citizens of the United States. Therefore, the County intends to relocate these items to the Expo Center grounds and hold a surplus event on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at which organizations exempt from taxation pursuant to Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) may select and receive conveyance of the items.

In accordance with the notice requirements of N.C.G.S. §160A-280, public notice of this resolution was given by posting on the county website on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

A social media campaign, website posting, and press release will announce the surplus event in a broad manner to ensure as much exposure as possible. The organizations will be encouraged to pre-register and submit proof of 501(c)(3) exemption ahead of the event date. For those who do not pre-register, proof of exemption status will be confirmed by County staff prior to permitting access to the surplus event. County staff will manage the event and register all organizations along with what property was conveyed to them. Any of the surplus items not conveyed to a non-profit as set out herein shall be deemed to have no value and may be discarded in any manner as determined by the County Manager

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following *Resolution Approving Conveyance of Personal Property to a Nonprofit Organization Pursuant to G.S. §160A-280* for the conveyance of

personal property determined to be surplus, obsolete, and/or unused to non-profit organizations.

**Resolution Approving Conveyance of Personal Property to
A Nonprofit Organization Pursuant to G.S. 160A-280**

Whereas, the County of Granville owns numerous furniture and other related items determined to be surplus, obsolete, or no longer able to be used in County service generally described as follows:

Office desks, side chairs, metal file cabinets, bookcases, and miscellaneous office items stored at various County locations previously taken out of service and no longer used or needed by the County which property will be fully inventoried prior to conveyance as set out herein; and

Whereas, North Carolina General Statute §160A-280 authorizes a city or county to convey personal property for nonmonetary consideration to any governmental unit within the United States or a nonprofit organization incorporated by (i) the United States, (ii) the District of Columbia, or (iii) one of the United States if the governing board deems the property to be surplus, obsolete, or unused; and

Whereas, the County of Granville has determined that the personal property described above is surplus, obsolete, or unused; and

Whereas, the County of Granville intends to hold a County surplus event on May 13, 2023 (or such other day as may be designated by the County Manager in the event of inclement weather or other delay determined necessary by the County Manager) at which any governmental unit within the United States or any nonprofit organization incorporated by (i) the United States, (ii) the District of Columbia, or (iii) one of the United States which is exempt from taxation pursuant to Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) may select and receive conveyance of selected items; and

Whereas the County of Granville finds that the public will benefit from the conveyance of the property described above by enabling the nonprofit to continue to serve the citizens of Granville County, the citizens of the State of North Carolina, and the citizens of the United States.

Therefore, the Granville County Board of Commissioners resolves that:

1. The County Manager is authorized to execute all documents necessary to convey title to surplus items identified above to any governmental unit within the United States or any nonprofit organization incorporated by (i) the United States, (ii) the District of Columbia, or (iii) one of the United States which is exempt from taxation pursuant to Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) participating in the County surplus event to be held on May 13, 2023 or such other day as determined by the County Manager following proper notice.
2. The consideration for the conveyance is continued service to the citizens of Granville County, the citizens of the State of North Carolina, and the citizens of the United States.
3. In accordance with the notice requirements of N.C.G.S. § 160A-280, public notice of this resolution was given by posting on the county website on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.
4. The County shall keep records sufficient to document the property conveyed to each eligible recipient as set out above.
5. Any of the surplus items not conveyed to a non-profit as set out herein

shall be deemed to have no value and may be discarded in any manner as determined by the County Manager in his reasonable discretion.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney Wrenn stated that he had one item. He asked the Board to consider allowing the appropriation of funds to hire Developmental Associates to work with the Department of Social Services (DSS) for the recruitment of a DSS Director. He noted that this is the same firm that was used for recruitment of the County Manager.

County Manager Cummings asked to include in the motion to allow the County Manager to work with the DSS Board to execute the contract.

Commissioner Hinman, Chair of the DSS Board, and Commissioner Cozart who also serves on the DSS Board were in favor of this proposal.

County Attorney Wrenn explained the role of the DSS Director in relation to the Board of Commissioners and the cost to hire Developmental Associates.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board contracting with Developmental Associates, LLC for the basic fee of \$23,500 and not to exceed \$24,750 to assist the DSS Board in the search for a DSS Director and to allow the County Manager to work with the DSS Board to execute the contract.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Gooch thanked those in attendance, noting that the Board listens to comments and is always open to talk with any citizen. He said to contact the County Administration office if you need to get in touch with board members.

Commissioner Jay reported that he attended a NCACC (North Carolina Association of County Commissioners) District meeting last weekend and that there is a NACo(National Association of County Commissioners) Board seat available if anyone is interested. He said one of the candidates running for the NCACC Second Vice President seat passed away, so they are looking for people to run for that seat. He reported that NCACC is going to wait on building a new office in Raleigh. He also reported that the county clerks are asking for a seat at the table for the NCACC Board of Directors meetings.

Commissioner Cozart reported that the Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity Board will meet next week and talk about challenges around self-sufficiency. He also announced that Granville Health System will recognize volunteers tomorrow and he looks forward to being a part of the event.

Vice Chair Karan thanked members of the public that came to the meeting including members of the Brassfield Fire Department., Rusty and Kelly Corley for their public service, and thanked all those that volunteer.

Chair Russ May responded to public comments and explained that the actions taken by the Fire Commission are decisions that go through the seven-member board. He noted that one member represents the Fire Chiefs Association and there are three subject matter experts and three citizens (one each north, south, and central Granville County). He explained that the Fire Commission has been meeting once or twice a month since July and brings recommendations to the Board of Commissioners (noting there is not a commissioner on the Fire Commission that votes). He explained the unified fire district and explained the recommendation from the Fire Commission about placing a fire fighter on every truck for response purposes. He said the standards for the firefighter has not been finalized. He noted that initial operational funding has been received by fire departments as well as worker's compensation and dues. He said that the fire tax is dedicated to fire services alone and that the fire consultant recommended equitable

distribution and noted that he hopes the Fire Commission is working towards that. He made comments about the process for bringing recommendations to the Board of Commissioners, tracking of county tax dollars, and having the independent funding stream for fire services.

Chair May then spoke on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and said the Board is committed to improving the compensation for all county employees. He said there is work to do and then referred to the timeline that was displayed on the wall screen and talked through the information. He noted that the Board must be fiscally responsible also.

Granville County Sheriff's Office Pay Incentives

12 Month History Beginning April 2022

April 16, 2022:

Board of Commissioners implement a 2.75% Countywide Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

Average annual pay increase for GCSO personnel is \$1,400.

July 1, 2022:

Board of Commissioners approve \$5,000 Recruitment & Retention Bonus for Sheriff's Office Detention Center staff.

July 16, 2022:

GCSO (Granville County Sheriff's Office) personnel receive average of 3.37% merit increase.

Average annual pay increase for GCSO personnel is \$1,793.

November 7, 2022

Board of Commissioners approve \$1500 - \$5,000 Recruitment & Retention Bonus for Sheriff's Office law enforcement & 911 personnel.

January 11, 2023:

GCSO law enforcement & detention center personnel receive "overlap" pay for 18 calendar days during payroll transition.

Number of overlap hours is 105.75 for shift personnel and 112.0 for command staff/investigations.

Average additional pay is \$2000 (range of \$1480 - \$3300)

July 1, 2023:

Adopted fiscal year 2023-2024 Budget will include additional compensation and benefit increases.

Board members made comments about actions taken, value of all employees, and their continued commitment.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Chair May announced the following meetings.

The Granville County Board of Commissioners will meet at the Granville Convention & Expo Center, 4185 Highway 15, Oxford, NC on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., and Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., and if necessary on Friday, May 12, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. to hold a budget work sessions on the proposed fiscal year 2023-2024 budget.

The Granville County Fire Commission will meet at the Granville County Expo and Convention Center, 4185 US HWY 15, Oxford, NC on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Monday, July 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., and Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Please note this is a change of location of previously noticed meetings.

Commissioner Jay announced that Oak Hill Presbyterian is celebrating their 200th anniversary on May 28, 2023. He requested a proclamation in commemoration of the event. The consensus of the Board was to prepare a proclamation.

Chair May announced that the Board will celebrate and remember the service of former Commissioner W.E. “Pete” Averette who served 30 years will be held at the May 1, 2023 meeting and invited everyone to attend.

CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was included on the agenda but was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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