

GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 15, 2024
GRANVILLE EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTER
4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford, North Carolina

PRESENT:

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:07 p.m. Chair Timothy Karan called the meeting to order, apologizing for the late start due to a recent power outage that affected systems at the site. Chair Karan announced that Commissioner Hinman had asked Reverend Leroy Anderson to pray. Reverend Anderson had the invocation.

Commissioner Sue Hinman then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Karan noted that the National Therapy Animal Day proclamation would not be read as no one was present to receive the proclamation. He highlighted the importance of therapy animals to certain individuals. Additionally, Chair Karan mentioned a correction needed on page 44 of the minutes, specifying that "northern" should be replaced with "southern" in paragraph four at the bottom of the page.

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

A. Approved Budget Amendment #9 for fiscal year 2023-2024.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #9
April 15, 2024
Legal Document

Be it ordained, the FY 2023-2024 Annual Budget Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

GENERAL FUND			
Expenditures	Increase	Decrease	Total
Public Safety			\$ 23,125
Emergency Management	\$20,625		
Animal Control	\$2,500		
Community Services			\$ 3,000
Cooperative Extension Service	\$3,000		
Area Projects and Other Appropriations			\$ 100,000
Non-Departmental	\$100,000		
Contributions to Other Funds & Contingencies.....>>>			\$ 2,000,000
Contributions & Transfers	\$2,000,000		
Total Expenditures			\$ 2,126,125

Revenues	Restricted and Intergovernmental	159,850		
	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,966,275		
			Total Revenues	\$ 2,126,125
CONVENIENCE SITE FUND				
Expenditures		Increase	Decrease	Total
	Landfill Operations	\$0		
			Total Expenditures	\$ -
Revenues	Collection Fees	\$0		
			Total Revenues	\$ -
LANDFILL FUND				
Expenditures		Increase	Decrease	Total
	Operations	30,000		
			Total Expenditures	\$ 30,000
Revenues	Transfer	30,000		
			Total Revenues	\$ 30,000

B. Approved Project Ordinance Amendment #2 – Triangle North Water and Sewer Project.

Project Ordinance Budget Amendment
 Triangle North - Water and Sewer
 Budget Amendment #2 (1nd during Fiscal Year 2024)
 April 15, 2024
 LEGAL DOCUMENT

Be it ordained, the FY 2023-2024 School Facility and HVAC Repair Project Budget Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

Expenditures	Increase	Decrease	Total
Triangle North - Water and Sewer	2,000,000		\$ 2,000,000
			Total Expenditures \$ 2,000,000
Revenues			
Transfer from General Fund	2,000,000		\$ 2,000,000
			Total Revenues \$ 2,000,000

Triangle North - Water and Sewer
 April 15, 2024
 DETAIL [For Reference Only]

Description				Amendment	Balance after Amendment
Expenditures: Increase/(Decrease)					
#1	33	4000	000	Triangle North - Water and Sewer	\$1,000,000 \$6,100,000
#2	33	4000	000	Triangle North - Water and Sewer	\$1,000,000 \$7,100,000
Revenue: Increase/(Decrease)					
	33	3990	010	Transfer from General Fund	\$2,000,000 \$7,100,000

#1 Description: Transfer of \$1,000,000 grant from NC Treasury received in March 2024 for Triangle North Water & Sewer development to the Triangle North Capital Project fund. No effect on unassigned fund balance.

#2 Description: Use of \$1,000,000 previously assigned for the development of New Commerce Drive to be transferred to the Triangle North Project fund to pay bond for road development to meet NC DOT standards. Since this is a use of previously assigned funds, no effect on unassigned fund balance.

INTRA-FUND TRANSFER		SOURCE OF FUNDS			
From	To	Approp. Fund Balance	+ Intergov't Rev	+ Transfers From GF	= Change
				2000000	2000000
Total	0 0	0	0	2000000	2000000

This project ordinance budget amendment includes two separate transfers of \$1,000,0000 - each from the General Fund balance to the Triangle North Water and Sewer project. The first \$1,000,000 is a transfer of funds from an NC Treasury grant received by the County in March 2024 specified for this project; the second \$1,000,000 is to designate the use of General Fund Balance that was previously assigned for the extension of New Commerce Road (Law Enforcement Center).

C. Approved the following surplus vehicles:

VIN	Year	Department	Make	Model	Mileage	Condition
3668	2011	IT	Jeep	Liberty	100,000+	Poor-electronic and mechanical issues
5410	2013	Emergency Management	Chevy	Silverado	100,000+	Used
7977	2006	Emergency Management	Chevy	Silverado	100,000+	Used
4259	2017	Emergency Management	Chevy	Silverado 2500 HD	100,000+	Used
4833	2008	Facility Maintenance	Ford	F-150	100,000+	Poor
8160	2008	Facility Maintenance	Chevy	Silverado	100,000+	Poor
2431	2013	Facility Maintenance	Ford	F-150	100,000+	Poor
8511	2012	Cooperative Extension	Dodge	Caravan	100,000+	Poor

D. Approved the following tax refunds, released, and offsets:

- Refunds March 21, 2024 – April 3, 2024: \$ 6,287.08
- Releases March 21, 2024 – April 3, 2024:: \$ 280.10
- Write-offs (\$2 and less) March 21, 2024 – April 3, 2024:: \$ 12.78

E. Approved County Employee Spring NCDOT Sponsored Litter Sweep.

The NCDOT sponsored “Spring 2024 Litter Sweep” begins April 13th and concludes April 27th. Jason Falls, Director of Environmental Programs, is requesting volunteers within county government to help clean a section of road(s) within the county (*road(s) will be determined prior to day of pickup*) on **Friday, April 26, 2024**, with a rain date scheduled for the following Friday, May 3, 2024.

F. Approved National Therapy Animal Day Proclamation.

Proclamation Recognizing National Therapy Animal Day

WHEREAS, there are thousands of Pet Partners therapy animal teams serving in communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, scientific research shows that interacting with therapy animals can reduce stress, relieve depression, slow heart rate, lower blood pressure and strengthen the immune system; and

WHEREAS, therapy animal teams in the Town of Creedmoor play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond; and

WHEREAS, therapy animal teams interact with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students, and those approaching end of life; and

WHEREAS, these exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need; and

WHEREAS, we encourage more pet owners to consider becoming Pet Partners volunteers to help our community by creating greater access to meaningful therapy animal visits.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Granville County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April 30, 2024 as

National Therapy Animal Day

Encouraging our citizens to celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers and publicly salute the service of therapy animal teams in our community and in communities across the nation.

G. Approved minutes:

- March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting

INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Board Introduced Grant Writer Jamie Oxendine

Public Information Officer/Grants Manager Terry Hobgood introduced Jamie Oxendine as Granville County's first grant writer, highlighting his 13 years of experience in grant writing. Mr. Oxendine has worked as a private consultant and held positions such as Tribal Administrator and Executive Director of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe in North Carolina and the Executive Director of the Black Swamp Intertribal Foundation in Ohio. His expertise spans federal, state, and private foundation grants from various agencies including Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the US Department of Treasury, NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additionally, Oxendine has a background in education, having worked with Ohio University's Office of Diversity Inclusion and an Ohio school district.

Mr. Oxendine shared his background, mentioning his roots in Scotland County, North Carolina, and his education at UNC Pembroke and Bowling Green State University. He recounted his experience teaching at various levels and working for the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe upon returning to North Carolina. Mr. Oxendine highlighted his grant writing experience at the federal, state, and individual levels, including grants for his projects such as writing a second book.

Board members thanked and welcomed Mr. Oxendine.

Commissioner May inquired about the cost-sharing arrangement of the Grants Writer position. County Manager Cummings clarified that the position's costs, time, and effort would be shared equally, 50-50, between Granville County and the City of Creedmoor.

Board Presented Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation.

Commissioner Cozart and Commissioner Hinman came forward to present the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation. Commissioner Hinman expressed the sadness of having to address the issue of child abuse but emphasized its importance. She acknowledged the dedicated efforts of the individuals who work tirelessly to protect children from abuse and ensure their safety. Department of Social Services (DSS) Director LaToya Toussaint and DSS Social Worker Supervisor Joe Tartamella came forward to receive the proclamation. Commissioner Cozart presented the following on behalf of the Board:

Proclamation Recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month

WHEREAS, children are our state's most vulnerable members as well as our state's most valuable resources, helping to shape the future of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects throughout an individual's lifetime and impact future generations of their family; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, is a serious problem affecting every community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, children who live in families with access to concrete economic and social supports are less likely to experience abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, nurture positive childhoods and preventing child maltreatment is possible because of the partnerships created between families, prevention advocates, child welfare professionals, education, health, community, and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and local, state, and national governments; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that in order to solve the public health issue of abuse and neglect we must work together to change hearts and mindsets through storytelling and sharing, center the needs of families, break down bias and barriers, and inspire action from expected and unexpected partners; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to advancing equitable, responsive, and effective systems that ensure all children and families are healthy and thriving; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need to prioritize kids and invest in more prevention initiatives like home visiting and family-strengthening policies, economic supports, and community-based child abuse prevention programs at the national, state, and local levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Granville County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Granville County and urge all citizens to recognize this month by building a narrative of hope for children and families through collaboration and the creation of an ecosystem of primary prevention that does not currently exist in this country.

DSS Director Toussaint expressed gratitude to DSS Board Chair Sue Hinman and DSS Board member Tony W. Cozart for their commitment to protecting children and the community. She highlighted the unfortunate reality of child abuse cases they deal with daily, emphasizing the importance of protecting children despite invading parental privacy. Ms. Toussaint urged advocacy for preventing child abuse and securing additional funding for child welfare programs, noting the lack of adequate funding from state and federal governments. She encouraged contacting representatives on National Advocacy Day, stressing the critical need for more support for prevention and family preservation services.

Commissioner Hinman requested Public Information Officer Terry Hobgood to ensure that the phone number to contact representatives was posted on the County website.

Board Updated on Senior Services Advisory Board

David Smith, Chairman of the Granville County Senior Services Advisory Board provided an update on the Senior Services Advisory Board. Senior Services Director Kathy May attended and made comments. Mr. Smith spoke from the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet.

- Expressed gratitude to the commissioners for their support of the North Granville Senior Center project, emphasizing the importance of its progress.
- Acknowledged the consistent attendance of advisory board members and expressed gratitude for their dedication.
- Highlighted upcoming events like the volunteer appreciation dinner that recognizes volunteers.
- Mentioned an event scheduled for September 18th and thanked Commissioner Gooch, the board's liaison.
- Shared details about recent activities, including a community outreach event and a significant financial contribution received.

- Praised the dedication of the staff and recounted touching stories about individuals benefiting from senior services.
- Discussed challenges with providing home-delivered meals and transportation services, emphasizing the ongoing need for volunteers.
- Expressed optimism about future program enhancements and encouraged participation in activities tailored to seniors' interests.
- Highlighted the board's focus areas, including the North Granville Senior Center, volunteer recruitment, home delivery meals, and senior summer programming.
- Highlighted future priorities, including addressing the needs of the South Granville Senior Center and expanding home delivery services.
- Showcased the Senior Connection monthly newsletter as a valuable source of information.

Commissioner Williford recounted his attendance at a Nifty 90s event, underscoring the event's positive atmosphere and his enjoyment, expressing his intent to participate again in the future. He noted the camaraderie among attendees and highlighted the event's diverse activities.

Commissioner May expressed gratitude for the provision of services at the South Granville Senior Center, noting the addition of a new assistant. Acknowledging the significant number of individuals from both Creedmoor, Butner, and the unincorporated areas who rely on the center for daily meals, he emphasized the importance of expanding and improving these services. He commended the efforts to facilitate access to these services and encouraged ongoing collaboration to ensure that individuals can benefit from the available resources.

Senior Services Director Kathy May shared insights into the demographics of Granville County, highlighting that the population between the ages of 50 and 59 is larger in Granville County than anywhere else in the state. She noted that the over-50 population constitutes 41% of the total population in Granville County, a statistic that was unexpected to her. Ms. May acknowledged the significant presence of individuals aged 60 and above and reemphasized the noteworthy proportion of residents within the 50 to 59 age bracket.

Commissioner Gooch expressed gratitude toward Mr. Smith, highlighting his lifelong dedication to the County. He expressed sadness when Mr. Smith decided not to run again as a commissioner but was excited to hear about his appointment to Senior Services Advisory Board. Commissioner Gooch cherished the time he worked with Mr. Smith and looked forward to collaborating with him in the future.

Board Approved a Letter of Support for Vaya Health

Chair Karan introduced a last-minute walk-in item and invited Elliot Clark, Regional Director of Community Relations for Vaya Health, to present a recommended letter of support. Mr. Clark thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak and apologized for the late notice regarding his presentation. He explained that they had just received permission from the State to discuss their efforts following a silent period due to a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued in February. He requested the Board's permission to read a letter of support for their application to become a statewide vendor specialty plan for youth and families involved in foster care. He remarked on the appropriateness of discussing this in April as it is Child Abuse Awareness Prevention Month, and commended the dedication of DSS Director Toussaint and Foster Care worker Joe Tartamella, previously recognized, highlighting the challenges and the strong leadership within the Department of Social Services. He then read a recommended letter of support and asked the Board to consider sending it to Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kody Kinsley.

Commissioner May provided background information regarding the regional board Vaya, noting that one of the conditions for a letter of support involved Vaya meeting with the DSS Director to ensure alignment with the Board's support. He emphasized that Vaya specializes in rural counties and has met benchmarks in transitioning toward a tailored plan for holistic assistance. He

commended Vaya for its stability, soundness, and innovative partnerships with local governments, expressing full support and appreciation for the board's acceptance of the motions related to Vaya.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a letter to DHHS Secretary Kody Kinsley regarding support for Vaya Health becoming the statewide administrator for the Children and Families Specialty Plan in collaboration with Partners Health Management.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Markley, 1622 Garrett Farm Road, Stem, NC, spoke about his personal experience with building a home in Granville County, detailing issues with well permits, building permits, well inspections, and complaints related to a local builder. He mentioned using Southern Well Drilling for well drilling, but said he encountered problems with the inspection and water testing conducted, noting that the person doing the testing was related to the owner of the building company. Mr. Mackley expressed frustration that the final inspection and water testing were not completed as required. Despite attempts to address the issue by contacting the inspector and Granville County Environmental supervisors, he did not receive a response, prompting him to voice his concerns to the Commissioners.

When Chair Karan asked if he had been in contact with the County Manager, Mr. Mackley expressed his lack of familiarity with individuals in the County and his unsuccessful attempts to contact anyone regarding his concerns. Chair Karan assured him that his information would be forwarded to the County Manager.

Floyd Jay, 7547 NC Highway 96, Oxford, NC, addressed the Commissioners regarding the reassessment of tax values for his property. He explained that while his property is located in Walnut Grove Township, his mailbox is in Oak Hill Township, and he can throw a ball from his property to Oxford Township. He highlighted the lack of comparable properties in his area due to the diverse range of properties in neighboring townships and counties. Mr. Jay expressed concern about the fairness of the reassessment process and the need for consideration of these challenges. He emphasized the seriousness of the issue.

When Chair Karan asked if Mr. Jay had an opportunity to speak with the appraisal firm at the Tax Revaluation Information Session held prior to this meeting, Mr. Jay confirmed that he had indeed spoken with them.

FINANCE MATTERS

Board Approved Final Resolution for Financing for North Granville Senior Center

Attorney Bob Jessup of Sanford Holshouser firm stated that he had served as the County's special outside lawyer for borrowing matters and bond counsel for over 20 years. He explained that this item is the final required action on the financing for the North Granville Senior Center. He recapped that at the April 1st meeting, a required public hearing had been held, and the Board had adopted a resolution supporting the financing plan and the County's application to the North Carolina Local Government Commission (LGC). He asked the Board to consider adopting the final resolution, which formally approved the financing proposal discussed at the last meeting and authorized staff to complete the closing process. The proposed financing is offered by Capital One Public Funding, LLC (COPF). The County intends to finance the construction through installment financing, as permitted by State law. This method secures the County's repayment obligation with a mortgage-type interest in the property being financed, with the new senior

center serving as collateral. The North Carolina LGC must approve the County's financing plan, with routine approval expected at the LGC's May 7th meeting with various parties working toward a May 16th closing. Mr. Jessup requested the Board to approve the resolution as presented on the agenda.

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board approved adopting the following final resolution for financing of the North Granville Senior Center entitled: Resolution Providing Final Board Approval To Finance up to \$3,000,000 for the North Granville Senior Center Project.

**Resolution Providing Final Board Approval To Finance up to
\$3,000,000 for the North Granville Senior Center Project**

Introduction --

Granville County has previously determined to carry out a plan (the "Project") to acquire, construct and finance the planned North Granville Senior Center.

The County has also determined to finance Project costs through an installment financing, as authorized under Section 160A-20 of the General Statutes. In an installment financing, the County's repayment obligation is secured by a mortgage- type interest in all or part of the property being financed, but not by any pledge of the County's taxing power or any specific revenue stream. In this case, the new Senior Center will serve as the collateral

The County has solicited competitive proposals from banks and other financial institutions to provide the desired financing, and staff recommends the County accept the proposal from Capital One Public Funding, LLC (the "Lender").

The County's Finance Officer has made available to this Board the draft agreements listed on Exhibit A (the "Agreements"), which relate to the County's carrying out the financing plan.

In this resolution, the Board formally approves the Lender's proposal and other financing terms, approves substantially final documents, and authorizes County representatives to complete the financing.

The Board of Commissioners of Granville County, North Carolina, RESOLVES as follows:

1. *Determination To Proceed with Financing* – The County confirms its plans to undertake the Project. The County will carry out the Project with financing from the Lender substantially in accordance with a financing proposal dated March 21, 2024. Under the financing plan, the Lender will make funds available to the County for use on Project costs. The County will repay the amount advanced, with interest, over time. The County will grant to the Lender a mortgage-type interest in the new Senior Center (and its associated real property) to secure the County's repayment obligation.

2. *Approval of Agreements; Direction To Execute Agreements* – (a) The Board approves the forms of the Agreements submitted to this meeting. The Board authorizes the Board's Chair and the County Manager, or either of them, to

execute and deliver the Agreements in their final forms. The Agreements in their respective final forms must be in substantially the forms presented, with such changes as the Chair or the County Manager may approve. The execution and delivery of any Agreement by an authorized County officer will be conclusive evidence of that officer's approval of any changes.

(b) The Agreements in final form, however, must be consistent with the financing plan described in this resolution and must provide (a) for the amount financed by the County not to exceed \$3,000,000, (b) for an annual interest rate not to exceed 4.67% (in the absence of default, or a change in tax status, as described in the draft Agreements), and (c) for a financing term not to extend beyond December 31, 2044.

3. Officers To Complete Closing – The Board authorizes the County Manager, the Finance Officer and all other County officers and employees to take all proper steps to complete the financing in cooperation with the Lender and in accordance with this resolution.

The Board authorizes the County Manager to hold executed copies of all financing documents authorized or permitted by this resolution in escrow on the County's behalf until the conditions for their delivery have been completed to that officer's satisfaction, and then to release the executed copies of the documents for delivery to the appropriate persons or organizations.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Board authorizes the County Manager to approve changes to any documents previously signed by County officers or employees, provided that the changes do not conflict with this resolution or substantially alter the intent from that expressed in the form originally signed. The County Manager's authorization of the release of any document for delivery will constitute conclusive evidence of that officer's approval of any changes.

In addition, the Board authorizes the County Manager and the Finance Officer to take all appropriate steps for the efficient and convenient carrying out of the County's on-going responsibilities with respect to the financing of the Project. This authorization includes, without limitation, contracting with third parties for reports and calculations that may be required under this resolution or otherwise with respect to the financing, and making appropriate payments prior to the loan closing for costs related to the financing and the Project. This authorization specifically permits the County Manager to make further agreements or covenants on behalf of the County regarding the custody and investment of financing proceeds. The County Manager's authorization of the release of any instrument for delivery will constitute conclusive evidence of his approval of any changes.

4. Resolutions as to Tax Matters -- The County will not take or omit to take any action the taking or omission of which will cause its obligations to pay principal and interest under the Agreements to be "arbitrage bonds," within the meaning of Section 148 of the "Code" (as defined below), or "private activity bonds" within the meaning of Code Section 141, or otherwise cause interest components of the installment payments to be includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the

County will comply with any Code provision that may require the County at any time to pay to the United States any part of the earnings derived from the investment of the financing proceeds. In this resolution, "Code" means the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and includes applicable Treasury regulations.

5. Additional Provisions -- The Board authorizes all County officers and employees to take all further action as they may consider necessary or desirable in furtherance of the purposes of this resolution. The Board ratifies all prior actions of County officers and employees to this end. Upon the absence, unavailability or refusal to act of the County Manager, the Chair or the Finance Officer, any other of those officers may assume any responsibility or carry out any function assigned in this resolution. The Board authorizes the Clerk to apply the County's seal, and to attest to the seal, on any document related to the purposes of this resolution. The Vice Chair or any Deputy or Assistant Clerk to the Board may in any event assume any responsibility or carry out any function assigned to the Chair or the Clerk, respectively, in this resolution. All other Board proceedings, or parts thereof, in conflict with this resolution are repealed, to the extent of the conflict. This resolution takes effect immediately.

Exhibit A -- draft Agreements

(a) A draft dated April 9, 2024, of an Installment Financing Contract to be dated on or about May 16, 2024 (the "Financing Contract"), between the County and the Lender. The Financing Contract provides for the advance of funds to the County for the County's use on the Project, sets out the County's repayment obligation, and sets out the County's obligations regarding care for the collateral and other matters

(b) A draft dated April 9, 2024, of a Deed of Trust and Security Agreement to be dated on or about May 16, 2024, from the County to a deed of trust trustee for the Lender's benefit. The Deed of Trust provides for a security interest in the proposed senior center and its associated real property in favor of the Lender to secure the County's repayment obligation.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS MATTERS

Board Approved Bi-Comm Tower Lease

Emergency Communications Director Trent Brummitt addressed the need for approving a new lease agreement with Bi-Comm Systems for the use of their tower, crucial for notifying Fire and EMS of emergency calls. The previous lease with Bi-Comm Systems was established in 2005 and remained active on a year-to-year basis. However, it was deemed beneficial to update the lease agreement. The County Attorney's office revised the lease with new terms and conditions, which were provided for review. Funding for the lease is allocated from the new fiscal year tower lease funds. Director Brummitt recommended approval of the new tower lease for Bi-Comm Systems starting in fiscal year 24-25. Additionally, he proposed that the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Manager to execute the lease once it is finalized by the County Attorney.

Commissioner May emphasized that this is a critical component of the county's infrastructure, and Mr. Brummitt confirmed.

Mr. Brumitt mentioned that it was Telecommunicators Week, also known as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and that during this week, various activities and events were organized to show appreciation for the hard work and contributions of telecommunicators.

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the new tower lease for Bi-Comm Systems starting in fiscal year 2024-2025 and authorized the County Manager to execute the lease once finalized by the County Attorney.

TAX MATTERS

Board Adopted Neighborhood Adjustment Factors

Tax Administrator Jenny Short provided information regarding the adoption of the 2024 neighborhood adjustment factors and the publication of the Notice of Adoption in the Oxford Public Ledger and the Butner Creedmoor News. A public hearing was conducted at the April 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Board of Commissioners meeting to discuss the amendment of the 2024 neighborhood adjustment factors. It was noted that the 2018 neighborhood adjustment factors were mistakenly included in the 2024 Schedule of Values. The correct 2024 neighborhood adjustment factors, essential for reflecting fair market value in the tax system, were made available for public inspection at 141 Williamsboro Street, Oxford, and on the County website. Based on this information, the Tax Administrator recommended approving the adoption of the accurate 2024 neighborhood adjustment factors for determining fair market value.

Chair Karan summarized the correction of an error in the neighborhood adjustment factors. Despite the initial mistake, the County's ratio of 96.76% puts them in compliance, allowing them to proceed with the corrected figures.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the adoption of the 2024 neighborhood adjustment factors that have been used to determine fair market value by adopting the following order:

ORDER AMENDING UNIFORM SCHEDULE OF VALUES, STANDARDS, AND RULES

FOR THE 2024 GENERAL REAPPRAISAL

(GRANVILLE COUNTY REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT MANUAL (2024))

WHEREAS, Granville County adopted the Uniform Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules for the 2024 General Reappraisal (Granville County Real Property Assessment Manual (2024)) (the "Property Assessment Manual") on November 20, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the adopted Property Assessment Manual included the 2018 neighborhood adjustment factors in error at pages 352 through 360; and

WHEREAS, Granville County's tax software had the correct neighborhood adjustment factors reflecting fair market value for the 2024 revaluation so no errors in appraised value arose from the erroneous inclusion of the 2018 neighborhood factors in the Property Assessment Manual;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 105-317, the Tax Assessor for Granville County has submitted proposed replacement pages 352 through 360 for inclusion in the Property Assessment Manual to the Granville County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Board has caused to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in Granville County a notice stating that the proposed replacement pages to the Property Assessment Manual have been submitted to the Board of Commissioners and indicating the time and place of a public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Property Assessment Manual; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held at the appointed time and place; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners now desires to adopt the Amended Property Assessment Manual pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 105-317.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the final Amended Uniform Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules (Property Assessment Manual) attached to this Order is hereby adopted and approved for use in appraising real property at its true value in money as of January 1, 2024. A notice of the adoption of this Order shall be published once a week for four successive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation in Granville County. The final Amended Uniform Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules (Property Assessment Manual) shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Tax Assessor, 141 Williamsboro Street, Oxford, North Carolina.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Board Approved Triangle North Granville Business Park – Water Service Infrastructure

Development Services Director Scott Phillips presented a proposal to award a unit-price construction service contract for the construction of water service infrastructure at the Triangle North Granville Business Park. McGill Associates had been tasked with finalizing the design and bid documents for this infrastructure in March 2023. The proposed infrastructure includes a 16-inch water line connecting to Oxford's system at the intersection of Highway 158 and Tabbs Creek Road, extending along the right-of-way of Tabbs Creek Road and Triangle North Drive. This system is designed to service both the existing phase I development and the future expansion of Triangle North Granville.

On April 5, 2024, Granville County received five competitive bid proposals, with Park Construction of North Carolina submitting the lowest responsive bid. The procurement process adhered to Section I, Formal Bids (NCGS 143-129). Funding for the project is available within the approved Triangle North Granville Project Ordinance.

Director Phillips then gave his recommendation.

Commissioner Williford inquired about the access to tap on the waterline for residents on Tabbs Creek and how this could affect the residents. Mr. Phillips confirmed that citizens should coordinate with the city of Oxford.

Commissioner Gooch inquired about any system development fees associated with tapping into the water line for residents. Attorney Wrenn clarified that Granville County was only permitting the taps and not responsible for any fees. Commissioner Jay raised a concern about potential fees if residents did not tap into the line initially and whether there would be charges later. Mr. Phillips explained that he believed taps would be provided during the initial construction, and residents would coordinate with the City of Oxford for meter installation and service. He acknowledged that there might be fees involved in the metering process by the City of Oxford.

Chair Karan emphasized that the County had no problem with allowing residents to tap into the line, but any associated fees would be the responsibility of the City of Oxford once they accepted the line. Mr. Phillips affirmed Chair Karan's statement.

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board approved awarding the unit-priced construction contract for water and sewer infrastructure at Triangle North Granville Business Park to Park Construction of North Carolina for an amount to include the base bid of \$1,716,946 and add alternate 1 for ductile iron pipe in the amount of \$258,493, totaling \$1,975,439 and a unit-price contingency of \$98,000, or 5% of the contract value, and authorized the County Attorney to finalize the contract and the County Manager to execute the contract document.

Commissioner May sought clarification from the County Manager regarding potential grants received and anticipated to cover costs related to the water and sewer infrastructure project. County Manager Cummings outlined several sources of funding, including a significant portion of ARPA funding initially set aside by the Board of Commissioners. Additionally, the County received a \$1 million allocation from the state legislature and nearly \$1 million in community project funding from Congresswoman Valerie Foushee's office through congressional process. He added that the County is also a semifinalist in a site selection readiness grant program, which could provide further assistance for site development. Commissioner May emphasized the importance of exploring all avenues for funding the project through grants to minimize the burden on taxpayers, highlighting the decision to hire a grant writer to pursue additional funding opportunities.

Chair Karan mentioned the Vance-Granville Community College Advanced Manufacturing Center, Portman Industrial project and the exciting things coming to Triangle North Granville.

APPOINTMENTS

Board Approved Reappointments to the Granville County Board of Adjustment

Board held appointments for District 3 and District 7.

Motioned by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board reappointed John Frank to the Granville County Board of Adjustment District 6 seat.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board reappointed Delores Lyons as alternate.

Board Approved Appointments to the Granville County Senior Services Advisory Board

Chair Karan mentioned that this item had been added to the agenda.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Cynthia Griffin to the Senior Services Advisory Board District 3 seat.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Cummings addressed three items during the meeting. Firstly, he acknowledged the upcoming spring cleanup event organized by Jason Falls, the Environmental Services Director, appreciating the participation of county employees.

Secondly, he reiterated the Tax Administrator's communication regarding the Department of Revenue's confirmation that the County's reassessment of property values was on target with

market values, although he encouraged individuals with questions to contact the tax office for clarification.

Board Approved Finalizing Cash Escrow Agreement for Road Improvements at Triangle North Granville

Lastly, County Manager Cummings discussed the approval of a budget amendment reallocating \$1 million from assigned fund balance to the final Triangle North water and sewer project. This allocation would contribute to a \$1.5 million cash bond aimed at ensuring sufficient funding for bringing roads in the Triangle North Business Park up to Department of Transportation (DOT) standards following construction. The County Attorney would further elaborate on the Board's approval for the vehicle to carry this cash fund.

Attorney Wrenn requested authorization for the county manager and himself to negotiate a cash escrow agreement to set aside funds for road improvements in the Triangle North Business Park. While the budget amendment was previously approved, further authorization was needed to allocate the funds for this specific purpose. The intention was to ensure that the roads met DOT's standards after construction, without being damaged by construction traffic. The funds would be held in a designated interest-bearing account, potentially by a title company, until they were required for road improvements.

Attorney Wrenn restated the recommendation at Chair Karan's request. Attorney Wrenn clarified that the motion was to authorize the cash-out arrangement for the \$1.5 million necessary for bonding approval of the subdivision road in an interest-bearing account. This authorization would remain in effect until the board addressed further dispersal of the funds.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved authorizing the County Manager and County Attorney to finalize a cash escrow agreement equal to 125 percent of the estimated cost of the required road improvements necessary to bring Triangle North Drive up to North Carolina Department of Transportation standards in order to allow the Planning Director to approve the final subdivision plat.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney Jim Wrenn did not have any matters to report in open session.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Hinman expressed gratitude for the recent dedication of pinwheels at DSS, symbolizing abused children in Granville County. Despite the challenges, it was a meaningful event, and she appreciated the opportunity to participate.

Commissioner Cozart announced a childcare forum scheduled for April 30th, aimed at providing information for those interested in starting childcare centers and supporting existing ones. This initiative is part of a series of forums facilitated by Representative Frank Sossamon, with State representatives contributing to the outreach efforts. Chair Karan emphasized the significance of the childcare industry for the workforce and highlighted the shortage of certified childcare facilities in the region.

Commissioner May announced plans for a countywide litter program to be developed in collaboration with Commissioner Karan and the board following the budget amendment process.

Additionally, discussions have commenced with Granville Health Systems, the County Manager, and Commissioner Karan regarding cooperation with Senators Tillis and Burr's offices to address resource utilization for EMS services, particularly concerning the medical needs at FCI Butner. The goal is to ensure sustainable resources for the county while fostering an enriched partnership with FCI Butner and our EMS system.

Commissioner Karan announced the NCDOT's Litter Sweep campaign and noted the County's annual event.

Commissioner Gooch expressed the emotional impact of attending the pinwheel event, emphasizing the importance of recognizing the challenges faced by children. Additionally, he reminded everyone about May being Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month and urged caution and awareness to prevent accidents involving motorcycles.

Commissioner Jay mentioned that last week, KARTS and Vance-Granville Community College unveiled a new van designed for wheelchair students and adults, which can be used for various programs. He reported that there was a serious accident at Kinton Fork last Thursday and requested assistance in enhancing safety measures such as adding flashing lights or a stop sign to prevent future accidents. Commissioner Jay then complimented the Department of Transportation, acknowledging their excellent work on Highway 96. He noted that they cleaned up trash before mowing, resulting in a notably tidy and well-maintained appearance of the highway. He mentioned that a group from Halifax County, including their Commissioners and Sheriff, visited last Friday to tour the Granville County Law Enforcement Center and jail. He noted that Halifax County is currently facing similar challenges that his area previously encountered in terms of building infrastructure. The visitors were considering whether to construct both a detention center and a sheriff's station simultaneously. The group was impressed with the facilities they toured.

Commissioner May inquired about the funding source for the Vance-Granville van, specifically asking if the City of Henderson had provided funding. Commissioner Jay clarified that the program was not funded by Henderson but rather through a grant obtained jointly by Vance-Granville Community College (VGCC) and KARTS. He explained that the wheelchair van would serve the five-county region and emphasized its accessibility for various needs.

Chair Karan expressed appreciation for Commissioner Jay's handling of the visiting dignitaries from Halifax County and reflected on the Board's past visit to Bladen County to tour their Sheriff and Detention facilities. He highlighted the importance of incorporating solar availability into the 911 center to address concerns about staff working in a closed environment. Chair Karan acknowledged the positive developments in Granville County and thanked the community for their participation in the meeting, encouraging them to reach out to the tax administrator's office for any assistance or information.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters for open session.

CLOSED SESSION

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board went into closed session as allowed by North Carolina General

Statute 143-318.11(a)(3), (4), and (6) for attorney-client, economic development, and personnel matters at 8:34 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board returned to open session at 9:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Tony W Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

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