

OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA
March 21, 2022

The Members of the Honorable Board of Commissioners of Granville County, North Carolina met in a regular meeting on Monday, March 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, Granville Expo and Convention Center, 4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford.

Present were:

Chairman: Tony W. Cozart

Commissioners: Jimmy Gooch Timothy Karan
Sue Hinman David T. Smith
Zelodis Jay

Russ May was absent.

County Manager: Michael S. Felts
Assistant County Manager: Korena Weichel
County Attorney: James C. Wrenn, Jr.

News Reporters: David Murray – *Oxford Public Ledger*

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chair Tony W. Cozart called the meeting to order. He announced that Vice Chairman Russ May was absent due to the death of his mother and extended condolences to the May family. He then recognized Commissioner Zelodis Jay for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

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

- (A) Approved the Summary of Contingency and Use of Fund Balance report that showed the following balances:

General Contingency Balance	\$	14,000
School Bond D/S Contingency	\$	100,000
Environmental Disaster Contingency	\$	10,000
General Fund Appropriated Fund Balance	\$	4,485,784

- (B) Approved Tax Refunds, Releases and Write-offs as follows:

Refunds	January 2022:	\$3,433.43
Releases	January 2022:	\$ 133.22
Write-offs (\$2 and less)	January 2022:	\$ 10.93
Refunds	February 2022:	\$4,332.08
Releases	February 2022:	\$5,029.25
Write-offs (\$2 and less)	February 2022:	\$ 75.38

- (C) Approved minutes of the October 18, 2021 Regular Meeting and October 27, 2021 Joint Meeting.

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BONNIE BREEDLOVE

Commissioner Timothy Karan read the following proclamation on behalf of Commissioner Russ May who was unable to attend. The Breedlove family was presented the proclamation and a coin on behalf of the Granville County Commissioners.

**Proclamation Honoring the Life and Service of
Bonnie Clayton Breedlove
May 19, 1944 – February 26, 2022**

WHEREAS, the Granville County Board of Commissioners issue this proclamation in recognition and memory of Bonnie Clayton Breedlove's long-time service to Granville County; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie having lived in Granville County most of her life, felt strongly about service to others, and was a strong voice for Granville County. Bonnie was not one who just spoke about concerns as she would pursue issues in hopes of achieving a greater outcome for her community; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie served on the Granville County Senior Services Advisory Committee; worked with the Granville County Library System; belonged to the Granville County Genealogy Society; worked with the Granville County Board of Elections as a poll worker, chief judge, one-stop poll worker in charge; served as a member and secretary of the Granville County Board of Elections; and was an active member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie leaves behind a large family whom she loved dearly. Let it be known, Bonnie's voice will not be silent, as she left a legacy of love and commitment for community service; and

WHEREAS, the Granville County Board of Commissioners thanks James Breedlove and the Breedlove family for their support of Bonnie's service to Granville County; and

WHEREAS, the Granville County Board of Commissioners will be forever grateful that Bonnie shared her time and talents with our County, and that her family knows that she will be sorely missed; and

NOW, AND THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Granville County Board of Commissioners do sincerely and humbly join the family and the Granville County community in celebrating the life and service of Bonnie Clayton Breedlove.

This the 21st day of March 2022.

Chairman Cozart thanked the Breedlove family for Mrs. Breedlove's service to Granville County.

RECOGNITION OF EDWARD LATTA – ORANGE STREET COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Commissioner Jay presented Edward Latta with a certificate and coin on behalf of the Board to thank him for his 25 years of service on the Orange Street Community Center Board of Trustees.

Mr. Latta thanked the Board of Commissioners, committee members, and the community for their support.

Chairman Cozart and Commissioner Hinman made comments and thanked him for his service.

PRESENTATION OF SOCIAL WORK MONTH PROCLAMATION

Chairman Cozart said that the purpose of this presentation was to recognize Granville County Social Workers during Social Work Month.

Chairman Cozart stated that March is Social Work Month. The Granville County Department of Social Services has 24 social workers and 2 interns, the Senior Center has 1 social worker, and Granville-Vance District Health Department has 6 social workers.

Commissioner Sue Hinman read the following proclamation and presented Social Workers with a Granville County book, coin, and goody bag:

**SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2022 PROCLAMATION
“SOCIAL WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL”**

WHEREAS, the Social Work Profession for decades has been dedicated to improving human well-being and enhancing the basic needs of all people—especially the most vulnerable among us; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers have always been present in times of crisis, pandemic, helping people overcome issues such as death and grief and helping people and communities recover from natural disasters such as fires, hurricanes, and earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, the Social Work Profession is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States, with nearly 800,000 people expected to be employed as Social Workers by 2028; and

WHEREAS, Social workers work in all parts of our society to empower people to live to their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers are critical essential workers in our health care system, and continue to serve in a critical essential role in response to the global Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) public health emergency, helping individuals, families, and communities cope; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers are one of the largest groups of mental health care providers in the community, and work daily to help people—whether in person or remotely—overcome substance use disorders and mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers will continue to stand ready to assist our community in overcoming present and future challenges;

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition of the numerous contributions made by Social Workers, the Granville County Board of Commissioners proclaim the month of March 2022 as Social Work Month and call upon all citizens to join Granville County in celebration and support of the Social Work Profession.

This the 21st day of March 2022.

Chairman Cozart thanked the Social Workers for their hard work and dedication especially during the challenges of COVID recently.

DISCUSSION OF GREAT GRANT PROJECT PROPOSAL

Chairman Cozart requested that this item be moved to the County Manager's Report section of the Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Wood, 1145 Will Suitt Road, Creedmoor, NC, Mr. Wood stated that he just wanted to give an update on the Algae Turf Scrubber; that notorious beast that the City of Durham wants to try to slip in on the County. He stated that it is not dead. It is still alive. He continued that they do have \$750,000 in their FY 2023 budget for this animal. He stated that they are monitoring it and that it has not shown up on their council meeting agenda or their workshop as of yet, but when it does, they are ready to have a conversation with them. He said they are reaching out to them through email and through our friends in Durham County. He continued that Durham County has formed a group called "Keep Durham Rural." Mr. Wood stated further that as the Board may or may not have been aware of, there is a massive level of development going on by the City of Durham especially encroaching in towards our area. He stated further that at some point, there may not be a Durham County, it may be all the City of Durham at the rate they are going. Fortunately, he stated, he has been able to speak with a scientist from North Carolina State University that has been able to come up with a mathematical formula that can calculate the nitrogen runoff from a development site so that they can calculate the amount of nitrogen running in from the development. He continued that there is a treatment plant on Lick Creek which is right off Highway 98 that will handle 10,000 acres of development and they are fast approaching filling that up. He stated that the mathematical formula would cause 26,000 tons of nitrogen to flow per year into Falls Lake, and the Algae Turf Scrubber, if it was implemented would only remove 6 tons a year and that's just from one pump station. He asked the Board to imagine all the other stuff and noted that that is based on 24% impervious soil in the development area. He continued that it is Durham's money. Durham can do it in Durham, but that the point he was trying to get across is the efficiency of it. He stated that it is not a value for Granville County. He continued that he would have a better update for the Board in a month and that he would bring the petitions to the Board. He continued that he would continue to monitor and trust and believe that if the

County Commissioners heard anything further that they would let him know because, Durham County folks, have not reached out to the community as they were asked to.

Chairman Tony Cozart stated that he appreciated the update.

Gary Wade, 9549 Summer Breeze Lane, Bullock, NC, noted to the Board that they had been given a proposal regarding dog hunting. He stated that this was not just him but that he represented hundreds of people. He asked the County Commissioners to look at the proposal and to take it under advisement. He stated that this was something that had been going on for years and it will continue to go on. He stated further that Granville County has been pretty much a rural county and that it has 61,000 people in the whole county and that's the most recent figures. He stated that here's what happens, the dogs are turned loose on small tracks of land, public land, and private land—five to ten acres. He stated that within two minutes the dogs are on his property as well as someone else's property and they are doing damage. He stated that they catch the dogs up and return them to their owners. He stated that the dogs are not vaccinated or tattooed, and that Granville County has a statute that takes care of that, but it would be a huge job. He continued that the big picture is this, we are not taking anything away from the dog hunters. This is not a suggestion. He stated that he is a hunter, and he does not want to see any kind of hunting stopped but that it just needs to be regulated. Mr. Wade stated that in the southern part of the county, they've got the Butner Falls game lands. It's 40,505 acres; that's 63 square miles. He stated that if you were to put a pack of dogs in there, they can run their hearts out but noted that you cannot put them next to his house on 10 acres of Army Corps land because they are in his yard and his neighbor's yard. He continued that the other hunters have leased land. Mr. Wade stated that he has friends and acquaintances on both sides of the county and some of them have fenced their land in just to keep the dogs out. He stated that this was not a good thing because eventually, it would keep him and others out. He stated that you couldn't go up and say, "Can I crawl in your fence?" where in the past you have been able to go to a lot of these people and obtain permission. He stated that the biggest thing is the trespassing and when you confront these people about the trespassing, they do not politely apologize and leave but they are aggressive. They are armed. He continued that if he confronted them, and he's also armed, that would not be a good thing. He inquired if they could get this proposal or something like it. He stated to the Commissioners that "You guys have got the power." He continued that lots of local laws could fall under this

wildlife, and in big bold print, it says that the local law shall prevail. He then asked if the Commissioners had any questions he could answer.

Chairman Cozart asked if there were any questions. He then thanked Mr. Wade for sharing and for taking the time to write his proposal and noted that the Board will have the proposal for future reference. The proposal was regarding changes in local law regulating the hunting of deer with dogs.

Phyllis Wade, 9549 Summer Breeze Lane, Bullock, NC, signed up but did not speak. She had intended to yield her time to Mr. Wade, but he finished in three minutes.

Chairman Cozart thanked those for coming and sharing their comments and noted that the comments would be taken under advisement.

**BOARD APPROVED EXTERIOR STOREFRONT SIGNAGE FOR
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – SOUTH BRANCH OFFICES**

Chairman Cozart stated that this request is for consideration to award a service contract for the fabrication and installation of the exterior storefront signage. Granville County received two competitive bid proposals for the exterior storefront signage needed for the shopping center location identification. The proposal(s) adhere to Exhibit E/Sign Criteria identified in our lease agreement and the Town of Butner Zoning Ordinance. The signage consists of individual 24” high internally illuminated letters as indicated on the attached exterior rendering.

Listed below are the two companies that provided pricing:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| ▪ McCorkle Sign Company, Inc. | \$12,079.00 |
| ▪ Elite Custom Signs, Inc. | \$12,864.26 |

Chairman Cozart stated that the County Development Services Director recommended awarding the service contract to McCorkle Sign Company, Inc. for an amount of \$12,079.00.

County Manager Felts stated that the contract meets the requirements of the lease and the Town of Butner.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved awarding the service contract to McCorkle Sign Company, Inc. for an amount of \$12,079 for the fabrication and installation of exterior signage for the DSS South Branch Office.

BOARD APPROVED EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM POSITION

Chairman Cozart stated that the purpose of the next item was to consider authorizing a EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program) position through Cooperative Extension. He noted that information was included in the agenda packets.

County Manager Felts stated that the first year will be fully funded by A & T University and then the County will assume 50% of the position costs in the second and future years. Funding is available in the existing “send-in” funding allotment to pick up this position after the initial 12 months.

Commissioner Karan said as the liaison to Cooperative Extension that the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program is a far-reaching program and the department touches so many lives. Cooperative Extension is a resource for our youth and community and provides hands-on and evidence-based lessons to meet the needs of the community. He then made a motion.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved authorizing the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program position to be fully funded through A & T University as a send-in position the first year and then as a 50/50 position after 12 months.

BOARD APPROVED TACTICAL EQUIPMENT FOR SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Chairman Cozart stated that the purpose of this item was to receive approval to purchase 14 sets of Special Response Team (SRT) tactical equipment consisting of communications equipment, ballistic entry vests, and helmets.

Sheriff Hardy explained that they are working on establishing a Special Response Team and getting the equipment and training needed. The request was being made to purchase 38 duty holsters, 36 pistol lights with batteries, 65 trauma tourniquets with a carrier, and 10 shotgun conversion kits to accommodate less lethal devices (bean bag rounds). This equipment is to provide deputies with the safety equipment they need to do their duty safely and effectively. He said the pricing was received for the equipment listed above from a state contract approved vendor, Dana Safety Supply, in the amount of \$100,446.96.

Commissioner Hinman asked for clarification of funding and Sheriff Hardy said the purchase will be paid out of asset forfeiture funds.

Commissioner Smith noted that there are no tax dollars involved.

When asked, Sheriff Hardy said that his office is working on adopting policies and procedures for the SRT team to use the equipment.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner David T. Smith, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of tactical equipment for a Special Response Team from Dana Safety Supply in the amount of \$100,446.96 using Treasury Forfeiture Funds.

Commissioner Karan noted that he is fully in favor of these purchases as well as infrared technology for search and recovery or looking for criminals and that as long as we have asset forfeiture dollars, we should use them to upfit our Sheriff's Department.

BOARD APPROVED CONTRACTING WITH GARRETT & MOORE FOR TASK ORDERS #7 AND #8 - WELL ABANDONMENT AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Cozart stated that the purpose of this item was to review and approve Task Orders #7 and #8 for well abandonment and construction administration for new cell construction development (Unit 2, Phase 2) at the landfill. He stated further that Task Order #7 details the costs involving supervision of well abandonment for monitoring wells associated with the building of the current cell (Unit 2, Phase 1) as well as the installation of one new replacement monitoring well. These abandonments and the installation of a replacement well are necessary in order to build Phase 2.

Jason Falls, Solid Waste Management Director, stated that Task Order #8 details the costs associated with the engineering and construction administration of the new cell. Many of these costs are due to state rules requiring on-site observation as well as reporting and other assurances. He noted that funds are available in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund for this project.

County Attorney Wrenn stated that some legal clauses needed to be added to this request.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved contracting with Garrett & Moore, Inc. to perform Task Order #7 for well abandonment for Unit 2, Phase 1 at a cost not-to-exceed \$12,280.00 and Task Order #8 for construction administration for new cell construction development of Unit 2, Phase 2 at a cost not-to-exceed \$298,053.85 any added legal clauses deemed necessary by the County Attorney for this project.

BOARD APPROVED SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT REPAIR

Jason Falls, Solid Waste Management Director, stated that County staff purchased a 924 H Caterpillar from Gregory Poole in Raleigh with the assistance of a solid waste grant in 2004. The loader has served its purpose since then stockpiling wood waste, tires, and scrap metal. It is also used extensively for loading mulch for the public and landscape contractors. Mr. Falls recommended that the Board approve the estimate for equipment repair at an estimated cost of \$31,157.50.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a transmission replacement of a wheel loader by Gregory Pool Equipment Company in the amount of \$31,157.50 for parts and labor.

BOARD APPROVED CITYSCAPE AGREEMENT FOR WIRELESS CONSULTING

County Manager Felts stated that the purpose of this item was to approve CityScape Agreement for Wireless Consulting. He noted that Barry Baker, Planning Director, was also present to answer questions. He continued that this agenda item was for a 3-year extension of the CityScape agreement for wireless consulting. The agreement provides for new tower and antenna collocation review for compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. The consultant attends major special use permit hearings to provide technical guidance and advice. The agreement also provides for the consultant to negotiate with providers for collocation on County-owned towers. Finally, the agreement provides for the consultant to conduct additional consulting services for the County if approved by the County. The consulting firm has provided same services to the County for approximately 12 years.

County Manager Felts stated that funding is in the annual budget and that applicants pay the review fee to County and then the County pays a review fee to Cityscape after review is finished. He noted that the County Attorney and the Consulting Firm have reviewed the draft agreement.

Commissioner Karan asked if there was a time frame when a tower is approved until it is built.

Barry Baker stated that any major use permit must obtain a building permit within two years of approval.

Commissioner Karan and Commissioner Smith mentioned towers located on the corner of Highway 56 and Walters Road and one up Highway 96 North that were approved but assets have not been put up.

Mr. Baker noted that the applicant can request up to 5 years, but they have to ask, and it has to be approved.

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a three (3) year extension of the CityScape Agreement for Wireless Consulting.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

There were no proclamations, resolutions, or legislative matters to report.

BOARD REAPPOINTED WILLIAM R. “BILL” CROSBY TO THE GRANVILLE COUNTY ABC BOARD

Chairman Cozart noted that the term of William R. “Bill” Crosby expires in March and that Mr. Crosby would like to be reappointed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner David T. Smith, and unanimously carried, the Board reappointed William R. “Bill” Crosby” to the Granville County ABC Board.

BOARD APPOINTED VICKIE SMOAK AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE SOUTH GRANVILLE MEMORIAL GARDENS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman Cozart noted that Dallas Champion passed away and Vickie Smoak, alternate, is recommended to fill the vacancy as a regular member. The South Granville Memorial Gardens Board of Trustees will recommend a replacement for the alternate position as a later date.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Vickie Smoak as a regular member of the South Granville Memorial Gardens Board of Trustees.

BOARD APPOINTED MIKE WOOD (DISTRICT 7 APPOINTED BY DISTRICT 6) TO THE GRANVILLE COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Commissioner Karan stated that Tony Santangelo resigned from the Environmental Affairs Committee and that he would like to recommend a replacement.

Commissioner Jay thanked Mr. Santangelo for serving on the committee and for his help with litter sweeps.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Mike Wood (District 7 appointed by District 6) to the Granville County Citizens Advisory Committee for Environmental Affairs.

BOARD ANNOUNCED SPRING LITTER SWEEP – INFORMATION ONLY

Chairman Cozart stated the purpose of this agenda item was to announce the NCDOT Spring Litter Sweep to be held on Friday, April 22, 2022. He stated further that the County had taken a stance to address litter issues in the County and that twice each year, County employees and the Commissioners are provided the opportunity to participate in a litter cleanup program in conjunction with the NCDOT Litter Sweep Program.

County Manager Felts gave a shout-out to Jason Falls for coordinating the sweep twice a year. The NCDOT sponsored “Spring 2022 Litter Sweep” begins on April 16th and concludes on April 30th. Jason Falls, Director of Environmental Programs, is requesting volunteers within county government to help clean a section of road within the county (the road will be determined prior to the day of pickup) on Friday, April 22, 2022, with a rain date scheduled for the Friday, May 13, 2022. As an incentive for participating County employees, once they have finished picking up litter from the selected road(s), employees will have the option of not returning to work (without using leave) as approved by the County Manager and/or the employee’s supervisor. Additionally, employees could earn 20 points towards wellness activities by participating.

This item was for information only.

BOARD APPROVED IMMEDIATE CASH BONUS AND A COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT

County Manager Mike Felts asked that the Board consider an immediate cash bonus for full and part-time employees and a 2.75 percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for all full-time employees in the current fiscal year. He referred to information in the agenda packet and talked about the impacts of inflation on employees, the need to do something outside of the budget cycle for an immediate impact and summarized the following background information. In response to inflation and rising costs across all CPI-U indexes (Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers), County Administration and Human Resources have been actively reviewing employee benefits and salaries to seek ways to ensure we are taking care of our employees.

Over the past several months, all eyes have been on news headlines and financial reports as the highest inflationary levels in four decades have been recorded. The County's Finance Director reported on this crisis during his presentation at the Board's Annual Retreat. As shown in the most recent report produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the southeast region, which includes North Carolina, the all-items CPI-U advanced 7.8% for the 12 months ending in January 2022 (chart illustrates the CPI-U percent change from January 2019 to January 2022).

Based on this reality, local government jurisdictions within Granville and its surrounding counties as well as jurisdictions throughout the state are considering implementing a 6% – 8% COLA. Many of those jurisdictions are being forced to contemplate such a large increase because they have not had a fully funded annual merit program in place. The Granville County Board of Commissioners is sincerely commended for showing the foresight to fund the merit program in nearly every fiscal year budget – including the current fiscal year funding of up to four percent for full-time employees.

The effect rising inflation is having on our employees cannot be overstated. Nor can the effect current economic conditions such as competition in wages and benefits for the shrinking workforce is having on County operations. It is with these facts in mind that we are bringing an unprecedented mid-year request to the County Board for consideration; the impact is being felt now and needs to be addressed now – not four months from now when the new fiscal year budget is implemented.

To address skyrocketing inflation, county administration proposes adding a 2.75 percent COLA in this fiscal year to the approved merit pay already included in the current budget. Combined, these increases will reach up to 6.75 percent and align Granville County, on average, with what others are doing.

Even if approved at the March 21 meeting, the earliest a COLA increase could be implemented is the April 16 – May 15 pay period which would not show up in the employees' paychecks until May 31. Therefore, to address the urgency this situation warrants, the following approach is proposed:

He stated that County administration and human resources recommend approval of the following:

1. A one-time immediate cash bonus to all employees at \$100 each for full-time employees and \$50 each for part-time employees who have worked in both of the past two pay periods; and
2. A 2.75 percent COLA increase to all full-time employee salaries effective with the pay period beginning April 16, 2022.

County Manager Felts stated that Assistant County Manager Korena Weichel was present and worked extensively with Human Resources on this proposal.

Chairman Cozart stated that the hospital had been speaking of the same challenges at their meeting earlier today.

Commissioner Karan made comments about how the outcome of an election affects people, the price of gas and food that we have no control over, some living at bare minimum wage, and retaining our good employees that are like family. He said he has concerns and would do this kicking and screaming as many are having these same issues and this is using taxpayer funds. He noted that he supports the people working in Granville County and has nothing but praise for them and would make a motion to approve the recommendation from the County Administration and Human Resources.

Commissioner Smith asked if he was recommending items 1 and 2.

Commissioner Karan said items 1 and 2 unless he wanted him to amend the motion.

Commissioner Hinman seconded the motion to include items 1 and 2.

At this point discussion ensued about the unprecedented year we are in at this time, implementing COLA now or looking at it during the budget cycle, the strain on employees to pay for gas and food, and being stewards of taxpayer dollars. County Manager clarified that the COLA would be a recurring expense and that the cash bonus is immediate and one-time. If the COLA is not approved, it will show back up in the budget process. After discussion, the motion passed as follows.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a one-time immediate cash bonus to all employees at \$100 each for full-time employees and \$50 each for part-time employees who have worked in both of the past two pay periods, and a 2.75 percent COLA increase to all full-time employee salaries effective with the pay period beginning April 16, 2022.

AFTER HEARING PRESENTATION, BOARD APPROVED GREAT GRANT PARTNERSHIP WITH CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS (SPECTRUM)

The Board came back to this item that was moved from earlier in the meeting. Chairman Cozart asked Justin DeLancey, Senior Manager of State Government Affairs with Charter Communications (Spectrum), to come forward for a presentation.

Mr. DeLancey said he had been working with staff for over nine months to determine broadband needs and come up with a solution to provide the biggest bang for the buck for the County. He said the proposed project includes over 2500 households with a goal to maximize grant funding dollars from the State, the County and Charter to build a project to focus on underserved areas in the county. The total cost of the project will be \$13.9 million with a match of \$1 million from the County, Charter's contribution at \$8.9 million and the State at a maximum of \$4 million for 280 miles of new fiber. He noted that Charter Communications had a representative speak to the Board about a year and a half ago about the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund which is a federal grant reverse auction. Charter won a federal subsidy to connect about 1100 households and will build that in conjunction with this fiber build.

Board members then asked questions while reviewing a map. Mr. DeLancey explained the process. Applications are due April 4th and work must be completed in two years.

County Manager Felts referred to background information in the agenda packet. Counties may partner with more than one provider on the GREAT grant application with a potential \$8M maximum award (each project is capped at \$4M). Projects are scored based on select criteria with the highest-scoring projects awarded first. In the event that both projects are awarded, and the projects encompass overlapping areas, the project that scores highest is awarded first, and the NC Broadband Infrastructure Office then works to identify and eliminate the overlapped areas from the second project.

Chairman Cozart noted that if both grants are received, more of the County will have broadband coverage.

Commissioner Karan said this map shows the underserved areas in the whole county, noting that there are underserved areas in the southern end as well. He asked County Manager Felts to explain the next steps.

Commissioner Karan made a motion to accept the County Manager's recommendation and Commissioner Jay seconded the motion.

Commissioner Smith said he would like to do what he said he would do at the retreat and support the southern end also. He asked Commissioner Jay to withdraw his second to the motion so he could second it. Commissioner Jay withdrew his second and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

When Chairman Cozart called for a vote on the motion, it passed unanimously to authorize County Administration and the County Attorney to review and approve an agreement with Charter Communications (Spectrum) for a GREAT grant partnership to include a Granville County contribution not to exceed \$1 million for a fiber project using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) funds.

DURING COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, BOARD APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF GREGORY PROPERTY IN STOVALL FOR THE FUTURE SENIOR CENTER PROJECT

County Attorney Wrenn noted he had two matters to be discussed. The first concerned the finalization of the Stovall property purchase. He requested approval for the purchase of the Lewis P. Gregory, Jr. property which is the southernmost track needed for the future Senior Center project in the amount of \$3,500 plus closing costs.

Upon a motion by David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved purchasing a lot identified as map #192819711462 in Stovall from Lewis P. Gregory, Jr. for \$3,500 plus closing costs for the future Senior Center project.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT CONTINUES

County Attorney Wrenn stated that he had one other matter related to a Stovall property as a closed session attorney-client matter before taking action.

BOARD APPROVED FINALIZING THE CONTRACT WITH PEARSON'S APPRAISAL FOR TAX REVALUATION FOR 2024

County Attorney Wrenn said at the retreat, the Board approved an appraisal contract with Pearson's Appraisal for the 2024 tax revaluation. The motion did not include authorization for the County Attorney, County Manager, and Tax Administrator to finalize the contract consistent with the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) and the response to the RFQ that was previously reviewed and approved.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved granting authority to authorize the

County Manager, County Attorney and Tax Administrator to finalize the contract with Pearson's Appraisal for the tax revaluation for 2024.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Karan reported that he is a better speaker than a writer, but that he would like to send a letter to NCDOT regarding missing white lines and broken pavement on our highways. He referred to a post he made on Facebook on February 19th regarding the death of a youth on Brassfield Road near Robertson Creek and the condition of the road near the accident. He requested that Administration send a letter to NCDOT to access the secondary roads in Granville County as they are in poor condition, especially Brassfield Road.

Commissioner Jay asked that the lines be checked near Bridgestone Bandag also.

Commissioner Jay reported that the Environmental Affairs Committee would be cleaning up grounds at Wilton Slopes in April to honor former committee member Marshall Floyd who recently passed away.

DURING BOARD PRESENTATIONS, BOARD APPROVED SPONSORSHIP FOR GRANVILLE COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Commissioner Smith reported that the Granville County Crime Stoppers Golf Tournament will be held May 19th at the South Granville Country Club and is a fundraiser for them. Anyone interested in playing should contact Bobby Wheeler.

Upon a motion by David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a \$100 hole sponsorship for the Granville County Crime Stoppers Golf Tournament on May 19, 2022.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE

Chairman Cozart reported that the service for Commissioner May's mother today was a powerful service. He continued that he is noticing around the community that more people are coming out now as COVID restrictions lessen and that it is good to see and be in fellowship with the people of Granville County. He said he was glad to see Sheriff Hardy in the audience and stated that people love to see deputy cars in the area.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

County Manager Felts added that an economic development matter needs to be added to the closed session.

Commissioner Jay stated that he has been walking in the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Chapter Walk for 25 years. Last year the national walk was not held due to COVID, but they

did walk in Oxford. This year the MS Walk will be held the first Saturday in April at the PNC Arena in Raleigh as April is MS Month. He asked people to please donate or walk in the event if possible and talked about his sister having MS for 32 years.

BOARD WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner David T. Smith, and unanimously carried, the Board went into closed session as allowed by G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) and (4) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged; and to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations.

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

BOARD APPROVED PURCHASE OF TAYLOR PROPERTY IN STOVALL FOR THE FUTURE SENIOR CENTER PROJECT

County Attorney Wrenn recommended that the Board approve the purchase and grant permission to close on the James Edward Taylor heirs' property #192819619781 for the amount not to exceed \$62,000 plus closing costs.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner David T. Smith, and unanimously carried, the Board approved purchasing a lot identified as map #192819619781 in Stovall from the James Edward Taylor heirs for an amount not to exceed \$62,000 plus closing costs and authorized the County Attorney to close on the property for future Senior Center project

BOARD ADJOURNED

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

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