

**GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JANUARY 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 7:02 p.m., Chair Russ May called the meeting to order. He then had the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that Commissioner Hinman recently lost her sister and expressed condolences to the family.

**REMEMBRANCE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Chair May announced that the Board had the privilege of attending a ceremony that honored Dr. Martin Luther King and on behalf of the Board, read the following statement and presented a copy to the Clerk:

THE BOARD NOW WILL TAKE A MOMENT TO BRIEFLY HONOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TO DO SO I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE YOU BACK IN TIME...A TIME OF CHAOS, AND UNCERTAINTY-WHO WERE WE...WHO WERE WE AS A NATION, AND WERE WE REALLY A NATION THAT TRULY HONORED OUR FOUNDING VALUES STATED WITHIN OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE – We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

IT IS 1968... I RECALL VIVIDLY WATCHING THE EVENING NEWS EACH NIGHT AND LISTENING TO WALTER CONKRITE ADDRESSING OUR NATION. THE WORLD WAS IN TURMOIL. 1968 WAS A YEAR UNLIKE ANY YEAR I CAN RECALL IN MY LIFETIME.

A NATION AT WAR, A US NAVAL SHIP CAPTURED BY NORTH KOREA, PROTESTS, RIOTS ACROSS OUR NATION, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL UPEHAVAL AND MOST HORRIBLY ASSASINATIONS OF TWO MEN WHO WERE CHAMPIONS OF FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., A BAPTIST MINISTER AND ROBERT KENNEDY, A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE... THE LOSS OF BOTH THESE YOUNG CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE SHATTERED A NATION’S HEART... 1968 FOREVER CHANGED OUR NATION.

WE HONOR DR. KING FOR HIS LIFE AND LEGACY OF FIGHTING AGAINST INJUSTICES AND FOR EQUALITY. HE SO PASSIONATELY WANTED ALL AMERICANS, REGARDLESS OF ETHNICITY, TO BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY, FAIRNESS, COMPASSION, AND EQUALITY.

IN FURTHER REMEMBRANCE OF DR. KING, I WOULD LIKE TO READ SOME FAMOUS QUOTES:

“Whatever your life’s work is, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better.”

“If a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn’t fit to live.”

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’  
If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michaelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.”

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

At this time, there was a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair May announced that the May 4, 2022 minutes were added to the consent agenda for approval.

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

**A. Approved tax refunds, releases, and write-offs:**

- Refunds December 2022: \$3,008.82
- Releases December 2022: \$ 468.50
- Write-offs (\$2 and less) December 2022: \$ 9.43

**B. Declared vehicles as surplus to be sold via online auction platform:**

**Emergency Management Department:**

- Layton Homes 2006 Nomad – VIN # - 00694

**Sheriff Department:**

- TL Industries 2005 International – VIN # 43171

**C. Approved authorizing the Finance Director to make the following changes to the Sheriff’s Execution account at Union Bank, now First National Bank:**

| Signatures coming off | Signatures adding on |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| John Hardy            | Robert Fountain, Jr. |
|                       | Kendall Mangum       |

**D. Approved minutes:**

- April 6, 2022 Special Meeting
- April 18, 2022 Regular Meeting
- May 2, 2022 Regular Meeting

**INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

**RECOGNITION OF SERVICE – VICKIE G. HAMMIE**

The Board recognized Vickie G. Hammie for her years of service. Commissioner Hinman read comments provided by Adonica Hampton, Social Services Director and then Commissioner Cozart presented her a plaque on behalf of the Board:

Vickie G. Hammie  
Granville County Department of Social Services  
January 8, 1992 – December 31, 2022  
In Recognition of Outstanding Service  
to  
The Citizens of Granville County  
Presented by  
The Granville County Board of Commissioners

**DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION GRANT AWARD PRESENTATION DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION  
GRANT AWARD**

Assistant County Manager Weichel provided background information on the Duke Energy Foundation Grant. Granville County submitted two applications to Duke Energy Foundation's grant program in 2022 and was recently awarded a total of \$30,000. The County Emergency Management Department was awarded \$25,000 to purchase Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and to purchase other supplies used to operate emergency shelters. In addition, the Parks and Grounds Department was awarded \$5,000 to perform safety improvements to the Granville Athletic Park trail system.

Jason Reavis, Emergency Management Director, thanked Tanya Evans and the Duke Energy Foundation for the grant. He noted that the grant for Emergency Management will be going towards is two-fold: 1) to put 10-12 AEDs in several Granville County buildings, and; 2) to replace cots due to aging out as well as restructuring that the American Red Cross has done to better serve the citizens during disasters.

Tanya Evans, District Manager for Duke Energy, said they are so excited about being able to provide this grant for two wonderful opportunities as it is very important for Duke Energy to support the communities that they serve. She stated that Duke Energy Foundation made a commitment to supporting Emergency Management efforts in storm response and community resilience. The Board then took a picture with Ms. Evans with a big check to formally present the grant awards to Granville County.

**UPDATE FROM GRANVILLE COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

Jermaine Puryear, Jr. updated the Board on the progress of the Youth Leadership Council in the last three to four months. The Youth provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke from it about their strategic planning, team building, mission statement, board assignments, and training. They also talked about upcoming plans including a meeting and great, mental health and first aid training, podcast, career/job fair, and teen nights. Charissa Puryear gave a history of how the council was created and noted that one goal of the Youth Council is to train them to be able to serve on boards and committees in the county. Board members made comments including that they would like to have representation by youth on boards and committees.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**TAX MATTERS**

**BOARD APPROVED TAX REFUND TO TYLER WILSON**

North Carolina General Statute 105-325(a)(6) empowers Boards of County Commissioners to change abstracts and tax records after the Board of Equalization and Review has adjourned or to appraise or reappraise property when the assessor reports to the board that, since adjournment of the Board of Equalization and Review, facts have come to the assessor's attention that render it advisable to raise or lower the appraisal of some particular property of a given taxpayer in the current calendar year.

The Tax Administrator was notified on December 14, 2022, that the Tax office taxed Tyler Wilson's property including a house that should have been taxed on the parcel next to him. The tax office will send an adjusted bill to the landowner that has the house on their property.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a refund to Tyler Wilson for incorrectly assessed taxes.

## **BOARD APPROVED GRANVILLE COUNTY TAX OFFICE LATE APPLICATION POLICY AND PROCESS**

North Carolina law provides clear guidance on how property taxes are to be assessed and paid, including the processes by which local jurisdictions can receive and process applications for allowable exemptions and exclusions from property taxation. The statutory application period for exemptions is January 1<sup>st</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup> and exclusion application period is from January 1<sup>st</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup>. Each year we have several late applications delivered to our office.

North Carolina General Statute 105-282.1(a1) states upon a showing of good cause by the applicant for failure to make a timely application, the governing board may approve the application. The statute does not clearly define just cause, but to avoid accidentally setting unhelpful precedents, staff believes that adopting the attached policy will provide the needed guidance to staff and to the County Commissioners for what would be considered just cause.

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following the following Granville County Tax Office Late Application Policy and Process:

### **Granville County Proposed Late Application Process** (for exclusions and exemptions from property taxes)

Inherent in owning property is the obligation of property owners to understand their rights and obligations including paying taxes and applying for all exclusion and exemptions from property taxes in a timely manner. With that principle in mind, taxpayer neglect or oversight will not constitute “good cause” for a late exemption or exclusion application.

A “late” application is any application (1) not received by the tax office before the official deadline, or (2) not bearing a clear postmark or official timestamp before the official deadline from the USPS or other recognized delivery company or common carrier such that the date of deposit with the delivery company or common carrier can be determined.

Good cause for considering a late application may include situations in which:

- The taxpayer was given incorrect information in writing regarding the matter from the tax office or the N.C. Department of Revenue; or
- The taxpayer was incompetent, incapacitated, or deployed in military service out of the country during the period in which the application should have been submitted.

The burden of proving both good cause for the late application and eligibility for the requested exemption or exclusion falls on the taxpayer.

## **PURCHASING**

### **BOARD APPROVED PURCHASE OF OUTDOOR INSTRUMENTS FOR THE THORNTON LIBRARY FROM STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS GRANT**

The purpose of this item was to purchase outdoor instruments from Percussion Play for the Thornton Library using funds from the State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) grant. Library staff were impressed with the outdoor instruments at the Granville Athletic Park and thought that they would be a great resource for the Library System.

Will Robinson, Library Director, explained that the non-recurring state aid funds originate with the U.S. Treasury Office as part of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan. He stated funds will be distributed through the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources State Library for Disbursement. He stated further that the Granville County Library was granted \$64,899 through this grant. He noted that this will be something outside the library facility for the community to use.

Board members asked questions and received clarification.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and carried by a vote of 6-1, the Board approved the purchase of outdoor instruments for the Thornton Library from Percussion Play in the amount of \$18,730 from the State Fiscal Recovery Funds grant. Commissioner May voted nay noting that he would prefer that state funds be allocated to the school system.

**BOARD APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF A MOBILE KITCHEN FROM FOOD LITERACY CENTER MINI-GRANT**

The Granville County Library System was one of five applicants chosen to receive the Food Literacy Center Mini-Grant for a mobile kitchen called a Charlie Cart. The grant award amount of \$16,930 can be used for the purchase of a mobile kitchen for \$15,000.

Will Robinson, Library Director, explained that this is a big step toward getting more food programming to stress food literacy and health and wellness. He noted they are working with Cooperative Extension on a program called Slice and that the cart will not take up much space. He noted that the Children's Librarian, Amy Carlson, has received training and certification to prepare food.

Motioned by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of a mobile kitchen from The Charlie Cart Project in the amount of \$15,000 from the Food Literacy Center Mini-Grant.

**RECESS**

Chair May asked for a ten-minute recess.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board called for a recess at 8:03 p.m.

**SHERIFF MATTERS**

**BOARD APPROVED PURCHASE OF TWO CHEVROLET TAHOES FOR OFFICIAL USE**

The Sheriff's Office requested to expend up to \$78,904.56 in federal asset forfeiture funds to purchase two (2) Official Use Vehicles. The purchase will be conducted with the Capital Chevrolet Government Sales Division utilizing NC State Contract 070A.

The Sheriff's Office is in the process of outfitting the existing fleet with vehicles that can meet service requirements during hazardous weather events. The acquisition of 4-wheel drive vehicles will meet this need and provide the Sheriff's Office with an increased response capability when road conditions are hazardous. The purchase of vehicles is authorized by the federal forfeiture program as an anticipated expenditure to support law enforcement operations (*U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of the Treasury Guide to Equitable Sharing 2018*). Additionally, the expenditure meets the DOJ and Treasury requirement that equitable sharing funds be used in a timely manner.

Sheriff Fountain reported to the Board that he had sworn in ten officers earlier that day and in the past 30 days 15 officers and that the target projection for the department to be fully staffed was July. He shared some additional information with the Board regarding work with local and federal partners to ensure the safety of the citizens of Granville County. He requested additional vehicles that could be purchased with asset forfeiture funds and talked about the difficulty of locating vehicles.

After questions and clarification, a motion was made by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart and seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay to approve the recommendation of the requested vehicles from the Sheriff.

Chair May asked for an update on the body scanner purchase for the Detention Center and the balance of the asset forfeiture accounts. He asked that processes be adhered to and followed with seized vehicles and that due diligence is done.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of two (2) Chevrolet Tahoes for official use in the amounts of \$39,616.78 and \$39,287.78 for a total amount of \$78,904.56 using asset forfeiture funds.

#### **BOARD APPROVED PURCHASE OF TWO CHEVROLET SUBURBANS FOR OFFICIAL USE**

The Sheriff's Office requested to expend up to \$104,000.00 from the Sheriff's Office General Fund Account #10-4310-540 (Capital Outlay Cars) to purchase two (2) official use vehicles. The purchase will be conducted through a Chevrolet government sales contract.

The Sheriff's Office is in the process of outfitting the existing fleet with vehicles that can meet service requirements during hazardous weather events. The acquisition of 4-wheel drive vehicles will meet this need and provide the Sheriff's Office with an increased response capability when road conditions are hazardous.

Sheriff Fountain explained that the request had changed due to a decrease in price and that they were now requesting the purchase of two Chevrolet Suburbans rather than Silverado trucks. He said that conversations are taking place with the County Manager and County Attorney regarding using a fleet management company for vehicles. He answered questions from the Board about the practicality of using a suburban for patrol, the life of vehicles, cost of outfitting the vehicle, funding for fiscal year, and vehicle inventory. He also answered questions about cadets in training and accounting of his weapon system.

After clarification that funds are in place and that vehicles are in short supply, the Board took action with the understanding that documentation will be provided for the Chevrolet Suburbans.

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of two (2) Chevrolet Suburbans for official use in the amount of \$45,579.50 each for a total amount of \$91,159.00 using the Sheriff's Office capital outlay cars' account from state contract.

Sheriff Fountain announced that Reverend Leroy Anderson was sworn in as a Chaplain along with others and that they are starting a new chaplaincy program as part of their community engagement.

### **SOLID WASTE MATTERS**

#### **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING OVERSIGHT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LEACHATE TANK NO.2**

The Board approved the construction of an additional leachate tank at their regular meeting in August. The additional tank that was approved is designed to accommodate the increased flow of leachate due to the new cell being constructed. The scope of work (identified as Task Order #10) discusses services and the associated costs for engineer review of design and construction oversight for this additional leachate tank. These services are required by the state for our "permit to construct" as well as a "permit to operate".

Additional background information regarding this request included in the agenda packet was the Board summary of leachate tank need/procurement history, Board award/approval of tank construction, notice of award to contractor, an executed contract between county and contractor, as well as a notice to proceed letter. The majority of the work will begin and end in February of 2023.

County Administration recommends using General Fund Balance to loan an additional \$45,663.00 to the already approved loan of \$4,000,000 at 1% over a 7-year period to the Solid Waste

Enterprise Fund for the construction and engineering costs associated with the proposed 8-acre cell.

Motioned by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board the engineering scope of work for oversight of the construction of leachate tank no. 2 with Garrett & Moore, Inc., and associated funding in the amount of \$45,663 and authorized the County Manager to execute the resulting contract once the County Attorney and Engineer have worked out the contract details.

### **PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

There were no updates.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **BOARD APPROVED REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE ADULT HOME CARE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reappointments of Delores Lyon (District 4) and Vernestine Bannerman (District 6 appointed by District 1) to the Adult Home Care Community Advisory Committee.

#### **BOARD APPROVED REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE NURSING HOME COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Jay recommended the reappointment of Gwen Bullock and Commissioner Gooch recommended the reappointment of Gail Birdsong.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reappointments of Gwen Bullock (District 1) and Gail Birdsong (District 7) to the Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee.

#### **BOARD APPROVED APPOINTMENT TO KARTS**

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the appointment of Kathy May to Kerr Area Transportation Authority (KARTS).

#### **BOARD APPROVED APPOINTMENT TO THE GRANVILLE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the appointment of Adam Brewer to fill an unexpired term on the Granville County Planning Board.

#### **BOARD APPROVED APPOINTMENT TO THE GRANVILLE HEALTH SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Shane Hodge (Hospital Representative) to the Granville Health System Board of Trustees.

#### **BOARD APPROVED CONTINUING THE DISCUSSION OF THE EXPANSION OF THE ABC BOARD AT THE RETREAT**

The creation and structure of local ABC boards are governed by statute. Since its inception several decades ago, the Granville County ABC system has been governed by a three-member board. They are responsible for hiring the ABC system general manager and providing policy direction and other direction to the system through the general manager. The Granville County ABC system is currently in the middle of constructing a new store in Oxford, with the intention of using the old building as a warehouse. There has been some discussion of adding additional stores in the future. General statutes give fairly specific direction on the size and appointment processes for local ABC boards, and the relevant general statutes are attached to this item.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and carried by a vote of 6-1, the Board approved continuing the discussion of the ABC Board expansion at the upcoming retreat. Commissioner Zelodis Jay voted nay noting his concerns with having a three-member board and the risk of violating open meetings law for a quorum.

#### **BOARD APPROVED DELAYING DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE EXPANSION OF THE DSS BOARD TO THE RETREAT**

The membership structure of local DSS (Department of Social Services) boards are governed by statute. Since its creation, the Granville County DSS board has consisted of three members. They have supervisory authority over the DSS Director (subject to state personnel guidelines) and provide policy direction and other direction to the local Department of Social Services through the director. General statutes give fairly specific direction on the appointment authority and process for local DSS boards, and the relevant general statutes are attached to this item.

Commissioner Hinman asked for clarification on how you add members and asked to delay action until the retreat. She noted that she was in favor of a five-member board.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and carried by a vote of 6-1, the Board approved delaying discussion and action on the DSS Board expansion until the retreat. Commissioner Jay voted nay.

#### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Chair May asked that the Board consider a full day for the retreat instead of a half day.

County Manager Cummings reported that at this time there are two days for the retreat including Monday evening February 20, 2023, and Friday, February 24, 2023. He said he and staff would evaluate if extra time was needed.

#### **BOARD APPROVED ADJUSTMENTS TO GRANVILLE ATHLETIC PARK FEES**

Assistant County Manager Weichel explained that two Granville County charter schools currently utilize the GAP (Granville Athletic Park) baseball fields for team games and were requesting use of these same fields for practices. Due to the nature of baseball practice, allowing for this extended use will necessitate increased field maintenance as well as the purchase of additional materials to cover mound and plate area upkeep, sod, and drying agents. Therefore, staff propose an increase to the rental fees to accommodate this request.

After an internal review of anticipated additional costs as well as a comparison of like facilities within the County's geographic region where GAP fees are notably lower, staff recommends this proposed increase be applied uniformly to both practice and game rentals. If approved, the new rates for two-hour rentals would increase from \$35 to \$55 for residents / in-county entities and from \$60 to \$80 for non-residents / out-of-county entities. The park maintenance manager reached out to the school coaches and confirmed their willingness to pay this increase for the opportunity to use the fields for practices.

In addition, staff conducted a review of spray park facilities in closest proximity to Granville County to evaluate the GAP's current operating practices and one-dollar admission fee. This review revealed that the GAP spray park is the only like facility that permits group rentals and the only like facility that charges an admission fee which requires a part-time attendant to monitor the site and collect the fees. The staff's recommendation was to retain the current schedule to allow for group rentals along with an on-site attendant but eliminate the admission fee and on-site attendant during general operating hours. (Group rentals are permitted Monday – Saturday, 10 am – 12 noon only.) If the on-site attendant is eliminated for general operating hours, additional signage including rules and cautions will be erected at the park.

Board members asked questions about the use of fields by charter schools, the wear and tear of the fields, and comparable rental costs in other counties. Staff were asked to determine a way to encourage rentals of the amphitheater. Assistant County Manager Weichel noted that they



are continuing to seek grant opportunities for a canopy for the amphitheater. After clarification, the Board took action.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following fee adjustments to the Granville Athletic Park (GAP) baseball fields and spray park:

- Baseball fields from \$35 to \$55 per 2 hours for resident rate and from \$60 to \$80 per 2 hours for non-resident rate
- Spray park from \$1 per person to free

#### **County Manager Update**

County Manager Cummings said he appreciated the district tours with each commissioner recently as they were informative and helpful.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

County Attorney Wrenn stated that he had attorney-client, economic development, and personnel matters for closed session.

#### **BOARD PRESENTATIONS**

Commissioner Williford reported that he attended the Martin Luther King, Jr.(MLK) event at Oxford Baptist Church, the Boys and Girls Club event, and the new commissioner orientation session sponsored by the UNC-School of Government. He noted that the Granville ABC Board is finalizing the contract for the new store in Oxford and a groundbreaking will be held in about 60 days.

Commissioner Hinman thanked the Board for all their prayers, calls, and cards during the passing of her sister.

Commissioner Cozart reported that he looks forward to attending the upcoming North Carolina Association of County Commissioner Board of Directors meeting scheduled January 27-28, 2023. He said there will be upcoming appointments on the Human Relations Commission and that he was glad to see Albert Capps recognized with the Reverend Robert Blackwell Award at the MLK event.

Commissioner Gooch reported that during his district tour with County Manager Cummings, they had the opportunity to meet the Stem Town Council and Stem Mayor. He noted they had already met with Butner representatives.

Commissioner Jay said he attended three Martin Luther King Jr. events and applauded the young people that participated. He noted that the young lady from J.F. Webb High School did an excellent job. He thanked the County Manager, Gary Bowen, and staff for assistance at Granville-Vance District Health Department for repairs from freezing weather and mentioned that services are getting back to normal.

Chair Russ May reported he attended the MLK event in Creedmoor along with Commissioners Karan and Jay. He noted that the Granville County Fire Commission has some important decisions soon regarding funding and the Corinth Fire Department just purchased a new fire pumper which is a tremendous asset to the county. He thanked the staff for being present at this meeting. He said he is going to do his best to communicate to the public things that they may not be aware of or things that need further explanation so that they understand that the Board is operating in the utmost transparency.

### **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

Commissioner Gooch requested that the young lady that Commissioner Jay mentioned attend an upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting for recognition.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board went into closed session as allowed by N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (3), (4), and (6) for attorney-client, economic development, and personnel matters.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

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