

GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 3, 2023
GRANVILLE EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTER
4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford, North Carolina

PRESENT:

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chair Russ May called the meeting to order. Commissioner Tony W. Cozart had the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair May acknowledged that County Manager Cummings celebrated the homegoing of his mother during the holiday period. He extended sympathy on behalf of the Board.

INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE - VICKIE G. HAMMIE

This item was pulled from the agenda as Ms. Hammie was unable to attend the meeting and postponed until further notice.

BOARD APPROVED RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC)

Mr. Eddie Crews, JCPC Central Area Consultant with the N.C. Department of Public Safety Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, was present to request approval of a resolution supporting pay increases for Juvenile Justice Facility staff. Understaffed or inadequately staffed juvenile detention facilities put everyone at risk and the Granville County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) supports the resolution. Chair May continued that JCPC is an active group that receives funding from the state and some funding from the county. He stated further that this group works on means of mitigation of juvenile crime deterrent, counseling, and assistance for children that have delinquency issues and/or criminal justice issues as well as emotional trauma. It is one of the conduits that the county uses and it does partially fund that program.

Mr. Crews provided the Board with a brief presentation of the critical employment crisis that detention and youth development centers currently face. He pointed out that Dillon Detention Center, located in Butner, North Carolina has reached a critical staffing point and it has increased since the most recent resolution was printed to about 50% and, in some facilities, it is 60%. He stated that the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, under the umbrella of Public Safety is having to pull Juvenile Court Counselors who are trained to rehabilitate and work with kids in the community into these facilities to work and that is creating a burden where they are not able to perform their normal job duties. He stated further that even some that have been recently hired are being reassigned so they are not performing the job that they applied for and are qualified to perform. Mr. Crews stated that management has asked the consultants to reach out to County Commissioners through JCPC and asks them to come to the table to help support this state-wide effort to support pay increases for facilities staff. He added that the other big point he wished to make was that this requires no county funds. He continued that this was

merely a county resolution supporting this state-wide effort. He advised the Board that Wake, Cumberland, and most of the eastern counties have signed similar resolutions. He stated that he was graciously requesting that the Board adopt the resolution that was presented this evening.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried to approve the following *Resolution Supporting Compression Increases for Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention* and to forward it to the appropriate personnel at the state:

GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COMPRESSION INCREASES for DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION, DETENTION, AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER STAFF

WHEREAS, the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention provides short-term secure confinement in Juvenile Detention Centers and long-term commitment services in the State's Youth Development Centers; and

WHEREAS, the overarching mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the local Juvenile Crime Prevention Council to provide services and programming to ensure the protection of the community and rehabilitation of youth offenders; and

WHEREAS, Granville County is home to Dillon Regional Juvenile Detention Center in the city of Butner, and the staff of this facility along with other State juvenile facility staff have been passed over for pay increases that would recognize and reward the experienced staff, and make compensation more competitive as well as ensure qualified staff recruitment and retention; and

WHEREAS, Over one-quarter (26%) of JJDP positions are vacant (416 of 1,576), primarily in the areas of community supervision and case management and direct supervision of juveniles in confinement. More than half (225 or 54%) of the 416 vacancies are DJJD facilities' positions. More than one-third (157 or 38%) of the vacancies are in juvenile court services, which provides community supervision and case management services; and

WHEREAS, Compression Salary Increases for Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention facility staff were removed from the state's budget prior to final approval; and

WHEREAS, similar salary adjustments or increases WERE approved for Department of Public Safety staff in adult facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Granville County Commissioners support the adequate and timely increase of the salaries of juvenile facility staff in Granville County and across the State of North Carolina to make those positions competitive and to ensure qualified staff are compensated adequately for years of experience for the purposes of retention, as well as lay the groundwork for recruitment of qualified staff for youth facilities which will ensure the immediate and ongoing protection of the community and strengthen rehabilitative services for those juveniles most in need.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jacob Schaper, 606 21st Street, Butner, NC, talked about concerns with charges at the landfill for those that have a hydraulic cylinder on their trailer and have to pay \$38 a ton. He said those without a hydraulic cylinder do not pay the fee. He said he is 70 years old and needs the dump trailer to help him dump his items. He asked the Board to look at the matter as some are being penalized just because they use a dump trailer and there seems to not be a financial gain to the county for this.

Vernon Morton, 609 21st Street, Butner, NC, made the following comments and presented a copy to the Clerk:

On November 23rd, 2022, I went to the Butner landfill convenient site to dump a few leaves from my dump trailer. I was informed by the scale tenant that because I had a dump trailer, I would be charged a fee of \$38 per ton. My leaves weighed .04 ton and I paid \$1.52 to dump them. I was given a paper titled **Brush** dated 11/18/22 **Oxford and Butner Landfill** stating:

**Free acceptance from your home in-county (of your debris transported by)
Single axle and double axle trailers**

Pickup trucks

Cars and SUVs

All vehicles out-of-county or to be charged.

Anyone on a dump trailer or dump truck will be charged \$38 per ton.

All businesses will be charged \$38 per ton, regardless of trailer or truck size.

I call your attention to the discrimination in this policy statement. All Granville County property owners are charged a line-item tax fee of \$25 for **Waste Convenient Site Fee** to fund the operation of the convenience sites in Granville County. The fact that I own and use a dump trailer for the purpose of reducing wear and tear on this 77-year-old body is costing me twice for the privilege I have already been charged for and paid.

The container I use does not change the fact that my yard waste comes from my yard and is not being hauled commercially. I contacted Mr. Jason Falls regarding this discrepancy and from his tone and comments he was less than interested in and rectifying this matter. He stated that “the \$25 tax fee just covers the dumping of the collection containers at the site.” I believe that that is incorrect. He also stated that there would be no change to the \$38 per ton charge for dump trailers.

I would be glad to present ID, registration and sign at the scale house, an affidavit as to the origin of my limbs, trimmings, clippings and yard debris. The container I transport them in is not significant. That is simply for my convenience and ease of handling.

I would appreciate your attention to rectify this discrepancy as per Section 38-74 of the Granville County Code of Ordinances.

Thank you for your time and attention.

County Manager Cummings was directed to check with Mr. Falls on the matter and provide a response to Mr. Schaper and Mr. Morton.

Sheriff Robert Fountain, 115 Saddletree Road, Oxford, NC, stated that he came before the Board for several reasons: 1) to thank the County Manager and County Attorney for working with him during his transition process; 2) to thank the Board of Commissioners for offering their services in having both those two gentlemen to assist him what they are trying to undertake; 3) to Lieutenant Newman and Captain McCall, two of his command staff, that meet with him daily, he thanked them. He reported that the Sheriff’s Office is moving and that everything that they said they were going to do, they are starting to do. He stated that the first week they got 10 key loads of cocaine off the streets Butner—Interstate 85, the past week they had a strategic saturation operation with local law enforcement—Butner, Creedmoor, Stem, Oxford, and ALE. He stated that they went to work Friday, and they had over 66 total charges, nine felonies, and 20 arrests: just on Friday. So, every part of this community will see the Sheriff’s Office more frequently and as they continue to grow and as they hire, they will be more in the communities making sure that the communities are safe. Sheriff Fountain stated that there was some commentary about why they were on the southern end—all the unmarked cars stopping people—he stated that that was what the Board hired him to do—so to the community, everything that they hired him to do, that is what they are going to do. He continued that they are moving forward with other plans and that their staffing pattern has changed for the road deputies, and they are now consistently working two weeks days and two weeks nights before they switch—routinely they were working two-day days and they would switch right back to three days at night which is not a healthy thing for their mindsets or their bodies or their family lives. So, they have changed the way they function. The span of control in which they operate, and it is going to change, and he has spoken with Commissioners May and Karan as they will need more boots on the ground. He stated further that that is the direction that they are going to move in, and he is proud to say that his guys are supporting what they are doing and they should be fully staffed if everything goes as planned by July 2023. He stated that they had 17 vacancies when he took over, and they already have about six or seven people in the process to come on board and they have applications coming in daily. The young men of the Granville County Sheriff’s Office are committed to serving this community.

Board members made comments and a request was made that Sheriff Fountain give quarterly reports at the Board of Commissioners’ meetings.

PURCHASING

BOARD APPROVED INTERIOR ALTERATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES OFFICES AT 143 WILLIAMSBORO STREET

The existing space of the former Sherriff’s Office, located at 143 Williamsboro Street, has been allocated for Granville County DSS Child Support Services offices. This relocation has been planned and needed to accommodate ADA accessibility and to vacate 122 Williamsboro Street which is scheduled for demolition within the next 5 years.

To facilitate this move, and to determine the needed functional improvements of the space, Stephen Baxter Architect was retained to meet with DSS staff and produce the construction documents needed for contractor pricing.

The work included within the construction documents includes minor modifications necessary for the functional needs of the department, new flooring, wall, and ceiling finishes, as well as additional electrical infrastructure. Additional data and communication infrastructure will be provided by the County during the construction process.

Sealed bids for the work were received on December 19, 2022, with the following results.

1.	Vance Construction Company / Henderson NC	\$159,667
2.	Focus Design Builder / Youngsville NC	\$177,410
3.	HG Reynolds Company / Henderson NC	\$205,000

This request complies with Section II, Informal Bids (NCGS 143-131) of the County’s Contract and Purchasing Policy.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved awarding a lump sum construction contract to Vance Construction Company for interior alterations for DSS Child Support Services at 143 Williamsboro Street, Oxford, for a fee not to exceed \$159,667 unless authorized by change order.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Chair May mentioned concerns with school capital funding and updated the Board on the progress of the Leandro decision. He also updated the Board on the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Legislative meeting and noted that top priority goals for the year include funding and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure broadband and seek revenue sources to address statewide public school and community college capital needs.

APPOINTMENTS

BOARD APPROVED APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Chair May asked Commissioners to give updates on boards and/or committees they serve on.

At this point, Commissioners gave updates on the boards and committees they serve on.

Chair May announced that citizens are needed to serve on boards and committees and noted that applications and the list are on the website and advertised.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following list of commissioner assignments to boards, committees, and liaisons:

District 1 – Commissioner Zelodis Jay

- Board of Equalization and Review
- Digital Infrastructure Planning Committee
- District Health Board
- Emergency Services Committee
- Environmental Affairs Advisory Committee Liaison
- Granville Health System Board of Trustees
- K.A.R.T.S
- Kerr-Tar Regional COG Board
- Planning Board Liaison
- Solid Waste Liaison
- Water/Sewer Matters Liaison

District 2 – Commissioner Rob Williford

- Audit Review Committee
- Board of Equalization and Review
- Emergency Services Committee
- Finance Liaison
- Human Relations Commission
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- Opioid Advisory Committee
- Oxford Downtown EDC Board
- Private Industry Council
- Solid Waste Liaison

District 3 – Commissioner Sue Hinman

- Animal Control Advisory Committee Liaison
- Board of Equalization and Review
- DOT Issues
- Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunities Inc.
- Library Board Liaison
- Parks, Greenways and Recreation Advisory Committee
- Social Services Board
- Staff Appreciation

District 4 – Commissioner Tony Cozart

- Board of Equalization and Review
- Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity Inc.
- Granville Health System Board of Trustees
- Human Relations Commission
- Public Safety Liaison
- School Administration Liaison
- Social Services Board
- Staff Appreciation

District 5 – Chair Russ May

- Board of Equalization and Review
- CAMPO – Executive Board
- Economic Development Advisory Board
- Granville Fire Commission
- Planning Board Liaison
- Public Safety Liaison
- Kerr Tar Rural Planning Organization-Transportation Advisory Committee
- Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) (RPO)
- School Administration Liaison
- Upper Neuse River Basin Committee
- Vaya Region 4 Board of Directors
- Veteran Affairs Committee Liaison

District 6 – Vice Chair Tim Karan

- Board of Equalization and Review
- Digital Infrastructure Planning Committee
- Emergency Services Committee
- Extension Leadership Advisory Council
- Granville Health System Board of Trustees
- Greenways Advisory Council
- Opioid Advisory Committee
- Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Advisory Committee

- SGWASA
- Triangle North Board

District 7 – Commissioner Jimmy Gooch

- Audit Review Committee
- Board of Equalization and Review
- CAMPO Executive Board, Alternate
- Granville Health System Board of Trustees, Ex-Officio
- Opioid Advisory Committee
- Senior Center Advisory Committee Liaison
- SGWASA
- Soil & Water Board Liaison
- Transportation Plan Work Group
- Water/Sewer Matters Liaison

BOARD APPROVED REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE GRANVILLE HEALTH SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Commissioner Williford recommended the reappointment of David T. Smith (District 2) and Commissioner Cozart recommended the reappointment of Dawn Omokunde (District 4). The approval was made in one motion.

Motioned by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reappointments of David T. Smith (District 2) and Dawn Omokunde (District 4) to the Granville Health System Board of Trustees.

BOARD APPROVED APPOINTMENTS TO THE GRANVILLE COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reappointment of Blaine Holmes (District 5) to the Granville County Citizens Advisory Committee for Environmental Affairs.

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reappointment of Neil Gresham (District 1) to the Granville County Citizens Advisory Committee for Environmental Affairs.

Motioned by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reappointment of Byron Currin (Ex-Officio-Soil and Water) to the Granville County Citizens Advisory Committee for Environmental Affairs.

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

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reappointment of Lynn Allred (District 1) to the Granville County Library System Board of Trustees.

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Sue Hinman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reappointment of Anne Payne (District 5) to the Granville County Library System Board of Trustees.

ORANGE STREET COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Commissioner Hinman notified the Board that the District 3 seat did not need to be filled at this time.

BOARD APPROVED REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Jay recommended the reappointment of Bessie Bailey (District 1); Commissioner Hinman recommended the reappointment of JoAnn Deshane (District 5 recommended by District 3); Commissioner Cozart recommended the reappointment of Harriet Morton (District 4); and Commissioner Gooch recommended the reappointment of Vickie Smoak (District 7).

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reappointments of Bessie Bailey (District 1), JoAnn Deshane (District 5 by District 3), Harriet Morton (District 4), and Vickie Smoak (District 7).

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Cummings thanked Assistant County Manager Weichel for holding down the fort while he was attending his mother's funeral, noting it was an eventful week with the cold snap and power outages. He also thanked Sheriff Fountain and the Emergency Management staff, particularly Jason Reavis, for responding and serving the community as quickly as possible during the weather event. He mentioned further that during that cold snap, they had some burst pipes at the Granville-Vance Health Department that caused quite a lot of damage and a number of staff had to be pulled into immediate action, including Gary Bowen, Matt Eller, and Scott Phillips, who made sure that the county buildings and people were taken care of.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Wrenn stated that he had an attorney-client matter for closed session.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Jay thanked staff on behalf of the Granville-Vance District Health Department for taking care of the busted pipes at the facility during the holidays. He announced that there is a vacancy on KARTS (Kerr Area Rural Transit System) and asked for assistance in filling the position. He said he hoped everyone had a nice Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Commissioner Williford said he was glad that County Manager Cummings returned safely and hoped everyone has a good New Year.

Commissioner Hinman said she was thankful that there were no additional problems from the freezing weather and then thanked staff, the Sheriff's Office, and DSS (Department of Social Services) for their help with the emergency weather situation. She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Cozart offered condolences to County Manager Cummings and also former Judge Danny Finch on the loss of his wife. He said he looked forward to the MLK (Martin Luther King Jr.) Holiday and upcoming event sponsored by the Human Relations Commission as well as hearing the student essays. He thanked Oxford Baptist Church for hosting the event. He also wished everyone a Happy New Year and the best in the upcoming year.

Commissioner Karan wished everyone a Happy New Year and glad everyone survived 2022. He thanked Sheriff Fountain for attending the meeting and stated he is hopeful for great things to come.

Commissioner Gooch wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that he was very thankful to be a part of this Board. He welcomed Rob Williford as a new County Commissioner and said he looks forward to working with him. He then welcomed Sheriff Fountain and stated that he has done some good work to start with and that he is getting off to a running start and thanked him for attending the meeting and they looked forward to seeing more of him in the future. He then thanked the audience for also being in attendance and noted that the Board appreciated all the public comments as well.

Chair May reported that at the November meeting, the Board took action to provide appropriate financial bonuses for Sheriff employees, detention officers, and county employees to try to mitigate some of the issues with the retention of law enforcement and detention officers. He commended County Manager Cummings on behalf of the Board for finding the available funding within the existing budget and talked about challenges and key budget items such as EMS and funding for Law Enforcement. He asked the Board to share any of their ideas that might help to

make the Board Retreat a more informative and robust work session that would help to identify real needs that the Board will have to face in the coming year. He said that he was very thankful that they had had a good year and was thankful for God's blessings upon Commissioner Karan's wife during her very serious life-saving surgery last year, and thankful for all the Board members' health and their families. He noted that many of them shared losses last year, but God has a way of cultivating a newness in each of us after a loss. Lastly, he spoke to the media specifically about the Leandro decision because it is a very important issue to him as a commissioner who works with schools on funding. He stated that the Board gets beat up a lot concerning school funding and reported that about 32-35 percent of our funding goes to education in the county and that we need help with additional funding efforts.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board went into closed session as allowed by N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (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 Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board returned to open session.

BOARD APPROVED ESTABLISHING SHERIFF'S SALARY

Chair May asked for a motion to establish the Sheriff's salary.

Commissioner Tony W. Cozart made a motion to establish the Sheriff's salary in the amount of \$104,260 retroactive to the date of swearing in and that he be notified by the County Attorney and/or County Manager of this action. Commissioner Gooch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gooch mentioned that he wanted to be sure that it is made public how the salary was determined and that it would have been the same salary for other candidates based on the previous appointed Sheriffs and policy.

The motion was amended based on the County Manager's input and voted on again to include additional language.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved establishing the Sheriff's salary at \$104,260 based on the personnel policy for an elected Sheriff, retroactive to December 5, 2022, the date of taking the oath of office and that the County Manager inform Sheriff Fountain of the action.

BOARD APPROVED INVESTMENT FOR WATER AND SEWER EXTENSIONS AND SITE PREPARATION AT TRIANGLE NORTH

County Manager Cummings explained a request for water and sewer expansion and site preparation in Triangle North.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved investing \$5.1 million in undesignated funds for water and sewer line extensions and site preparation at the Triangle North Granville site.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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