

**GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**July 7, 2025**  
**GRANVILLE EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTER**  
**4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford, North Carolina**

**PRESENT:**

Chair Jimmy Gooch  
Vice-Chair Zelodis Jay  
Commissioner Robert Williford  
Commissioner Mark Griffin  
Commissioner Tony W. Cozart  
Commissioner Russ May  
Commissioner Timothy Karan

County Manager Drew Cummings  
County Attorney James C. Wrenn, Jr.

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:01 p.m., Chair Jimmy Gooch called the meeting to order. Chair Gooch had the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Gooch noted that the first item of business was the approval of the agenda. He announced one addition to the agenda under Appointments: item 11a, Planning Board appointments for Districts One and Five. Hearing no other adjustments, the Board proceeded with approval of the agenda.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the July 7, 2025 regular meeting agenda as amended.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**A. Approved Budget Amendment 1 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.**

**B. Approved the following tax refunds, releases, and write-offs:**

|              |                              |             |
|--------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| • Refunds    | June 5, 2025 - June 25, 2025 | \$ 3,313.64 |
| • Releases   | June 5, 2025 - June 25, 2025 | \$ 193.67   |
| • Write-offs | June 5, 2025 - June 25, 2025 | \$ 3.11     |

**C. Approved declaring the following vehicles as surplus, to be sold via an online auction platform or by Enterprise Fleet Management, if EFM chooses to accept the vehicles for sale:**

| VIN               | Year | Department       | Make  | Model      | Mileage  | Condition   |
|-------------------|------|------------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------|
| 1FMJU1JT9GEF03607 | 2016 | Sheriff's Office | Ford  | Expedition | 100,000+ | End of life |
| 2C3CDXKT0KH749689 | 2019 | Sheriff's Office | Dodge | Charger    | 100,000+ | End of life |
| 2C3CDXAT9GH155773 | 2016 | Sheriff's Office | Dodge | Charger    | 100,000+ | End of life |
| 2C3CDXAT6DH716183 | 2013 | Sheriff's Office | Dodge | Charger    | 100,000+ | End of life |
| 2C3CDXAT4GH356626 | 2016 | Sheriff's Office | Dodge | Charger    | 100,000+ | End of life |
| 2C3CDXKT4KH755253 | 2019 | Sheriff's Office | Dodge | Charger    | 100,000+ | End of life |
| 2C3CDXKT6KH755254 | 2016 | Sheriff's Office | Dodge | Charger    | 100,000+ | End of life |
| 2C3CDXAT5EH185950 | 2014 | Sheriff's Office | Dodge | Charger    | 100,000+ | End of life |

**D. Approved minutes:**

- July 10, 2024 Special Meeting
- February 17, 2025 Annual Retreat
- February 21, 2025 Annual Retreat
- May 5, 2025 Regular Meeting
- May 19, 2025 Regular Meeting

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one came forward for public comments.

**INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Board Received Presentation by Congressman Brad Knott’s Office on Constituent Engagement**

Chair Gooch introduced a presentation from the office of Congressman Brad Knott regarding constituent engagement and legislative matters affecting Granville County. Jeff Hauser, District Director for Congressman Knott, addressed the Board and attendees to provide an overview of the services available through both the Washington, D.C., and district offices. He noted that while Congressman Knott does not represent all of Granville County, a significant portion is included in North Carolina’s 13th Congressional District. Hauser, who previously worked with the North Carolina General Assembly, stated that his office aims to assist constituents with federal matters and serves as a bridge to federal resources and policy discussions. He highlighted the following services:

- **Washington, D.C. Services:**
  - Flag Requests: Constituents may request flags flown over the U.S. Capitol for special occasions.
  - Tours: The D.C. office offers assistance in arranging Capitol tours and White House tours. Hauser advised that White House tour requests should be submitted at least 90 days in advance.
  - Tour Coordination Contact: Claire Feeney in the D.C. office manages tour arrangements.
- **District Office Casework:**
  - Federal Agency Assistance: The district office assists with issues involving federal agencies such as the IRS, Social Security Administration, and the Veterans Administration.
  - Passport Support: The office can help expedite passport applications, with turnaround times as fast as three days in urgent cases.

- Expedited Services: Assistance is also available when applications are delayed beyond typical processing times.
- **Federal Grant Navigation:**
  - Hauser serves as the point of contact for support with federal grant applications, particularly following recent changes in USDA and EPA funding programs.
  - The office helps identify opportunities and guide local governments or organizations through the grant process.
- **Service Academy Nominations:**
  - High school students interested in attending U.S. service academies can apply through Congressman Knott's office.
  - A review committee screens applicants, and selected candidates are interviewed in December. Final nominations are submitted in January through the Congressional portal.
- **Student Engagement Programs:**
  - Congressional Art Competition: Open to high school students who reside in or attend school in the 13th District. Winners receive airfare and accommodations to attend a ceremony in Washington, D.C., where their artwork is displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.
  - Congressional App Challenge: Aimed at encouraging student innovation in computer science and programming. Submissions are accepted via the office's website, and winners are recognized by the Congressman's office.
- **Legislative and Policy Inquiries:**
  - While legislative policy is handled by staff in the D.C. office, the district office serves as the first point of contact for constituents with questions or concerns about legislation or agency guidance.
  - Hauser emphasized that the office will work to connect constituents with the appropriate federal staff and follow up to ensure inquiries are addressed.

Hauser concluded by encouraging residents to visit [knott.house.gov](http://knott.house.gov) and navigate to the "Services" section for more information or to submit requests. He spoke from the following slide deck presentation that was not included in the agenda packet.

**CONGRESSMAN BRAD KNOTT**

Hello! My name is Brad Knott and it is my honor to serve as your Representative in Congress. Advocating for constituents is my top priority, so I invite you to reach out if you need any help with federal agencies. My staff and I are ready to assist, and we look forward to hearing from you.

|                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>Getting Passports</b>              |  <b>Flag Requests</b>               |  <b>Veterans Benefits</b>    |
|  <b>Social Security &amp; Medicare</b> |  <b>White House / Capitol Tours</b> |  <b>Internships</b>          |
|  <b>Service Academy Nominations</b>    |  <b>Federal Grant Applications</b>  |  <b>Dealing with the IRS</b> |

|                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u><b>District Director</b></u><br>Jeff Hauser<br>919-665-1434<br><a href="mailto:jeff.hauser@mail.house.gov">jeff.hauser@mail.house.gov</a> | <u><b>Constituent Services Director</b></u><br>Joseph Chesser<br>919-603-7953<br><a href="mailto:joseph.chesser@mail.house.gov">joseph.chesser@mail.house.gov</a> | <u><b>Caseworker</b></u><br>Jeremy Bayon<br>9847892685<br><a href="mailto:jeremy.bayon@mail.house.gov">jeremy.bayon@mail.house.gov</a> |
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**Stay in touch!**

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  12450 Cleveland Rd #203<br>Garner, NC 27529 |  (984) 275-6150 |  <a href="http://knott.house.gov">knott.house.gov</a> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **GRANT MATTERS**

### **Board Approved FY 2025 Recreation Mini-grant Awards**

Before presenting the projects awarded for the 2025-2026 Recreation Mini-Grant cycle, Carlton Thornton, Assistant Planning Director, provided an update on the progress of the 2024-2025 grant cycle. The following projects were previously recommended by the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Advisory Committee (PGRAC) and approved by the Board of Commissioners in the prior fiscal year.

- Butner completed adding picnic tables to Butner Athletic Park.
- Creedmoor completed adding a bench swing and recycled picnic tables to Lake Rogers.
- Butner Community Association installed three benches and requested an extension to install two more due to project delays.
- City of Oxford completed a kayak launch at Lake Devin.
- Toler Community Reach Out Club completed playground revitalization and structure painting, with paving delayed until July 31, 2025.

Assistant Planning Director Thornton introduced the two 2025-2026 grant cycle applications recommended by the PGRAC for approval:

- Toler Community Reach Out Club – Requested \$19,000 to construct a bathroom facility (including a his-and-hers restroom and septic system). Although the standard funding cap for 501(c)(3) organizations is \$10,000, the PGRAC voted to recommend full funding. The committee reasoned that a partial award would prevent completion of the project, which would not be eligible for funding. Thornton emphasized that the park served by this group is the only one within a 15-mile radius, and the lack of restrooms could deter community use.
- Town of Stem – Requested \$19,425 to expand Jack Day Park by approximately 30%. The expansion was prompted by projected residential growth, with 300 new housing units in the planning phase within the town limits and up to 800 units expected within a two-mile radius. The Town anticipated increased park use and deemed the expansion necessary.

### **Board Discussion Highlights**

#### *Town of Stem – Jack Day Park Expansion*

- Commissioner Griffin inquired about the Town of Stem's mini-grant, specifically questioning the precedent for funding land clearing and drainage work not directly tied to recreational use; Thornton explained that the cleared land would be used for relocating soccer goals and future recreational development.
- Commissioner Griffin asked about the Town of Stem's financial contribution to the project; Thornton estimated the total project cost at \$32,375, with Stem requesting \$19,425 from the County, implying the Town would fund the remaining amount.
- Commissioner May asked whether the Town was committed to completing the entire project; Thornton confirmed that, based on current information, the Town intends to complete the full project.
- Commissioner Griffin requested historical data on the funding ratio between the County and the Town of Stem for Jack Day Park; Thornton said that he would provide that information at a future date.

#### *Toler Community Reach Out Club*

- Commissioner Griffin asked about the status of the Toler Community Reach Out Club's 501(c)(3) paperwork; Thornton responded that it was still in progress.
- Commissioner Jay confirmed that the club's 501(c)(3) documentation was currently with their attorney and actively being worked on.
- County Attorney Wrenn advised that the Board could allocate funds with the condition that funding would not be released until proof of 501(c)(3) status is provided.

Commissioner Karan recused himself from voting on matters related to the Town of Stem due to his role as part-time Administrator.

Commissioner Jay recused himself from voting on matters related to the Toler Community Reach Out Club due to his service on the board of the club.

Commissioner May moved to delay voting on Toler Community Reach Out Club matter until outstanding issues with the 501(c)(3) status were resolved; Commissioner Griffin seconded. Motion was amended and passed as follows:

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Mark Griffin, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board approved waiving the standard funding cap for 501(c)(3) to award \$19,000 for the Toler Community Reach Out Club’s 2025-2026 recreation mini-grant application, with the condition that funding will be released once the organization’s 501(c)(3) status is finalized.

Following the tabling of the Town of Stem item, Commissioner Karan offered to research prior budget contributions to Jack Day Park.

Motioned by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board tabled approval of the Town of Stem’s 2025-2026 recreation mini-grant application pending receipt of additional information.

## **PURCHASING**

### **Board Approved EagleView Imagery Contract**

County Manager Cummings briefly introduced the EagleView contract item in the absence of several staff members who had worked on the project. He explained that EagleView is a product designed to assist public safety and tax staff. For example, 911 operators could use the angled imagery to help first responders locate fire hydrants, doors, and windows during emergencies. Emergency Management staff could also utilize the imagery for disaster response and operational planning. He noted that the recent flooding event served as a good example, as EagleView provides high-quality “before” images and conducts additional flights after disasters to supply updated “after” images—this service was included in the contract.

Cummings clarified that the proposed agreement was a six-year contract in which EagleView would conduct flights twice, once in the first year and again in the fourth year. In response to previous questions from the Board, he noted that an access policy had been developed to define which employees and departments would have access to the software, and confirmed that the data would not be publicly available.

In response to a question from Commissioner Williford, County Manager Cummings confirmed that post-disaster flights would be conducted at no additional cost to the County.

Motioned by Commissioner Timothy Karan, seconded by Commissioner Russ May, and unanimously carried, Board approved a six-year contract with Pictometry International Corporation, dba EagleView, for aerial imagery services in the amount of \$253,195.20, with annual payments of \$42,199.20; also authorized the County Manager to execute the final contract upon County Attorney review and to establish internal guidelines for imagery use.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Board Held Appointments to Granville County Board of Adjustment**

Board held vacant Board of Adjustment seats 6, 7, and alternate.

### **Board Approved Appointments to the Granville County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Mark Griffin, and unanimously carried, Board approved appointment of Vaness Taylor, Deputy DSS Director, to the Department of Social Services representative seat on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC).

### **Board Approved Reappointments to the Granville County Planning Board**

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, Board reappointed Allen Nelson to the Granville County Planning Board District 1 seat.

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, Board reappointed Blaine Holmes to the Granville County Planning Board District 5 seat.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

County Manager Cummings did not have any items to report.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

County Attorney Wrenn said that he had matters for closed session.

## **PRESENTATIONS BY COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Commissioner Griffin**

- Commended the residents of Deerfield Subdivision in Stem for organizing and funding their repairs to a private road that had been washing out; the county was unable to assist due to the road's private status.
- Reported that the residents successfully repaired the damaged area with gravel, installed a new pipe, set up a temporary fence, and added security cameras to prevent damage from four-wheelers.
- Expressed appreciation for the community's initiative and determination to resolve the issue without outside assistance.
- Attended the July 3rd fireworks event at Lake Holt and praised the municipalities and donors who made the event possible; noted it was the largest crowd he had ever seen in Granville County, with everyone in good spirits and showing strong community spirit.

### **Commissioner Cozart**

- Congratulated the Department of Social Services for a positive monitoring report; recognized Ms. Vanessa Taylor and staff for their hard work and professionalism.
- Praised the local DMV office for improvements in service and organization; noted his license renewal experience was efficient and pleasant due to new communication systems implemented by staff.

### **Commissioner May**

- Thanked Jeff Hauser for presenting on behalf of Congressman Knott’s office; shared that invites would soon go out to the offices of Congressman Don Davis, Senator Ted Budd, and Senator Paul Tilley to ensure all federal representatives are engaged with the County.
- Mentioned ongoing collaboration with federal and state legislators regarding transportation issues, including the airport and local byways; expressed hope for significant progress in the near future.
- Reflected on the recent tragedy in Texas; offered condolences to the victims, thanked first responders, and encouraged prayers for affected families.
- Celebrated the Fourth of July and expressed pride in the United States as a nation founded on Judeo-Christian values, liberty, and governance by the people; emphasized gratitude for the country’s freedoms and those who defend them.

#### **Commissioner Karan**

- Announced that the County Emergency Management department was awarded a \$25,000 Duke Energy grant for communications equipment since the last meeting.
- Recognized Wendy Tatum, the local extension agent, for her work on the Farm to Fridge program, which was highlighted during a visit from NC A&T; praised the program as innovative and beneficial to the community.
- Shared that Charla had recently visited the Krys site on a very hot day and noted the significant progress made on the Brownfield site, which remains under redevelopment.
- Reported that the Tar River Land Conservancy dedicated a new trail in Stem—Pitcher Branch Creek Trail—bringing the total public trail mileage in the county to nearly 20 miles; stated that expansion plans are underway that could double that mileage with county support.
- Reflected positively on the July 3rd fireworks event at Lake Holt; praised the Sheriff’s presence and noted a great community turnout and good conversations.

#### **Commissioner Zelodis Jay**

- Shared that he recently visited the Northern Granville Senior Center site and remarked that the property looked very good and seemed nearly ready.

#### **Commissioner Williford**

- Echoed Commissioner May’s comments regarding the tragedy in Texas; shared that the event hit close to home as his grandchildren had just returned from or left for summer camp.
- Reported attending the recent visit to the Chex site; noted that the property has been cleaned up significantly and expressed optimism that it will eventually support industrial development.

### **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

#### **Board Selected Voting Delegate and Alternate for 118<sup>th</sup> NCACC Conference**

The Board selected the voting delegate and alternate for the 118th Annual North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Conference, scheduled for August 21–23, 2025, in Pitt County.

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Russ May, and unanimously carried, Board selected Chair Jimmy Gooch as the voting delegate and Commissioner Mark Griffin as the alternate voting delegate for the business session of the 118th Annual North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Conference, Saturday, August 23 at 2:00 p.m.

#### **Board Discussed Recreational Facility Access and Collaboration with School System**

Commissioner May addressed the Board regarding the current challenges facing youth athletic associations in Granville County. He referenced the recent withdrawal of a mini-grant application by Granville County Public Schools due to safety and security policies that restrict public access to certain school athletic facilities. He emphasized that the issue warrants broader discussion at the County level. Commissioner May expressed concern that local athletic associations lack adequate places to practice and compete, citing specific safety risks such as youth practicing near Highway 56. He reiterated the need for a community-wide approach to expanding access to recreational facilities and asked the Board to consider directing the County Manager to explore collaborative solutions with the school system. While acknowledging the need to preserve high school game fields, he suggested that some middle and elementary school fields might be viable options for public use in the interim.

**Board Discussion Highlights:**

- Commissioners expressed general support for continued dialogue with the school system regarding shared recreational use of facilities.
- Several Commissioners acknowledged the safety concerns and supported the idea of exploring immediate and long-term solutions.
- It was noted that the County is investing in new recreation infrastructure, such as the future Hawley site facility, but that current gaps must still be addressed.
- The discussion underscored the importance of a coordinated approach between the County and the School Board to meet the community's recreational needs.

Board to begin discussions with the school system about improving public access to school recreation facilities. Commissioner May and the County Manager will take the lead on initiating this effort and exploring both short-term and long-term solutions.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motioned by Commissioner Mark Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Russ May, and unanimously carried, the Board entered into closed session at 8:17 p.m. for economic development matters as allowed by G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) and personnel as allowed by G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Motioned by Commissioner Mark Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, Board returned to open session at 10:57 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Mark Griffin, and unanimously carried, Board adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board