

GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 2, 2025
GRANVILLE EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTER
4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford, North Carolina
Regular Meeting

PRESENT:

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

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

Commissioner Timothy Karan was absent.

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:03 p.m., Chair Jimmy Gooch called the regular meeting to order. He noted the meeting was held on a Tuesday due to the Labor Day holiday and announced that Commissioner Timothy Karan was absent due to a death in his family. Commissioner Mark Griffin delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Mark Griffin, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board approved the September 2, 2025 regular meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Gooch asked if any items needed to be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. Commissioner Russ May requested to pull item 5, Contract Amendment for Granville County Public Schools SRO, and Commissioner Zelodis Jay requested to pull item 9, Suspension of the Mini-Grant Program.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board approved the consent agenda as amended, with items 5 and 9 removed for separate consideration:

A. Approved Budget Amendment 3 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

BUDGET AMENDMENT 3
September 2, 2025
Legal Document

Be it ordained, the FY 2025-2026 Annual Budget Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

GENERAL FUND

Expenditures	Increase	Decrease	Total
Public Safety			\$30,000
Emergency Management	\$ 25,000	\$ -	
Animal Control	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
Community Services			\$60,411
Cooperative Extension Service	\$ 60,411	\$ -	
Human Services			\$ 58,291
Social Services	\$ 58,291	\$ -	
Area Projects and Other Appropriations			\$956,503
Non-Departmental	\$ 1,043,753	\$ 2,250	
Pass Thru Funds	\$ 20,000	\$ 105,000	
	Total Expenditures		\$ 1,105,205
Revenues			
Restricted and Intergovernmental	\$ (9,063)	\$ -	
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$655,515	\$ -	
	Total Revenues		\$646,452

B. Approved Interfund Loan Repayment Resolution.

**Resolution Authorizing Interfund Loan from the General Fund to the
Solid Waste Enterprise Fund**

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund in past years incurred operating deficits that required additional working capital; and

WHEREAS, the General Fund had sufficient unassigned fund balance available to provide financial support to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”), by action taken in open session on August 8, 2022 authorized an interfund loan of \$4,692,250 with interest at 1% for a term of seven years; and

WHEREAS, the interfund loan was recorded as a transfer and no payments have yet been made; and

WHEREAS, it was and is the intent of the Board that such financial support shall be temporary in nature and that the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund shall repay the General Fund in full with interest, consistent with the requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) for interfund loans; and

WHEREAS, the Board now wishes to properly document this loan, extend the repayment term, and direct staff to make the appropriate accounting entries and payments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Granville County Board of Commissioners, as follows:

1. Authorization of Loan: The previously recorded transfer from the General Fund in the amount of \$4,692,250 to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund shall be properly recorded as an interfund loan effective with Fiscal Year 2026.
2. Purpose: The loan was made to cover engineering and construction costs associated with the 8-acre landfill cell previously completed following the transfer from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund in Fiscal Year 2023.
3. Repayment Terms:
 - The Solid Waste Enterprise Fund shall repay the loan over a term of fifteen (15) years, beginning in Fiscal Year 2026.
 - The loan shall bear interest at a rate of 1% per annum.
 - Repayment shall be made through equal annual principal payments of \$312,816.67, plus accrued interest on the outstanding balance, until the loan is fully repaid. See amortization schedule in Exhibit A.
4. Accounting Treatment:
 - The loan shall be recorded as a “Loan to Other Fund” (noncurrent asset) in the General Fund.
 - The corresponding liability shall be recorded as a “Loan from Other Fund” (noncurrent liability) in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.

- Interest shall be recorded annually as interest revenue in the General Fund and interest expense in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.

5. Compliance: This resolution is adopted to ensure proper classification and disclosure of interfund activity in compliance with GASB standards and shall remain in effect until the loan is fully repaid.

Adopted this 2nd of September, 2025, by the Granville County Board of Commissioners.

C. Approved the following tax refunds, releases, & write-offs:

• Refunds	July 24, 2025 – August 20, 2025	\$ 40,588.30
• Releases	July 24, 2025 – August 20, 2025	\$110,967.08
• Write-offs (\$2.00 and less)	July 24, 2025 – August 20, 2025	\$ 31.90

D. Approved Fire Marshal invoice write-offs of 26 uncollectable invoices.

E. Approved first amendment to the School Resource Officer Agreement between the County, the Sheriff’s Office, and Granville County Public Schools; furthermore, Board authorized the County Manager to execute the amendment once finalized by the County Attorney.

F. Approved contract with Piedmont Triad Regional Council to appropriate \$38,500 for a Classification and Pay Study; and furthermore, Board authorized the County Manager to execute the contract.

G. Approved extending the award deadline to December 31, 2025, for Butner Community Associations' FY2024-2025 recreation min-grant award; furthermore, board authorized the County Manager to execute an addendum to their Mini-Grant Agreement once finalized by the County Attorney’s office.

H. Approved the following minutes:

- August 4, 2025 Regular Meeting
- August 12, 2025 Regular Work Session

INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by the Granville Arts Council

Matt Cox, President of the Granville Arts Council, introduced the organization, which was formed in 2024 to elevate the arts throughout the county. He was joined by board members Katja Hill, Harrison Preddy, Dr. Thomas Koinis, and Dr. Monica Poteat. They spoke from the slide deck presentation that was not included in the agenda packet.

- The Council's vision is to cultivate a vibrant, inclusive arts community representing all of Granville County, providing access to visual and performing arts, and creating opportunities for economic vitality.
- The board is composed of a diverse group of long-time residents and new arrivals, including artists, arts patrons, and arts professionals.
- Harrison Preddy explained that as a probationary local chapter of the NC Arts Council, the organization is eligible for state-allocated grant funds. This year, the Council was allocated \$10,000, which it matched by raising \$18,000 in private donations. After a three-year probationary period, the county will be eligible for up to \$43,000 annually on a matching basis.
- Preddy highlighted the economic impact of the arts, noting that attendees at arts events often spend additional money on local dining and shopping.

- Katja Hill, Board Chair, spoke about creating local arts opportunities for children, similar to those she received growing up in a small North Carolina town. The Council successfully hosted three summer camps for visual arts, music, and theater.
- The Council has partnered with the City of Oxford to display local art at City Hall, worked with veterans through The Joel Fund, and is supporting the Vance-Granville Community College band. Upcoming events include a theater production, a watercolor class for veterans, and a holiday concert.

Board Discussion Highlights

- Commissioner Williford thanked the presenters for their initiative and asked about their fundraising methods. Cox confirmed the \$18,000 was raised entirely through private and corporate donations.
- Commissioner May requested that the Council work to bring a holiday band performance to Creedmoor.
- Commissioner Cozart commended the Council for the diversity of its programs and noted the positive impact of arts participation on children.

Recognition of NCDOT Sponsored Fall 2025 County Employee Litter Sweep

Environmental Services Director Jason Falls announced the upcoming NCDOT-sponsored Fall 2025 Litter Sweep.

- The County employee litter cleanup day is scheduled for Friday, September 19, 2025, with a rain date of Friday, September 26, 2025.
- Falls also announced that the county-wide litter program kickoff event will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Gazebo Park in Butner.

Commissioner May thanked Jason Falls for his work on the countywide litter initiative. Falls then explained that the Town of Butner had done significant work with litter management and prevention, which influenced the committee's decision to hold the event there. He mentioned that the committee had started with Frank Sossamon's group about six months prior, with representatives from public safety agencies, schools, and the hospital participating in meetings since then. Falls indicated he would provide draft handouts of the agenda to commissioners before they left that evening, as the program details were not yet finalized.



PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patrick Moore, 792 Condo Drive, Charleston, SC 29412, representing energyRe, a renewable energy company, spoke regarding a proposed 400-acre solar farm at the intersection of Henry Huff and Webb Chapel Road. He stated he had emailed the Board comprehensive information, including maps and reports on decommissioning, real estate values, and health and safety. He also introduced the concept of a community benefits agreement to address community expectations not covered by ordinance, such as funding for job training or fire suppression equipment.

James Daniel, 1300 W D Street, Butner, NC, owner of Daniel's Army Surplus, spoke in opposition to solar developments, which he referred to as "solar fields." He expressed concern that Granville County would lose its rural character and become overdeveloped like Wake County, stating the county lacks the infrastructure to support such growth. He referenced strong community opposition to a previously discussed project on Satterwhite Road.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

After Holding a Public Hearing, Board Approved the NC DOT 5310 Transportation Grant

Application

Chair Gooch stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to receive public comment on the NC DOT 5310 transportation grant application for funding during the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Chair Gooch declared the public hearing open and recognized Senior Services Director Kathy May for an overview.

Senior Services Director May explained that the grant funds the Oxford Fixed Route bus service, which has been in operation since 2010. The van operates on an 18-mile loop, making 17 stops each hour at senior housing developments, grocery stores, pharmacies, the hospital, and other key locations. Last fiscal year, the service provided 9,129 one-way trips.

Chair Gooch invited anyone wishing to speak to come to the podium. No one came forward. Chair Gooch declared the public hearing closed.

Motion

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, 6-0, after holding a public hearing, approved the NC DOT 5310 Transportation Grant application for funding during the fiscal year 2026-2027 and adopted the associated resolution.

SHERIFF MATTERS

Board Approved FY26 Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant

Sheriff Robert Fountain introduced Deputy Chief Buster to present the grant resolution. Deputy Chief Kevin Buster explained this is the fourth year of the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) grant, which allows the Sheriff's Office to serve as a highway traffic safety liaison for nine counties in the region. The grant reimburses the county for funds expended on equipment. This year's grant will be used to purchase five new radars.

Motion

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board approved the local government resolution for the North

Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program grant in the amount of \$30,000 and authorized the County Manager to execute the contract once finalized by the County Attorney.

Sheriff's Update

Sheriff Fountain provided an update, noting the county has a total of 11 School Resource Officer (SRO) positions, including one at Oxford Preparatory School. He also reported on vehicle deployment, an upcoming intelligence meeting with local police chiefs regarding security threat groups, inmate baptisms, and a new partnership with Bandag to provide employment opportunities for offenders upon their release.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

Board Approved Submittal of Grant Application for Pump Station Rehabilitation at Triangle North Granville

Economic Development Director Charla Duncan presented a request to submit a grant application for the NC Select Sites program. The Triangle North Granville site was chosen as one of 15 select sites, making it eligible for state funding for site development. This application seeks \$1,069,950 to fully fund the rehabilitation of the on-site pump station. No local match is required for this grant.

Board Discussion Highlights

- Commissioner Williford asked when the Board would be notified about the grant award. Economic Development Director Duncan stated she expected to know by mid-September.

Motion

Motioned by Commissioner Mark Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board approved the submittal of the grant application to the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina for pump station rehabilitation at Triangle North Granville.

Following the motion, Commissioner May asked for an update on data collection regarding usage at the Henderson-Oxford Airport. Duncan confirmed the effort is underway in collaboration with the airport authority to support requests for state and federal funding for infrastructure improvements.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS MATTERS

Board Approved Purchase of Eventide Nexlog Recorder

Emergency Communications Director Stacy Hicks requested approval to purchase a new Eventide Nexlog recorder for the primary 911 communications center. The recorder is used for all radio and phone traffic and integrates with the 911 and CAD systems. The current system is due for a refresh. The new system will provide redundancy, enhanced security, and improved quality assurance features. The total cost is \$76,250, which will be paid entirely from the Emergency Telephone Systems Fund.

Board Discussion Highlights

- In response to questions, Director Hicks confirmed the recorder is located at the primary 911 site, the system is refreshed every five years, and her department now has full key access to the server room where the equipment is housed.
- Commissioner May raised concerns about operational readiness following a previous power outage. Hicks confirmed she has keys for all necessary access points except for a

lock on the breaker for the portable generator. County Manager Cummings agreed to resolve the key issue.

- Commissioner May requested to discuss further security matters in closed session.

Motion

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board approved the purchase of the Eventide Nexlog 7401DX recorder from Carolina Recording Systems in the amount of \$76,250.

APPOINTMENTS

Board Approved Appointment to the Granville County Board of Adjustment

Board considered appointments to fill vacancies for the District 3, District 6, District 7, and Alternate seats.

Motioned by Commissioner Mark Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Robert Williford, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board appointed Kyle Glenn to the District 3 seat for an unexpired term ending in April 2027.

The District 6, District 7, and one Alternate seat remain vacant.

County Attorney Wrenn requested to discuss a personnel matter related to the Board of Adjustment in closed session.

Board Approved Appointments to the South Granville Water and Sewer Authority

Chair Gooch announced that Commissioner Timothy Karan had asked to step down from the South Granville Water and Sewer Authority (SGWASA) Board of Directors and had recommended Commissioner Russ May for the seat.

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Mark Griffin, unanimously carried, 6-0. Board appointed Russ May to the South Granville Water and Sewer Authority.

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

Board Approved Contract Amendment for Granville County Public Schools School Resource Officer (SRO)

This item was pulled from the consent agenda by Commissioner May for clarification.

Board Discussion Highlights

- Commissioner May asked about section 3.2 of the contract, which allows for a one-hour lunch break for SROs, and questioned whether that time was to be spent on-site or off-site.
- County Attorney Wrenn noted that under the Fair Labor Standards Act, a lunch break typically means being relieved of duties, but stated he would need to research if an on-site requirement was permissible.
- County Manager Cummings agreed to follow up with the Sheriff regarding the operational procedure for SRO lunch breaks.

Motion

Motioned by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Mark Griffin, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board approved the contract amendment for Granville County Public Schools School Resource Officer (SRO).

Board Approved Pausing the Recreation Mini-Grant Program

This item was pulled from the consent agenda by Commissioner Jay for clarification.

Board Discussion Highlights

- Commissioner Jay expressed concern with the agenda item's language to "indefinitely" suspend the program, stating his understanding was that the program would be paused for one year.
- Deputy County Manager Korena Weichel clarified that "indefinite" meant there was no set date for reinstatement but that the Board could bring the program back at any time, such as during future budget discussions. The suspension would begin in the FY 2026-27 budget year.
- Board reached a consensus to change the wording from "indefinitely suspend" to "pause" the program.

Motion

Motioned by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board approved pausing the recreation mini-grant program beginning in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

County Manager Drew Cummings reported on a recent productive meeting with North Carolina Secretary of Transportation Joey Hopkins. The discussion centered on the challenges Granville County faces in competing for NC Department of Transportation (DOT) funding as part of Division 5, which includes Wake, Durham, and Orange counties. While no immediate fix was identified, Cummings felt it was beneficial for the Secretary to hear the County's concerns directly, which could help in strategizing for future project funding.

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

County Attorney James C. Wrenn, Jr. stated that he had matters for closed session regarding personnel and attorney-client privilege.

PRESENTATIONS BY COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner May

- Expressed strong concern regarding a Granville Vance Public Health Facebook post titled “Never Use Drugs Alone.” He argued the post sent an irresponsible and dangerous message that appeared to condone illicit drug use. He noted the agencies that were tagged in the post—including Granville Health, Granville County Public Schools, the Sheriff’s Office, Granville County Government, and the Boys and Girls Club—arguing this compounded the harm. May emphasized that if the post was intended to help those struggling with addiction, it should have included resources such as the VAYAHotline (1-800-849-6127) or the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (988).
- Reported on the meeting with the Secretary of Transportation, emphasizing that the County will have to be proactive in addressing road needs due to intense competition for funds in Division 5.

- Announced he is working with Congressman Brad Knott's office to seek grant funding for a transportation route in southern Granville.
- Commented on a recent tour of South Granville High School and the major improvements made there.
- Encouraged attendance at the county-wide litter program kickoff on October 4th and the next Fire Commission meeting on September 10th.

Commissioner Jay

- Congratulated resident Ronnie Norwood for his success in the National Senior Games, where he placed 1st place (Gold medal) in Mixed Doubles Cornhole & 3rd place Men's Singles Cornhole.

Commissioner Williford

- Echoed praise for the significant improvements at South Granville High School following a recent tour.
- Thanked Commissioner May for his work on transportation issues and highlighted the need for several key road projects in the County.

Commissioner Griffin

- Thanked the Board for funding additional SROs and urged drivers to be cautious around school buses.
- In light of a recent school shooting elsewhere, he encouraged students to "see something, say something" and for the community to help individuals who are struggling.
- Shared safety lessons from a recent Duke Energy electrical demonstration, warning residents to never exit a vehicle that has struck a power line and to always call 811 before digging.

Commissioner Cozart

- Commented on the Social Services Institute and noted potential future staffing needs at DSS due to changing application processes.
- Requested that a conversation be organized between the leadership of KARTS and DSS to discuss transportation needs.

Board Directed County Manager to Proceed with Orange Street Community Center Roof Repair

Commissioner Cozart made a motion for the County Manager to bring back a contract for the long-discussed roof repair at the Orange Street Community Center and to begin discussions with the center's board about their operational agreement with the County.

Board Discussion Highlights

- Commissioner May stated he would support the motion but expressed concern about the County's ongoing financial responsibility for the building. He tied his support to the condition that a new, more equitable agreement be established, with options to be determined, and that the needs in southern Granville be met.
- Commissioner Jay urged the Board to proceed with the roof repair immediately to prevent further water damage to the building, which he noted was already occurring.

Motion

Motioned by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board directed the County Manager to proceed with securing a contract for the roof repair at the Orange Street Community Center and to engage in discussions with the Orange Street Community Center Board regarding their agreement with the County.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS RESUMED

Chair Gooch

- Commented on transportation and road development, referencing his attendance at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) convention in Greenville.
- Shared that he observed significant road improvements in Greenville compared to years past, noting the district's prioritization of transportation projects.
- Remarked that while Greenville had seen progress, Granville County had not experienced the same level of investment in Department of Transportation funds.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters for open session.

CLOSED SESSION

Motioned by Commissioner Mark Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Russ May, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board entered into closed session to discuss a personnel matter as allowed by G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) and to preserve attorney-client privilege as allowed by G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) at 9:07 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Mark Griffin, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board returned to open session at 10:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Commissioner Robert Williford, seconded by Commissioner Mark Griffin, and unanimously carried, 6-0, Board adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Jimmy Gooch, Chair