

OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA
April 5, 2021

The Members of the Honorable Board of Commissioners of Granville County, North Carolina met in a regular meeting on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom conference call in order to adhere to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Present were:

Chair: Sue Hinman

Commissioners: Tony W. Cozart Jimmy Gooch
Zelodis Jay Timothy Karan (lost connection during meeting)
Russ May David T. Smith

County Manager: Michael S. Felts

Assistant County Manager: Korena Weichel

County Attorney: James C. Wrenn, Jr.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Sue Hinman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and she said hopefully this would be the last Zoom meeting for this year. She then recognized Commissioner Russ May for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. At this time, Clerk to the Board Debra A. Weary, did a roll call. Chair Hinman reminded Board members to identify themselves when speaking or making motions and also announced that votes would be done by a roll call by the Clerk.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

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

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

General Contingency Balance	\$ 1,560
School Bond D/S Contingency	\$ 100,000
Environmental Disaster Contingency	\$ 10,000
General Fund Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 5,763,663

(B) Approved Minutes of the February 1, 2021 Regular Meeting.

(C) Approved the Creation of the Granville County Sheriff's Office Forfeiture/Department of Justice Bank Account at Union Bank in Oxford, NC.

(D) Approved the Register of Deeds refund release for Warren Shackelford Thomas Attorneys PLLC in the amount of \$310.00 that should have been recorded in Wake County as follows:

- 10-3240-110 \$161.20
- 10-3240-113 \$148.80

- (E) Approved the following *Proclamation Recognizing Multiple Sclerosis Awareness*:

Proclamation Recognizing Multiple Sclerosis Awareness

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis (MS) is a neurological disease of the central nervous system, affecting nearly 1 million people in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis generally strikes people in the prime of life, between ages 20 through 50, and the cause and course of the often debilitating symptoms of MS remain unknown and no cure currently exists; and

WHEREAS, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has been committed **for 75 years to a world free of MS**, heightening public knowledge about and insight into the disease; and

WHEREAS, together we have transformed what it means to live with MS and provided global leadership to help achieve our vision of a world free of MS; and

WHEREAS, since 1946 the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has been a driving force of MS research, relentlessly pursuing prevention, treatments and a cure, and has invested more than \$1 billion in groundbreaking research; and

WHEREAS, funds raised through the National Multiple Sclerosis Society fuel research on pathways to MS cures and invest in the MS research workforce at the best medical centers, universities and other institutions throughout the U.S. and abroad, leading to many breakthroughs in the treatment of MS; and

WHEREAS, stopping MS in its tracks, restoring what has been lost, and ending MS forever is the mission of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and one that all Americans and North Carolinians should support; and

WHEREAS, the Granville County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of finding the cause and cure of MS and expresses its appreciation for the dedication that the National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Greater Carolinas Chapter has shown toward creating a world free of MS;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Granville County Board of Commissioners, encourage all Granville County citizens to learn more about multiple sclerosis and what they can do to support individuals with MS and their families.

****Chair Hinman announced that a MS Awareness walk would be held on Saturday,**

April 10, 2021. (Due to the weather, it was postponed until a later date)

- (F) Approved the following *National County Government Month Proclamation*:

National County Government Month - April 2021

"Counties Matter"

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs serving more than 300 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, counties provide public health services, administer justice, keep communities safe, foster economic opportunities and much more; and

WHEREAS, Granville County and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wellbeing and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of National Association of Counties President Gary Moore, NACo is demonstrating how “Counties Matter,” especially in supporting residents and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Granville County continues to strive to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of counties; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

- (G) *Approved the following Resolution of the Granville County Board of Commissioners Supporting the Renovation and Expansion of the Kerr Lake Regional Water Treatment Plant*

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SUPPORTING THE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE KERR LAKE REGIONAL
WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

WHEREAS, the United States Congress may award Federal grants to assist in the financing of essential public infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxford, along with its partners, the City of Henderson and the County of Warren, intends to update and expand the Kerr Lake Regional Water Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxford, the City of Henderson and the County of Warren are investing in the future of this region of the State of North Carolina through the provision of potable water by expanding the Kerr Lake Regional Water Treatment Plant by doubling the capacity to 20 million gallons per day; and

WHEREAS, the Kerr Lake Regional Water Treatment Plant also provides water to the County of Franklin and the Town of Stovall; and

WHEREAS, investing in this rural regional infrastructure project is essential to the Kerr Lake Regional Water System Partners and their customers to maintain and expand economic competitiveness and opportunity and quality of life for all who reside in this region; and

WHEREAS, the funding provided by the United States Congress via the Community Project Funding Program is critical to assist the Kerr Lake Regional Water System in filling the remaining gap in needed funds to commence and complete this essential regional infrastructure project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Granville County Board of Commissioners on this the 5th day of April, 2021, that the Granville County Board of Commissioners does hereby fully support the Kerr Lake Regional Water System Water Treatment Plant Renovation and Expansion Project.

BOARD APPROVED FURNISHINGS FOR THE BELLE STREET PROJECT

County Manager Felts said that at the November 16, 2020 County Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board authorized the County Manager to execute a lease for office space at 104 Belle Street, Oxford. He explained that in preparation for County service relocation to the renovated office space, Administration was requesting to purchase office

furniture from Storr Office Environments under State Contract (STC 420A) in the amount of \$28,242.57 along with an additional contingency of approximately \$4,000 to cover purchase of a few additional pieces which are not under State Contract (project total not to exceed \$32,250). Illustrations of the floor plan with a rendering of the moderate value range office furniture under consideration and a quote were included in the agenda packet. He noted that the lease will begin May 1st and the move time will begin soon after.

When asked, County Manager Felts said this order does not contain multi-media, but that audiovisual equipment will be included in the fiscal year 2021-2022 and looked at then.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved awarding the State Contract quote to Storr Office Environments and authorizing a contingency amount for furnishings at the Belle Street location for a combined total not to exceed \$32,250.

BOARD FINALIZED GRANVILLE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair Hinman stated that County Administration needs to obtain clarification on the appointment recommendation for the Volunteer Fire Department (North -1) appointment and pending clarification obtain final approval of the creation and appointments to the Granville County Fire Department Needs Subcommittee. She then gave the background information.

Commissioner Smith clarified that Jason Tingen, Chief of Stovall Volunteer Fire Department was recommended for the North-1 appointment as well as the list of others included in the agenda packet.

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved finalizing the Granville County Fire Department Needs Subcommittee as follows:

Granville County Fire Department Needs Subcommittee	
Volunteer Fire Department (North - 1)	Jason Tingen
Volunteer Fire Department (North - 2)	Mark Harrison
Volunteer Fire Department (South - 1)	Rusty Corley
Volunteer Fire Department (South - 2)	Richard Ray
Paid Fire Department	Greg Champion
County Commissioner	Zelodis Jay
County Commissioner	Russ May
Fire Marshal	Ken Reeves

Ex Officio	Reba Duke
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BOARD APPOINTED CAROLYN HEGGIE (DISTRICT 1 APPOINTED BY DISTRICT 3) TO THE ORANGE STREET COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Hinman, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Karan, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Carolyn Heggie (District 1 appointed by District 3) to the Orange Street Community Center Board of Trustees.

BOARD APPOINTED MARK TUCK, SR. TO THE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Russ May, and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Mark Tuck, Sr. to the Veterans Affairs Committee.

BOARD DIRECTED STAFF TO SCHEDULE GRANVILLE ATHLETIC PARK PHASE III DEDICATION TO COINCIDE WITH 275TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

County Manager Felts said the next item was to discuss timing options and determine Board preference for the GAP Phase III dedication event. The County anticipates accepting the completed GAP Phase III Expansion Project sometime within the month of April after the remaining punch list items are completed. Once the new facilities have been turned over to the County's control, staff will proceed to make final preparations and have a "soft opening" to the public shortly thereafter. He then asked for direction from the Board for a date to hold an official opening and dedication, noting that Saturday, July 24th is the tentative date of Granville County's 275th Anniversary Celebration at the GAP.

When asked about the dedication being held in May, County Manager Felts said it would not be an additional burden as usually dedications are held on Saturdays or Sunday afternoons.

Commissioner May said he thought it would be momentous to hold the dedication on the same day as the 275th Anniversary Celebration. Other Board members agreed.

Commissioner Jay asked when the new signage would be installed at the GAP.

County Manager Felts said he anticipates signage being installed by July, but not in May.

After receiving consensus, County Manager Felts said that staff would proceed with holding the GAP Phase III Dedication to coincide with Granville County's 275th Anniversary Celebration tentatively scheduled for July 24th.

GRANVILLE COUNTY 5 – YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN – MOVED TO NEXT AGENDA

County Manager Felts stated that there was follow-up from a commissioner after this agenda item was placed on the agenda and noted that the Board may want to push this item to the next agenda. He went on to give background information saying that during the Granville County Board Retreat held on March 18, 2021, the draft Granville County 2021-2025 Strategic Plan was presented to the Granville County Board of Commissioners. No adjustments or recommended changes have been submitted to County Administration since the plan was presented at the Retreat, however a meeting with two commissioners has been scheduled this week to explain strategies and objectives. He referred to page 64 where the nine objectives were given and noted that they are not in priority order but grouped by categories. He pointed out that objective #4 ties in to the 2018 Granville County Comprehensive Plan. He asked the Board to consider moving this item to the April 19th agenda.

Commissioner May said that he was not here when the 2018 Granville County Comprehensive Plan was done and would like more time to review the documents. He politely asked the Board to allow Commissioner Gooch and him more time to review documents.

Commissioner Gooch apologized for the delay and asked for time to meet with the County Manager to review documents.

Commissioner Cozart mentioned he was glad to see objectives 5 and 6 in the proposed Strategic Plan noting that they may help with recruitment and retention in the Social Services Department, noting that he serves on that Board.

No action was taken and the consensus of the board was to move the item to the April 19th agenda. (Commissioner Karan lost connection during this item and was unable to reconnect)

BOARD APPROVED FULL-TIME VETERANS SERVICE TECHNICIAN

County Manager Felts explained that during the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget process, Rodney Frazier, Granville County Veterans Service Officer (VSO), prepared a Narrative of the Granville County Veterans Service Officer Duties and Responsibilities (included in the agenda) to support his request for a full-time Administrative Assistant or Veterans Service Technician (VST) position. He noted that on February 26, 2021 the County Manager met with Mr. Robert Johnson, NCDMVA Center Region III Manager, and Mr. Reggie Sandlin, District Service Officer, to discuss how to better serve our local veterans during Rodney Frazier's

extended absence. The Granville County VSO has been out on extended medical leave since late January and Granville County Veterans are being assisted by the Regional Veteran Service Center (VSC). He noted that the County has experienced some significant challenges during the transition, which could have been avoided or mitigated with a VST position. He then recommended approval for a full-time VST position, instead of an Administrative Assistant, for the Granville County Veterans Service Office to assist the County VSO with Veteran service needs. He noted if approved, the VST would work out of Mr. Frazier's office until he returns and then work on an alternate office space. If the position is filled prior to June 30, 2021 the salary and benefit costs will be covered in the existing fiscal year 2020-2021 Veterans Service Office budget. Funding for salary and benefits will be included in the fiscal 2021-2022 budget at an estimated salary and benefits of \$47,217.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Russ May, seconded by Commissioner David T. Smith, and unanimously carried (6-0), the Board approved a full-time Veterans Services Technician (VST).

DURING COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT, ITEM CONCERNING DUTCHVILLE SHOPPING CENTER LEASE FOR DSS ADDED

County Manager Felts said he had an item to add concerning a lease at the Dutchville Shopping Center for the Department of Social Services. He explained that in doing due diligence, it was determined that the 10-year lease needs to be approved by the Local Government Commission (LGC) and they only meet once a month. He asked for authorization to file an application to the LGC and to hold a public hearing at the May 3rd meeting if he meets the deadline. The consensus of the Board was to proceed with the process.

DURING COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT, BOARD HEARD UPDATE ON 122 PECAN STREET, CREEDMOOR PROPERTY

County Attorney Wrenn gave an update on the 122 Pecan Street, Creedmoor property. Granville County and the City of Creedmoor entered an agreement on the property that was a tax foreclosure that had a lot of granite debris from a previous tombstone business. The house has been demolished, but some debris remains. The City of Creedmoor has been approached by an adjoining property owner to purchase the property and clean up the lot. County Attorney Wrenn noted that if the property is sold, proceeds will be split based on the tax foreclosure less costs to clean up the lot. Creedmoor staff is in favor of the sale. He said the Board could act

on the matter once a sales contract is brought back and noted that the sale of the property will be subject to an upset bid process.

County Attorney Wrenn said he had attorney-client items for closed session.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Gooch reported that Commissioners Karan, May and he are working with County Manager Felts and South Granville Water and Sewer (SGWASA) Executive Director Scott Schroyer to secure grants and COVID funding for SGWASA as well as Granville County. They have met with Senator Thom Tillis' office and have meetings scheduled with US Representative David Price and NC Representative Larry Yarborough. He said that the joint meeting with the Board of Education was a good meeting and he hopes everything will work out in the future as we want to support our students and education as much as possible.

Commissioner Jay reported that COVID vaccines are being given by the Granville-Vance Public Health this month in Vance County in the mornings and in Granville County in the evenings. He announced that a mass clinic for first vaccines will be held the end of the month and to call the Health Department for an appointment.

Commissioner May thanked the Board on behalf of veterans and the Veterans Affairs Committee for approving the Veterans Service Technician position. He also thanked Commissioner Gooch for the update about SGWASA efforts and noted that he hopes the collective efforts will hopefully bring results. He said he has enjoyed the interaction as a School Liaison over the last few weeks. He said that the Board of Education has tough decisions ahead, noting that the Board needs to support them and be fiscally responsible with the County's money to do the best for our children.

Chair Hinman thanked the Board for attending the joint meeting with the Granville County Board of Education and echoed comments already. She said there was good discussion and exchange of opinions at the joint meeting, noting that there are hard decisions ahead for the Board of Education.

BOARD WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried (6 – 0), the Board went into closed session as allowed by G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) and (6) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body

in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged; and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner David T. Smith, and unanimously carried (6 – 0), the Board returned to regular session.

COMMISSIONERS ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Gooch, seconded by Commissioner Tony W. Cozart, and unanimously carried (6 -0), the Board adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra A. Weary, NCCCC, MMC
Clerk to the Board