

OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA
August 19, 2021

The Members of the Honorable Board of Commissioners of Granville County, North Carolina met on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium, Granville Expo and Convention Center, 4185 US Highway 15 South, Oxford. The purpose of the meeting was a budget workshop on the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

Present were:

Chairman: Sue Hinman

<i>Commissioners:</i>	Tony W. Cozart	Jimmy Gooch
	Zelodis Jay	Timothy Karan
	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

After breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m., Chair Sue Hinman called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and recognized Commissioner Russ May for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

UPDATE ON SOUTH BRANCH DSS OFFICE

Scott Phillips, Development Services Director, updated the Board on the South Branch DSS (Department of Social Services) Office located at the Dutch Village Shopping Center located in Butner, North Carolina.

The County retained Stephen Baxter Architect, PLLC in February 2021 to begin design development and related construction/bid documents for approximately 9,600 SF of space located in the Dutch Village Shopping Center. The work focused on the functional needs of the DSS staff while minimizing the capital costs needed for the space alterations. After a series of meetings with DSS Supervisors, a floor plan of improvements was created to meet those initial goals and the final plan includes the following:

- 33 offices for onsite staff and supervisors
- 2 workrooms / offices for transient staff
- 4 Interview rooms
- A family room for clients with children
- A large meeting / training room along with a smaller conference room
- Restroom facilities for both public and staff have been designed around the existing facilities minimizing the costly work of additional plumbing.

- Competitive bid prices are scheduled to be received no later than August 24, 2021 at 3 p.m.

He noted that the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget has allocated funding for this project. He noted there are eight potential bidders with a tentative start date of October 1st and a 150-day completion. They ran into one problem with mold as the air conditioner was not turned on during the summer by the property owner. He said the property owners are taking responsibility to get the mold abated and this could affect the start date of the project.

Board members asked questions and made comments about bathrooms, offices, services, parking, timeline, and notification to Butner Public Safety about move.

REVIEW OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

County Manager Felts referred to a copy of the American Rescue Plan funding handout that was distributed. The handout noted that the purpose of the American Rescue Plan funding stated that the current public health crisis and resulting economic crisis have devastated the health and economic wellbeing of millions of Americans. From big cities to small town, Americans are facing a deep economic crisis. Many workers have lost their jobs in the wake of the pandemic. The American Rescue Plan will change the course of the pandemic and deliver immediate and direct relief to families and workers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis through no fault of their own. He noted that Granville County is anticipating \$11,740,344 in American Rescue Plan funding and noted the guidelines for eligible expenditure and distribution of the funds has not been finalized by the U.S. Treasury Department. He said the funds will be drawn down this week or next and local governments have until December 2024 to obligate the funds and have until December 2026 to expend the funds. He gave an overview of the funding the County anticipates receiving and outlined funding categories. He then reviewed informal requests for funding received thus far. He noted that Assistant County Manager Korena Weichel was present and could give a broadband update and noted that representatives from the City of Oxford were present if the Board wanted to recognize them regarding their request

Commissioner Karan mentioned residents on Winston Road, Creedmoor are having water issues as many are home all day due to the pandemic so wells do not have an opportunity to refill.

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS UPDATE

Assistant County Manager Weichel referred to a RDOF (Rural Digital Opportunity Fund) reference map that was passed out. She explained that a reverse auction was conducted by the federal government and that the three companies (CCO-Charter Spectrum, Space Ex and Wilkes, also known as River Street) highlighted on the map won the reverse auction and are entitled to build out broadband using federal dollars. She explained the process for building out the project and noted that other providers can build out in the areas, but not with federal dollars. The map shows the areas that providers may work on projects because the colored areas are claimed. She noted there is substantial funding in the federal budget that has not yet been approved.

County Manager Felts said the colored areas on the RDOP reference map represent census blocks with no internet service and are unserved areas and the white areas are those that are served or underserved.

Both Felts and Weichel talked about the challenges of installing broadband infrastructure due to the limited number of providers and the number of citizens that need service.

CITY OF OXFORD'S FUNDING REQUEST

Chair Hinman asked if anyone from the City of Oxford would like to speak.

Mayor Jackie Sergent came forward and referred to a letter regarding a project with the Kerr Lake Regional Water System, that the City of Oxford is a principal partner with, to expand the water treatment plant. City Manager Alan Thornton and Mayor Sergent talked about the anticipated significant growth in Oxford in the next few years and their request of \$2,500,000 of ARP funds to help fund their portion of the project to move it forward.

Board members asked questions regarding anticipated growth, allocation resources, emergency water supply plan, funding sources, project completion date and number of school age children. Some of the information was not available and was requested to be sent at a later date.

BREAK

Chair Hinman called for a break at 10:34 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:43 a.m.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

The Board discussed possible funding categories and options and directed the County Manager to review funding that municipalities and other entities will receive from the American Rescue Plan and to begin work on funding scenarios for their consideration at a future meeting.

BOARD ADJOURNED

Upon a motion by Commissioner David T. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Zelodis Jay, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

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