

September 21, 2021 (Regular)

**MINUTES
BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on September 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, Burke Services Building, 110 N. Green Street in Morganton, N.C. The meeting was streamed live on the County's YouTube channel, BurkeCountyNC, and it was broadcast later on the local cable systems. The agenda, in its entirety, was posted to the County's website, www.burkenc.org, several days prior to the meeting as usual. Both Burke County and the state of North Carolina had previously declared a state of emergency which was ongoing as of September 21, 2021, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Those present were:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Scott Mulwee, Vice Chairman
Wayne F. Abele, Sr.
Johnnie W. Carswell
Maynard M. Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Steen, County Manager
Margaret Pierce, Deputy County Manager/Finance Director
J.R. Simpson, II, County Attorney
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brittain called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Brittain thanked the Health Department for conducting health screenings and said they are available to give anyone who is interested a COVID-19 vaccination.

INVOCATION

Pastor Ed Stephenson was unable to attend the meeting, therefore, Alan Wood, BDI President & CEO, delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

J.R. Simpson, II, County Attorney, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Brittain noted that Kim James with Burke Recovery was unable to attend the meeting and requested this item be moved to the consent agenda. Vice Chairman Mulwee made the motion and requested removing Decision Item No. 3 - Finance - Approval of ARP Purchases / Items, to allow for further discussion before making a decision. Chairman Brittain suggested moving Decision Item No. 3 to the October meeting.

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended - to move Presentation Item No. 2, Burke Recovery - Proclamation Declaring Sept. as National Recovery Month in Burke County to the consent agenda and to move Decision Item No. 3, Finance - Approval of ARP Purchases / Items, to the October meeting.

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Scott Mulwee, Vice Chairman
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes of July 20, 2021 (regular) as written.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

PRESENTATIONS

NCVRS - OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AND AWARENESS MONTH

Information from the agenda packet:

October is National Disability Employment and Awareness Month, and this year's theme is "America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion." Janet Hannah, NCDHHS, NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, will present information on the importance of hiring persons with disabilities as well as some of the services and successes Vocational Rehabilitation has had.

Janet Hannah, Business Relations Representative, Vocational Rehabilitation, introduced her counterparts, Shelly Cash and Kay Smith, who then led the Board and audience in an activity highlighting the impact of disabilities on everyone. Ms. Smith and Ms. Hannah also emphasized the importance of disability inclusion in the workforce and in daily life. Further, they provided statistics regarding persons with disabilities that they serve. Twenty percent (20%) of Burke Countians identified themselves as having a disability.

Chairman Brittain thanked Ms. Hannah, Ms. Cash, and Ms. Smith for being at the meeting.

Motion: To adopt Proclamation No. 2021-05.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

Proc. No. 2021-05 reads as follows:

PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING AND COMMEMORATING THE 76TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, October 2021 marks the 76th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month; and

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WHEREAS, The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week;" and

WHEREAS, In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Workplaces welcoming of the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and strong economy; and

WHEREAS, Activities during this month will reinforce the value and talent people with disabilities add to our workplaces and communities and affirm Burke County's commitment to an inclusive community that increases access and opportunities to all, including individuals with disabilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Burke County Board of Commissioners recognize and commemorate the 76th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the County Commissioners call upon employers, schools, and other community organizations in Burke County, North Carolina to observe October with appropriate programs and activities, and to advance its important message that people with disabilities add value and talent to our workplaces and communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Burke County Board of Commissioners pledge to continue to take steps throughout the year to recruit, hire, retain, and advance individuals with disabilities and work to pursue the goals of opportunity, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and independent living for people with disabilities.

Approved this 21st day of September 2021.

/s/ Jeffrey C. Brittain
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

WPCOG - CDBG FIRST PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.

Paul Teague, WPCOG, reported each year North Carolina receives approximately \$48 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Local governments can apply for these funds for various activities that benefit low-to-moderate income persons with severe needs. Public hearings are required to receive public comment before the County can submit a CDBG application. This first public hearing is to assist the County in the development of CDBG

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projects for the coming year. The three (3) programs funded yearly with CDBG funds to North Carolina are Infrastructure, Economic Development and Neighborhood Revitalization. Below is a brief summary of the programs:

INFRASTRUCTURE (CDBG-IF) There will be approximately \$20 million available this year from the NC Department of Environmental Quality for this program. The funds can be used for water and wastewater transmission lines or improvements to water and sewer treatment facilities to serve low to moderate-income areas to correct severe health or environmental needs. The maximum grant amount is \$2,000,000 with no required match.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CDBG-ED) The North Carolina Department of Commerce will have approximately \$10 million available in the upcoming year to assist local governments. The funds may be used for the construction of public utilities - road, water, sewer, gas, electric, etc. (up to \$1 M); demolition of industrial buildings (up to \$500,000); building reuse projects (\$750,000); loans to local governments for shell buildings or industrial park development; and low interest loan funds in tandem with a bank for private industrial investment. For all categories besides the demolition grants and loans for shell building and industrial park development, the industry or business must commit to create or retain permanent full-time jobs. Of the committed job creation, persons with low to moderate income must hold 60% of the jobs and this is based on their prior 12-month household income (below 80% of median). A local match is not required in a Tier 1 county. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION (NR) CATEGORY is now being offered by the Department of Commerce and is designed to provide small cities and counties Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to eligible units of governments. There is \$10M available, statewide and funds can be used for housing, housing related activities, and public facilities that support housing activities for low-to moderate-income persons. Awards are made on a competitive basis. The maximum grant award is \$750,000. Extensive public input is required to develop the application, including neighborhood meetings. Local funds are not required to apply for the grant; however, points will be given to local governments who do pledge local funds toward the project.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions and comments from the Board. Commissioner Taylor asked if all counties will be eligible for the water portion of the CDBG-ED program. Mr. Teague answered in the affirmative and noted depending on the tier status of the county, that will determine the type of match a county would be required to make. He continued, because Burke County is a tier 1 county, there would be no required match for any CDBG grant if it were awarded. Mr. Teague then answered another question from Commissioner Taylor.

At 6:18 p.m., Chairman Brittain opened the public hearing. The Public Hearing Notice was published in the News Herald on September 3, 2021. Further, it was posted to the county's website, www.burkenc.org on September 3, 2021.

There was no one to address the Board; therefore, Chairman Brittain closed the public hearing.

RESULT: NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED.
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INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

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At 6:18 p.m., Chairman Brittain opened the floor for informal public comments.

Naomi Logan Smith of Morganton said in the approximate 22 years that she has been in the County; she has come to love the area and its people. She said she comes with a very sincere heart and desire to see this community flourish and be the best that it can be. Ms. Smith made comments about the history of Burke County and said this land is a first fruit for the United States of America. She said she is grateful for the Commissioners and is not here to cause defensiveness and stressed the importance of having opportunities to engage so they can hear each other's hearts. Ms. Smith then offered a lengthy prayer.

Molly Hemstreet of Morganton stated the following:

Thank you for your time. Coming from a family of public servants I know how much time and energy it takes to be an elected official. Members of our group have stood before you at every Commissioners meeting for the last year. I hope you have seen our actions as civil and heard our call for a more inclusive community. Our first request was for you to consider removing the Confederate monument. Our request was accompanied by numerous stories of the pain that this monument, which sits so prominently in the heart of our community, represents. It represents a time when we were called to "marginalize" our friends and neighbors based on the color of their skin. However, we were told you would not consider removing the monument at this time. Other communities, however, are answering the call to remove these monuments. On September 8th, a 21-foot statue of Robert E. Lee was removed from Monument Avenue in Richmond, Virginia prompting the Virginia Governor to say, "It is time to display history as history and use the public memorials to honor the full and inclusive truth of who we are today and in the future." It begs the question, "How are our county leaders choosing to tell who we are as a people?" At the last Commissioner's meeting Pastor George Logan made a second request of you, to appoint an Advisory Board to study the issues involving the Confederate Monument and the need for honest dialogue about Burke County's racial history. We asked that all sides be represented on this Advisory Board - those in favor of removing the monument, those opposed to removing the monument, and those who do not think these are issues. The intention of our request was to move the conversation beyond the monument~ to humanize the issue with faces, names, not labels or dug in sides. Unfortunately, we also received a "no" to our request to create a space for racial dialogue. So why do we keep coming to stand before you? We stand as witnesses to a desire to create a community that looks towards a thriving future not a divisive past. While we focus on building the physical infrastructure of our beautiful community, we are neglecting the human infrastructure of the voices of all of our community. This is the harder work, honestly, but the work many of us are committed to carrying out. We have seen in the news where communities are torn apart because sides never come together. Where division ends in violence when we stop seeing each other as humans, and we stop practicing the art of civil conversation. It is harder to hate someone when you know their story, their family, when you have sat down at a table across from them. Last week I celebrated 20 years of being married. I am sure many of you too have reached such milestones. We know that this type of commitment doesn't come from hoping issues and challenges will just go away

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but from taking the time and care to help different sides see eye to eye and find common ground. We make that request again, to appoint an Advisory Board for racial dialogue in our community and a commitment to hard conversations that will build a stronger future for us all. We will keep coming. We will keep asking. We will keep working in our community. Our spirit of love is deep and not deterred.

Francisco Risso of Morganton said a society cannot understand where they are unless they understand where they have been. He said national surveys show how little Americans understand about their history and noted he conducted an informal survey at his workplace regarding key events in civil rights history and he pointed out how few correct answers he received. Mr. Risso questioned how anyone can have an informed position on any social justice issue if no one understands the history behind it. He said it almost seems like willful ignorance to not have an advisory board to discuss the confederate monument given that most people have a limited understanding of civil rights in the U.S. Mr. Risso said based on his reading and understanding of history, there is no doubt that the confederate monument was erected in the midst of, and the celebration of, white supremacy in the south. Mr. Risso spoke about how black people in the early 1900s were barred from any political participation, and inspired by the Declaration of Independence, how societal changes have been brought about by people often putting their lives on the line to open the circle of equality.

Cara Kincaid of Morganton spoke about how a confederate statue in Maryland was removed and relocated to the "Virginia Battleground." Ms. Kincaid then said she is doing research on ancestry.com about a Kincaid man who donated the Burke County confederate statue as well as the researching the Blackwell family.

There was no one else to address the Board; therefore, Chairman Brittain closed that portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

At the request of Chairman Brittain, County Manager Steen reviewed the items on the consent agenda.

BOC - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) organization is a partnership of national public service organizations, professional medical associations and government agencies working together to promote breast cancer awareness, share information on the disease, and provide greater access to screening services. This is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October. Since its inception more than two decades ago, NBCAM has been at the forefront of promoting awareness of breast cancer issues, education, and empowerment for women to increase their knowledge of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure.

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2021-12.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

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Res. No. 2021-12 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE
NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH (NBCAM)

WHEREAS, The National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) organization is a partnership of national public service organizations, professional medical associations, and government agencies working together to promote breast cancer awareness, share information on the disease, and provide greater access to screening services.

WHEREAS, The National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure.

WHEREAS, The National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) for more than two decades has been at the forefront of promoting awareness, education, and empowerment for women to take charge of their own breast health by practicing regular self-breast exams to identify any changes, scheduling regular visits and annual mammograms with their healthcare provider, adhering to prescribed treatment, and knowing the facts about recurrence.

THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BURKE COUNTY RESOLVES THAT the Burke County Board of Commissioners hereby supports National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in an effort to save more lives and improve the quality of life for all of us touched by breast cancer.

Adopted this 21st day of September 2021.

/s/ Jeffrey C. Brittain
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/ Kay Honeycutt Draughn
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board

CLERK - REAPPOINTMENT TO JURY COMMISSION

Robert Love's term on the Jury Commission ends September 30th. He has served on this Commission for many years and has applied to serve another term.

Motion: To approve an exception to Sec. 2-88 (e), membership requirements, length of service of the Burke County Code of Ordinances and reappoint Robert Love to the Jury Commission for a 2-year term ending September 30, 2023.

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

CLERK - REAPPOINTMENT TO PLANNING BOARD

Sara Chester's term on the Burke Co. Planning Board, Seat No. 4 (west) ends September 30th. She has applied to serve a second term ending in September 2023. Staff recommends her reappointment.

Motion: To reappoint Sara Chester to the Burke Co. Planning Board, Seat No. 4 (west) for a 2-year term ending September 30, 2023.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

CLERK - APPROVAL OF UPDATED BYLAWS FOR COUNCIL ON AGING

The by-laws for the Council on Aging were amended and approved by the Council on July 28, 2021. The changes must be submitted to the Burke County Board of Commissioners for review and approval in accordance with Article 2, Section 2-87 of the Burke Co. Code of Ordinances.

Motion: To approve the by-laws for the Council on Aging as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

The bylaws read as follows:

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BURKE COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING BYLAWS ARTICLE I NAME The name of this volunteer organization shall be the Burke County Council on Aging. ARTICLE II MISSION STATEMENT The mission of the Burke County Council on Aging is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Burke County Board of Commissioners on matters concerning the status of the aging population and the existence of or need for programs to enhance the quality of life of older citizens residing in the County. The Burke County Council on Aging will: 1. Serve as liaison between the older citizens of Burke County and the County commissioners by suggesting policy and making recommendations to the commissioners on the special needs of the older adults; 2. Promote the continuation, enhancement or creation of programs to benefit older adults in areas of housing options and in-home services, transportation, legal aid, education, volunteerism, physical and mental health, social services, employment and other related fields deemed important to the objectives of the Council; 3. In consultation with other agencies and groups, will: a) Assist in the identification of needs of older adults; b) Establish priorities in meeting those needs; c) Promote development of programs to meet priority needs; and d) Identify resources to operate these programs; and e) Bring public attention to existing programs, services and activities. ARTICLE III MEMBERS The Burke County Council on Aging is a volunteer entity established by the Burke County Board of Commissioners. It consists of 12-18 members representing the widest geographical areas of the County. At Council meetings, representatives of selected agencies within the County concerned with the services for the aging provide a steady flow of information regarding those services. 1. Members shall not be employed by nor be allowed to serve on the board of directors of any agency receiving funds allocated by the Council on Aging.	2. The Council will propose names to the County Commissioners for appointment when it becomes necessary to fill vacancies. 3. Members will serve three-year terms from the date of their appointment, or fill the remainder of an unexpired term. 4. No member may serve more than one unexpired term plus four full terms consecutively. 5. Any Council member absent for three consecutive meetings without an excuse shall be removed from the membership. ARTICLE IV MEETINGS The Council on Aging will abide by North Carolina General Statute §143-318.9-18, commonly called the "open meetings" statute. Meetings will be held monthly, with at least ten meetings held each year. The Council will meet ten (10) times per year. Council meetings will be held at the Morganton-Burke Senior Center unless otherwise designated. Public notice of Council on Aging meetings will be accomplished by an annual calendar adopted by January 1 for the calendar year; by email or mail to the membership and service providers; and by notice in the local newspaper. Public Notices will always include an open meeting statement that any citizen or group may attend. Changes to the Council on Aging Meeting Schedule and/or cancellations will be made public by email or mail and notice to the local newspaper. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Chairperson or by four voting members of the Council with at least five calendar days' notice. The Council Secretary will ensure accurate minutes are recorded for all meetings and provide copies to the Office of the County Manager. A Quorum (a number greater than half of the current voting membership) must be present for a valid transaction of business. ARTICLE V OFFICERS The officers of the Burke County Council on Aging shall be the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and other officers that may be named and elected by the Council. Section 1. Election and Terms of Office Officers shall be elected by a majority of the Council at the November meeting and will begin their terms of office the following January.
Section 2 Vacancies A vacancy in any office may be filled for the unexpired term by a vote of the majority of Council members present. Section 3 Chairperson The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Council on Aging. The Chairperson may sign with any other Council officer authorized by the Council, any contracts or other instruments which the Council has been authorized to execute by the Burke County Board of County Commissioners. Section 4 Vice-Chairperson In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson. Section 5 Secretary The Secretary shall keep a file of the minutes of the Council on Aging, see that notices are sent out (according to these bylaws), keep a record of attendance of Council members at regular meetings, and report all correspondence to the Council as needed. ARTICLE VI HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT (HCCBG) ADVISORY FUNCTION The HCCBG functions shall include: 1. Planning and coordination in the development of a County funding plan. 2. Monitoring use of HCCBG expenditures by reviewing quarterly reports on the use of funds. 3. Recommendations to the County Commissioners concerning: a. services to be funded, b. amount of service allocation, and c. service provider designation. ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES A Nominating Committee will be named by the Chairperson each September and present a slate of officers at the October meeting for the coming year. Officers will be elected at the November Council meeting and take office the following January. The Chairperson, upon recommendation of the Council members, will appoint Ad Hoc Committees for special tasks. Designated committee Chairpersons will have the prerogative of naming specific Council members or representatives of other agencies to serve on the committees.	ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS By-Laws will be reviewed every two years for possible revisions or updates. Any Council member may submit a written amendment proposal to the Council. The proposed amendment may be voted on at the subsequent Council meeting after the meeting at which the amendment was submitted and discussed. Any amendments, revisions or updates approved by the Council on Aging will be submitted to the Burke County Board of Commissioners for review and approval. Initial Bylaws approved December 9, 1980 Revisions: March 1990, March 1992, February 2000, August 2002. Rewritten: March 2004 Revised August 2014; January 2017; 2021 Approved this _____ day of _____, 2021, by the Burke County Council on Aging. Approved this _____ day of _____, 20____, by the Burke County Board of Commissioners.

BCECC - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BURKE AND CATAWBA COUNTY

This is a renewal of an MOU between Burke County and Catawba County. Catawba County is allowing Burke County to utilize 15 inches of rack space in their equipment rack at the communications tower located on Baker's Mountain. Baker's Mountain tower is the location of one of Burke County's VIPER sites as well as 1/3 of our Simulcast VHF communications and

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paging system. The term of the agreement is 5 years and there is no cost associated.

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Catawba County as presented and authorize the County Manager to execute the MOU on behalf of the Board.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] MOVER: Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

The MOU reads as follows:

NORTH CAROLINA
BURKE COUNTY

Memorandum of Understanding Between
Burke County and Catawba County

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") made and entered into by and between Burke County, North Carolina ("Burke") and Catawba County, North Carolina ("Catawba").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Burke and Catawba are both bodies politic existing pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Burke desires to store communications equipment on Catawba's equipment rack in the tower house owned by the State of North Carolina located on Baker's Mountain (hereinafter "Tower House"); and

WHEREAS, Catawba has space available to store Burke's equipment on the equipment rack located in the Tower House; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to set forth in this MOU the terms by which Burke may utilize Catawba's equipment rack.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the terms, conditions, and covenants expressed herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. Purpose. The purpose of this MOU is to establish a formal arrangement for Burke to utilize a space of not more than fifteen (15) inches on Catawba's equipment rack located in the Tower House.
2. Term. The term of this MOU shall commence upon execution and will continue for a period of five (5) years. Either party may terminate this agreement upon providing at least sixty (60) days written notice to the other party.
3. Responsibilities of Catawba. Catawba agrees to make available to Burke a space not more than fifteen (15) inches on the equipment rack.
4. Responsibilities of Burke. Burke agrees to the following:
 - a. Burke is responsible for obtaining any required authorization from the State of North Carolina, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, and the Federal Communications Commission to place equipment in the Tower House and access the Tower House.

- b. Burke will carry and maintain throughout the term of this MOU, at Burke's sole expense, general liability insurance to cover the purpose, activities and obligations contained in this MOU.
- c. Equipment installed in the Tower House will be installed pursuant to Motorola R56 Standards.
- d. Burke will hold Catawba harmless and indemnify Catawba from any and all claims which may arise out of or relate to Burke's use of the equipment rack and Tower House.

5. Amendment. This agreement may not be modified or amended except by subsequent written modification approved and authorized by an authorized representative of each party.
6. Entire Agreement. This MOU contains the entire agreement between the parties, and no statement, oral or written, made by either party or agent of either party that is not contained in this written MOU shall be valid or binding.
7. Notice. Any notice to be given shall be given in writing and delivered personally or by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid as follows:

To County: Brian Drum
911 Administrator
Catawba County 911
100 Government Dr, PO Box 389
Newton, NC 28658

To Contractor: Brock Hall
911 Operations Director
650 Kirksey Dr
Morganton, NC 28655

8. Duplicate Originals. This agreement may be executed by the parties in duplicate originals, each of which when executed shall constitute the same MOU.
9. Signatures. This Agreement, together with any amendments or modifications, may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which shall be considered one and the same agreement. This Agreement may also be executed electronically. By signing electronically, the parties indicate their intent to comply with the Electronic Commerce in Government Act (N.C.G.S. § 66-58.1 et seq.) and the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (N.C.G.S. § 66-311 et seq.). Delivery of an executed counterpart of this Agreement by either electronic means or by facsimile shall be as effective as a manually executed counterpart.
10. Signature Authority. The individuals signing this agreement hereby warrant that he/she has the legal authority to execute this agreement on behalf of the respective party, and that such binding authority has been granted by proper order, resolution, ordinance or other authorization of the entity. Each party

is fully entitled to rely on these warranties and representations in entering into this agreement or any amendment hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Memorandum of Understanding is adopted on this 1st day of July, 2021.

BCECC - EMERGENCY FIRE DISPATCH AGREEMENT APPROVAL

The International Academy of Emergency Dispatch and Priority Dispatch Corporation provides effective, efficient, and comprehensive emergency fire dispatch procedures for communications centers and by extension the residents of the areas they serve. These procedures standardize and prioritize the call taking and dispatch functions for fire departments as well as providing an additional level of accountability through enhanced call review and grading. The agreement in question includes training and certifying staff in the new call take and dispatch protocol as well as training the QA Manager on call grading and scoring. Additional licenses for service and support of the new protocol are also included. We already utilize the Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols for medical calls through IAED and Priority Dispatch Corporation. This will

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add an additional set of protocols for fire calls.

Budgetary Effect: \$125,275.50 - Includes training and implementation of Emergency Fire Dispatch Protocols for all staff and QA Training Officer as well as licenses for protocol implementation on the current system. These monies were requested and approved in the current budget and are eligible for reimbursement from the 911 board.

Motion: To approve the Priority Dispatch System Implementation Agreement for Emergency Fire Dispatch and authorize the County Manager to negotiate / execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

FM - APPOINTMENT TO LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Seat No. 5 on the Local Emergency Planning Committee represents public health and is vacant due to the retirement of the local health director. An application was received from Emily Poteet at the Health Department. The term is to complete an unexpired term ending January 31, 2024.

Motion: To appoint Emily Poteet to the Local Emergency Planning Committee, Seat No. 5, to complete an unexpired term ending January 31, 2024.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

GENERAL SERVICES - RECLASSIFICATION OF POSITION

Burke County General Services is requesting a reclassification of the "Facilities Maintenance Technician III" position #1956, which is currently vacant and in-budget, to "Lead Facilities Maintenance Technician" to better meet the needs of the County.

Budgetary Effect: None. The current "Facilities Maintenance Technician III" position is classified as a Salary Grade 21 with a salary range of \$38,425.43 - \$59,558.06, and it is recommended that the "Lead Facilities Maintenance Technician" position remain classified as a Salary Grade 21.

Motion: Approve the reclassification as requested and add the Lead Facilities Maintenance Technician position to the Burke County Pay Plan.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

GENERAL SERVICES - HRC BUILDING - HVAC CONTROLS INSTALLATION UPDATES

Phase 1 installation of the HVAC controls for the HRC Building was funded in the FY 2021 budget. The start of the project was delayed due to the availability of some of the components but is now close to completion. Although General Services plans to start the Phase 2 install

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immediately following the completion of Phase 1, it could also be delayed due to the availability of parts.

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

Note: The verbal report provided at the pre-agenda reads as follows:

Mark Delehant, General Services Director, said phase 1 of the HRC HVAC controls project began in late June of this year but was delayed largely due to the availability of components. Currently, both air handlers and the chiller are being run by the new controls. Most of the other controls are connected except for the Health Department, which is being done after normal business hours to not interfere with operations. During the installation, it was discovered that several VAV boxes and dampers needed to be retrofitted and a change order was requested for that. He suspected that as they continue to go through the building, the contractor will find even more items that needs to be addressed. Although Phase 1 is not finished, they have already started Phase 2 but once again some of the parts ordered are a month out. He said he spoke to the contractor this morning and he believes the project should be completed by late October. Mr. Delehant further stated that he also spoke with the DSS Director today and, even though the contractor is far from being done, he said that they have already noticed a difference in the building.

HR - DETENTION OFFICER RECRUITMENT UPDATE

The Burke County Board of Commissioners approved a request presented by Sheriff Steve Whisenant related to the recruitment and retention of Detention Officers for the Burke County Jail on March 16, 2021. This presentation is to update the Board of County Commissioners on the recruitment efforts that have been taken and progress made thus far.

Approved by the Commissioners on March 16, 2021:

- Minimum 5% Salary Increase - Burke County Non-Sworn Detention Officers, Corporals, Sergeants and Lieutenants (New Hires and Existing Staff) Effective April 3, 2021.
- Retention Bonus – Annual Retention Bonus of \$600 to newly hired non-sworn Detention Officers and existing non-sworn Detention Officers upon the successful completion of their first year of service. \$1,200 upon the successful completion of their second year of service. Effective April 1, 2021.
- Part-Time Detention Positions – 15 part-time Detention Officer reinstated.
- Creation of Staff Recruitment and Development Specialist position to report to HR Director.

Recruitment Efforts:

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- 5% Pay Increase for Detention Officers processed and pay plan updated April 3, 2021
- Retention Bonus Program for Detention Officer implemented April 1, 2021
- Part-Time Detention Officer positions reinstated – March 17, 2021
- Staff Recruitment and Development Specialist – Hired May 17, 2021 – Alex Rhoney
- Posted open Detention Officer positions to Indeed, Facebook, Burke Website, NC Works, Burke County NAACP, Olive Hill Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Veteran Services, WPCC, CVCC, CCCTI, AB Tech
- Coordinated and advertised a Detention Officer Job Fair held at Foothills Higher Ed Center – July 15, 2021
- Designed and mailed 2500 recruitment postcards – August 20, 2021
- Designed and placed recruitment signs at strategic county sites – August 30, 2021
- Search online applicant databases (NC Works and Indeed) and reach out to potential applicants
- Continue to research recruitment and retention strategies for detention and correctional occupations
- Staff Recruitment and Development Specialist reviews all Detention Officer applications/resumes daily, completes initial phone screenings and provides applicants with a full recruitment packet
- Provided exit interviews for Detention Officers who voluntarily resign

Recruitment Statistics:

- Approximately 300 resumes received since mid-May
- Hired 12 Detention Officers since May 2021 (3 - pending start dates in September)
- 7 resignations, 1 retirement, 1 dismissal since May 2021
- 15 Full Time Detention Officer Vacancies
- 1 Full Time Detention Officer Corporal Vacancy

Note: At the pre-agenda meeting, Rhonda Lee, HR Director, stated that a perceived lack of training and recognition were identified as barriers to Detention Officer retention. More details can be found in the minutes of the September 7, 2021 pre-agenda meeting.

Motion: Accept the report as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

TAX DEPT. - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR AUGUST 2021

The Board of Commissioners is presented with the Tax Collection Report for the period between July 1, 2021, and August 31, 2021. This reflects the status of collections by the Burke County Tax Collection's Staff. This information is a supplement to the Annual Settlement Report.

Category	Annual Budget	Amount Collected YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$45,000,000.00	\$30,249,182.39	67.22%	\$14,750,817.61
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$5,200,000.00	\$994,129.56	19.12%	\$4,205,870.44
Current Year Taxes	\$50,200,000.00	\$31,243,311.95	62.24%	\$18,956,688.05
Delinquent Taxes	\$700,000.00	\$201,977.27	28.85%	\$498,022.73
Late List Penalty	\$315,000.00	\$74,618.58	23.69%	\$240,381.42

The Tax Levy is the total property tax value not including motor vehicles times the tax rate. This amount changes monthly with the addition of discoveries, other changes, or corrections, and when Public Utility Values are added, typically during September.

Category	Tax Levy	Amount Collected	%	Balance to Collect
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		YTD	Collected	
Property Tax	\$44,276,994.00	\$30,249,182.39	68.32%	\$14,027,811.42

Motion: To accept the Tax Collection Report for August 2021 as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

TAX DEPT. - RELEASE REFUND REPORT FOR AUGUST 2021

Releases in value and/or refunds of taxes typically occur when:

- ☐ Taxpayers submit information that creates a reduction in value.
- ☐ Situs is corrected between counties and/or municipalities.
- ☐ Valuation appeals reduce the value for real or personal property.
- ☐ The postmark reveals a payment was timely sent.

The Board of Commissioners is presented with the following list of releases and refunds for consideration. The Net Release is a result of the Report Amount minus the Rebilled Amount.

Tax System Refunds and Releases				
	Report Amount	Rebilled Amount	Net Release	Refund Amount
Releases (TR-304)	\$1,103.78	\$8.76	\$1,095.02	\$144.87

VTS Refunds Over \$100	
	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	\$115.76

*Note: The net loss amount is a result of the report amount minus the rebilled amount.

Motion: To approve the Tax Releases and Refunds for August 2021 as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

The tax reports read as follows:

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TR-304 BILL RELEASE REPORT AUGUST 2021

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount(\$)	Release Amount(\$)	Bill Amount after Release(\$)	Notes and Rebilled Amount
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Adjustment								
0000085620-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	MCEL RATH, IVAN R	7/1/2021	RENEE AUSTIN	8/11/2021	22.17	7.57	14.60	0.00
Subtotal						7.57		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Amended Listing								
0000015410-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	PARKER, DEIDRE VEST	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	8/16/2021	239.02	68.50	170.52	0.00
0024047514-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	ANDERSON, RAY N	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	8/2/2021	63.14	63.14	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						131.64		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Business Closed								
0000081455-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	BRIDGES, JAMES M	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	8/16/2021	108.78	108.78	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						108.78		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Discovery Billing								
0024009976-2015-2015-0000-00-REG	PRESSLEY, DENNIS	8/18/2015	LINDA WILBUR	8/24/2021	19.45	1.77	17.68	0.00
0024009976-2015-2015-0000-00-REG	PRESSLEY, DENNIS	8/18/2015	LINDA WILBUR	8/24/2021	17.68	17.68	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						19.45		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Duplicate Billing								
0000005452-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	REED, HENRY	7/1/2021	RENEE AUSTIN	8/4/2021	177.47	4.52	172.95	0.00
0000051112-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	GRINDSTAFF, BARRY E	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	8/3/2021	1,296.97	7.33	1,289.64	0.00
0024024798-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	STROHL, CHRISTOPHER D	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	8/17/2021	33.37	5.05	28.32	0.00

TR-304 BILL RELEASE REPORT AUGUST 2021

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount(\$)	Release Amount(\$)	Bill Amount after Release(\$)	Notes and Rebilled Amount
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Adjustment								
0000085620-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	MCEL RATH, IVAN R	7/1/2021	RENEE AUSTIN	8/11/2021	22.17	7.57	14.60	0.00
Subtotal						7.57		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Amended Listing								
0000015410-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	PARKER, DEIDRE VEST	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	8/16/2021	239.02	68.50	170.52	0.00
0024047514-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	ANDERSON, RAY N	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	8/2/2021	63.14	63.14	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						131.64		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Business Closed								
0000081455-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	BRIDGES, JAMES M	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	8/16/2021	108.78	108.78	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						108.78		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Discovery Billing								
0024009976-2015-2015-0000-00-REG	PRESSLEY, DENNIS	8/18/2015	LINDA WILBUR	8/24/2021	19.45	1.77	17.68	0.00
0024009976-2015-2015-0000-00-REG	PRESSLEY, DENNIS	8/18/2015	LINDA WILBUR	8/24/2021	17.68	17.68	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						19.45		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Duplicate Billing								
0000005452-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	REED, HENRY	7/1/2021	RENEE AUSTIN	8/4/2021	177.47	4.52	172.95	0.00
0000051112-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	GRINDSTAFF, BARRY E	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	8/3/2021	1,296.97	7.33	1,289.64	0.00
0024024798-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	STROHL, CHRISTOPHER D	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	8/17/2021	33.37	5.05	28.32	0.00

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TR-304 BILL RELEASE REPORT AUGUST 2021

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount(\$)	Release Amount(\$)	Bill Amount after Release(\$)	Notes and Rebilled Amount
0024033354-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	DEANGELUS, CARLO MICHELE	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	8/24/2021	19.54	8.38	11.16	0.00
0024034333-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	DUFF, RICHARD	7/1/2019	LINDA WILBUR	8/5/2021	4.59	4.59	0.00	0.00
0024034333-2020-2020-0000-00-REG	DUFF, RICHARD	7/1/2020	LINDA WILBUR	8/5/2021	4.59	4.59	0.00	0.00
0024034333-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	DUFF, RICHARD	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	8/5/2021	4.59	4.59	0.00	0.00
0024044922-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	OLIVER, DOUGLAS EDWARD	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	8/11/2021	33.41	33.41	0.00	0.00
0024049432-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	SECHREST, BILLY KIM	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	8/3/2021	33.01	22.17	10.84	0.00
Subtotal						103.00		0.00
Total						1,103.78		8.76
Net Release Amount							1,095.02	

Payee Name	Primary Owner	Address 1	Address 3	Refund Type	Bill #	Refund Description	Tax Jurisd.	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
LEFEVERS, AUSTIN DALLAS	LEFEVERS, AUSTIN DALLAS	4101 RIVER RD	MORGANTON, NC 28655	Adjustment >= \$100	0062363276	Refund Generated due to adjustment on Bill #0062363276-2021-2021-0000-00	01	Tax	(\$99.94)	\$0.00	(\$99.94)
							24	Tax	(\$15.82)	\$0.00	(\$15.82)
										Refund	\$115.76
										Refund Total	\$115.76

BURKE RECOVERY - PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPT. AS NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH IN BURKE COUNTY

At the pre-agenda meeting, Kim James, Executive Director of Burke Recovery, presented a proclamation proclaiming September as National Recovery Month in Burke County.

Motion: To approve Proclamation No. 2021-06.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

Proc. No. 2021-06 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2021 AS NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH IN BURKE COUNTY

WHEREAS, behavioral health is an essential part of health and one's overall wellness, and

WHEREAS, according to PRIDE survey results, the average first age of use in Burke County is 13 - therefore prevention of mental and/or substance use disorder as well as treatment is effective and people recover in our area and around the nation, and

WHEREAS, preventing and overcoming substance use disorder is essential to achieving healthy lifestyles both physically and emotionally, and

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WHEREAS, we must educate relatives and friends of people with substance use disorders so they will be able to implement preventive measures, recognize the signs of a problem, and guide those in need to appropriate treatment and recovery support services, and

WHEREAS, substance use disorder is a major public health problem that impacts society on multiple levels, and

WHEREAS, the use of Fentanyl and other dangerous opioids (which are also being laced with other substances) is rising in the community leading to overdose and death, and

WHEREAS, underage drinking and a failure to properly store alcohol in the home continues to lead to teenagers having a poor perception of risk, and

WHEREAS, to help more people achieve and sustain long term recovery, Burke Wellness Initiative and Burke Substance Abuse Network invites Burke County residents to participate in activities held to recognize National Recovery Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Burke County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim September 2021 as National Recovery Month in Burke County, North Carolina and call upon citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in Burke County to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of substance use disorder and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with substance use disorder and the complications and struggles for daily living in wellness.

Approved this 21st day of September 2021.

/s/ Jeffrey C. Brittain

Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

ITEMS FOR DECISION

CLERK - BOARD OF HEALTH REMOVAL & APPOINTMENT

Clerk Draughn reported Adriana Morris occupied Seat No. 11 (at-large) on the Board of Health until her recent resignation. Therefore, her removal is requested. At this time, two (2) applications are on file for this seat which has an unexpired term ending December 31, 2022. Rebecca Schlein and Gwen Stephens have submitted applications.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Abele nominated Gwen Stephens. There were no other nominations; therefore, Chairman Brittain closed the floor for nominations.

Motion: To remove Adriana Morris' name from the official roster for the Board of Health and thank her for her service to the community. To appoint Gwen Stephens to Seat No. 11, at-large, on the Board of Health for the remainder of a term ending December 31, 2022.

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

BOC - RESOLUTION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2021 AS "PREPAREDNESS MONTH"

Chairman Brittain reported NCACC President Frank Williams requests the adoption of a resolution declaring September as "Preparedness Month" in Burke County.

Motion: Adopt Resolution No. 2021-13.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

Res. No. 2021-13 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2021 AS "PREPAREDNESS MONTH"

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month (NPM) is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time; and

WHEREAS, Burke County has been affected by several disasters and emergencies in recent years, and

WHEREAS, Counties throughout North Carolina have been affected by a variety of disasters and emergencies, including snowstorms, mudslides, wildfires, flooding, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, In 2020 the State of North Carolina experienced 48 tornado touchdowns, 247 flood incidents, and 609 severe thunderstorms with damaging wind and hail, all of which resulted in more than \$27.5 million in damages statewide; and

WHEREAS, The peak period of hurricane season is historically mid-August through October, and September 10 marks the peak of hurricane season; and

WHEREAS, On Saturday, August 14, 2021, Brunswick County Commissioner and N.C. Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) President Frank Williams announced the "100 Counties Prepared" initiative; and

WHEREAS, the 100 Counties Prepared initiative will focus on training county commissioners on how to effectively lead during emergencies, compiling resources to assist commissioners during emergency situations, and helping commissioners establish relationships with key emergency management partners; and

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WHEREAS, The 2021 theme of National Preparedness Month is "Prepare to Protect Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love;" and

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month is aimed at encouraging citizens to develop an emergency plan, build an emergency kit, and take other pro-active steps to prepare for potential emergencies; and

WHEREAS, The Burke County Board of Commissioners desires that every household, property owner, and business in Burke County be prepared for potential emergencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Burke County hereby declares September 2021 as Preparedness Month in Burke County and encourages all citizens to Prepare to Protect their loved ones by developing an emergency plan, building an emergency kit, and communicating their emergency plan to all members of their household and/or workplace.

Adopted this 21st day of September 2021.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board

FINANCE - APPROVAL OF ARP (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN) PURCHASES

As part of the agenda approval process, this item was moved to the October pre-agenda / regular meetings.

BOC - REPORTS & COMMENTS

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for reports and comments from Commissioners and staff.

Attorney Simpson provided an update on the projects he has worked on since the Board's last meeting.

County Manager Steen presented photos of the Ekornes expansion on Wamsutta Mill Road in Morganton and then he presented a COVID-19 community vaccination video. Commissioner Taylor and Chairman Brittain commended the video, and everyone involved in its creation. Chairman Brittain and Commissioner Taylor encouraged everyone to get the COVID-19 vaccine if they are able.

Commissioner Taylor reported he attended the town hall meeting with the candidates for the Board of Education, as well as the ribbon cutting for Soulfully Sweet Treats at the Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Brittain shared DSS program statistics and commended them for all their work for what can often be a thankless job.

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RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLERK - BOARDS AND COMMITTEES VACANCY REPORT

Clerk Draughn announced the following vacancies on county boards and committees:

- Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee
- Council on Aging
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- City of Morganton - Board of Adjustment (ETJ)
- City of Morganton - Planning Board (ETJ)
- Burke Senior Center Advisory Council
- Recreation Commission
- Child Protection & Child Fatality Prevention Team
- East Burke Senior Center Advisory Board
- Board of Health
- Regional Aging Advisory Committee

Chairman Brittain encouraged interested citizens to get involved in a board or committee.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Brittain announced that a closed session was needed pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1),(3),(4),(5) and (6).

Motion: To go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential, to discuss threatened or pending litigation to preserve the attorney-client privilege, to discuss economic development matters, to discuss contractual matters (land acquisition) and to discuss personnel matters as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1),(3),(4),(5) and (6).

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Commissioner
AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

Motion: To come out of closed session.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Commissioner
AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

APPROVAL & SEALING OF CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES

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Chairman Brittain announced that a proper motion to come out of closed session was made and the following closed session meeting minutes were approved and sealed in accordance with NCGS 143-318.10 (e):

- November 15, 2016
- January 16, 2018
- February 20, 2018
- March 20, 2018
- April 17, 2018
- May 15, 2018
- July 3, 2018
- August 21, 2018
- October 2, 2018
- November 20, 2018
- December 3, 2018

PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY

Motion: To approve the purchase of 5.54 acres of real property (PIN #1841477773, REID # 26666) and appropriate \$50,000 of General Fund, Fund Balance.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Scott Mulwee, Vice Chairman

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

RECESS

Motion: To recess to October 5, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Scott Mulwee, Vice Chairman

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Johnnie W. Carswell and Maynard M. Taylor

Approved this 16th day of November 2021.


Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board