

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

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Commissioners' Meeting Room, located at the Burke County Services Building, 110 N. Green Street, Entrance E, in Morganton, N.C. 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 this date due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Those present were:

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

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 Mulwee called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Johnson, Sr., Shiloh AME Church, delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.

RESULT:	APPROVED [3 TO 1]
MOVER:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell and Jeffrey C. Brittain
NAYS:	Maynard M. Taylor
ABSENT:	Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

PRESENTATIONS

AS - PET OF THE MONTH

Kaitlin Settlemire, Animal Services Director, presented Pearl, a cat, who is in need of her "forever" home. She said the dog she was going to present was adopted earlier in the day. Ms. Settlemire then provided an update on recent animal welfare checks / investigations at 4274 Bollinger Gap Street, 490 Cape Hickory Road and 1380 McGee Street. Chairman Mulwee commended Ms. Settlemire for her work and encouraged everyone to consider adopting or

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fostering an animal from the Animal Services Center.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

MMFP - RECOGNITION OF MISS MORG. FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT WINNERS

Michelle Gregory, Director of the Miss Morganton Festival Pageant, presented information about the scholarship pageant and the 2021 Queens as follows:

The Miss Morganton Festival Scholarship Pageant is open to young ladies, ages 7-24, who reside in North Carolina and takes place prior to the Historic Morganton Festival in August. The pageant celebrates strong, committed young women who are willing to represent our community as a goodwill ambassador. Queens become a role model of today while strengthening Burke County for tomorrow. The Morganton Festival Queens not only work to promote the Morganton Festival throughout the year, but they also spend time working on their personal community service platforms and embracing the spirit of "giving back" to our community. Queens are ambassadors to the City of Morganton and community of Burke County. They represent us for one (1) year mentoring and generously giving back to our community.

Ms. Gregory introduced the queens, pictured below left to right: Lani Reece (Morg. Ambassador Queen 2021), Marley Johnson (Jr. Miss Morg. 2021), Victoria Smith (Miss Morg. 2021), McKenleigh Lail (Little Miss Morg. 2021) and Ashlyn Robinson (Teen Miss Morg. 2021). Each queen then provided a report on their community service initiatives. Vice Chairman Carswell presented each queen with a rose and Chairman Mulwee presented each queen with a certificate of recognition for their community service initiatives. The queens then took a commemorative photo with the Board and Chairman Mulwee commended them for their service to the community.



RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.**FS - BRIEFING ON RELEASE OF PISGAH & NANTAHALA FOREST PLAN**

U.S. Forest Service District Ranger, Nicholas Larson, briefed the Commissioners on the upcoming release of the Pisgah & Nantahala Forest Plan and other US Forest Service happenings in Burke County. This Forest Plan is the 10-20-year planning document that guides management of the USFS lands. Mr. Larson said the plan is very long and encouraged anyone with questions to contact the U.S. Forest Service. Information regarding the forest plan can be found in the agenda packet and is incorporated into the meeting minutes by reference.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions and comments from the Board. Commissioner Taylor said it is disappointing / surprising that we have to be reminded occasionally on what the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests mean to Burke County, the beauty and tourism it creates.

Motion: To accept the report as presented.**RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]****MOVER:** Jeffrey C. Brittain, Commissioner**AYES:** Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor**ABSENT:** Wayne F. Abele, Sr.**TDA - FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2021**

In accordance with Session Law 2007-265, HB 78, the Tourism Dev. Authority must report quarterly and at the close of the fiscal year to the Burke County Board of Commissioners on its receipts and expenditures for the preceding quarter and for the year in such detail as the board may require.

Ed Phillips, TDA CEO, commented on outdoor recreation in Burke County and reviewed various media publications featuring Burke County. He then presented the financial update for the year ending December 31, 2021 as follows:

BURKE COUNTY TDA December 31, 2021		
ASSETS		
1014 FIRST CITIZENS BANK - CHECKING	\$	556,776.23
1210 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$	-
TOTAL CHECKING	\$	556,776.23
LIABILITIES		
2040 DEPOSITS RECEIVED	\$	1,570.00
2050 CITY OF MORGANTON - PAYABLE	\$	28,101.58
2075 TOWN OF VALDESE - PAYABLE	\$	59,983.60
2100 PAYROLL LIABILITIES	\$	100.08
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$	89,755.26
EQUITY		
3900 RETAINED EARNING	\$	446,418.75
NET INCOME	\$	20,602.22
TOTAL EQUITY	\$	467,020.97
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$	556,776.23

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BURKE COUNTY TDA			
BUDGET TO ACTUAL JULY- DECEMBER 2021			
Income		Budget	Actual
4010 • Burke Co. Govt. - Occup. Tax		\$ 600,000	323,242.28
4110 • Interest Income		\$ -	29.04
4120 • Miscellaneous		\$ -	24,646.00
4000 • Fund Balance		\$ 75,000	-
5000 • Trolley Revenue		\$ 7,500	18,440.83
Total Income		<u>\$ 682,500</u>	<u>366,358.15</u>
Expense			
5010 • Accounting		\$ 8,000	7,000.00
5020 • Marketing/Advertising		\$ 155,100	74,166.09
5102 • Membership Dues		\$ 2,500	1,270.00
5110 • Building Maintenance		\$ 500	37.50
5113 • City of Morganton/Tourism		\$ 135,000	72,729.52
5115 • Town of Valdese/Tourism		\$ 75,000	40,405.28
5140 • Website Upkeep		\$ 500	270.70
5150 • Insurance		\$ 20,000	10,472.92
5180 • Office Supplies		\$ 4,000	7,820.52
5190 • Payroll Shared Staff Reimb.		\$ 40,000	3,435.90
5200 • Payroll Expenses		\$ 206,000	110,649.98
5250 • Postage		\$ 1,000	688.66
5280 • Office Rent		\$ 6,000	3,000.00
5290 • Telephone		\$ 3,000	1,679.64
5300 • Travel/Training		\$ 15,000	4,073.57
5301 • Trolley Expenses		\$ 10,900	7,793.69
5400 • Misc. Expense		\$ -	261.96
Total Expense		<u>\$ 682,500</u>	<u>345,755.93</u>
Net Income		<u>\$ -</u>	<u>20,602.22</u>

Mr. Phillips said overall, hospitality and tourism is doing well in Burke County.

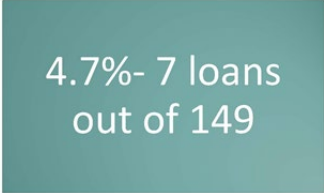
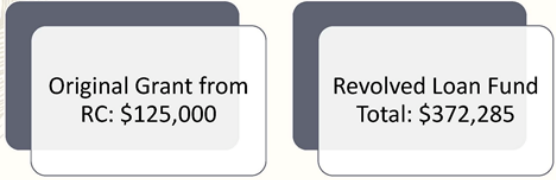
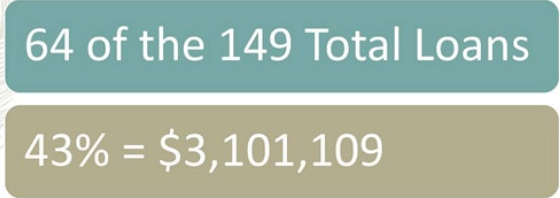
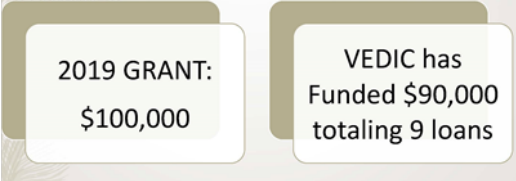
Motion: To accept the reports as presented.

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

VEDIC - UPDATE ON FY 20-21 ACTIVITIES

VEDIC Chair, Sherry Long, presented the following update on the organization's activities for FY 20-21:

# of Loans 7/1/2020 – 6/30/2021	# of Loans 7/1/2019 – 6/30/2020	# of Loans by County 2020-2021	
22 Loans 7 = ARC Total= \$935,972	22 Loans Total= \$582,950	– Alexander	2
		– Burke	10
		– Caldwell	4
		– Catawba	4
		– McDowell	2

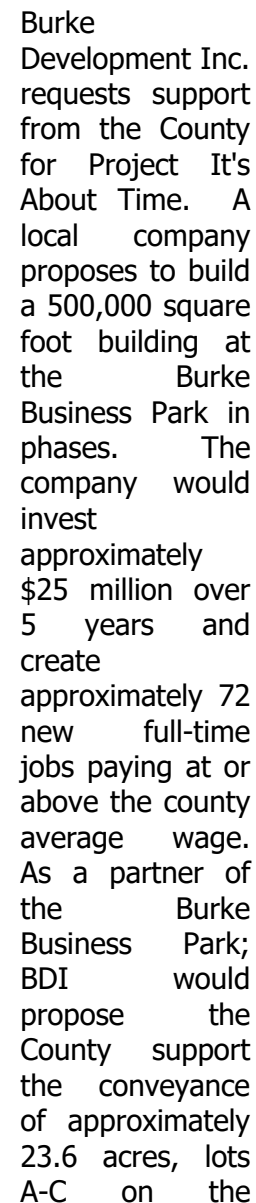
Total Loan Production to Date: 	Default Rate 
Loan Loss % Since Inception: 	Burke County Golden Leaf Revolving Loan Fund to Date: 
Valdese Rural Center Revolving Loan Fund to Date: 	Minority Lending: 
Appalachian Regional commission Grant- Revolving Loan Fund to Date: 	Appalachian Regional commission Revolving loan fund grant 

Current Loan Portfolio 56 Loans Original Loan Amount: \$3,052,070.23 Outstanding Balance: \$2,193,584.48	Jobs Created and or Retained to Date: <table> <tr> <th>County</th><th>Sum of Jobs FT/PT</th></tr> <tr><td>Alexander</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Burke</td><td>584</td></tr> <tr><td>Caldwell</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Catawba</td><td>59</td></tr> <tr><td>Cleveland</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Iredell</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>McDowell</td><td>67</td></tr> <tr><td>Mecklenburg</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Rowan</td><td>34</td></tr> <tr><td>Rutherford</td><td>31</td></tr> <tr><td>Grand Total</td><td>805</td></tr> </table>	County	Sum of Jobs FT/PT	Alexander	2	Burke	584	Caldwell	9	Catawba	59	Cleveland	6	Iredell	12	McDowell	67	Mecklenburg	1	Rowan	34	Rutherford	31	Grand Total	805
County	Sum of Jobs FT/PT																								
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Rutherford	31																								
Grand Total	805																								
Pandemic Assistance Provided to the Business Community 41 Deferrals \$90,178 = Loan Payments All Businesses Remained Open	100% Municipality Supported																								
VEDIC Board of Directors 2021-2022 Board Members Robert Benfield John Branstrom Seth Eckard Forrest Fleming Kenneth Geathers Kylie Gera Sharon Jablonski Rick Justice Executive Board Members Butch McSwain Scott Mulwee Keith Ogle Nancy Page T.R. Robinson Logan Shook Maria Thompson Suzanne Wallace Sherry Long – Chairman Tonia Stephenson - Vice Chairman Johnny Berry- Treasurer Sherri Bradshaw- Secretary	Loan Review Committee Charles Conley Office Manager, Burke County United Way Lisa Crump Financial Services Manager, First Citizens Bank Sharon Jablonski Director of the Department of Cultural and Creative Development, City of Morganton Sherry Long Assistant Executive Director, Western Piedmont Council of Governments Nancy Page Retired- Personal Banker, Wells Fargo Bank Tonia Stephenson President & CEO, Burke County Chamber of Commerce Maria Thompson Mayor, Town of Long View Suzanne Wallace Director, Small Business Center Western Piedmont Community College																								
Staff Kerri Poteat <i>Executive Director</i> Eddie McGimsey <i>Business Development</i> Chuck Moseley <i>On-Call Help</i>	2021-2022 Contributors Burke County Town of Valdese City of Morganton Town of Connelly Springs Town of Drexel Town of Glen Alpine Town of Hildebran Town of Rhodhiss Town of Rutherford College ARC-ACC Grant USDA RMAP Technical Assistance Grant Town of Long View																								

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

Information from the agenda packet:



Alan Wood, BDI President & CEO, said a company is seeking to build a 500,000 square foot

building at the Burke Business Park (BBP) in one (1) phase. He said the estimated investment will likely be approximately \$35 - \$40 million and they hope to see construction begin this summer. Mr. Wood said there is estimated to be 72 new full-time jobs created in the first three (3) years, and 100 jobs in five (5) years, which will pay above the average county wage, approximately \$42,000. He said the company will utilize lots A, B and C at the BBP and will be about 23.6 acres in size with an estimated value of \$944,000. Mr. Wood said for the incentive, they are asking for the value of the land that way as soon as the building is constructed and is on the tax rolls, the county will begin to receive the full tax payout. Mr. Wood said the company is close to picking a contractor, noting that he believes the project is going to move forward.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions and comments from the Board. Commissioner Taylor asked if the municipal partners agreed with the proposal. Mr. Wood said he has been to Drexel, Rutherford College, and Valdese, and they have approved the proposal. He noted his presentation to the City of Morganton is scheduled for March 7.

At 6:45 p.m., Chairman Mulwee opened the public hearing. The public hearing notice was published in the NEWS HERALD on February 3, 2022 and February 10, 2022. Further, the notice was posted to the county's website, www.burkenc.org, on February 3, 2022. There was no one present to address the Board; therefore, Chairman Mulwee closed the public hearing.

Motion: To approve the conveyance of 23.6 acres (Lots A, B & C) at the Burke Business Park to Project It's About Time and authorize the County Manager to execute any related documents on behalf of the Board.

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

BDI - BUILDING REUSE GRANT FOR PROJECT BRAVO AND PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.

Information from the agenda packet:

Burke Development Inc. requests support from the County for Project Bravo, a local company, through the following:

1. Building Reuse Grant - Project Bravo will focus on building improvements to assist with their growth. A grant application for up to \$200,000 is being submitted. Burke County the applicant, and the City of Morganton will provide the 5 percent match of up to \$10,000 or \$5,000 each. Project Bravo will create 25 new jobs which will meet or exceed the average county wage as well as include healthcare benefits. A grant administration contract with the WPCOG (Western Piedmont Council of Governments) is necessary if a grant award is received.
2. One NC Grant - A \$75,000 One NC grant application will be submitted to the State, which requires a 25% local match. Burke County's and the City of Morganton's proposed economic development grants, which consists of grants equivalent to 50% of the taxes paid on the new taxable investment for three (3) consecutive years beginning in FY 2023-24 will be used as the match. Based on

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the estimated taxable investment of \$4.1 million and the County's current tax rate of 69.5 cents, the County's portion would be \$14,247.50 annually for three (3) years or \$42,742.50 in total. Based on Morganton's current tax rate of 57 cents, their allotment would be \$11,685.00 annually or \$35,055.00 in total. (This is for demonstration purposes only based on investment approximation - actual incentive may vary.)

The County's local match, up to \$5,000, was not included in the FY 2021-22 budget. The local match funds would need to be appropriated.

Alan Wood, BDI President & CEO, said Project Bravo is a local business that has been in the community for approximately six (6) years, they are looking to expand and BDI has been trying to assist them for five (5) years to find the right fit. He continued, this project will create 25 new jobs paying, on average, \$62,500 per job and the employer will pay for insurance as well. Mr. Wood said they have asked the Rural Infrastructure Authority for a \$200,000 Building Reuse grant which will be decided on February 17. He said this was also on the City of Morganton's agenda to ask them to split the local match which would be \$5,000 each. Mr. Wood said there is a One NC grant that has been approved by the Governor's office pending approval of the local match from Burke County and the City of Morganton. This project is estimated to be approximately \$4.1 million of capital investment, Mr. Wood said, and based on that estimate, the County's match portion over three (3) years on 50 percent of the new tax base would be about \$42,742 with the City of Morganton's match over the same period / percentage being about \$35,000. He said this does require a match for the One NC grant so therefore, they would be doing a local grant based on the new tax base created, nothing previously would be counted. He continued, it would be based on the tax value that is established with this tax year and then payment would begin in the following tax year. Mr. Wood commended the company and noted they have been looking for a project for some time that fits for them.

At 6:48 p.m., Chairman Mulwee opened the public hearing. The public hearing notice was published in the NEWS HERALD on February 3, 2022 and February 10, 2022. Further, the notice was posted to the county's website, www.burkenc.org, on February 3, 2022. There was no one present to address the Board; therefore, Chairman Mulwee closed the public hearing.

Motion: To adopt Res. No. 2022-03. To approve the recommended local economic development grant equivalent to 50% of the taxes paid on the new taxable investment of approximately \$4.1 million for three (3) years and the creation of 25 new jobs. To approve a contract between Burke County & WPCOG for grant administration, subject to a grant award and authorize the County Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the Board. To approve a General Fund, Fund Balance appropriation of up to \$5,000 for an economic development incentive for Project Bravo for the local grant match, pending notification of a Building Reuse Grant award. To approve the related agreements for a Building Reuse Grant and a One NC Grant and authorize the Chairman to execute them on behalf of the Board, subject to grant awards.

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

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Res. No. 2022-03 reads as follows:

Burke County, North Carolina
 Authorizing Resolution
 Rural Economic Development Division
 North Carolina Department of Commerce
 Building Reuse Program
 2022 Project Bravo Building Reuse Application

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly authorized in 2013 funds to the North Carolina Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division to stimulate economic development and job creation. A portion of the funding authorized the making of grants to aid eligible units of government to stimulate the creation of jobs through the expansion and renovation of buildings that will spur economic activity; and

WHEREAS, Burke County desires to assist through grant funding the economic renovation of an existing building located in Morganton to assist Project Bravo with an expansion; and

WHEREAS, Burke County intends to request grant assistance from the NC Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division, Building Reuse Program for the renovation of the facility:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BURKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

That Burke County and the City of Morganton will provide the minimum 5 percent match (\$10,000, \$5,000 each) for an estimated \$200,000 grant request, if approved for a grant.

That Kenneth B. Steen, County Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of Burke County with the NC Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division for a grant to assist in the pre-development of the project described above.

That Kenneth B. Steen, County Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the NC Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That Burke County has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to the grants pertaining thereto.

Adopted this 15th day of February 2022.

/s/ Scott Mulwee
 Scott Mulwee, Chairman
 Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

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BDI - BUILDING REUSE GRANT FOR PROJECT HIGHLANDER AND PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.

Information from the agenda packet:

Burke Development Inc. requests the County's support for Project Highlander, a new company for the following:

1. Building Reuse Grant - Project Highlander will focus on a location in an existing building for which building improvements will assist with their growth. A grant application for \$200,000 will be submitted by the City of Morganton. Burke County and the City of Morganton will provide the 5 percent match of \$10,000 or \$5,000 each. Project Highlander will create 100 new jobs with the project. The jobs will meet or exceed the average county wage and will include healthcare benefits. Furthermore, the City of Morganton will be contracting with the WPCOG to administer the grant, if awarded.
2. One NC Grant - A \$250,000 One NC grant application will be submitted to the State, which requires a 25% local match. Burke County's and the City of Morganton's proposed economic development grants, which consists of grants equivalent to 50% of the taxes paid on the new taxable investment for three (3) consecutive years beginning in FY 2023-24, will be used as the match. Based on the estimated taxable investment of \$5.2M and the County's current tax rate of 69.5 cents, the County's portion would be \$18,070.00 annually for three (3) years or \$54,210.00 in total. Based on Morganton's current tax rate of 57 cents, their allotment would be \$14,820.00 annually or \$44,460.00 in total. (This is for demonstration purposes only based on investment approximation - actual incentive may vary.)

The County's portion of the local match, \$5,000, was not included in the FY 2021-22 budget. The local match funds would need to be appropriated from Fund Balance.

Alan Wood, BDI President & CEO, said Project Highlander is a Building Reuse and One NC grant and this project will be creating up to 100 jobs, paying above the average county wage, about \$44,000 per job and will include employer paid health insurance. Mr. Wood said this project will have a \$200,000 Building Reuse grant and the City of Morganton is the applicant, but Burke County is being asked to provide one half of the five (5) percent local match. There is a \$250,000 One NC grant, Mr. Wood said, which requires a 25 percent local match and that will be supplied by a local grant based on the new tax base created which is estimated to be approximately \$5.2 million and the county's portion for the three (3) year period would be about \$54,200 and the City of Morganton's portion would be about \$44,460. Mr. Wood noted that this project will most likely not go to the Rural Infrastructure Authority or the Governor's office until March or April due to timing issues. He said this is a good, stable, company that will create good paying jobs.

At 6:52 p.m., Chairman Mulwee opened the public hearing. The public hearing notice was published in the NEWS HERALD on February 3, 2022 and February 10, 2022. Further, the notice was posted to the county's website, www.burkenc.org, on February 3, 2022. There was no one present to address the Board; therefore, Chairman Mulwee closed the public hearing.

Motion: To approve the recommended local economic development grant equivalent to 50% of the taxes paid on the new taxable investment of approximately \$5.2

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million for three (3) years and the creation of 100 new jobs for Project Highlander. To approve a General Fund, Fund Balance appropriation of up to \$5,000 for the local grant match, pending notification of a Building Reuse Grant award for Project Highlander.

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

County Attorney Simpson noted that there needed to be additional language in the motion to allow the Chairman to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Board. Vice Chairman Carswell amended his motion to include the required provision.

Motion: To approve the recommended local economic development grant equivalent to 50% of the taxes paid on the new taxable investment of approximately \$5.2 million for three (3) years and the creation of 100 new jobs for Project Highlander. To approve a General Fund, Fund Balance appropriation of up to \$5,000 for the local grant match, pending notification of a Building Reuse Grant award for Project Highlander. To authorize the chairman to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Board.

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

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 6:54 p.m., Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for informal public comments and reminded citizens to please keep their comments to three (3) minutes. There were multiple citizens who signed up to address the Board.

Mary Charlotte Safford, 426 Bost Road, reviewed historical information regarding white supremacy in relation to NC elections and the erection of confederate monuments across the south as an intimidation tactic against African Americans. She then questioned how some of Burke County's citizens felt when they saw armed white men gathered, without authorization, around the confederate monument during the summer of 2020 and said if that was not a threat to public safety, she does not know what is.

Jessica Howells, 2470 Mountain Laurel Trail, said she is a teacher and feels a responsibility to students and the people of Burke County, just like the Board of Commissioners. She said she has lived in Burke County for 32 years and reviewed her civic and volunteering history. She noted that the history of slavery in Burke County and America are still very real and is still very alive in the present and the way in which history is presented is important to the people of Burke County. She stressed the importance of history and the correct telling of that history. Ms. Howells said to have the most prominent statue in the center of town honoring soldiers who fought to preserve and maintain slavery is wrong and maintaining the statue with the tax dollars from all Burke County citizens is also wrong. She asked the Board to prayerfully consider removing the confederate statue from the Historic Courthouse Square for all the citizens of Burke County.

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Vicky Dale, 5100 Crawley Dale Street, provided documentation to the Board / staff and spoke on behalf of her daughter, Passion Brooks, an employee at the Burke County Emergency Communication Center (BCECC). Ms. Dale addressed alleged stressful/hostile working conditions at the BCECC including issues with management staff. She also reported on an incident that left the night shift understaffed and utilized untrained employees thereby potentially endangering public safety employees as well as citizens. She requested the Board and the County Manager to investigate the issues.

Pastor Paul Carson, 119 North King Street, said he and other members of his congregation were asked by the Burke Coalition for Reconciliation to make public comment at the meeting regarding the confederate monument on the Historic Courthouse Square and they are honored to do so. He spoke of the purpose of monuments and noted that the confederate monument on the Historic Courthouse Square celebrates the myth of the lost cause of the confederacy. Pastor Carson said the lost cause narrative promotes the even greater lies of racism and white supremacy, sins that seeks to separate us both from God and one another. He then spoke on how myth can also be a powerful vehicle to reveal truth in the world. Pastor Carson encouraged the Board, as leaders to remove the confederate monument, noting that they have the ability to overwhelm the temptation inherit within the lost cause narrative and they have the ability to tell everyone the better story.

Wayne Giese, Wesley Drive, gave a brief background on his family and said he has followed the Board's decisions through the years and commended the Board for many of their decisions and he commended them for their service. Mr. Giese then spoke about the diversity / discrimination he experienced while at the NC School for the Deaf. He said when he drives or walks by the confederate monument, he reflects on what it represents and tries to put himself in the shoes of a deaf / hard of hearing person of color. Mr. Giese said for the sake of the community and the generations to come, the confederate monument should be removed from the Historic Courthouse Square.

Beth Spahn, 106 Rockview Lane, said she is a proud resident of Morganton and a member of Calvary Lutheran Church. Ms. Spahn noted she is a mother and grandmother who loves the community and is concerned about the confederate monument and the generations of Burke County children that have had to grow up in the shadow of a statue that is the reminder of when the dehumanization of black people was accepted in society. She then read a quote from Tiya Miles regarding confederate monuments. Ms. Spahn said it is her dream that her family, friends and fellow citizens of every color and race might be able to be in Burke County without the shadow of hate but enveloped in a sense of civility and compassion that honors all of God's creation.

Gabe Isaac, 472 Bowling Drive, said she grew up in Morganton and is a member of Calvary Lutheran Church. She said while she was out of state, she heard the news of the riot around the confederate statue and when she saw the video, it broke her heart. Ms. Isaac said what breaks her heart today is that the divisive statue still remains. She spoke about the meaning of monuments and noted as a child she did not pay attention or was taught about the statue and noted it is easy to overlook things when they do not directly impact you. Ms. Isaac implored the Board to make a change for unity and remove the confederate statue.

Nina Harding, 107 Falls Street, spoke of her experiences growing up in Morganton through segregation, desegregation, and how she did not pay much attention to the confederate statue

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as a little girl. She continued, as she grew older and learned the history of the country, she learned the purpose of the statue and how it was a constant reminder to those of a different race of the ugliness they had to endure and still do to this day. Ms. Harding said as a Christian, she believes in treating everyone with love and compassion and noted having the confederate statue in the center of town does not convey that love and compassion. She said she believes that there is a more appropriate space of the statue than in the center of town. She continued, if the Board does not want to take action at this time, she encouraged the Board to appoint a committee made up with people from both sides of the issue. Ms. Harding said she would like to see the statue removed and relocated.

Garry Vogelpohl, 209 Bost Road, spoke about the Historic Courthouse Square renovations and said he can accept that there may be some personal meaning for the confederate monument, but it is past time for it to be removed and relocated. He spoke of the painful history of the statue and when the nation struggled with our shameful support of bondage for a portion of the community. Mr. Vogelpohl said the monument may be appropriate in a museum or a cemetery, but it no longer has a place in our renovated shared space. He encouraged the Board to find a way to remove the statue just as Richmond Virginia and places in Louisiana have done. Mr. Vogelpohl said he looks forward to the shared conversation and repentance that will replace the legal sophistry that has everyone trapped, noting that it is time for a new solution.

William Nybeck, 2262 Grandview Peaks Drive, said he is here representing Calvary Lutheran Church and he spoke about how the confederacy was a society of white supremacy and its impacts are still felt today. He said as leaders, the Board has the opportunity to set the tone for Burke County on racial justice. Mr. Nybeck said he prays that they will choose reconciliation, inclusion, and hope. He said symbols of the confederacy are by their nature divisive and he urged the Board to remove the statue to its appropriate place, a museum, and replace it with a piece of art that will inspire all residents to work together to make a better Burke.

Carla Kincaid, 1276 NC 126, said this month is Black History Month and noted the question always comes up of why Black History Month is celebrated. She said Black History Month goes back over 400 years and is the history of America and the people on whose very backs America was built on. Ms. Kincaid spoke about Jim Crow laws and said she is a product of those laws, noting that her parents raised their family during Jim Crow laws. Ms. Kincaid read a quote from Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee regarding systematic racism and said she wonders how it would have been if African Americans did not have Jim Crow laws on their backs. She said confederate flags welcome people to Burke County on the eastern and western portions of the county and now that the Historic Courthouse Square renovations are complete, the statue seems to stand taller and gives a message that the people of Burke County are proud of the confederacy. She questioned if everyone who fought in the Civil War really knew what they were fighting for and if someone had a relative who fought in the war, would they stand proud as some do today to continue allowing a symbol of slavery to stay on the Historic Courthouse Square and the seat of Burke County.

Gina Walker-Bailey, 213 Colombo Street Northwest, expressed her displeasure over the county not stopping contact tracing for COVID-19, noting that other counties have done so. She also took issue with the manner in which Chairman Mulwee handled a personal request from a Burke County Board of Education (BOE) member asking for contact tracing to stop. Ms. Walker-Bailey said it sickens her that in this time of political divisiveness, everything in this current era is in a political divide between Republicans, Democrats, and even within the Republican Party. Ms.

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Walker-Bailey said she is very disheartened that Chairman Mulwee responded to the BOE member on behalf of the Board of Commissioners because he stated his title in his response. She said she hopes Chairman Mulwee's seat is gone the next time it comes up.

With there being no other speakers, Chairman Mulwee closed this portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

At the request of the Chairman, County Manager Steen reviewed the items on the consent agenda. Commissioner Taylor asked for an explanation as to why Consent Item No. 7, Community Development – Jonas Ridge Convenience Site Construction Documents, was revised. At the Chairman's request, Clerk Draughn said the amount increased and it was presented to the Board at their budget/planning retreat. Margaret Pierce, Deputy County Manager/Finance Director, clarified that the amount was originally \$30,000, but increased to \$130,000. Commissioner Taylor asked if the Board was informed of the increase at the pre-agenda meeting. Clerk Draughn said it was presented at the budget/planning retreat which occurred after the pre-agenda meeting.

BCPS - PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DEC. 31, 2021

In accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement approved by the County and the Board of Education, the Board of Education will provide to the County quarterly financial reports on the 2021-2022 budget year, showing the application of the County's local funding by the end of each fiscal quarter. These reports will be presented to the County's Board of Commissioners in November 2021, February 2022 and May 2022, respectively.

BCPS						
Estimated Revenues						
2021/2022						
	Annual		December YTD			% of Budget
	Previous	Current Fcst	Previous	Current	% Change	Received
State	84,648,060	85,970,784	40,424,944	42,455,491	5.0%	49.4%
Federal	11,044,878	20,727,590	3,169,151	10,653,027	236.1%	51.4%
Local	14,660,763	14,630,668	7,397,661	7,359,430	-0.5%	50.3%
School Nurses	893,155	893,155	480,718	472,932	-1.6%	53.0%
Charter Schools	495,287	525,382	180,364	218,598	21.2%	41.6%
Fines & Forfeitures	230,225	204,133	102,050	253,425	148.3%	124.1%
Receivables	13,120	23,839	11,619	10,624	-8.6%	44.6%
Special Revenues	4,803,189	4,599,500	2,369,243	2,133,232	-10.0%	46.4%
Total	\$116,788,677	\$127,575,051	\$ 54,135,750	\$ 63,556,759	17.4%	49.8%
Federal increase almost entirely ESSER						
Have spent \$8.6M to date in ESSER funds, consisting of Devices, PPE, Nurses and Air Quality Improvement Projects						
We look for every opportunity without violating the intent of the funds to relieve our existing budgets						
One example is buying specialized custodial supplies, thus relieving our typical supplies budget						
We have added 11 nurses since COVID, resulting in one nurse for every school						
Planning meetings for ESSER funds are held periodically						
Most plans involve concentrating on counseling, physical & mental health services, remediation and tutoring, as well as continued Air Quality Improvement Projects						
As you are aware we have held our budget request flat for the third consecutive year						
We will continue to contribute to FB in anticipation of the expiration of ESSER in September 2024						
Making every effort to hold ESSER investments to non-recurring costs and/or sustainable pursuits						
A few areas we will need recurring financial support to maintain are school nurses, 1:1 devices, and virtual operations						

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BCPS											
Local Financials by Purpose & Function Level											
2021/2022											
Expenses	'18/'19	'19/'20	'20/'21	'21/'22					Previous	Diff	
				Budget	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total		
Regular Instructional Services	5,324,653	5,637,807	4,787,687	5,707,971	480,737	2,028,505			2,509,242	2,432,321	76,921
Instructional Support	10,119,395	9,759,099	10,358,944	10,015,258	2,830,133	2,384,200			5,214,333	4,716,047	498,286
Other Governmental Units	702,226	592,733	635,937	691,423	56,058	351,778			407,836	223,565	184,271
Revenues Over/(Under)	37,872	207,420	509,982	(137,475)	597,524	(413,926)			183,598		
Grand Total	\$16,184,146	\$16,197,059	\$16,292,550	\$16,277,177	\$3,964,452	\$4,350,557	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,315,009	\$7,371,933	\$759,478
% of Annual Budget									51.1%	45.2%	4.7%
Revenue											
Burke County	14,448,211	14,552,494	14,602,211	14,630,668	3,771,072	3,588,358			7,359,430	7,397,661	(38,231)
Timber Receipts	120,696	-	58,552	-	-	-			-	-	-
Charter Schools	412,143	428,556	495,287	525,382	17,941	200,657			218,598	180,364	38,234
Fines & Forfeitures	430,149	279,114	230,225	204,133	202,677	50,748			253,425	102,050	151,375
School Nurses	718,403	893,153	893,155	893,155	76,638	396,294			472,932	480,718	(7,786)
Schools' Receivables	54,544	43,742	13,120	23,839	10,624	-			10,624	11,619	(995)
Grand Total	\$16,184,146	\$16,197,059	\$16,292,550	\$16,277,177	\$4,078,952	\$4,236,057	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,315,009	\$8,172,412	\$142,597
Purchasing specialized custodial supplies using ESSER rather than our typical supplies is resulting in substantial savings											
ESSER projects are helping to relieve the maintenance budget											
Have @ \$18M in air quality improvement projects on the books completed, in-process and planned											
Some projects are bid and ordered but waiting for parts and will be next summer, due to supply chain issues											
We are using ESSER to relieve our budgets when possible w/o supplanting & trying to use on non-recurring expense											
We are paying for 11 school nurses through ESSER for a total of 25 nurses											
SNFI pays \$100k for partial 2 nurses, & county pays \$893k for partial 14											
*** We have held the line on our budget request for 3 consecutive years, with only a very minimal increase prior to that for nurses											
I just want everyone to be well aware that as inflation continues and benefits costs increase that our Local budget needs will continue to grow											
In other words, as we all bank money while we lean on ESSER funds, the time will come when the needs are more substantial											
For instance, post ESSER, unfunded nurse payroll alone will exceed \$1M											
As we rely on ESSER for specialized custodial supplies and relieve our own budget, when we resume all of our normal buying those supplies are going to be considerably more expensive											

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

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

CLERK - REAPPOINTMENT TO BDI

The County appoints three (3) members to the BDI Board. Seat No. 1 is for the Burke Co. Chairman or his designee, Seat No. 2 is for the County Manager and Seat No. 3 is an at-large seat occupied by Jim Toner of Morganton. As requested by the Chairman, Commissioner Brittain is serving as Chairman Mulwee's delegate and Mr. Toner's term ended in December of 2021. Mr. Toner has applied to serve an additional 3-year term ending December 31, 2024.

3	At Large	Jim Toner	A-UT	12/20/2016
		103 Belvedere Drive	R	12/18/2018
		Morganton NC 28655	TE	12/31/2021

Motion: To update the County's records to reflect Commissioner Brittain's service as the Chairman's delegate on the BDI Board for calendar year 2022 and to reappoint Jim Toner to Seat No. 3, at-large, to complete the remainder of a 3-year term ending December 31, 2024.

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

CLERK - APPOINTMENT TO JCPC

Taylor Hyatt with the Burke County United Way has applied to fill vacant Seat No. 18, United Way or nonprofit, on the JCPC. The unexpired term ends June 30, 2022.

Motion: To appoint Tayler Hyatt to JCPC Seat No. 18, United Way or nonprofit, to complete the remainder of a term ending June 30, 2022.

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

CLERK - APPOINTMENT TO LEPC

The appointment of Davina Studley to vacant Seat No. 5, Public Health, on the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) to complete an unexpired term ending January 31, 2024 is requested. An exception to the residency provision of the Code of Ordinances is also requested for Ms. Studley.

Motion: To appoint Davina Studley to Seat No. 5, Public Health on the Local Emergency Planning Committee to complete an unexpired term ending January 31, 2024, and grant an exception to the residency provision, Article IV, Section 2-88(a) of the Code of Ordinances.

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

CLERK - APPOINTMENT OF TDA CHAIR

Article 3, Section 1 of the TDA bylaws state that the TDA Chairperson will be appointed annually by the County Commissioners at their December meeting. This a request to reappoint Scott Mulwee, current TDA Chair and Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, as the TDA Chairman for 2022.

Motion: To reappoint BOC Chairman Scott Mulwee as the Chair of the Burke County Tourism Development Authority for 2022.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - PARTF GRANT EXTENSION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Community Development Department received a one- year extension on the PARTF grant (Parks and Recreation Trust Fund) originally applied for in 2017. The grant will now extend to October 31, 2022. In October 2021, the Commissioners considered a staff request to withdraw

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from two grant agreements due to challenges meeting the PARTF grant requirements with a deadline of October 31, 2021. The PARTF grant was the required financial match to a STBG-DA grant funded through the Federal Highway Administration which put both grants in peril. The Commissioners tabled the request to the February 2022 Board meeting to provide time for staff to pursue an extension from the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. That extension for PARTF was approved.

The PARTF grant which is called the East Lake James Corridor Acquisition project will cover easements and land purchases from the southeast side of the lake from N. Powerhouse Road to Saint Paul's Church Road and then connect to Duke Energy property. This Fonta Flora Trail Section is an important connection extending the trail along the south end of Lake James.

In the time since the extension was granted, contracting for surveying assistance from West Consultants, PLLC, is being pursued and the services of an appraiser have been secured for the work. Discussions with landowners are ongoing in specific areas of the trail alignment.

The implementation of the PARTF grant is now underway and will be successfully completed by the October 31, 2022 deadline. It is requested that Resolutions 2021-15 and 2021-16 be removed from further consideration by the Burke County Board of Commissioners.

Motion: To remove Resolutions 2021-15 and 2021-16 from further consideration.

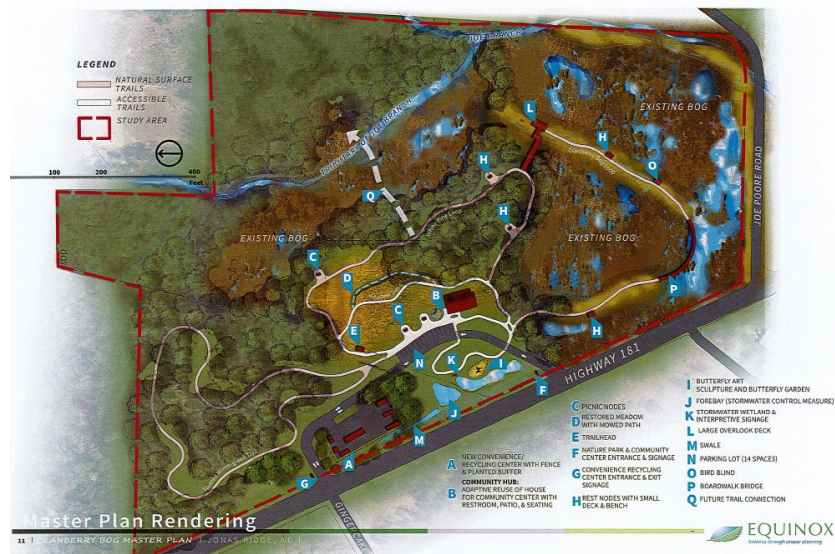
RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor
ABSENT:	Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - JONAS RIDGE CONVENIENCE SITE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS CONTRACT

The County would like to contract with McGill Associates and Equinox Environmental to develop construction documents for the Convenience Center at the Cranberry Bog site in Jonas Ridge. The design team was selected after an RFQ (request for qualifications) process in 2020. A project master plan was developed at the end of 2020 that included a layout for the convenience center and new park amenity, which was shared with the Commission. Since that time, the project is being managed in two (2) phases: Phase One, the Convenience Site and Phase Two, the Cranberry Bog Park. The costs needed to construct Phase One and Phase Two will be spread over two budget years. Land acquisition for the Convenience Site is currently underway at this time.

Cost of services provided by the project engineer of \$130,000. Funding is not included in the FY 21-22 budget; therefore, an appropriation of \$130,000 is necessary for this project to move forward.

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Motion: To transfer up to \$130,000 of General Fund, Fund Balance to the Solid Waste Fund for the preparation of the Phase 1 construction documents for the Jonas Ridge Convenience Center and hereby direct the County Manager to execute the contract for the same.

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

FINANCE - AUDIT CONTRACT FOR FY 21-22

North Carolina General Statute 159-34 requires the County to have its accounts audited annually by a certified public accountant. The County's current audit firm, Lowdermilk Church & Co., L.L.P. has submitted a proposal to do the work for \$42,500. The cost for Fiscal Year 20-21 audit work was \$41,700, so an \$800 increase is requested. No increase has been requested for the past two years.

Motion: To award the contract for the Fiscal Year 21-22 audit to Lowdermilk Church and Co., L.L.P. in the amount of \$42,500.

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

TAX DEPT. - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR JANUARY 2022

The Board of Commissioners is presented with the Tax Collection Report for the period between July 1, 2021, and January 31, 2022. 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	\$43,575,745.24	96.83%	\$1,424,254.76
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$5,200,000.00	\$3,204,482.57	61.62%	\$1,995,517.43

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Current Year Taxes	\$50,200,000.00	\$46,780,227.81	93.19%	\$3,419,772.19
Delinquent Taxes	\$700,000.00	\$520,888.70	74.41%	\$179,111.30
Late List Penalty	\$315,000.00	\$100,856.35	32.02%	\$214,143.65

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 YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$46,299,093.00	\$43,575,745.24	94.12%	\$2,723,347.64

Motion: To accept the Tax Collection Report for January 2022 as presented.

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

TAX DEPT. - RELEASE REFUND REPORT FOR JANUARY 2022

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)	\$4,611.81	\$2,065.59	\$2,546.22	\$598.68

VTS Refunds Over \$100	
	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	\$524.44

*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 January 2022 as presented.

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

Tax reports:

TR-304 BILL RELEASE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2022

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								
0024033978-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	MACHOVEC, NEIL W	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	1/27/2022	242.24	242.24	0.00	242.24
0024052444-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	LACKEY, WILLARD DOUGLAS	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	1/25/2022	91.83	76.00	15.83	15.83
0024052444-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	LACKEY, WILLARD DOUGLAS	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	1/25/2022	15.83	15.83	0.00	91.83
Subtotal						334.07		349.90
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Deceased								
0024047074-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	STEWART, GERALD	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	1/3/2022	9.17	9.17	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						9.17		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Discovery Billing								
0024052549-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	CARSWELL, TRAVIS	7/1/2021	AMANDA CONLEY	1/4/2022	1,297.68	1,297.68	0.00	1,373.68
Subtotal						1,297.68		1,373.68
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Duplicate Billing								
0024050137-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	PERRIGAN, LINDA D	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	1/25/2022	4.59	4.59	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						4.59		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Not in Burke County								
0000075645-2018-2018-0000-00-REG	BRYANT, FRANK EUGENE	7/1/2018	LINDA WILBUR	1/28/2022	21.64	21.64	0.00	0.00
0000075645-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	BRYANT, FRANK EUGENE	7/1/2019	LINDA WILBUR	1/28/2022	19.95	19.95	0.00	0.00
0000075645-2020-2020-0000-00-REG	BRYANT, FRANK EUGENE	7/1/2020	LINDA WILBUR	1/28/2022	18.73	18.73	0.00	0.00

TR-304 BILL RELEASE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2022

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount(\$)	Release Amount(\$)	Bill Amount after Release(\$)	Notes and Rebilled Amount
0000075645-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	BRYANT, FRANK EUGENE	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	1/28/2022	18.73	18.73	0.00	0.00
0024059357-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	CLARK, ARIEL ELIZABETH	11/10/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	1/19/2022	70.46	70.46	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						149.51		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Release LFUF								
0000054620-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	MARTIN, MICHAEL E	7/1/2021	AMANDA CONLEY	1/4/2022	551.72	76.00	475.72	0.00
0024052444-2021-2021-0000-01-REG	LACKEY, WILLARD DOUGLAS	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	1/26/2022	91.83	76.00	15.83	0.00
Subtotal						152.00		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Sold/Traded								
0000048819-2017-2017-0000-00-REG	SHULL, JOYCE MULL	7/1/2017	PEGGY SEATON	1/28/2022	268.33	7.02	261.31	0.00
0000048819-2018-2018-0000-00-REG	SHULL, JOYCE MULL	7/1/2018	PEGGY SEATON	1/28/2022	289.39	6.95	282.44	0.00
0000048819-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	SHULL, JOYCE MULL	7/1/2019	PEGGY SEATON	1/28/2022	295.28	6.27	289.01	0.00
0000048819-2020-2020-0000-00-REG	SHULL, JOYCE MULL	7/1/2020	PEGGY SEATON	1/28/2022	294.67	5.66	289.01	0.00
0000048819-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	SHULL, JOYCE MULL	7/1/2021	PEGGY SEATON	1/28/2022	298.13	5.12	293.01	0.00
0000074410-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	BAUGHMAN, MARLA GRIER	7/1/2021	LOIS WHITESIDE	1/27/2022	36.93	36.93	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						67.95		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Value Change								
0000008942-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	DALE, MICHAEL CRAIG	7/1/2021	AMANDA CONLEY	1/10/2022	191.95	139.25	52.70	0.00
0000018434-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	CONLEY, CHRISTOPHER EDWARD	7/1/2021	AMANDA CONLEY	1/25/2022	1,469.06	1,469.06	0.00	257.64

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TR-304 BILL RELEASE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2022

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount(\$)	Release Amount(\$)	Bill Amount after Release(\$)	Notes and Rebilled Amount
0000018435-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	CONLEY, CHRISTOPHER EDWARD	7/1/2021	AMANDA CONLEY	1/25/2022	988.53	988.53	0.00	84.37
Subtotal						2,596.84		342.01
Total						4,611.81		2,065.59
Net Release Amount							2,546.22	

PUV

Payee Name	Primary Owner	Secondary Owner	Address 1	Address 3	Refund Type	Bill #	Refund Description	Tax Jurisd.	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
								57	Vehicle Fee	(\$20.00)	\$0.00	(\$20.00)
								26	Tax	\$88.08	\$0.00	\$88.08
											Refund	\$301.84
MESERVEY, CHRISTOPHER ALAN	MESERVEY, CHRISTOPHER ALAN	MESERVEY, VALERIE MARIE	4051 S VIEW BLVD	MORGANTON, NC 28655	Adjustment >= \$100	0064262555	Refund Generated due to adjustment on Bill #0064262555-2021-2021-0000	01	Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
								57	Tax	(\$230.96)	\$0.00	(\$230.96)
								57	Vehicle Fee	(\$20.00)	\$0.00	(\$20.00)
								25	Tax	\$28.36	\$0.00	\$28.36
											Refund	\$222.60
											Refund Total	\$524.44

TAX - AGREEMENT TO CONDUCT REAPPRAISAL REVIEWS

The Tax Office issued a request for proposals for qualified firms to provide reappraisal work for Burke County's next General Reappraisal of residential properties. It will include an on-site field review with a measure and list of all structures on the property, accuracy checks of reviewed properties, developing the residential portion of the Schedule of Values, and defending property values when appealed. After reviewing the submissions, Pearson's Appraisal Service was determined to be the most responsive responsible bidder for the project. Pearson's submitted a proposal at a rate of \$32.00 per parcel plus \$35,000 to develop the Schedule of Values. The Contract will impact multiple budget years. Initial funding for the project, \$350,000.00, is included in the FY 21-22 budget. Expenditures for the current FY will not exceed budgeted amount. Additional funding will be included in future budget ordinances.

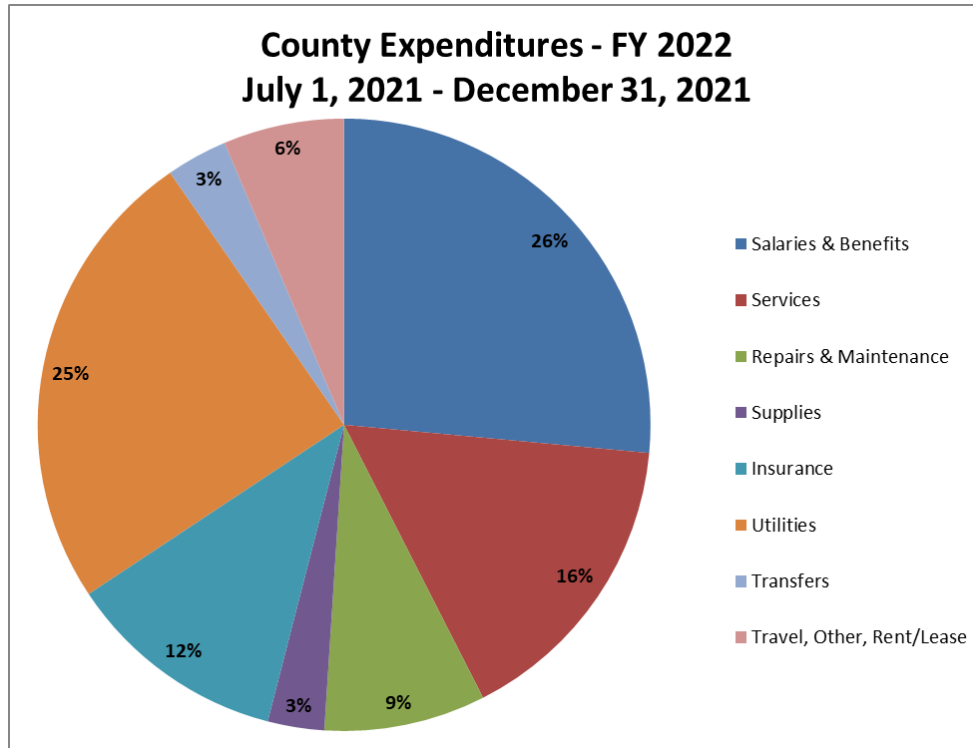
Motion: Authorize the County Manager to execute a contract for creation of schedule of values and reappraisal of residential properties in Burke County with Pearson's Appraisal Service on behalf of the Board, subject to review and/or revision by the County Attorney.

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

WPCC – PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DEC. 31, 2021

An overview of the College's financial data was presented at the pre-agenda meeting for the period ending December 31, 2021.

Western Piedmont Community College		
County Expenditures by Category		
FY 2022 - Actual Expenditures - July 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2021		
Salaries & Benefits	311,894	26.5%
Services	189,043	16.0%
Repairs & Maintenance	100,428	8.5%
Supplies	35,142	3.0%
Insurance	137,595	11.7%
Utilities	291,148	24.7%
Transfers	38,040	3.2%
Travel, Other, Rent/Lease	75,193	6.4%
	1,178,483	100%



Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Commissioner

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

ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

BDI / CM - ACCEPTANCE OF GOLDEN LEAF GRANT FOR BURKE BUSINESS PARK

Information from the agenda packet:

Burke County applied for and was awarded a \$659,850 grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation for the installation of public water infrastructure, 1,300 LF of 16" water main and associated appurtenances, at the Burke Business Park. The waterline will start at its current termination point near the middle of the business park and extend northward along the east side of the new industrial site. Acceptance of the grant and approval of the corresponding grant agreement is requested. The \$659,850 in grant funding was not included in the FY 21-22 budget.

Alan Wood, BDI President & CEO, reported Burke County received a \$659,850 Golden LEAF grant to support Project It's About Time (UNIX Packaging, LLC) and construct public water infrastructure for the lots, approximately 1,300 lineal feet of 16-inch water main, at the Burke Business Park. Mr. Wood then outlined a few stipulations of the grant: the work must be completed within 13 months from the award date, the grant is tied to the creation of 90 new jobs, the funds will be released contingent upon attendance of a grant workshop which Margaret Pierce, Deputy County Manager/Finance Director and Paul Teague, WPCOG, attended,

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executing the contract and submitting a budget within 45 days. He said this is a good outcome to allow for needed infrastructure without requiring county / partner funding as a match.

Motion: To accept the \$659,850 in grant funding from the Golden LEAF Foundation for installation of public water infrastructure at the Burke Business Park, approve the Grantee Acknowledgement and Agreement and authorize the County Manager and his successor to execute the agreement and any other documents related to this project on behalf of the Board.

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

CM - RECLASSIFICATION OF "PLANNING DIRECTOR" TO "DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER/PLANNING DIRECTOR"

Information from the agenda packet:

The County Manager is requesting a reclassification of the "Planning Director" position to "Deputy County Manager/Planning Director." The "Planning Director" position is currently classified as a Salary Grade 35 with a salary range of \$76,093 - \$117,923. The "Deputy County Manager/Planning Director" position is currently classified as a Salary Grade 37 with a salary range of \$83,879 - \$130,012.

County Manager Steen said this was originally discussed at the Board's budget/planning retreat and noted that only a Planning Director was hired when the previous Deputy County Manager / Planning Director left. He said since hiring the Planning Director he has concluded that Mr. Alan Glines is able to do the work that will restore the original supervision structure with two (2) deputy county managers.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions and comments from the Board. Commissioner Taylor asked what tasks will be delegated to Mr. Glines. County Manager Steen said Mr. Glines will have the same department heads reporting to him as the prior deputy county manager had. County Manager Steen responded to additional questions from Commissioner Taylor.

Motion: To approve the reclassification of "Planning Director", salary grade 35 to "Deputy County Manager/Planning Director", salary grade 37.

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

FINANCE - CONTRACT FOR RENOVATION OF FORMER BURKE-CATAWBA DETENTION AND CONFINEMENT FACILITY

Margaret Pierce, Deputy County Manager/Finance Director, reported Burke County solicited qualifications statements for full service architectural / redesign services associated with the significant remodeling of the former Burke-Catawba Detention and Confinement Facility into a Regional Long-term Substance Abuse Treatment Facility. Two (2) firms submitted proposals which were evaluated by a review committee in January. After careful review of the proposals,

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the review committee scored the submissions and selected Hemphill-Randel Associates, PLLC as the firm to recommend for the project. Funding for the renovation is being provided by a budget allocation from the State. Final cost will be determined after a contract is successfully negotiated.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions and comments from the Board. Commissioner Taylor said he has emailed staff and the Board, noting that he had many questions and great troubles with this item. He then read the following email that was sent earlier in the day:

I have many questions on this item. The first one is why would we even consider this on such limited information? To my knowledge the board of Commissioners never discussed or approved of a "Review Committee". So, who is on this committee? Who chose the committee? Do they live in Burke County? In "Summary of Information", it states "After Careful Review of Proposals"...yet we have never received any presentation, documents, summary, or description of any kind as to how they reached their decision. How does a third party get permission to do anything to a County owned building without a vote of the governing body? That should NEVER happen! What is the cost for Hemphill-Randel Associates and from which budget item will it be paid? Is this not a Burke County building? Do we have a potential lease agreement? What are the terms of the lease agreement? Has JR reviewed it, etc.? DO YOU REALLY THINK WE SHOULD VOTE TO SPEND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON SUCH LIMITED INFORMATION?

Commissioner Taylor said this is one of the greatest examples of getting the cart before the horse and recommended this item be removed until they can get answers to those questions and know what they are voting for. Otherwise, he continued, it is a blank check to whoever and they do not know who that is.

Chairman Mulwee asked Ms. Pierce to address Commissioner Taylor's comments. She said there was a committee comprised of county employees including County Manager Steen and Commissioner Brittain, noting that she was not on the committee. She said this was an RFQ (request for qualifications) process that is commonly done for projects. Ms. Pierce said the information was disseminated and a mandatory walk through was held in which eleven (11) people attended. Commissioner Taylor responded that the Board did not approve a committee and questioned why a committee was formed. County Manager Steen said previously, he informed the Board that the County was planning to remodel the building and use it for a long-term opioid substance abuse treatment facility, and they went through the normal RFQ process to find an architect. He said the review committee was himself, Commissioner Brittain, Scott Cook, Deputy Finance Director, Brian Nieft, Senior Fiscal Analyst and Mark Delehant, General Services Director. He said they have utilized the process for other projects in the past, noting that the committee evaluates the interested respondents' submissions to see who is the most qualified and now they are here with their recommendation, then a contract is negotiated because architectural services are not done like an RFP (Request for Proposals) where there is a proposal with a cost. County Manager Steen said there was some discussion at the Board's budget/planning workshop and shortly before that, they had completed the evaluation and had arrived at a recommendation so they can begin to move forward. He said funding for the project, \$3.25 million, is included in the state's budget and if the contract is over his authority, it will come back to the Board for approval. Further, he stated that the Board is involved at

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the normal places in the process. Commissioner Taylor said the county presented the former jail and a piece of property at Broughton Hospital and they were told that a jail was not sufficient for what they were looking for in treating mental health. After additional comments, Commissioner Taylor said this item is out of order for him personally and he cannot support this item.

Commissioner Brittain said this RFQ is part of a routine process, the Board is not voting to do anything other than selecting an architectural firm, and the design will come back to the Board for review at the appropriate time. Further, this is not a mental health facility, but a regional long-term substance abuse treatment facility, County Manager Steen has met with other county managers in the area to gauge their interest as Burke County anticipates receiving its opioid settlement funds that would be used on the facility. He said he has no issue with the process and noted it is the same process the County has used multiple times.

Commissioner Taylor responded: when this is passed, the Board is committing to much more than getting an architect / design for the facility; this is getting the cart before the horse, and it needs to be straightened out before the Board votes; and that this is not normal procedure.

Motion: To authorize the County Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Hemphill-Randel Associates, PLLC for the renovation of the former Burke-Catawba Detention and Confinement Facility into a Regional Long-term Substance Abuse Treatment Facility.

RESULT:	APPROVED [3 TO 1]
MOVER:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell and Jeffrey C. Brittain
NAYS:	Maynard M. Taylor
ABSENT:	Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

FINANCE - REQUEST FOR SENIOR FISCAL ANALYST POSITION

Margaret Pierce, Deputy County Manager/Finance Director, reported during the recent Board retreat, creating a position to work with County grant opportunities was requested. This position will find, write, apply for, and manage grants for County departments. The position will be located in the Finance Department, current budget funds will be used for FY 21-22 and the position will be included in future budget requests.

Motion: To approve the addition of a Senior Fiscal Analyst position to the County pay plan and approve it effective February 16, 2022.

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

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

2021 SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

County Manager Steen presented a report on the County's accomplishments for 2021. The "2021 Summary of Accomplishments", as shown in the agenda packet, is hereby incorporated into the meeting minutes by reference.

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Chairman Mulwee commended Burke County staff for their hard work.

Motion: To accept the 2021 Summary of Accomplishments report as presented.

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

BOC - REPORTS & COMMENTS

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

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

County Manager Steen said he completed a grant application for Dogwood Health Trust for financial assistance to hire planners to assist with converting the former Burke-Catawba District Confinement Facility into a long-term regional substance abuse treatment facility. He said if it is approved, he will come back to the Board so the grant can be accepted.

Commissioner Taylor said his reports are in the agenda packet. He said he attended the Emergency Preparedness training and information session and was accompanied by Commissioner Brittain, Vice Chairman Carswell, County Manager Steen, and Clerk Draughn. He commended the presentation and said the County Manager should verify that emergency information postings are in all county buildings.

Vice Chairman Carswell presented information from the Morganton News Herald regarding the litter problem in Burke County that goes back 50 years.

Chairman Mulwee reminded everyone to please not litter. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, he extended condolences to the family of Phillip Bailey, a convenience site employee who passed away during the weekend. He said he represented WPCC in Washington and met with staff members from North Carolina's congressional representatives.

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
- Burke County Parks & Recreation Commission
- City of Morganton - Board of Adjustment (ETJ)
- City of Morganton - Planning Board (ETJ)
- Burke Senior Center Advisory Council
- Child Protection & Child Fatality Prevention Team
- East Burke Senior Center Advisory Board
- Burke County Board of Adjustment

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- Council on Aging
- Burke County Board of Health
- Partner's CFAC (Consumer and Family Advisory Committee) (Traumatic Brain Injury)

Chairman Mulwee encouraged any interested citizens to consider serving on a board or committee.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Mulwee said a closed session is needed 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) (3), (4), (5) and (6).

Motion: To go into closed session.

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

Motion: To come out of closed session.

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

JONAS RIDGE CONVENIENCE SITE / BOG PARK PROJECT

Motion: To transfer up to \$1,500 of General Fund, Fund Balance to the Solid Waste Fund for the purchase of 6/10-acre of real property, Pin No. 1841475317 REID No. 30062 for the Jonas Ridge convenience site / bog park project.

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

ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

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

Approved this 19th day of July 2022.



Scott Mulwee, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:



Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board