

**MINUTES
BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PRE-AGENDA MEETING**

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a pre-agenda meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Burke County 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 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. Those present were:

COMMISSIONERS:

Scott Mulwee, Chairman
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Vice Chairman
Randy Burns
Johnnie W. Carswell
Phil Smith

STAFF:

Alan Glines, Interim County Manager/Planning Director
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 3:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Randy Burns, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Phil Smith

PRESENTATIONS**AS - PETS OF THE MONTH**

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, reported that Kaitlin Settlemire, Animal Services Director, will present a dog and cat in need of its "forever" home at the regular meeting.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions or comments and then asked if Ms. Settlemire would also be giving any updates on how the holiday events went, to which Clerk Draughn affirmed that she would.

RESULT:	MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.
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HEALTH DEPT. - PRESENTATION OF 2022 COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Chae Moore, Health Education Supervisor, presented the 2022 Community Health Assessment (CHA). The purpose of the Community Health Assessment is to inform, educate, and present

information to both community members and shareholders on the current health status of the community in which they live, work, play, and learn. It is a requirement for both state and national accreditation to share the findings of the assessment with community shareholders and members. The CHA focuses on gathering data from surveys and then conducting focus groups. Ms. Moore began working on the CHA in September of 2021 with the Burke Wellness Initiative. They started by analyzing the low response rate of the prior survey and used that to craft a new survey. The revised survey yielded 2,149 respondents which is double the amount collected during the 2019 CHA. The goal was to form nine (9) focus groups, and of those, only seven (7) met the criteria necessary to be classified as a focus group, which resulted in 46 total participants. Ms. Moore noted that this is the first time the CHA was conducted during a global pandemic. The feedback from the citizens reflected the increase in mental health issues and substance use disorders. The key findings were:

- Mental health
- Obesity with risk factors
- Substance use disorders
- Homelessness / lack of affordable housing
- Health literacy / cultural competence
- Transportation

The top three priority focus areas were as follows:

1. Mental health
2. Substance use disorder
3. Obesity with risk factors

Ms. Moore noted that both mental health and substance use had been on the priority list for years and that the next step is to develop a community health improvement plan which would not be due until later this year. The intention is to focus on the root causes of the issues then use that to enhance existing programs and create new programs accordingly. Highlights of the factoids presented were as follows:

- 42% of those living in Burke County are under the 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- The highest percentage of those that are living in poverty in Burke County are children that are at least five (5) years old.
- 64% of Hispanics who live in Burke County have an income that is below the 200% FPL.
- 35% of Burke County families did not have access to the Internet during the pandemic.
- There was an increased impact with regard to food insecurity and mental health issues of school-aged children.
- Cancer is the number one cause of death in the County.
- 23% of adults smoke in the County which is higher than the state average.
- The percentage of adults aged 65 and up is predicted to increase by 18%.
- Increased incidents in STDs have occurred.
- Teen pregnancy rates have gradually declined.

Ms. Moore asserted that cultural competency would need to be addressed when handling

mental health due to different cultures perspectives on the topic. Mental health and substance use disorders solutions can be approached together as they often go hand in hand.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions or comments. Citing critical race theory and social justice, tenants of Communism and Marxism, Commissioner Smith expressed his concerns over the internal equity team section of the CHA report and inquired how the Work for Change Team was selected to be partnered with the County on this project. Ms. Moore responded that in 2021 a grant was received from the Centers for Disease Control in which a requirement to receive funding would be to partake in an internal equity training. She went on to say that the bottom line is that no matter who walks through the door at the Health Department and for whatever reason, it is important that they receive the best care possible. Commissioner Smith asked if he could have an outline of the instructions from the training and Ms. Moore responded that she would share the information. Danny Scalise, Health Director, with permission from Chairman Mulwee to approach the podium, stated there is no Communism or Marxism in the report and that if Commissioner Smith had any questions, he would make himself available. Commissioner Smith advised that certain words embedded in the report are endemic to those beliefs and philosophies.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

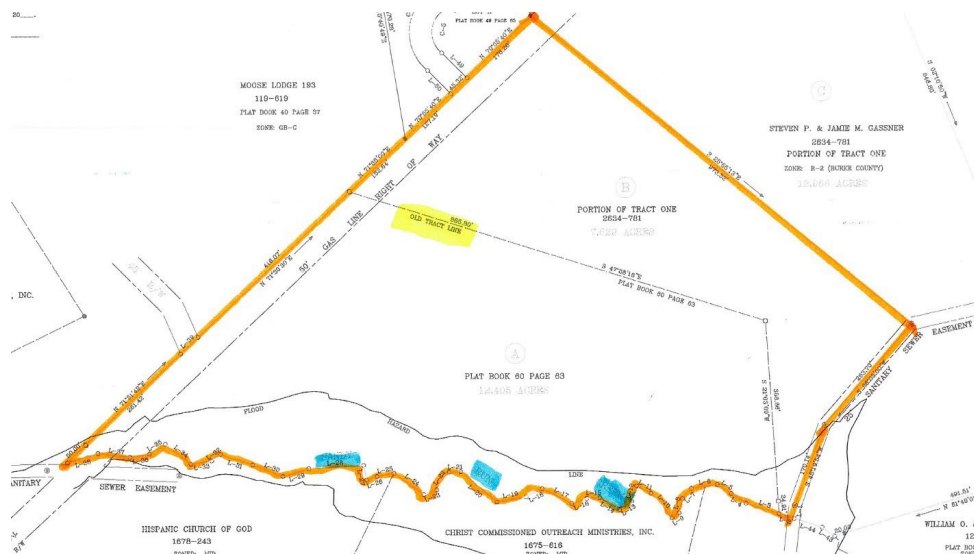
SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMM. DEV. - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT ZMA 2022-05 & PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.

Alan Glines, Interim County Manager / Planning Director, presented highlights of the following zoning map amendment:

REQUEST

Staff had received a rezoning application from Steve and Jamie Gassner to rezone two parcels of land totaling 19.93-acres. The request was to rezone the property from its current zoning of Residential Two (R-2) to the General Business (G-B) zoning district.



South	MID – City of Morganton	Vacant Land / Scattered Residences / Church
East	R-2, R-1	Vacant Land / Subdivision
West	G-B, R-2, IND	Vacant Land / Moose Lodge / RV Park / Industrial

The Aerial Land Use Map (below) shows the parent parcel (outlined in red), the Moose Lodge, campground, several industrial buildings to the west, the residential subdivisions to the north and east, and some scattered homes to the south.

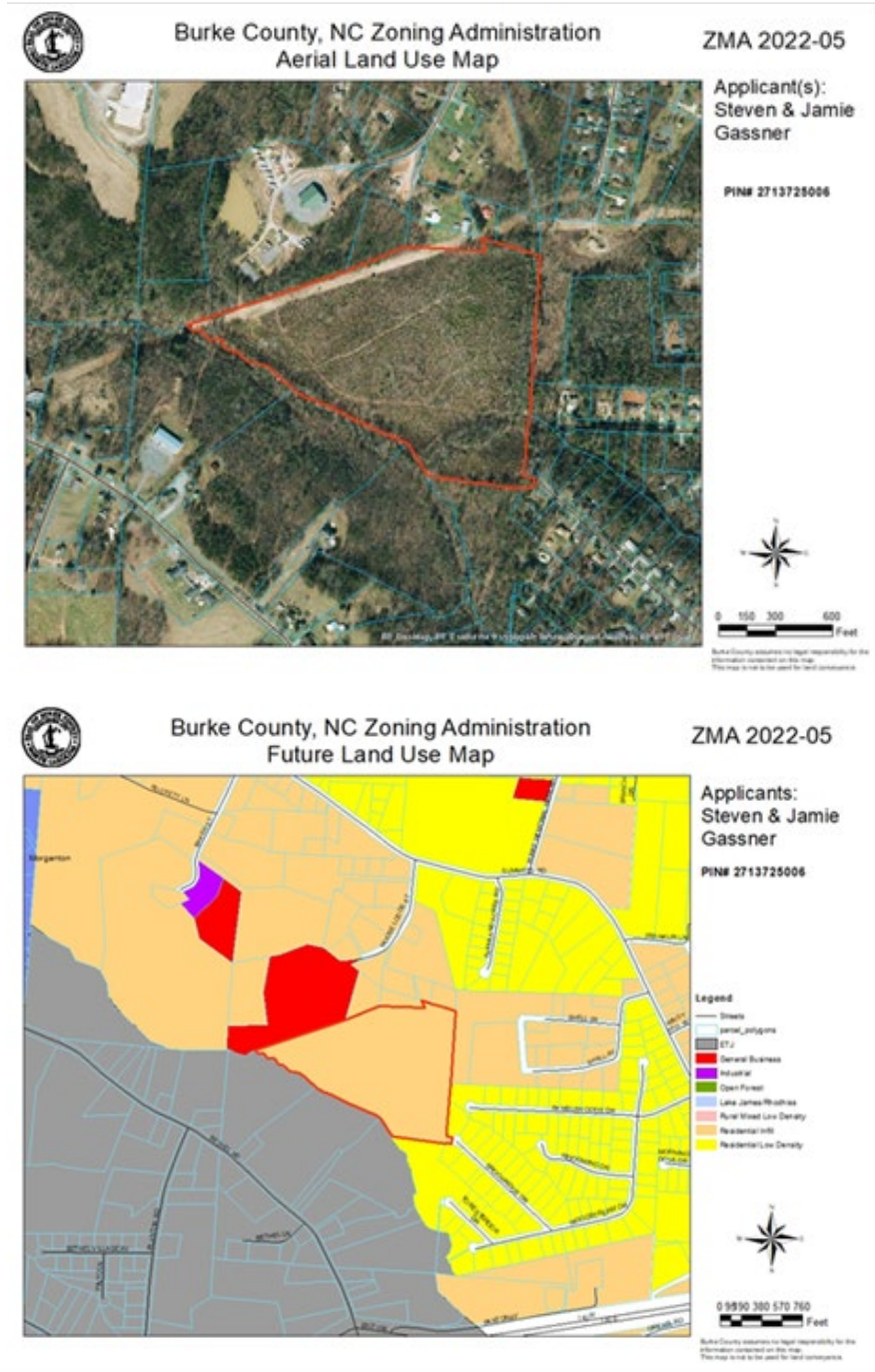
CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The current land use plan for Burke County is the Blueprint Burke Strategic Land Use Plan. This plan was recently updated in October of 2022.

The subject parcel is currently located in the category "Residential Infill". Characteristics of this area include medium to high density development focused on rural or suburban neighborhood settings; sufficient access from a major road or road improved to county standards and connecting to major roads maintained by the NC DOT. Access to infrastructure is typical and preferred including public water and / or sewer services.

The request is to change the zoning to General Business (G-B). The usual characteristics for this district include major road access under NC DOT maintenance; access to properties from improved driveways; buffers provided to residential areas from

commercial uses; access to necessary infrastructure including water and sewer. Potential uses

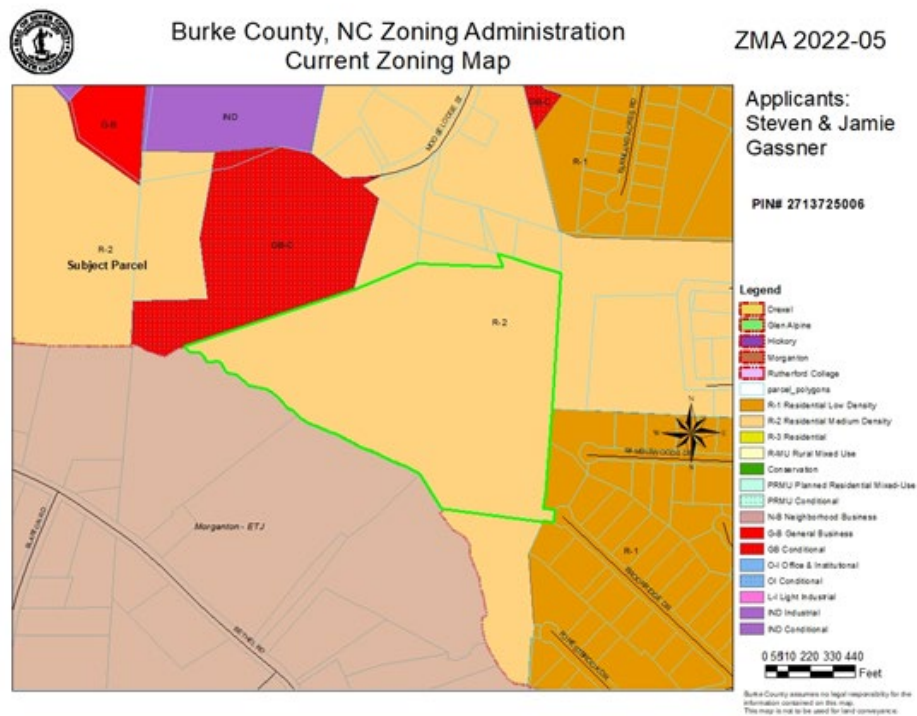


may include a wide range of residential and commercial uses, some of which would be impractical due to this specific out-of-the-way location.

The Blueprint Burke Plan provides a framework for growth and needs to be flexible enough to be adapted for reasonable requests that can be made to blend into the character of the neighborhood. This will expand opportunities for uses that foster recreation and tourism growth. There is sufficient infrastructure to support this use as there is already an existing sewer line at the back of that track that they can connect to for their campground. If approved, the rezoning will be similar to the adjoining Moose Lodge property and will still provide a buffer for the nearby community. Approval of the request will also adjust the Future Land Use Map which will show this area for general business.

CONFORMITY WITH THE BURKE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE

The current zoning district for this parcel is Residential Two (R-2). The area has not changed very much over the past thirty plus years. The Moose Lodge and other non-residential uses have existed in the area since at least 1993.





STAFF COMMENTS

In staff's opinion, rezoning the parcel from the Residential-Two (R-2) zoning district to the General Business District could be appropriate for this area for the following reasons:

- There is both Industrial and General Business zoning and uses in the surrounding area.
- The subject parcel is adjacent to an existing General Business zoning district. Although the list of potential land uses is broad, this location will only support a specialty destination use; one that does not rely on drive-by access.
- There is an existing commercial campground adjacent to the subject parcel.
- The owner also owns the property to the north and east of the subject parcel which provides a large buffer for the residential subdivisions and homes within the surrounding area.
- The stream to the south will provide a buffer from the church and residences on the other side of the creek.
- The county is in need of more commercial uses to create jobs and the Blueprint Burke Plan recommends growth for recreational-based uses to serve visitors and residents of the county.
- If the parcel were to be rezoned, the following Site Development Plan will be reviewed by multiple local and state departments for compliance with local and state requirements.

For these reasons, staff supports the rezoning request.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Board met on December 1, 2022, to hear this rezoning request. Planning staff provided their report, and the applicant stated their request and shared the vision for the property to be used for a campground. Although the rezoning has not been approved, the applicant had a professional Site Development Plan prepared for the campground and shared that with the Planning Board. After opening the floor for public comment, and no one came forward, the Board discussed the rezoning request. A motion was made to support the request and it passed 4-0.

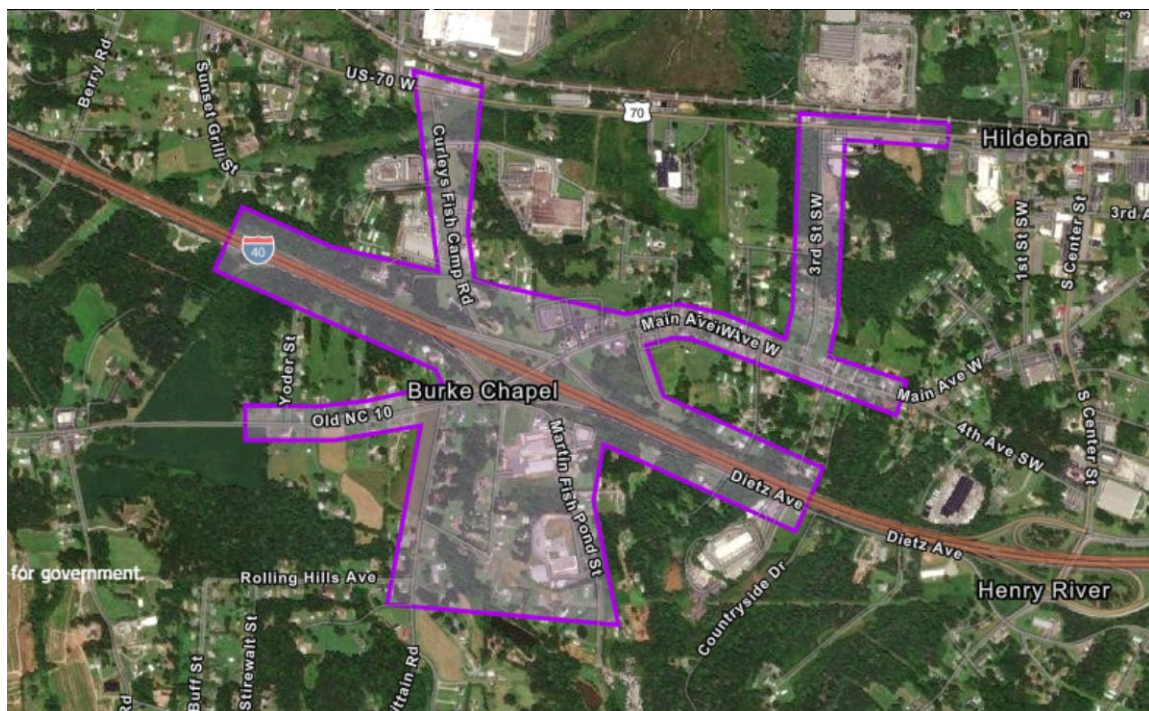
Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions or comments and then asked, if approved, how many campsites would be created. Mr. Glines informed him that there would be approximately 49 of them over 20 acres of land. Mr. Glines answered questions from Commissioner Burns about how the parcel was currently zoned.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

CONSENT AGENDA

BOC - RESOLUTION CONCERNING PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Vice Chairman Brittain stated that he requested Alan Wood, BDI Director, to investigate the impact on the businesses of the NC Department of Transportation's (NC DoT) plans for closing the Curley's Fish Road area. Mr. Wood and Clerk Draughn worked to draft a resolution which opposes the closure of Curley's Fish Camp Road in Hildebran and encourages the NC DoT to explore other viable options. The primary concern is that the State, in their planning for this new interchange, might end up making Curley's Fish Camp Road a dead end which would cause the only access to be US Highway 70. This would be quite detrimental to the business on Curley's Fish Camp Road.



The draft resolution as set forth in the agenda packet reads as follows:

Burke County North Carolina Resolution Opposing the Closure of Curley's Fish Camp Road in Hildebran NCDOT, 1-40 Exit 118 – SR 1761 (Old NC 10) Construct Interchange Improvements Project I-5990 WHEREAS, The N.C. Department of Transportation proposes to improve the I-40 Interchange with Old N.C. Highway 10 (S.R. 1761) (Exit 118) and replace the existing bridge on Old N.C. Highway 10 over I-40 within and adjacent to the Town of Hildebran in Burke County; and WHEREAS, This project proposes to modify existing access by constructing service roads and realigning existing ramps and approaching roadways. Surrounding roadways and intersections will also be improved: Curleys Fish Camp Road, U.S. 70, Third Street S.W., Martin Fish Pond Street, Dietz Avenue, Old Brittain Road, Dowell Street and Old N.C. Highway 10; and WHEREAS, NCDOT held a public meeting on November 17, 2022 to receive citizen input on the proposed interchange improvements, including the possible closure of Curleys Fish Camp Road; and WHEREAS, There are several large-scale businesses that could be potentially negatively affected by the closure of Curleys Fish Camp Road and members of the business community have contacted the Burke County Commissioners for assistance in this matter; and WHEREAS, These businesses include a community daycare, a textile manufacturing facility, a major truck repair and sales facility; a large warehousing business and several other small businesses, including Curleys Fish Camp and Timber Block USA, Inc. These businesses currently benefit from and rely upon the easy access to I-40; and WHEREAS, Curleys Fish Camp Road offers a direct route to the northwest in Burke County from the current configuration of this intersection; and WHEREAS, NCDOT's current proposal has Curleys Fish Camp Road commercial truck traffic heading east on I-40 rerouted to S Center Street which is contradictory with the Town of Hildebran's existing land use plans which shows S Center Street as a pedestrian friendly downtown area with high levels of walkability; and WHEREAS, the Town of Hildebran is working with NCDOT officials and NC Representative Blackwell's office in hopes of having Project I-5990 modified to address their concerns. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Burke County Board of Commissioners that the Board, on behalf of local businesses that rely and have relied upon this highway to conveniently bring customers and products to their doorsteps for years and to prevent the destruction of the Town of Hildebran's vision for a walkable pedestrian friendly downtown area, hereby states its opposition to the closing of Curleys Fish Camp Road as proposed at the NCDOT public meeting for the design of NCDOT Project I-5990.	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board encourages NCDOT to continue collaborating with community stakeholders to modify the design options to find a solution that will minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to surrounding businesses, neighborhoods and the Town of Hildebran. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Burke County Commissioners requests that this resolution be transmitted to the Burke County Legislative Delegation. Adopted this 17th day of January 2023. _____ Scott Mulwee, Chairman Burke Co. Board of Commissioners Attest: _____ Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC Clerk to the Board
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RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

CLERK - APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFF HINCAMAN TO CERTAIN COUNTY BOARDS

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, requested the appointment of Sheriff Hinceman to JCPC Seat No. 3 (Sheriff) with a term ending June 30, 2023, and to the Child Protection Child Fatality Prevention Team Seat No. 1 (Law Enforcement) for a term ending April 30, 2023. Former Sheriff, Steve Whisenant, occupied these seats.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

CLERK - REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE LEPC

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, reported Burke County is required to organize and maintain the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) as a requirement of the federal law known as Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). EPCRA requires facilities with more than the threshold planning quantities of hazardous materials to report to the LEPC, Fire

Departments, and the State Emergency Response Commission. This reporting is done through Tier II reporting on a program called E-Plan. E-Plan can be viewed by the LEPC, Fire Departments, and Emergency Services personnel. The LEPC was formed to work on the planned response and general safety measures in dealing with hazardous materials at fixed facilities and transportation routes. This committee is designed to work together with emergency response agencies, business and industry organizations and the general public. The terms of appointment for the following members of the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) ends January 31, 2023: Israel Gibson (Seat 3, Fire Service), Mike Willis (Seat 4, Emergency Mgmt.) Brooke Jarlson (Seat 6, Environmental Health), April Pope (Seat 9, Citizen), Joshua Mashburn (Seat 12, Transportation) and Steve Jenkins (Seat 16, SAFT). All members are willing to serve another 3-year term ending 2026.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

CLERK - REAPPOINTMENT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, requested the reappointment of Jennie Cook, Seat No. 8 (Hildebran - City) on the Library Board of Trustees. Her term ended December 31st and she is willing to serve another 3-year term ending Dec. 31, 2025.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

FINANCE - ACCEPTANCE OF SCIF FUNDS

Margaret Pierce, Deputy County Manager / Finance Director, reported that the County received an allocation of \$1,000,000 in the State budget approved in the Fall. The State agreement for these funds is anticipated to be received by the January 17, 2023, meeting. Board approval is required to execute the contracts and proceed with expenditures. Per Board directions, the following list of subrecipient agencies would receive the funds for programs ranging from responsible pet owner education and care, transitional housing needs, counseling and mental health services and health services to other community programs for Burke County citizens.

Agency	Amount	Funding Details
Animal Services Foundation	\$25,000	Contracting to hold educational events and produce educational materials on best practices in pet care. Assist County Animal Services with costs for spay/neuter services. Funds will be spent over next 12-15 months.
Brighter House	\$100,000	To assist with renovations for a facility to serve as a club house for citizens with mental health challenges. The project is modeled after a program with proven success. Funds will be spent over next 12-15 months.
Burke County Arts Council	\$100,000	To assist with renovations for a facility to house the Arts Council for programming and educational opportunities in the community. Funds will be used in the next 12 months.

Burke County History Museum	\$100,000	To assist with renovations for a facility for programming, museum displays, and educational opportunities in the community. Funds will be used in the next 12 months.
Burke County Rescue Squad	\$50,000	To purchase Viper compatible radios for public safety. Funds will be used in the next 12 months based on supply.
Burke Substance Abuse Network	\$50,000	To provide Narcan and other substance abuse overdose treatments for public safety agencies. The funding will also provide for materials and programs for substance abuse treatments in the community. Funds will be used over the next 12-15 months.
Burke County	\$100,000	To provide services to citizens. Funds will be used by April 2024.
Foothills Service Project	\$50,000	To provide funds for programs to assist those with disabilities in remaining in an at-home setting with ramps, handrails and other various tools and materials needed for these programs. Funds will be used by April 2024.
Good Samaritan Clinic	\$50,000	To provide funds for building repairs and maintenance for clinics that provide medical services to citizens with no insurance or limited resources that typically do not meet the income levels to qualify for County Health Department services. Funds will be used by April 2024.
Hildebran-Icard Community Development Council	\$50,000	To rebuild a community recreation program and reopen a facility in an underserved area of the County. Funds will be used by April 2024.
The Meeting Place Mission	\$50,000	To provide funds for transitional housing expenses such as rent, utility deposits, and other requirements for the homeless population in the County. Funds will be used by April 2024.
Mimosa Christian Counseling Center	\$100,000	To provide funds for building repairs / renovations, electronic records system installation, transition, and software, and other computer / IT needs to support programs for counseling for depression, anxiety, and other issues for clients unable to access other services due to income or other economic factors. Funds will be used by April 2024.
NC School of Science and Math	\$25,000	To build a sidewalk from the school spanning from one section of campus to another for the safety of the students and staff. Funds will be used by December 2023 pending supplies.
Pregnancy Care Center of Burke County	\$100,000	To provide funds for procurement of more physical space, increase medical services, and transfer of financial recordkeeping to an outside firm for best stewardship practices. The program supports maternal health and provides education in parenting. Funds will be used by April 2024.
Waldensian Trail of Faith	\$50,000	To be used for improvement and repairs to the parking lot, access road and parking facilities at a

		publicly accessible park. Funds will be used by December 2023.
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Budgetary Effect: Increase revenue and expenditures \$1,000,000 to fund subrecipient agencies for various public purpose programs as outlined in the list above.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions or comments, then asked if there was any hold up thus far. Ms. Pierce stated that they are still waiting for the state agreement for the subrecipient agencies and the language for one subrecipient's contract is still in limbo, but the County's legislative delegation is working on it. Chairman Mulwee expressed appreciation for all the hard work.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

HEALTH - RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Danny Scalise, Health Director, reported that opioid use is a big problem in the County, but they received a sizable settlement which should help immensely with this ongoing problem. Mr. Scalise requested a full-time employee who can devote their time to efficiently and effectively utilizing the funding to tackle this problem. Per Section E.6.b of the NC Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the use of opioid settlement funds, the Board is required to adopt a resolution stating the specific strategy or strategies the county intends to fund pursuant to Option A of the MOA. After a local government passes a budget or resolution authorizing the expenditure of opioid settlement funds, the local government has 90 days to report this information to the Community Opioid Resources Engine for North Carolina (CORE-NC) pursuant to section F.6.c.i of the MOA.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for question or comments. Commissioner Carswell stated how proud he was that Burke County has a plan to address the root causes and not just waste the settlement money on surface level solutions. Commissioner Carswell also commented on social problems associated with substance abuse and said that he did not want another child in Burke County to die from a drug overdose. Commissioner Smith inquired as to the time frame given to spend the money. Mr. Scalise informed him that there is a timeframe of 18 years to spend approximately \$13,000,000, and there could be additional money down the road from future settlements. The \$300,000 is for a 2-year period, he said. Commissioner Burns asked where the new staff would be in the organizational chart, to which Mr. Scalise replied that the position would report directly to the Health Director. Director Scalise also stated his intent to create a comprehensive evidence-based plan to combat drug addiction. Commissioner Carswell then commented on the likelihood of the County receiving additional opioid settlement funds in the future and reiterated the need for the position. In response to grant-related questions from Commissioner Burns, Director Scalise was confident that there will be more grant funding available and pointed out that federal and foundational funding is available now.

Budgetary Effect: Increase revenues and expenditures by \$300,000 with funding from outside sources.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

JCPC- RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COMPRESSION SALARIES INCREASES OF DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION FACILITY STAFF

AJ Coutu, JCPC Administrator, reported that the local JCPC requests the adoption of a resolution supporting compression salaries increases for the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention facility staff. There are children sleeping in the hallways, a lack of adequate staff to supervise the children and various other issues. The draft resolution set forth in the agenda packet reads as follows:

**Resolution Supporting Compression Salaries Increases of
Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Facility Staff**

WHEREAS, the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention provides short term secure confinement in Juvenile Detention Centers and long term commitment services in the State's Youth Development Centers; and

WHEREAS, the overarching mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the local Juvenile Crime Prevention Council is to provide services and programming to ensure the protection of the community and rehabilitation of youth offenders; and

WHEREAS, Burke County is dependent upon the Youth Development Centers in Cabarrus and Chatham Counties, and the staff of these facilities along with other State juvenile facility staff have not received pay increases that would recognize and reward the experienced staff, and make compensation more competitive as well as ensure qualified staff recruitment and retention; and

WHEREAS, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention facilities are contending with an average 38% vacancy rate, largely due to impact of the pandemic which has driven salaries and wages higher across the board; and

WHEREAS, Compression Salary Increases for Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention facility staff were removed from the state's budget prior to final approval; and

WHEREAS, similar salary adjustments or increases WERE approved for Department of Public Safety staff in adult facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Burke County Commissioners support the adequate and timely increase of the salaries of juvenile facility staff across the State of North Carolina to make those positions competitive and to ensure qualified staff are compensated adequately for years of experience for the purposes of retention, as well as lay the groundwork for recruitment of qualified staff for youth facilities which will ensure the immediate and ongoing protection of the community and strengthen rehabilitative services for those juveniles most in need.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

TAX DEPT. - APPROVAL OF COLLECTION AGREEMENT WITH TOWN OF VALDESE

John Bridgers, Tax Administrator, stated that the Town of Valdese approached the County to collect their property taxes. The following agreement allows the County Tax Office to collect property taxes for the Town of Valdese, beginning in July 2023. The Town of Valdese will be voting to approve this agreement next week and so Burke County will be aware of the result of that vote before the regular meeting. Other towns in the County for which the County collects taxes include: Connelly Springs, Glen Alpine, Hildebran, Long View and Rhodhiss.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions or comments. Commissioner Carswell inquired about the Tax Collector for the Town of Valdese. Mr. Bridgers informed him that he would still be on staff and that perhaps the County's scale would make the collection process easier on Valdese. Mr. Bridgers responded to questions from Commissioner Carswell about specifics on revenue and staffing capability. Commissioner Brittain wanted to confirm that the revenue would be adequate enough to cover any additional incurred expenses, to which Mr. Bridgers informed him that it would be sufficient and that 1.5% is the rate in effect for the other municipalities that Burke County has an agreement with.

Budgetary Effect: Additional revenue of 1.5% of all current and delinquent taxes collected.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

TAX DEPT. - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2022

John Bridgers, Tax Administrator, presented the Tax Collection Report for December 31, 2022, as follows:

Category	Annual Budget	Amount Collected YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$45,800,000.00	\$38,533,968.68	84.14%	\$7,266,031.32
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$6,000,000.00	Information from the State was unavailable.		
Current Year Taxes	\$51,800,000.00	\$37,503,691.15	72.40%	\$14,296,308.85
Delinquent Taxes	\$700,000.00	\$423,576.97	60.51%	\$276,423.03
Late List Penalty	\$315,000.00	\$126,882.19	40.28%	\$188,117.81

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	\$47,816,100.71	Information was unavailable.		

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

TAX DEPT. - RELEASE REFUND REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2022

John Bridgers, Tax Administrator, presented the Release Refund Report for December 31, 2022, as follows:

Tax System Refunds and Releases				
	Report Amount	Rebilled Amount	Net Release	Refund Amount
Releases (TR-304)	\$8,294.06	\$4,041.93	\$4,252.13	\$0.00

VTS Refunds Over \$100

	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	Information from the State was unavailable.

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

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for question or comments. Mr. Bridgers responded to questions from Commissioner Carswell about the report format and language in the report. Chairman Mulwee asked about Mr. Bridger's recent completion of County Assessor accreditation for NC. Mr. Bridger's responded that the NC Department of Revenue requires every tax assessor take a minimum number of courses within two years. Chairman Mulwee congratulated him for completing the requirements ahead of schedule.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

ITEMS FOR DECISION - NONE

REPORTS

Chairman Mulwee asked Board members to submit their reports to the Clerk for inclusion in the regular agenda packet. He also encouraged citizens to spay or neuter pets and to adopt or foster a pet from Animal Services. Further, he encouraged citizens to not litter, to pick up trash and to cover their loads during transit to the landfill or convenience centers. Commissioner Carswell recognized the convenience site workers for coming in on their day off to clean up the site. He also recognized the General Services team who responded to some emergency infrastructure problems caused by the unprecedented cold weather. He issued reminders for several upcoming meetings, public events, and holiday office closures. Lastly, he expressed his condolences to former Commissioner, Jack Carroll, and his family for the loss of his son.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS – NONE

ADJOURN

Motion: to adjourn at 4:01 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Vice Chairman
AYES: Scott Mulwee, Jeffrey C. Brittain, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Phil Smith

Approved this 19th day of September 2023.

 Scott Mulwee, Chairman
 Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:



Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board