

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

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a pre-agenda meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, Burke Services Building, 110 N. Green Street in Morganton, N.C. The meeting was streamed live on the County's YouTube channel, BurkeCountyNC, and it was broadcast 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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Phil Smith (Sick)

STAFF: Brian Epley, 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 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, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Randy Burns
ABSENT:	Phil Smith

PRESENTATIONS

AS - PETS OF THE MONTH

On behalf of the Animal Services Director, Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, reported that Animal Services staff will present a dog and cat in need of their "forever" home at the regular meeting. The current population at the shelter was 26 dogs and 56 cats.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT:	MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.
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NCDVRS - NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH (OCT.) 2023

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, reported that the month of October is National Disability

Employment Awareness Month. At the regular meeting, Kay Smith and Amy Carlton, Business Relations Representatives of, NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, will request approval of a proclamation declaring October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Chairman Milwee opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

BOC - PRESENTATION & RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MYFUTURENC

Kim H. Case, Ed.D., myFutureNC Regional Impact Manager, presented information about her organization and statewide goal for 2 million North Carolinians to have a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030. myFutureNC is a statewide nonprofit organization focused on educational attainment and is the result of cross-sector collaboration between North Carolina leaders in education, business, and government. At the regular meeting, Ms. Case will propose a resolution in which Burke County will be asked to endorse the state educational attainment goal of 2 million by 2030, to adopt the local goal of 10,206 individuals obtaining a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030 and to collaborate with cross-sector partners to develop a local attainment plan.

Highlights of her presentation were as follows:



*my***FUTURENC**

House Bill 664

To ensure that the State remains economically competitive, the State shall ensure that by the year **2030**:

2 MILLION

25- to 44-year-olds will have completed a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree



myFutureNC LEADERSHIP

Governed by a **cross-sector board of directors** comprised of NC education sector heads, policymakers, philanthropists, and business leaders. Additionally, the myFutureNC *Advisory Board of Commissioners* includes **59 individuals** representing **35 North Carolina counties**.

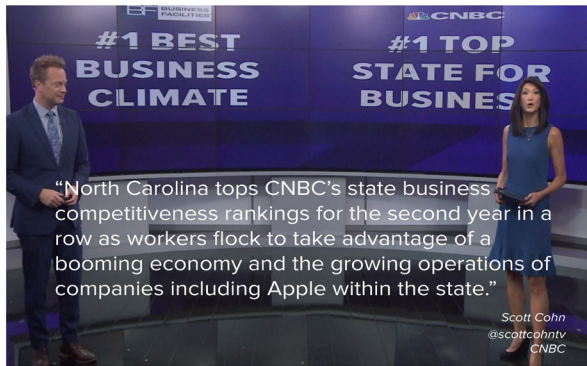


Board of Directors

John A. Fraley, Chair
Lynn Good, Vice-Chair
MC Belk Pilon, Secretary and Treasurer

Deanna Ballard
Kathryn Black
Dr. Jeff Cox
John F.A.V. Cecil
Geoff Coltrane
Eric C. Davis
Ann Goodnight
Peter Hans
Kevin Howell
Rep. Donny Lambeth
Senator Michael Lee
L. David Mounts
Anna Spangler Nelson
Gary Salamido
Machelle Baker Sanders
Catherine Truitt
Dr. A. Hope Williams

North Carolina repeats as America's Top State for Business in 2023



AMERICA'S TOP STATES FOR BUSINESS

"Last year's performance includes the creation of nearly 29,000 new jobs and \$19.3 billion in investments – the result of statewide collaboration, partnership, and hard work by our economic development community . . ."

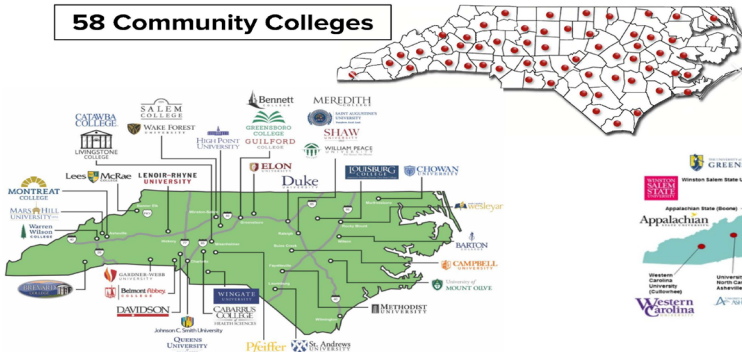


Machelle Baker Sanders,
 NC Commerce Secretary

myFUTURENC
 2 million by 2030

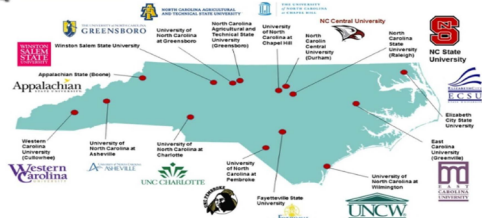
NC: MOST ROBUST EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN NATION

58 Community Colleges



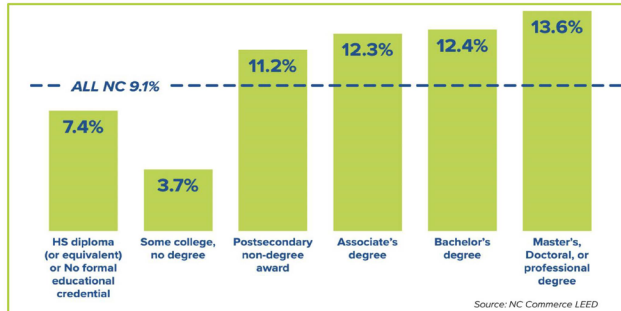
36 Private Institutions including 5 HBCUs

16 Public Institutions including 5 HBCUs



MINIMUM EDUCATION LEVELS FOR FUTURE NC JOBS

The majority of NC occupations will require post-secondary education in the form of credentials or degrees.



Projected growth rates of occupations in North Carolina by required minimum education 2021-2030

North Carolina Department of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

NC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

North Carolina Department of COMMERCE

myFUTURENC 2 million by 2030

UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES

362,170

job openings in North Carolina November 2022



of North Carolinians aged 35-44 did not earn a family-sustaining wage in 2021

1.2 million

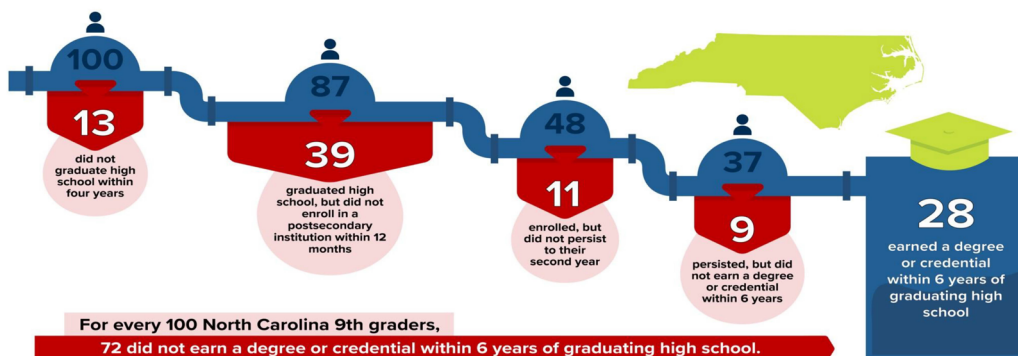
North Carolinians aged 25-44 without a postsecondary degree or credential as of 2021



Nearly 2 in 3 prospective students identify cost as a top barrier to enrollment

myFUTURENC 2 million by 2030

LEAKY PIPELINE



myFUTURENC 2 million by 2030

NC Northwest Prosperity Zone

The Leaky Pipeline

	On-time High School Graduation Rate	On-time postsecondary enrollment rate	If enroll college on-time		
			Persist to 2nd Year	Graduate within 6	
Alexander County	87%	52%	78%	64%	29
Alleghany County	88%	59%	77%	53%	27
Ashe County	85%	52%	78%	56%	25
Avery County	90%	62%	74%	65%	36
Burke County	91%	50%	77%	59%	27
Caldwell County	87%	54%	77%	62%	29
Catawba County	87%	55%	74%	65%	31
McDowell County	85%	43%	65%	59%	21
Mitchell County	76%	55%	83%	58%	24
Watauga County	92%	60%	81%	68%	37
Wilkes County	89%	53%	77%	59%	28
Yancey County	88%	44%	72%	65%	25

Of 100 9th graders, how many would graduate high school on-time, going to college on-time, and earn a degree or credential within 6 years?

9

Measuring Progress Towards North Carolina's GOAL

2 MILLION BY 2030

1.55M

444K

2M

2022
2030

31,000 below where the state needed to be at this time

myFUTURENC
2 million by 2030

We believe a better educated North Carolina is the key to economic prosperity and upward mobility for all citizens.

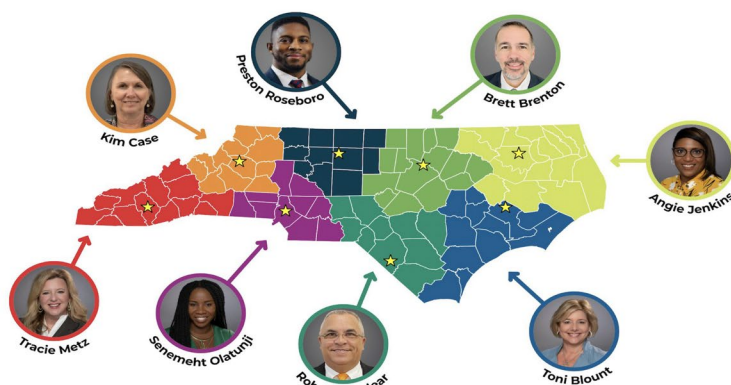
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

To achieve our goal, myFutureNC will:

- Accelerate Action
- Monitor & Report Progress
- Identify & Advocate for Policy Solutions

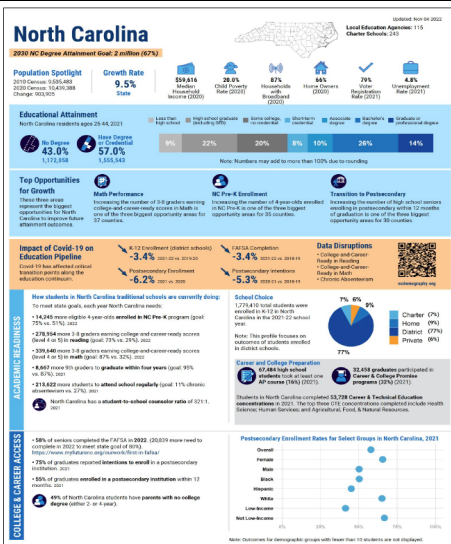
myFUTURENC
2 million by 2030
11

REGIONAL IMPACT MANAGERS



NORTHWEST Dr. Kim Case kim@myfuturenc.org (828) 499-0176	PIEDMONT TRIAD Preston Roseboro preston@myfuturenc.org (704) 418-2827
NORTH CENTRAL Brett Brenton brett@myfuturenc.org (919) 449-6267	NORTHEAST Dr. Angie Jenkins angie@myfuturenc.org (252) 287-8991
SOUTHEAST Toni Blount toni@myfuturenc.org (252) 670-4632	SANDHILLS Dr. Robert Locklear robert@myfuturenc.org (910) 374-5728
SOUTHWEST Senemeht Olatunji senemeht@myfuturenc.org (704) 584-9596	WEST Dr. Tracie Metz tracie@myfuturenc.org (828) 226-3049

myFUTURE NC
2 million by 2030



2022 COUNTY ATTAINMENT PROFILES

- 100 Unique County Attainment Profiles
- Local Performance on Key Indicators
- Recommended Local Goals
- Opportunities for Growth

WEB LINK
qrco.de/dataresources



myFUTURE NC
2 million by 2030

FOUR KEY TRANSITION AREAS



Academic Readiness

Building the foundation Pre-K to 12; high-quality early learning and strong academic progress in early years helps prepare children for future success.

College & Career Access

Activities that prepare students to navigate the transition to postsecondary include gaining experience in college-level coursework and applying for financial assistance.

Postsecondary Completion

Student progression and educational attainment from high school graduation to postsecondary completion.

Labor Market Alignment

Alignment between the skills of college graduates and the needs of North Carolina employers.

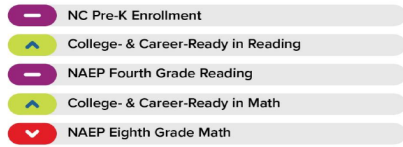
Postsecondary Foundations for Success

- **Broadband** access, affordability, and adoption
- **Data analysis** of key performance indicators for educational attainment.

myFUTURE NC
2 million by 2030

18 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Academic Readiness



College & Career Access



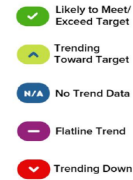
Postsecondary Completion



Workforce Alignment



Key:



Trends toward 2030 targeted values are logarithmic forecasts using the first year of available data and the last year of available data forecasting into 2030.

WEB LINK
qrco.de/indicators



myFUTURE NC
2 million by 2030

COUNTY PROFILES - OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

- Adult & Non-Traditional Learners
- Chronic Absenteeism
- College & Career-Ready in Math
- College & Career-Ready in Reading
- Opportunity Youth
- Earning College Credit in High School
- FAFSA Completion
- First-Year Persistence
- NC Pre-K Enrollment
- Postsecondary Completion
- School Counselors
- Transition to Postsecondary (On-Time College Enrollment)
- High School Graduation

highlighted is top 3 for North Carolina

myFUTURE NC
2 million by 2030

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH - 2022

Burke County Top 3 Opportunities for Growth

- Opportunity Youth
- FAFSA Completion
- Transition to Postsecondary

myFUTURE NC
2 million by 2030

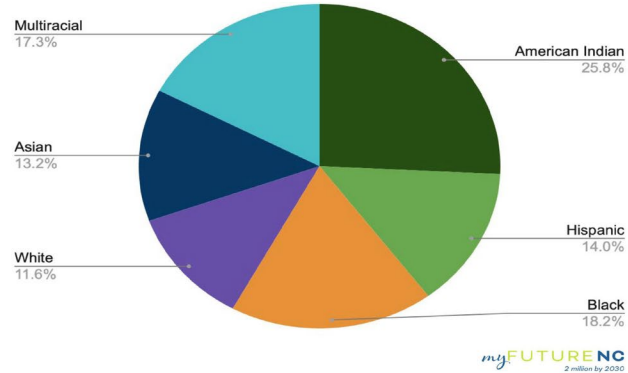
OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

Opportunity youth are teen and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not enrolled in school or working.

1 in every 9

16 to 24-year-olds is not in school or working.

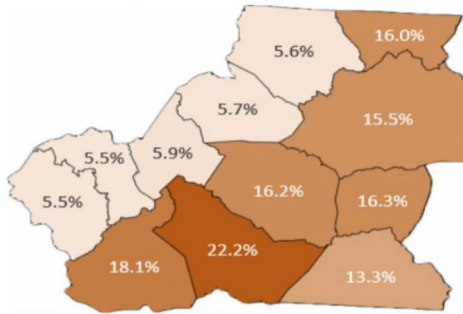
Who are NC's Opportunity Youth?



NC Northwest Prosperity Zone

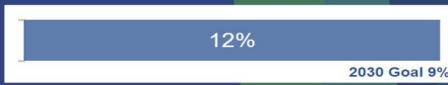
OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

County-level is 2019 Census data



2021 Census data

Over 1 in every 9 (155K)
North Carolina 16-24 year-olds
not in school or working

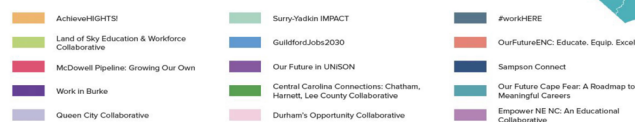


2030 Goal = 9% or less

LOCAL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT COLLABORATIVES (LEAC)

- 15 Local Educational Attainment Collaboratives (LEAC)
- Representing 42 counties
- Cross-sector partnerships to advance attainment

LEACs Across North Carolina



UNC | SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
ncIMPACT Initiative
myFUTURENC
2 million by 2030

NC Northwest Prosperity Zone

COUNTY ATTAINMENT GAINS (2018 - 2021)

Educational Attainment: Adults Ages 25-44

- **Population declined 1%** (2018-2021)
- **# of individuals holding postsecondary degree or credential grew 8%** in same period.

NW Prosperity Zone counties with +5% increases over 3 years
(4 out of 16 NC counties)

	Total population (aged 25-44)	Do not hold a degree/credential	Hold a degree/credential
2018	142,046	85,670	56,376
2021	140,670	79,551	61,119
<i>Net change</i>	(1,376)	(6,119)	4,743
<i>Percent change</i>	-0.97%	-7.14%	8.41%

Locally Owned & Driven Work = 2 million by 2030

Western Piedmont Students

How might we
collaborate to
increase our
collective impact?

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions or comments. Vice Chairman Brittain asked what action was being taken by people who have adopted such a resolution to help achieve these goals. Ms. Case gave him some action items that could be done beyond just adopting a resolution. Ms. Case received and responded to comments and questions from Commissioner Burns on credentialing and from Commissioner Carswell on rankings. Chairman Mulwee noted that there are many parents who are reluctant to disclose the information needed to complete the FAFSA form, which can pose a challenge. Ms. Case stated that Alleghany County has College and Career Access teams at their high schools which have had success with their initiatives to get the FAFSAs completed. Ms. Case answered a question on the sustainability of myFutureNC from Chairman Mulwee.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

EMS - DEPARTMENT / EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS & 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Jason Black, EMS Director, stated that he will be requesting recognition, at the regular meeting,

of employees for their heroic efforts. Burke County EMS employees have directly saved four (4) lives and impacted countless others in their line of duty. These front-line heroes have gone above and beyond their normal duty and from that, several trauma calls that could have been disastrous ended up with desirable outcomes. This hard work has not gone unnoticed as Burke County EMS was awarded the American Heart Association (AHA) Mission Lifeline EMS GOLD Award. This award is earned by providing state-of-the-art cardiac care over a 24-month period by meeting and exceeding the AHA's strict guidelines.

Further, as of September 1, 2023, Burke County EMS celebrates 50 years of service to the citizens of Burke County. Mr. Black gave a presentation on the history of EMS and how they have changed over the years. Highlights of his presentation were as follows:



Burke County Emergency Medical Services
50
1973 EMS 2023
Fifty Years of Excellent Service

**THEN AND NOW...
A LOOK AT OUR BASES**

Burke EMS open house, dedication set Sunday

The Burke County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will hold an open house and dedication ceremony at its new location Sunday, Sept. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The new EMS facility is located at 1000 N. Main St. in Valdese. The new facility is a 10,000-sq-ft building with a 20,000-sq-ft parking lot. The new facility will house the EMS fleet, including the new ambulance, and will also serve as the training facility for the EMS staff. The new facility is a significant improvement over the old facility, which was a small, one-story building. The new facility is a two-story building with a modern design. The new facility is a significant improvement over the old facility, which was a small, one-story building. The new facility is a two-story building with a modern design.

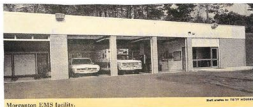


Open house Sunday

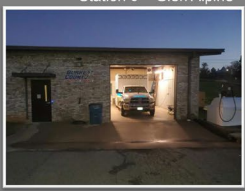
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Station 2 - Valdese



Station 1 - Burke County's first EMS base opened in 1975. This base is still in operation today but will be replaced in 2024.



Station 3 - Glen Alpine

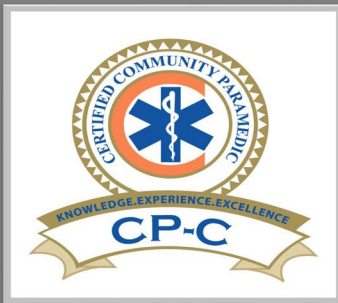


BURKE COUNTY EMS – BEYOND THE AMBULANCE

Besides responding to approximately 19,000 yearly calls for service, Burke County EMS has several specialty divisions including:

- Community Paramedic Program
- Special Operations
- P.I.E.R Team
- Events Medicine
- Tactical Medicine

COMMUNITY CARE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM



In July 2023, Burke County EMS promoted our first Community Paramedic.



Community Care Paramedic Program

"Navigating healthcare together"

Now offering new services to our citizens:

- Care plan follow-up - helping patients understand doctors' orders, prescriptions and their correct usage, and proper use of medical equipment.
- Limited point-of-care testing such as ECGs, blood glucose checks, blood draws, etc.

- Referrals and assistance with in-home health, hospice and palliative care, substance use detox and rehab, mental health management and other outreach programs

- Home hazards - Identifying and reducing health and safety risks and improving home safety by arranging installation of grab bars, smoke alarms, etc.

Our goal is to help clients remain safe and healthy at home, without the need for emergency medical care.

For more information about our program or to make a referral, email us at emscp@burkenc.org or call (828)764-9328.



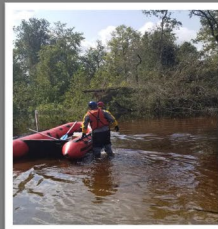
Established in the early 1990s, our Special Operations team was developed to offer advanced life saving treatments in rugged terrain.



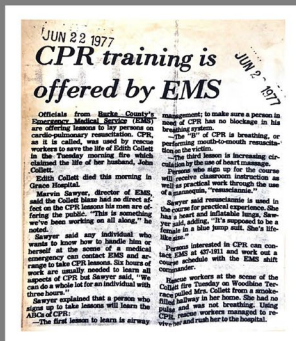
Burke County EMS with ambulance out of Lenoir County



Burke County EMS along with Burke County Emergency Management have become the only Type II water rescue team that is a state asset made up entirely of EMS personnel.



PIER – PUBLIC INFORMATION EDUCATION RELATIONS TEAM



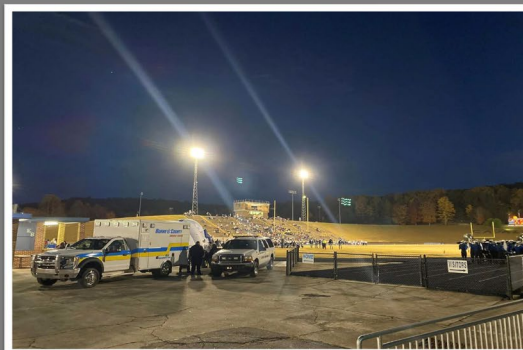
Public Information Education Relations (PIER) Team, formed around 2011, provides community education through job fairs, hands on CPR events, and participation in various programs throughout the community.



EVENTS MEDICINE TEAM



Our Events Medicine Team coordinates medical coverage for festivals, race events, sporting events, and any other gathering within the community.



TACTICAL MEDICINE

BEING PREPARED



Burke County EMS Capt. Mike Reed, left, assists a trainee on the arm of Burke County Sheriff's Office Lt. Tony Gault during a training event for school police officers.

School leaders get step the blood training in multi-agency collaboration.

BCEMS developed the "Teacher Casualty Care" classes for teachers and administration of Burke County Public School. This class helps to equip school staff with knowledge to quickly provide care until EMS arrives.

ORIGINAL STORY (POSTED: MAY 22, 2019)

HICKORY, N.C. — A Burke County SWAT Officer shot a man after investigators served a no-knock search warrant at a Hickory residence, on Wednesday morning, according to the Burke County Sheriff's Department.

On Wednesday morning, Burke County Narcotics Investigators issued a no-knock search warrant at a mobile home located on Airport/Rhodhiss Road.

The warrant was issued with knowledge that the suspect and possibly other people in the residence had firearms in the home and on their persons. After Burke County SWAT entered the residence, the suspect's girlfriend was escorted out of the mobile home.

Investigators say the suspect refused to get out of a bed or show officers his hands, which were obscured by covers, despite the officers' commands.

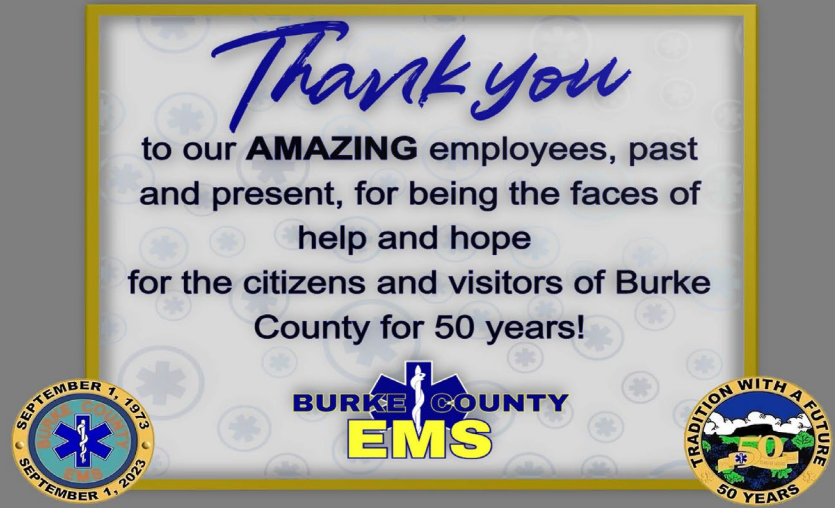
After the suspect made numerous threats to kill the officers or make the officers kill him, the suspect quickly moved his hands under the covers, at which point a SWAT Officer shot him, according to the Burke County Sheriff's Office.

Officials say officers and the SWAT medic immediately rendered aid and that Burke County EMS responded quickly, as they had been staged nearby. The suspect was airlifted to a medical center, but no word about his condition has been given.

The Burke County Sheriff requested the SBI investigate the situation and the SWAT officer was placed on paid administrative leave until the investigation is complete.

Authorities say no officers were injured in the incident.

BCEMS along with BCSO established the SWAT Medic program after an officer was shot on a call out in 2008. BCEMS SWAT Medics are trained at the Counter Narcotics and Terrorism Operational Medical Support (CONTOMS) in Washington, DC. This class provides an EMT-Tactical certification. In 2016 Burke County sent two "SWAT Medics" to attend Basic Law Enforcement Training at WPCC. This has allowed advanced tactical medical care in any environment. BCEMS is now the only EMS agency in the state to have sworn tactical medics. This has proven to be successful when in 2019, a SWAT Medic was able to provide medical care to a suspect from a gunshot wound within seconds of the injury. This suspect would have succumbed to the injury without this program in place.



Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions or comments. Mr. Black received comments from Commissioner Burns and Commissioner Carswell relayed his personal experiences on how far the EMS department has advanced. Commissioner Burns thanked the EMS staff for their service and all that they do. Chairman Mulwee expressed his excitement for the construction of a new EMS base.

Note: Burke County EMS has received two (2) new trucks that will also be available for viewing at the Commissioners' meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

CM - GFOA'S CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

Brian Epley, County Manager, reported that the County has been awarded a Certificate of

Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The Board was asked to recognize and congratulate the Finance Department for this accomplishment.

At an invitation from Mr. Epley, Margaret Pierce, Finance Director / Deputy County Manager, approached the podium to speak. She expressed her excitement for receiving the award for the second year in a row, and then outlined the process necessary to achieve such an award. She commended the Board for their policies, which helped to facilitate the achievement as well as the hard work of the Finance staff who worked tirelessly on the endeavor. Jessica Helms, Controller, and Brian Niefert, Senior Fiscal Analyst, took on the bulk of the work necessary to apply for this award.

Chairman Mulwee stepped away for a brief moment. Vice Chairman Britain opened the floor for questions or comment; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMM. DEV. - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT ZMA 2023-07 & PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.

Alan Glines, Planning Director / Deputy County Manager, relayed the following rezoning request that will be up for consideration at the regular meeting:

Rezoning Request: ZMA 2023-07

Applicant: Kenneth Ross

PIN: (1791172477)

Request: Change the zoning district from Residential Two (R-2) to General Business (G-B)

Size: Approximately 0.62-acres.

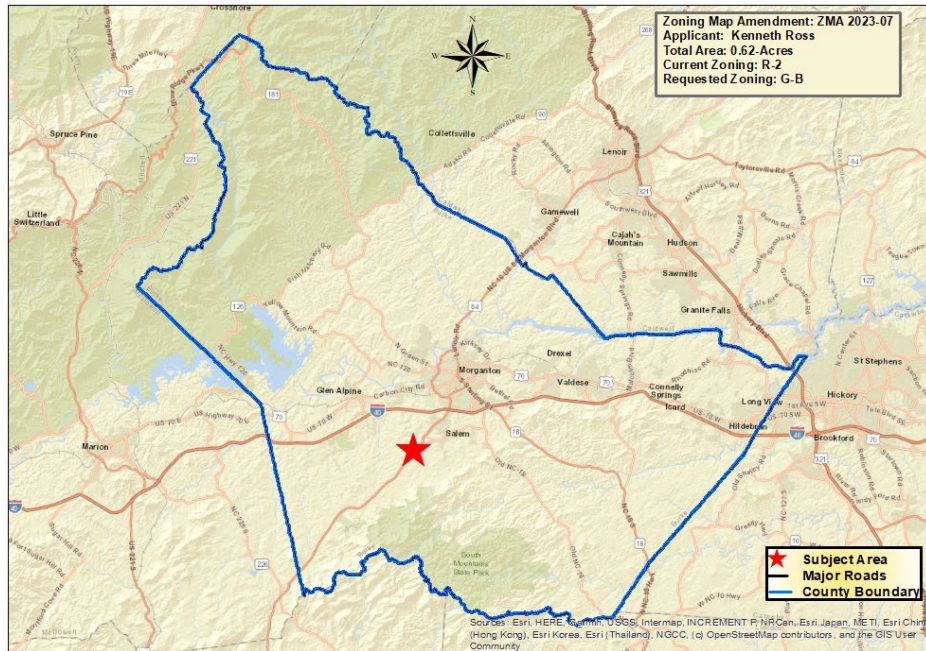
Location: The subject parcel is located on Rodeo Lane approximately 195 feet off US - 64 S.

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County Context Map

ZMA 2023-07



Burke County, NC Zoning Administration Aerial Land Use Map

ZMA 2023-07



Applicant:
Kenneth Ross

PIN# 1791172477



Burke County, NC Zoning Administration Current Zoning Map

ZMA 2023-07

STAFF COMMENTS

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

- The Blueprint Burke Future Land Use Map supports commercial uses in this area.
- There is General Business zoning in the surrounding area, including the adjacent property.
- More economic development is desired within Burke County and rezoning the parcel to G-B would allow the property owner to combine the parcel with his adjoining parcel to expand commercial opportunities.

For these reasons, Staff supports the rezoning request.





PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Board met on July 27, 2023, to hear the proposed rezoning request. Staff presented the report and the applicant responded to questions from the Board. The floor was then opened to public comment and when no one spoke, the Chairperson asked for a motion. A motion to approve the rezoning was made and seconded and the Board voted 6/0 to recommend approval of the rezoning request.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions or comments. Mr. Glines answered a question about right-of-way from Commissioner Burns and clarified a zoning question from Chairman Mulwee.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

CONSENT AGENDA

BOC - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

On behalf of the Board, Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, relayed that the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) organization is a partnership of national public service organizations, professional medical associations and government agencies working together to promote breast cancer awareness, share information on the disease, and provide greater access

to screening services. This is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October. Since its inception more than two (2) decades ago, NBCAM has been at the forefront of promoting awareness of breast cancer issues, education, and empowerment for women to increase their knowledge of the disease while raising funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure.

Chairman Milwee opened the floor for questions or comment; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

CD - REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE BURKE CO. BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Alan Glines, Planning Director / Deputy County Manager, informed the Board that the terms of appointment for the following members of the Burke County Board of Adjustment end September 30th: Jennie Cook (Seat No. 1, East), Ray Johnson (Seat No. 3, West), Joyce Counihan (Seat No. 5, At-large), and Ed Hallyburton (Seat No. 6, Alternate At-large). All members desire reappointment and are in good standing. The terms are for three (3) years and end September 30, 2026.

Chairman Milwee opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

CD - REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE BURKE CO. PLANNING BOARD

Alan Glines, Planning Director / Deputy County Manager, reported that the terms of appointment for Brian King (Seat No. 3, East), Sara Chester (Seat No. 4, West) and Joyce Counihan (Seat No. 7, West) on the Burke County Planning Board end September 30th. All members desire reappointment and are in good standing, except Ms. Chester who has missed some meetings over the past year due to her busy schedule. The attendance policy is outlined in the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article IV, Section 2-92 and this has been reviewed with her. Staff have spoken with Ms. Chester, and she has reiterated her commitment to serving on the board. Therefore, a 1-year reappointment for her is requested and adherence to the attendance policy will be re-evaluated in 12 months. Further, Ms. Glines reported that since the agenda was published an additional application has been received for Seat No. 3 and asked the Board for direction concerning the placement of this item on the agenda.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions or comments and requested that Clerk Draughn move this to Items for Decision at the regular meeting. Mr. Glines answered a few questions from Vice Chairman Brittain. Brian Epley, County Manager, clarified that his office is working on an appointment policy that would outline how to handle appointed board membership, attendance, participation and more. The Ordinance as it currently stands, lacks clarity on the appropriate mechanics and this policy will help supplement that.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

CM - APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2, FY 2023 - 2024 BUDGET

Brian Epley, County Manager, requested approval of the following budget amendment (No. 2), which recognizes new grant funding received for Soil & Water, the Oak Hill Park (Canoe Creek) project, and DSS.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
100-61000-01-433491	NC Dept of Ag and Con Services	\$80,957	
100-61000-35-533404	Streamflow Rehab Grant	\$80,957	
100-00000-01-433100	DWR Stream Restoration Grant	\$200,000	
100-55000-25-569007	Oak Hill Park Canoe Creek	\$200,000	
100-52000-01-434615	Special Adoption Funds	\$171,646	
100-52060-20-561500	Special Adoption Funds	\$171,646	
Purpose: To recognize grants and other new funds received and the accompanying expenditures. Soil and Water received \$80,957 in additional funds from NCDACS to complete an existing stream bank restoration project. DWR awarded \$200,000 for the Canoe Creek Stream Restoration Phase I project within the Oak Hill Park. This project is in conjunction with Foothills Conservancy and Riverkeepers. NCDHHS provided \$171,646 to enhance adoption services programs.			
A copy of these amendments shall be furnished to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer of the County to be kept on file for direction in the disbursement of funds.			

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions or comments. At a question from Vice Chairman Brittian concerning the format of the budget amendment table, Mr. Epley explained that these are flow through grants, and an increase in both the revenue accounts and the corresponding expense accounts is required. However, he said the format would be modified for clarity before the regular meeting.

Budgetary Effect: \$452,603 of new revenues and expenses.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

FIRE MARSHAL - PROCLAMATION OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, OCTOBER 8 - 14, 2023

Robert Bishop, Fire Inspector, relayed that the National Fire Protection Association has sponsored Fire Prevention Week since 1922. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance. Fire Prevention Week is observed annually during the week of October 8th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. This proclamation

supports the fire prevention efforts of the citizens and local fire departments. This year celebrates the 101st anniversary of national Fire Prevention Week with the theme, "Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention."

Mr. Bishop then recited some statistics. In 2021, throughout the United States, fire departments responded to roughly 1,353,500 fires, resulting in approximately 3,800 civilian deaths, 14,700 civilian injuries, and \$15.9 billion in damages. On average, a structural fire occurs every 65 seconds. In 2022, throughout the state of North Carolina, there were 151 fire-related deaths, of which, two (2) were Burke County residents, and in 2023, there has already been one (1) fire-related death thus far in Burke County.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

TAX DEPT. - RELEASE REFUND REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023

John Bridgers, Tax Administrator, presented the August 2023 Tax Release Refund Report as follows:

Tax System Refunds and Releases				
	Report Amount	Rebilled Amount	Net Release	Refund Amount
Releases (TR-304)	\$245,793.26	\$32,936.10	\$212,857.16	\$0.00

VTS Refunds Over \$100	
	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	\$144.58

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

Chairman Milwee opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

TAX DEPT. - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023

John Bridgers, Tax Administrator, presented the August 2023 Tax Collection Report as follows:

Category	Annual Budget	Amount Collected YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$52,699,577.00	\$32,569,720.07	61.80%	\$20,129,856.93
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$6,200,000.00	\$1,099,261.35	17.73%	\$5,100,738.65
Current Year Taxes	\$58,899,577.00	\$33,668,981.42	57.16%	\$25,230,595.58
Delinquent Taxes	\$700,000.00	\$211,781.32	30.25%	\$488,218.68

Late List Penalty	\$329,000.00	\$57,601.64	17.51%	\$271,298.36
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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	51,882,444.89	\$32,569,720.07	62.78%	\$19,312,724.82

Chairman Mulwee briefly stepped away from the dais to take a telephone call. During his absence, Vice Chairman Brittain chaired the meeting.

Vice Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments and requested an update at a future meeting from the County's tax attorney, Kania Law Firm.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

CM - APPROVAL OF LEASE FOR THE HISTORY MUSEUM OF BURKE COUNTY (PLACE HOLDER)

Brian Epley, County Manager, proposed a long-term lease between Burke County and The History Museum of Burke County for property located at 203 S. Sterling Street, which will be presented at the regular meeting for Board consideration. The draft lease was not available at the pre-agenda meeting.

Budgetary Effect: Inconsequential impact on the FY 23-24 budget.

Vice Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

CM - JONAS RIDGE WASTE & RECYCLING CONVENIENCE CENTER PROJECT (PLACE HOLDER)

Brian Epley, County Manager, informed the Board that this item is contingent on a successful rebidding of the project which was currently in progress. There have been some contractual challenges with the original contractor which has rendered continued services impossible, thus necessitating the County to pursue other alternatives for the project to be completed. The project commenced in March and is presently around 50% finished, with the remaining portion slated for rebidding. To facilitate the rebid process, consultation with the engineer and design team, McGill Associates, was necessary, resulting in the creation of a rebidding package. The goal is to post that with sufficient time for proposals to undergo evaluation and then the lowest, reasonable firm to be presented for consideration at the September regular meeting.

Mr. Epley stressed the importance of resolving this issue promptly to resume construction and to avoid further delays in the plan's projected timeline. He expressed the desire to achieve substantial completion of the site, with at least minimal operational functionality before winter sets in around November 15th. Despite the time constraints and challenges, Mr. Epley remains optimistic about accomplishing the task in a timely manner.

Vice Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

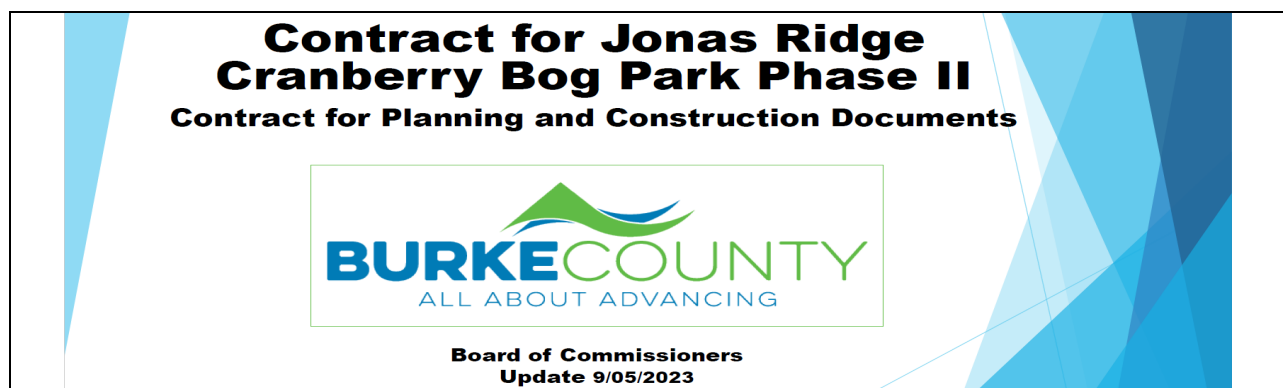
CD - JONAS RIDGE CRANBERRY BOG DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS CONTRACT

Alan Glines, Planning Director / Deputy County Manager, relayed that the County would like to contract with Equinox Environmental Design Firm to develop a final park plan and construction documents for Cranberry Bog Park in Jonas Ridge. This portion of the project is considered Phase II of the Jonas Ridge project. The first phase being the Convenience Site development currently in construction.

The cranberry bog is a 16-acre (+/-) high-elevation wetland with many wetland species including native cranberry plants. The site has such high ecological value that part of the funds were provided by the State of North Carolina from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund program. The other portion of the funds were provided by Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina which maintains a conservation easement for the wetlands.

The design firm, Equinox Environmental was selected along with McGill Associates in 2020 following a competitive RFQ process to provide conceptual plans for the convenience site and the Cranberry Bog Park. The contract for this phase will provide two (2) park designs for consideration by Burke County. When the preferred design is selected, Equinox Environmental will proceed to construction document development and environmental permitting through regulating agencies. After the project is let by Burke County, Equinox Environmental will provide construction observation during the park development.

Mr. Glines presented a brief update on Cranberry Bog Park Phase II. Highlights of that presentation were as follows:



FY 23-24 Commissioners' Strategic Plan



FOCUS AREA 1: COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play – while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.



FOCUS AREA 4: FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

Pursuit of the high-performing organization model that ensures high quality, transparent and efficient use of public resources.



FOCUS AREA 2: ECONOMIC GROWTH & SUSTAINMENT

Promotion of Burke County as a business and economic center in the region through recruitment of new industry, creating a healthy business climate for existing businesses.



FOCUS AREA 5: EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

To promote a professional value-based employee centric workplace that promotes innovation, performance, and integrity, and differentiation.



FOCUS AREA 3: PUBLIC SAFETY & WELL BEING

To ensure the safety of our residents through efficient and effective public safety agencies.



County Property



August 4, 2023
Jonas Ridge Cranberry Bog Property
Owner: COUNTY OF BURKE
200 AVERTY AVE
MORGANTON, NC 28655
Property ID: NC 181
Address: NEWLAND 2857
PROPERTY CODE:
PIN: 184 1073301
FID: 181
REID: 7046
Property Value: \$961,000
Area: 16.42
Deed Book: 002752
Deed Page: 00026
Deed Date: 05/02/2021 4:25:16 PM

- Approximately 16 acres of the bog portion of site
- Convenience site is about 4 acres adjacent to 181
- Foothills Conservancy holds a Conservation easement on Property on behalf of the State of North Carolina through the Clean Water Management Trust Fund

Park Original Master Plan



The plan was presented in 2020 to the BOC and was approved.

The project was divided into 2 phases: **Phase 1** is the Convenience Center which is in construction now **Phase 2** being considered today is for a contract to develop final plans so the project may be bid.

This contract will include two designs to select a preferred option



Cranberry Bog Park Contract



Equinox Environmental Design will
Finalize the park design, construction
documents, environmental permits, and
construction observation

The fees for services are \$127,632

The request is for the Board of
Commissioners to approve the
contract for services

Budgetary Effect: Cost of services provided by Equinox Design of \$127,632. Funding was provided in the FY 23 - 24 budget in anticipation of the contract for services.

Vice Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

REPORTS

CM - END OF YEAR REPORT (PLACE HOLDER)

Brian Epley, County Manager, stated that he will have an End of Year report ready for presentation at the regular meeting. This report will be a synopsis of the fiscal year June 2022 - July 2023, highlighting areas of material impact on organizational performance and priorities. The report will be inclusive of the financial position of the County, key performance indicators, and serve as a tool that demonstrates the County's tenacity to remain aggressive in achieving the Board's strategic plan.

Vice Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

Chairman Mulwee rejoined the meeting.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

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. Brian Epley, County Manager, reported that the County is now engaged with a company that subcontracts with the NC DoT for roadside clean up as part of a community beautification effort. There will be a place on the County's website where citizens will be able to report areas where clean-up is needed.

More information will be presented at the regular meeting on this initiative. Chairman Mulwee announced upcoming events and meetings. Commissioner Carswell reminded the Board to save the date for September 13th when Dr. Stephen Loyd will be at the COMMA (City of Morganton Municipal Auditorium) participating in a community forum on substance use disorders and opioid addiction. He also expressed gratitude for everyone that attended his swearing-in as the 116th President of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners on August 26, 2023, especially Ms. Willette McIntosh, who sang the national anthem. Chairman Mulwee commended Commissioner Carswell on his presidential induction speech at the NC Association of County Commissioners' annual conference.



Commissioner Carswell being sworn in by Chief Justice Paul Neuby with his wife Brenda and a grandchild holding the family Bible.
Photo credit: NCACC



NCACC President Carswell giving his induction speech in Raleigh, NC, at the NCACC annual conference.
Photo Credit: NCACC



NCACC President Carswell with his wife Brenda and their family.
Photo credit: NCACC



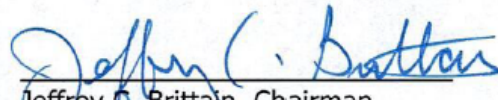
Front row, left to right: JR Simpson, Renee Hinceman, Sheriff Banks Hinceman, Scott Mulwee, Dr. Joel Welsh, Larenda Johnson, Kay Draughn, Johnnie Carswell and Phil Smith
Second row, left to right: Danny Scalise, John Bridgers, Randy Burns, Alan Glines, Mark Delehant, Bryan Steen, Amy and David Bridges, Representative Blackwell and Senator Daniel
Photo credit: NCACC

ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn at 4:20 p.m.

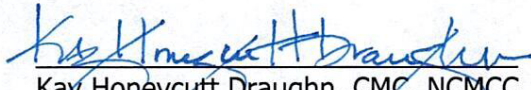
RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Vice Chairman
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Jeffrey C. Brittain, Johnnie W. Carswell, Randy Burns
ABSENT:	Phil Smith

Approved this 16th day of January 2024.



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

Attest:



Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board