

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

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, Burke Services Building, 110 N. Green Street in Morganton, N.C. The meeting was streamed live on the County's YouTube channel, BurkeCountyNC, and it was broadcast 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:

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

STAFF:

Brian Epley, County Manager
Margaret Pierce, Finance Director/Deputy County Manager
J.R. Simpson, II, County Attorney
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Pastor Keith Barnett, Bridge Worship Center Ministries International, delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

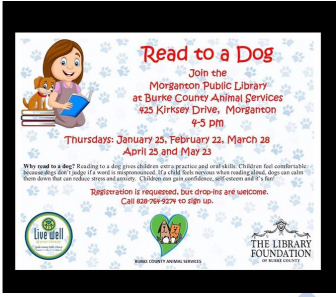
Motion: To approve the meeting minutes of September 19, 2023 (regular), October 3, 2023 (special), October 3, 2023 (pre-agenda), October 17, 2023 (regular), November 7, 2023 (pre-agenda) and November 21, 2023 (regular) as written.

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

PRESENTATIONS

AS - PET OF THE MONTH

On behalf of the Animal Services Director who was sick, Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, presented a dog, Nala, and cat, Mika in need of their "forever" home. Clerk Draughn relayed some of the upcoming animal shelter events and activities. Highlights of her presentation were as follows:

 Pets of the Month February 2024	 • Nala • Female/Spayed • 3 Years Old
Mika 3 Years Old Female/Spayed 	
 2nd Annual WoofStock! A Festival of Fidos and Felines! Help us Raise the Woof on a new Animal Shelter May 19, 2024 11 AM - 3 PM RAISE THE WOOF! Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate! Complementary glass of wine, BBQ, and goodie bag included. Buy Tickets By scanning the QR code or at burkecountyanimalservicesfoundation.com Click the donate button, specify Raise The Woof. Checks should be made out to ASFI LOCATION Silver Fork Winery 5000 Patton Road Morganton, NC Sponsorships Available Great Dane = \$1000 Golden Retriever = \$750 Beagle = \$500 Dachshund = \$250 Sponsors receive special recognition on Posters, Social Media, and 4 free entries.	

2nd Annual Woofstock



- For more information on adopting or fostering please contact us at....
- 425 Kirksey Drive
- Morganton, NC 28655
- (828) 764-9588 – option 3
- animalservices@burkenc.org

Clerk Draughn reported that the live release rate for dogs stood at 91%, while for cats it was 88% throughout January. Presently, the shelter is accommodating 20 dogs and 28 cats.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he proceeded to the next agenda item.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

BCCOC - PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH 20 - 27, 2024 AS SPRING LITTER SWEEP

Tonia Stephenson, President, Burke County Chamber of Commerce, requested approval of the following proclamation which declares March 20 - 27, 2024, as "Spring Litter Sweep" in Burke County. She expressed gratitude to Republic Services for sponsoring the event, NC DoT for their support, and Janna Cole for managing the event. She then highlighted the success of the 2023 Litter Sweep, with 240 participants registering and collectively picking up 239 bags of trash, 24 bags of recycling, and 14 extra-large items. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) teams, with \$500 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd place, and \$150 for 3rd place.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Vice Chairman Mulwee issued a reminder about the County Beautification campaign. County Manager Epley provided additional details on where citizens can find more information on this Board initiative. Ms. Stephenson emphasized the importance of educating people about their role in making the community cleaner and expressed her desire to be part of that effort. There being nothing further, Chairman Brittain called for a motion.

Motion: To approve Proclamation No. 2024-01.



Burke County Chamber of Commerce

LITTER SWEEP

PRESENTED BY:

REPUBLIC SERVICES

MARCH 20TH - 27TH

SUPPLIES PROVIDED

CASH PRIZES

KICK-OFF EVENT
Tuesday, March 19th

CELEBRATION EVENT
Tuesday, March 19th

QUESTIONS?
Contact Janna at (828) 437-3021 or jcole@burkecounty.org

PLEASE RECYCLE

WWW.BURKECOUNTYCHAMBER.ORG

- 1 Register your team, complete required forms, and pickup supplies at the Kick-Off Event!
- 2 Collect litter!
- 3 Drop off the litter at one of the designated locations.
- 4 Turn in your team sheet to be eligible for prizes and stop by the Celebration Event!

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

Proclamation No. 2024-01 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH 20-27, 2024,
AS BURKE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S
ANNUAL SPRING LITTER SWEEP WEEK

WHEREAS, The Burke County Chamber of Commerce has proclaimed March 20 - 27, 2024, as the Chamber's "ANNUAL SPRING LITTER SWEEP WEEK" in Burke County, North Carolina; and the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and staff encourages citizens from across the county to take an active role in making their community cleaner; and

WHEREAS, the Burke County Chamber of Commerce will be supported by the North Carolina Department of Transportation to organize this countywide roadside clean up to ensure clean and beautiful roads in Burke County; and

WHEREAS, Chamber members' Board and staff, community service workers, local government agencies, community leaders, civic and community organizations, businesses, churches, schools, and environmentally concerned citizens conduct local cleanups during this "ANNUAL SPRING LITTER SWEEP WEEK"; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 cleanup is the third for the Burke County Chamber of Commerce and its more than 600 members, it is the hope that this will continue to grow for years to come; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber's "ANNUAL SPRING LITTER SWEEP WEEK" cleanup will be a part of educating the children of this great county regarding the importance of a clean environment to the quality of life in Burke County, North Carolina.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Commissioners for Burke County, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 20 – 27, 2024, as the Burke County Chamber of Commerce's "ANNUAL SPRING LITTER SWEEP WEEK." We urge all our citizens to participate in this event to maintain the great beauty of our county. The cleanup will increase awareness of the need for cleaner roadsides, emphasize the importance of not littering, and encourage recycling of solid wastes.

Approved this 20th day of February 2024.

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

CM - POST REVALUATION TAX RATE ANALYSIS

Brian Epley, County Manager, presented an in-depth analysis of the post-revaluation tax rates. Highlights of his presentation were as follows:



Post 2023 Revaluation Tax Rate Analysis

BURKE COUNTY
ALL ABOUT ADVANCING

HIGH PERFORMANCE IS CULTURE

- Culture is how we make decisions.
- Our Culture Is:
 - Purpose Focused & Value Driven
 - Teams Based
 - Performance & Data Driven
- Our Culture is Developed Through Investing In:
 - People
 - Physical Environment
 - Technology





FY 2023-24		FY 2022-23		FY 2023-24		FY 2022-23		FY 2023-24		FY 2022-23				
	¢ Rank		¢ Rank		¢ Rank		¢ Rank		¢ Rank		¢ Rank			
Alamance	0.4320	13	0.6500	45	Graham	0.5900	34	0.6500	45	Polk	0.5343	24	0.5143	16
Alexander	0.6700	55	0.7900	79	Granville	0.8400	90	0.8400	88	Randolph	0.5000	21	0.6327	43
Alleghany	0.5970	36	0.5970	28	Greene	0.7860	81	0.7860	78	Richmond	0.8300	87	0.8300	86
Anson	0.7770	78	0.7770	75	Gulford	0.7305	67	0.7305	67	Robeson	0.7700	76	0.7700	73
Ashe	0.4400	14	0.5100	15	Halifax	0.7600	75	0.7600	72	Rockingham	0.6950	62	0.6950	58
Avery	0.4000	9	0.4000	5	Harnett	0.5910	35	0.5910	27	Rowan	0.5800	32	0.6575	48
Beaufort	0.6250	44	0.6250	40	Haywood	0.5500	26	0.5350	17	Rutherford	0.4540	17	0.5970	28
Bertie	0.8650	95	0.8650	93	Henderson	0.4310	12	0.5610	23	Sampson	0.8250	86	0.8250	85
Bladen	0.7850	79	0.7850	76	Hertford	0.8400	90	0.8400	88	Scotland	0.9900	99	0.9900	100
Brunswick	0.3420	5	0.4850	11	Hoke	0.7300	64	0.7300	63	Stanly	0.6100	39	0.6100	32
Buncombe	0.4980	19	0.4880	13	Hyde	1.0450	100	0.8950	96	Stokes	0.6600	52	0.6600	49
Burke	0.5600	28	0.6950	58	Iredell	0.5000	21	0.5375	18	Surry	0.5520	27	0.5520	20
Cabarrus	0.7400	71	0.7400	70	Jackson	0.3800	7	0.3800	4	Swain	0.3600	6	0.3600	3
Caldwell	0.6300	46	0.6300	42	Johnston	0.6900	61	0.7300	63	Transylvania	0.6033	38	0.6033	31
Camden	0.7300	64	0.8700	94	Jones	0.7400	71	0.7200	60	Tyrrell	0.9500	97	0.9500	98
Carteret	0.3400	4	0.3300	2	Lee	0.6500	48	0.7300	63	Union	0.5880	33	0.5880	26
Caswell	0.7350	68	0.7350	68	Lenoir	0.8450	93	0.8450	91	Vance	0.8900	96	0.8900	95
Catawba	0.3985	8	0.5750	24	Lincoln	0.4990	20	0.6190	37	Wake	0.6570	51	0.6195	38
Chatham	0.6850	59	0.6650	52	Macon	0.2700	1	0.4000	5	Warren	0.8100	84	0.8100	82
Cherokee	0.6100	39	0.6100	32	Madison	0.5000	21	0.5000	14	Washington	0.8500	94	0.8500	92
Chowan	0.6650	54	0.6650	52	Martin	0.8100	84	0.8100	82	Watauga	0.3180	2	0.3180	1
Clay	0.4300	11	0.4300	8	McDowell	0.5675	31	0.5775	25	Wayne	0.7425	73	0.7425	71
Cleveland	0.6875	60	0.6875	57	Mecklenburg	0.4731	18	0.6169	36	Wilkes	0.6600	53	0.6600	49
Columbus	0.8050	83	0.8050	81	Mitchell	0.5600	28	0.5600	21	Wilson	0.7300	64	0.7300	63
Craven	0.4448	15	0.5600	21	Montgomery	0.6150	42	0.6150	35	Yadkin	0.6500	48	0.6600	49
Cumberland	0.7990	82	0.7990	80	Moore	0.3300	3	0.4850	11	Yancey	0.6000	37	0.6000	30
Currituck	0.5600	28	0.4600	10	Nash	0.6700	55	0.6700	54					
Dare	0.4005	10	0.4005	7	New Hanover	0.4500	16	0.4550	9					
Davidson	0.5400	25	0.5400	19	Northampton	0.8350	88	0.9000	97					
Davie	0.7730	77	0.7730	74	Onslow	0.6550	50	0.6550	47					
Duplin	0.7350	68	0.7350	68	Orange	0.8353	89	0.8312	87					
Durham	0.7522	74	0.7222	62	Pamlico	0.6250	44	0.6250	40					
Edgecombe	0.9500	97	0.9500	98	Pasquotank	0.6200	43	0.6200	39					
Forsyth	0.6778	57	0.6778	55	Pender	0.7375	70	0.6450	44					
Franklin	0.7850	79	0.7850	76	Perquimans	0.6400	47	0.6100	32					
Gaston	0.6100	39	0.8100	82	Person	0.7225	63	0.7200	60					
Gates	0.8400	90	0.8400	88	Pitt	0.6841	58	0.6841	56					

Weighted average FY 2022-23*: 0.6257

* FY 2023-24 weighted average not available.



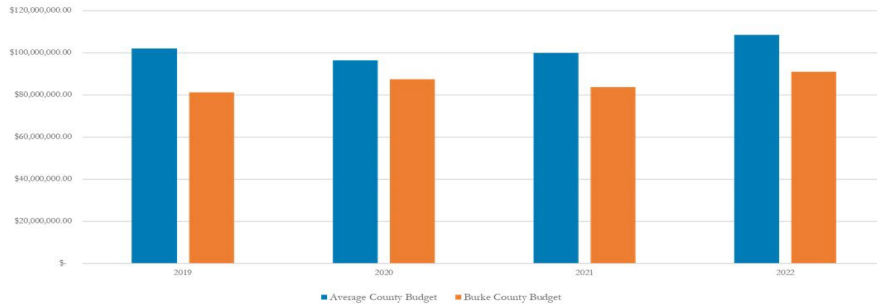
**North Carolina Association
of County Commissioners**

NCACC County Map Book, 2023 | 55

Total General Fund Budget and Fund Balance



Peer Comparison - Total GF Budget



Burke County Government Services

Services Burke County is required to provide	Statute	Per Capita Cost
911 Communications	N.C.G.S. 143B-1406(h)	\$ 23.00
Board of Commissioners	N.C.G.S. 153A-12	\$ 2.16
Board of Elections	N.C.G.S. 163-37	\$ 5.36
Building Inspections	N.C.G.S. 160D-1102(a)	\$ 6.62
Emergency Management	N.C.G.S. 166A-19.15(a)	\$ 4.46
Emergency Medical Services	N.C.G.S. 143-517	\$ 75.60
Environmental Health	N.C.G.S. 130A-248	\$ 2.99
Medical Examiner	N.C.G.S. 130A-381	\$ 1.41
Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services	N.C.G.S. 122C-115(a)	\$ 2.29
Personnel (Human Resources)	N.C.G.S. 153A-92	\$ 6.77
Public Health	N.C.G.S. 130A-34(b)	\$ 34.82
Public Records	N.C.G.S. 132-1	\$ 0.13
Register of Deeds	N.C.G.S. 161-1	\$ 5.23
Sheriff	N.C. Const. Art. VII Sec. 2	\$ 85.97
Social Services	N.C.G.S. 153A-255	\$ 202.45
Tax Administration and Collection	N.C.G.S. 105-296	\$ 16.13

Burke County Government Services

Services Burke County provides that are authorized, but not required	Statute	Per Capita Cost
Animal Services	N.C.G.S. 153A-442	\$ 5.41
Community Development	N.C.G.S. 160D-201	\$ 6.19
Cooperative Extension Services	N.C.G.S. 153A-439(a)	\$ 4.33
Detention Center	N.C.G.S. 153A-218	\$ 46.48
Economic Development	N.C.G.S. 158-23	\$ 29.48
Fire Marshal	N.C.G.S. 153A-234	\$ 0.76
Foothills Conference Center	N.C.G.S. 153A-445(7)	\$ 1.36
Library	N.C.G.S. 153A-263	\$ 16.99
Planning	N.C.G.S. 160D-201	\$ 6.19
Recreation	N.C.G.S. 153A-444	\$ 6.53
Senior Services	N.C.G.S. 153A-445(6)	\$ 5.29
Soil and Water Conservation	N.C.G.S. 153A-440	\$ 1.48
Veterans Services	N.C.G.S. 143B-1211	\$ 0.48
Volunteer Fire Departments	N.C.G.S. 153A-233	\$ 50.94
Waste Management	N.C.G.S. 153A-136(a)	\$ 67.06
Water and Sewer	N.C.G.S. 153A-284	\$ 57.33

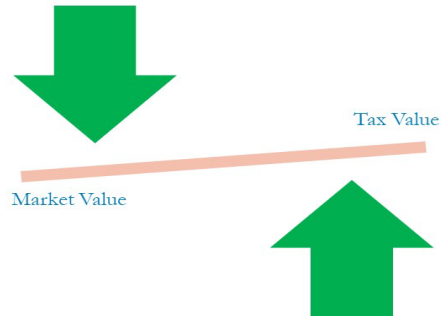
Sales Ratio & Revaluation - § 105-286 : Methodology

Market Value is:

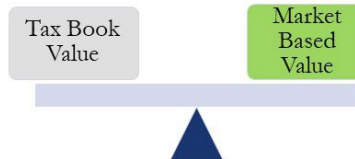
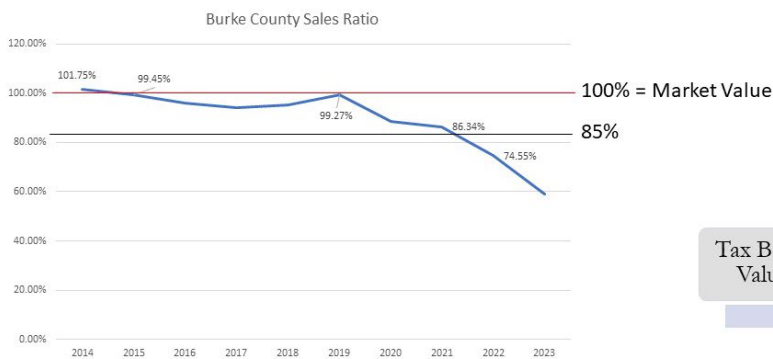
1. The price estimated in terms of money
2. At which the property would change hands
3. Between a willing buyer - And a willing seller.

Also known as an "arm's-length transaction."

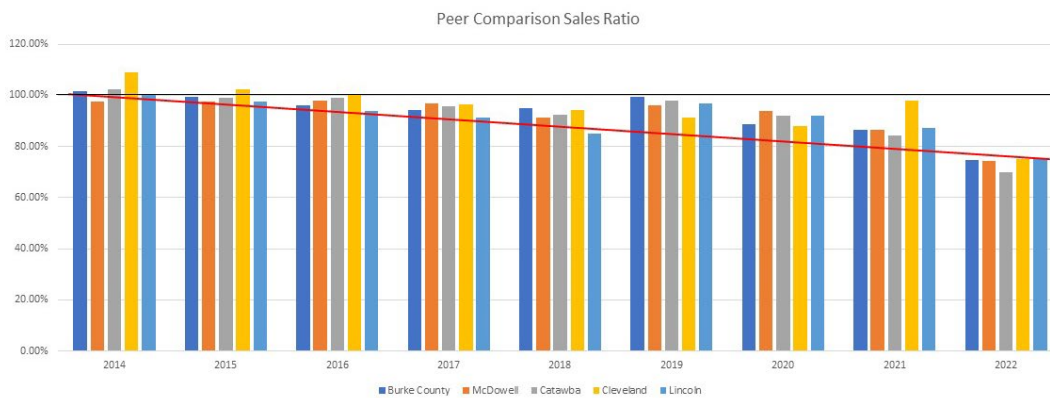
A sale between family members is not likely to be an arm's-length transaction and does not give a true picture of the market value of the property.



Revaluation Analysis



Revaluation Analysis



FY 2023-24			FY 2022-23			FY 2023-24			FY 2022-23			FY 2023-24			FY 2022-23		
	¢	Rank		¢	Rank		¢	Rank		¢	Rank		¢	Rank		¢	Rank
Alamance	0.4320	13		0.6500	45	Graham	0.5900	34		0.6500	45	Polk	0.5343	24		0.5143	16
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Currituck	0.5600	28		0.4600	10	Nash	0.6700	55		0.6700	54	Weighted average FY 2022-23*: 0.6257					
Dare	0.4005	10		0.4005	7	New Hanover	0.4500	16		0.4550	9	* FY 2023-24 weighted average not available.					
Davidson	0.5400	25		0.5400	19	Northampton	0.8350	88		0.9000	97						
Davie	0.7730	77		0.7730	74	Onslow	0.6550	50		0.6550	47						
Duplin	0.7350	68		0.7350	68	Orange	0.8353	89		0.8312	87						
Durham	0.7522	74		0.7222	62	Pamlico	0.6250	44		0.6250	40						
Edgecombe	0.9500	97		0.9500	98	Pasquotank	0.6200	43		0.6200	39						
Forsyth	0.6778	57		0.6778	55	Pender	0.7375	70		0.6450	44						
Franklin	0.7850	79		0.7850	76	Perquimans	0.6400	47		0.6100	32						
Gaston	0.6100	39		0.8100	82	Person	0.7225	63		0.7200	60						
Gates	0.8400	90		0.8400	88	Pitt	0.6841	58		0.6841	56						



North Carolina Association
of County Commissioners

NCACC County Map Book, 2023 | 55

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he called for a motion.

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Phil Smith

S&W - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Lea Ann Branch, Soil and Water Director, presented a departmental update and introduced staff member Spencer Stock, Soil and Water Conservationist. Highlights of her presentation were as follows:

Overview of Soil & Water Programs

The Soil & Water Conservation District administrators:

- *The Agricultural Cost-Share Program (ACSP)
- *The Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)
- *The Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)
- *Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (STRAP)
- *Conservation Education Programs
- *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Funding Sources

- We receive program funding through the State of NC and USDA, NRCS to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on Agricultural and Non-Ag land through our programs.
- In 2023 we received \$786,879.00 to implement BMPs in Burke County.

STRAP

Burke Soil and Water

Program Objectives

- The Purpose of the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) is to provide funding for projects aiming to reduce flooding, improve stream stability, and restore the natural drainage ability of watersheds.
- This is achieved through removal of debris, bank stabilization practices, and culling of specific hazardous trees within the riparian zone.

Erosion caused by debris (before)



BEFORE StRAP



BEFORE



AFTER



Debris removal and stabilization efforts during the removal process



BEFORE



After



Results

- In 2023 we received around \$300,000 in funding to improve impacted streams.
- This money was used to improve flow and functionality on 6,642 Linear Feet of stream in Burke County.
- When Implemented correctly the efforts put forth by the StRAP program can greatly reduce pressure on stream banks, reduce loss of soil and crop land boarding waterways, as well as lessen the overall impacts of flood events and improve water quality.

Next Steps

- In 2023 the main focus of StRAP was debris removal.
- Moving forward we plan to put more money and effort towards the stabilization of impacted streams.
- This year we expect to receive more funding in order to expand the reach of the program and provide longer lasting beneficial impacts on local waterways.

Ms. Branch shared the conservation education programs she leads.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Ms. Branch addressed a question from Commissioner Burns concerning Hunting Creek and then responded to Vice Chairman Brittain's query on the Beaver Management Program. There being nothing further, Chairman Brittain called for a motion.

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Phil Smith

TDA - FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DEC. 31, 2023

Ed Phillips, CEO, TDA, in accordance with Session Law 2007-265, HB 78, reported Tourism Development Authority's quarterly receipts and expenditures.

BURKE COUNTY TDA			
BUDGET TO ACTUAL JULY 1, 2023-DECEMBER 31, 2023			
Income	Budget	Actual	Available Balance
4010 · Burke Co. Govt. - Occup. Tax	\$ 850,000	416,119.18	\$ 433,880.82
4110 · Interest Income	\$ -	289.80	\$ (289.80)
4120 · Miscellaneous	\$ 44,500	46,400.00	\$ (1,900.00)
4000 · Fund Balance			\$ -
5000 · Trolley Revenue	\$ 12,500	18,485.70	\$ (5,985.70)
Total Income	\$ 907,000	481,294.68	\$ 425,705.32
Expense			
5010 · Accounting/Audit	\$ 8,500	8,398.49	\$ 101.51
5020 · Marketing/Advertising	\$ 174,000	97,633.30	\$ 76,366.70
5102 · Membership Dues	\$ 2,500	415.00	\$ 2,085.00
5110 · Building Upfit	\$ 50,000	107,407.99	\$ (57,407.99)
5113 · City of Morganton/Tourism	\$ 191,250	58,628.33	\$ 132,621.67
5115 · Town of Valdese/Tourism	\$ 106,250	32,571.30	\$ 73,678.70
5117 · Bank Charges	\$ -	-	\$ -
5140 · Website Upkeep	\$ 2,500	2,925.13	\$ (425.13)
5150 · Insurance	\$ 28,000	11,813.48	\$ 16,186.52
5180 · Office Supplies	\$ 4,000	3,040.12	\$ 959.88
5200 · Payroll Expenses	\$ 275,000	154,419.21	\$ 120,580.79
5250 · Postage	\$ 3,500	201.82	\$ 3,298.18
5280 · Office Rent	\$ 30,000	17,400.00	\$ 12,600.00
5285 · Utilities	\$ -	141.25	\$ (141.25)
5290 · Telephone	\$ 3,500	3,179.87	\$ 320.13
5300 · Travel/Training	\$ 20,500	3,947.67	\$ 16,552.33
5301 · Trolley Expenses	\$ 7,500	6,323.93	\$ 1,176.07
5400 · Misc. Expense	\$ -	439.96	\$ (439.96)
Total Expense	\$ 907,000	508,886.85	\$ 398,113.15
Net Income	\$ -	-27,592.17	27,592.17

Mr. Phillips issued a reminder that the TDA building has moved. He shared that the highest number of visitors came from Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Colorado, and Tennessee. He noted a shift in the trend over the last five (5) years, with tourism now coming from areas further away rather than neighboring states. Additionally, he highlighted several businesses and attractions that were featured in the NC Travel Guide magazine.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Mr. Phillips responded to a

question from Vice Chairman Brittain. He then received a comment from Commissioner Burns. Mr. Phillips noted that the busiest days for tourism were Mondays and Fridays. There being nothing further, Chairman Brittain called for a motion.

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Scott Mulwee, Vice Chairman

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Phil Smith

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMM. DEV. - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT ZMA 2023-11 & PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.

Alan Glines, Planning Director / Deputy County Manager, relayed the following rezoning request:

REZONING REQUEST

Applicants: Robert Stevens

PIN #: 2716785150

Request: Change the zoning district from Industrial (IND) to Residential Three (R-3)

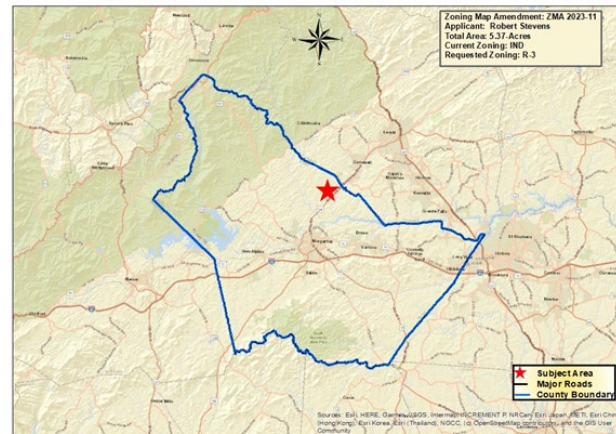
Property Area: Approximately 5.37-acres

Location: The parcel is located on Snipes St., approximately 0.2 miles off US-64 / NC-18N.



County Context Map

ZMA 2023-11



Burke County, NC Zoning Administration
Aerial Land Use Map

ZMA 2023-11



Applicant:
Robert Stevens

PIN# 2716785150

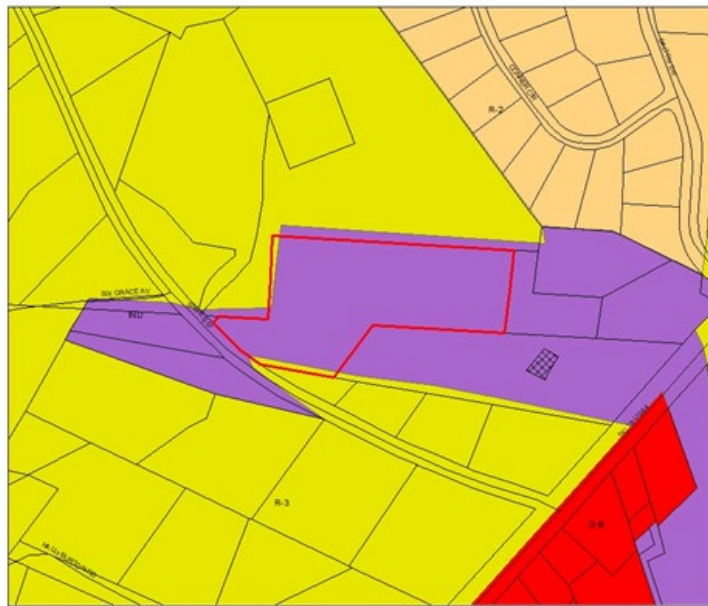


0 80 160 320 Feet
Burke County assumes no legal responsibility for the information contained on this map.
This map is provided for informational purposes only.



Burke County, NC Zoning Administration
Current Zoning Map

ZMA 2023-11



Applicant:
Robert Stevens

PIN # 2716785150

Legend

- R-1 Residential Low Density
- R-2 Residential Medium Density
- R-3 Residential
- RMU Rural Mixed Use
- Conservation
- PRMU Planned Residential Mixed-Use
- PRMU Conditional
- N-B Neighborhood Business
- G-B General Business
- O-I Office & Institutional
- L-I Light Industrial
- IND Industrial
- IND Conditional



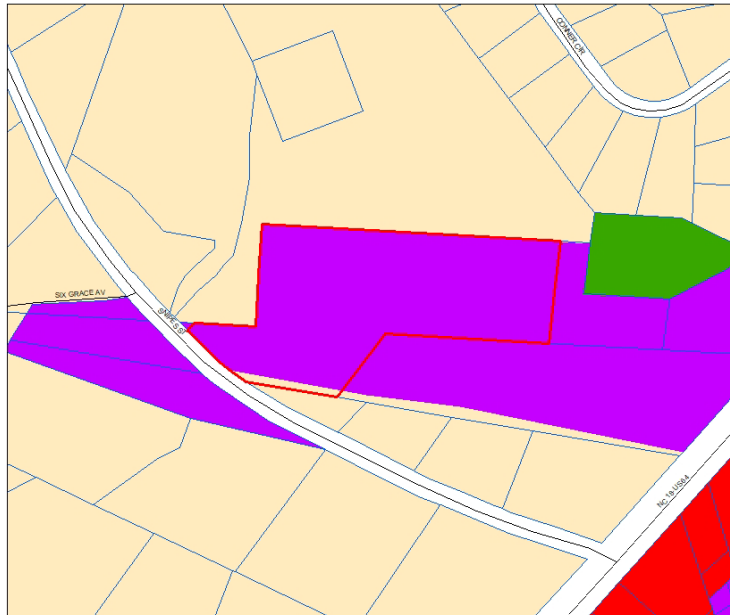
0 95 190 380
Feet

Burke County assumes no legal responsibility for the
information contained on this map.
This map is not to be used for land conveyance.



Burke County, NC Zoning Administration
Future Land Use Map

ZMA 2023-11



Applicant:
Robert Stevens

PIN # 2716785150

Legend

Future Landuse

- General Business
- Industrial
- Lake James/Rhodhiss
- Open Forest
- Rural Mixed Low Density
- Residential Infill
- Residential Low Density



0 150 300

Burke County assumes no legal responsibility for the
information contained on this map.
This map is not to be used for land conveyance.

BLUEPRINT BURKE LAND USE PLAN

Due to its proximity to an existing industrial business and one of Burke County's principal arterial roads, the Blueprint Burke Plan places this area of the county within the Industrial land use category. This category was assigned since the industrial / manufacturing use of the property included all of the parcels in this area. The owner of the cabinet company on the

neighboring parcel is not anticipating needing the 5-acre tract for any manufacturing expansion and is seeking to sell the property to a new owner who wishes to use it for residential purposes. If the rezoning is approved, the Future Land Use Map will be amended to Residential Infill.

STAFF COMMENTS

In staff's opinion, rezoning the parcel from the Industrial District to the Residential Three District (R-3) is appropriate for this area for the following reasons:

- Over time, smaller industrial / manufacturing locations can become obsolete when compared to more modern locations with interstate access, with other similar uses and infrastructure to support growth.
- The Blueprint Burke Future Land Use Map supports the growth of residential uses in this area. The map would be amended to Residential Infill for this property.
- Residentially zoned property is adjacent to the subject property in the north, south, and west.

For these reasons, Staff supports the rezoning request.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Board met on December 7, 2023, to hear the rezoning request. Staff presented the report, and the Chair opened the floor to public comment, but no comments were received. The Chair asked for a decision from the Board and a motion to approve the rezoning was made and seconded. The Board voted 7/0 to recommend approval of the rezoning request.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Snipes Street, Morganton Photos taken November 2023

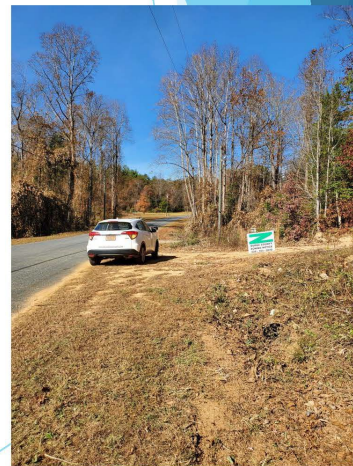
Subject property



View looking east



View looking west





Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; There being none, Chairman Brittain opened the public hearing at 6:43 p.m. The Public Hearing Notice was published in The Paper on February 10, 2024, and in the News Herald on February 15, 2024. There being no one present to address the Board; the public hearing was closed at 6:43 p.m. Chairman Brittain called for a motion.

Motion: To adopt Ordinance No. 2024-01 as it relates to ZMA 2023-11, a request to rezone 5.37-acres of land on Snipes Street corresponding to PIN# 2716785150 from Industrial (IND) to the Residential Three (R-3) Zoning District. The Board finds the rezoning to be inconsistent with the Future Land Use Map because the property is currently zoned Industrial, but conditions have changed in that the property is no longer needed for industrial expansion and the buyer is seeking to utilize the tract for residential purposes. The Future Land Use Map will be amended to Residential Infill for this property. Furthermore, the Board finds that the request is reasonable and in the public interest because:

The Blueprint Burke Future Land Use Map supports residential uses in this surrounding area and the plan recommends the development of additional housing units to combat the current housing shortage.

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

Ordinance No. 2024-01 reads as follows:

An Ordinance Amending the Official Burke County Zoning Map

ZMA 2023-11

Be it ordained that the Official Burke County Zoning Map is hereby amended as follows:

A 5.37-acre parcel located on Snipes Street and identified by PIN: 2716785150 shall be rezoned from the Industrial (IND) zoning district to the Residential Three (R-3) district.

Consistency Statement

The Commissioners find that Ordinance No. 2024-01 related to rezoning application ZMA 2023-11 and located on Snipes Street, to be consistent with the broader goals of the Blueprint Burke Plan but is currently inconsistent with the Future Land Use map. Further, the Commissioners find that conditions have changed in that the owner is seeking to sell this track because it won't be needed for manufacturing expansion. The zoning district Residential Three (R-3) permits residential uses which is identified as a need in Burke County. The Future Land Use Map is adjusted to be Residential Infill.

Adopted this 20th day of February 2024.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain

Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman

Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn

Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC

Clerk to the Board

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for informal public comments and asked speakers to limit their comments to three (3) minutes.

Patrick Stephens, 3515 Seals Road, expressed gratitude to the Board and County Manager for providing him with the opportunity to address the Great Meadows Megasite (GMM). While he acknowledged the right of landowners to develop their property, he voiced concerns regarding the development and rezoning of the GMM. His apprehensions centered on the potential implications for his property taxes, environmental consequences, any financial contributions from the county or state, and the potential use of eminent domain by the government.

Ron Michaux spoke about a meeting getting small businesses involved with doing business with the County. He requested detailed information on the utilization of funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Additionally, he reiterated his commitment to initiating an apprenticeship program for students uninterested in pursuing college education, potentially in collaboration with the County.

Gary Harbison, 1306 NC 126, Burke Coalition for Reconciliation (BCR) member, spoke in favor of removing the Confederate monument in the courtyard square. He then reported on the most recent BCR meeting which included a county walking tour.

Jeff Morse, retired Town Manager of Valdese, representing the nonprofit REASON, recognized February as National Spay and Neuter Month. He outlined the benefits and consequences associated with spaying or neutering, as well as the implications of not doing so. Furthermore, he commended the County for its advancements in constructing a new shelter and its initiatives to enhance animal-related county ordinances.

Veronica Rutherford, Lake James Community, voiced her opposition to choosing a battery factory for the Great Meadows Megasite (GMM). She expressed concerns about potential water contamination, deforestation, and harm to wildlife resulting from the development of the GMM. She advocated for development to take place in urban areas rather than in rural parts of the county.

Meridith Adams, 2475 US 70 West, highlighted the potential impact of rezoning and developing the Great Meadows Megasite (GMM) on her property. Her family has owned the land for five generations, dating back to the early 1960s. She expressed concern that development would detract from the rural beauty and heritage her family cherishes. Additionally, the proximity of the GMM to her family's church adds to her apprehension. Ms. Adams criticized the perceived contradiction in Burke County's slogan, "Nature's Playground," juxtaposed with plans for GMM development. She advocated for utilizing existing vacant business parks rather than constructing new ones.

Carla Adams, 2475 Highway 70, voiced her opposition to the Great Meadows Megasite (GMM). She expressed concerns about the potential noise and environmental pollution that would result from developing the area, without perceiving any potential benefits to the community.

Carla Kincaid cited a 2020 news article in which the Sons of Confederate Veterans erected a large confederate flag in Burke County in response to Confederate monuments being removed across the nation. She then read from several other areas that had Confederate flags visible from I-40. Ms. Kincaid asserted that prominently displaying the Confederate flag is detrimental to the County. She then inquired about the cost of maintaining the Confederate monument in the Courtyard Square. Lastly, she extended an invitation to everyone to attend the upcoming Black History Festival.

Wendell Fox Jr., Owner of Fox Built Construction:

"Good evening, ladies and gentleman, esteemed commissioners, Mr. Epley. Today I come before you, not only as a citizen of the county, a general contractor, but as a victim of injustice perpetuated by Burke County. I am the owner of Fox Built Construction. My company undertook the construction of the convenience center on Jonas Ridge and we did so with integrity and professionalism despite facing challenges along the way. Throughout the project, we maintained open communication with Burke County officials concerning all the issues for seeking solutions for every obstacle. We were told that the groundbreaking had to be done on a certain day. We informed the county that if the groundbreaking was done on that day, there would be no bond on the job because the bond was still in underwriting. We were told to proceed so we did. We ran into unsuitable soils. We approached the county in a fair and transparent process, allowed them to choose their own

engineering firm, monitor the excavation meticulously, account for every yard of dirt in and every yard of dirt out, ensuring that the work was done according to industry standards and the utmost efficiency. Burke County's acknowledgment of the quality of work is evident in the words by their own County Manager who told me personally, 'We know you did the work. The work is good. We have the money, we want to pay you.' Yet despite this acknowledgment, they failed to fulfill their obligations. Instead of honoring their commitment, Burke County has resorted to evasive tactic including using unjustified, unofficial UCC filings, which have no weight in the court of law. They caused undue financial hardship, basically ruined my business, put 47 Burke County residents out of work. Their actions not only defy the principles of fairness and honesty but also undermine the very foundation of contractual agreements. I was promised by Mr. Epley three time for payment, only to have him call each time and tell him – tell me – that he could not pay. In the face of mounting legal expense, Burke County has chosen to prolong this ordeal rather than fulfill their obligations to pay for the services rendered. In the restroom of the Cleveland County Courthouse, I overheard Burke County's outside council that they hired, tell one of my debtors client's council that they need not worry about getting any money from him – from the county because they were not going to pay me a penny. So, in closing, we started with a prayer, I just ask you to remember Timothy 5:18 the worker is worthy of his wage."

Dudley Greene of Morganton raised concerns regarding the infrastructure aspect of the Great Meadows Megasite (GMM), foreseeing potential dangers and negative impacts on tourism and traffic. He then expressed concern about the environmental impacts of such an undertaking. Mr. Greene criticized the perceived prioritization of investor interests over those of Burke County residents by the Board. He advocated for increased transparency regarding the GMM.

Joanna Kentch of Nebo is spearheading and representing approximately 2,500 Burke County citizens who have signed a petition opposing the Great Meadows Megasite (GMM). She clarified that she is not disseminating misinformation and highlighted the lack of information being provided by the County regarding this proposed development. Ms. Kentch encouraged everyone to examine the GMM Fireside Chat, which she believes contains misrepresentations. She asserted that the potential harm from this project would not offset the benefit of job creation and requested more transparency about this initiative.

Alyce Johnson, 3876 Pea Ridge Road, voiced concerns about the potential impact of the proposed Great Meadows Megasite (GMM) development on the local wildlife, waterways and tourism. She expressed her opposition to the project and asserted that citizens are against it, while only the commissioners support it.

Ann Chapman, 5909 Old Highway 70 West, expressed opposition to the potential Great Meadows Megasite (GMM) project. She believes that this development is not suitable for the community and feels that it is being imposed on the citizens against their wishes.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

At the request of the Board, Brian Epley, County Manager, reviewed the following six (6) items on the consent agenda, which were approved by a single motion.

CM - BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 7 - LIBRARY

Approval of the following Budget Amendment No. 7, which recognizes additional funding over the original estimated appropriation of recurring funds for State Aid to Public Libraries, was requested.

Budgetary Effect: \$33,319 of additional funding was received over the original estimated appropriation of recurring funds for State Aid to Public Libraries. This amendment will allow for those additional funds to be used for the purpose of purchasing books.

Motion: To approve Budget Amendment No. 7 as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Phil Smith

Budget Amendment No. 7 reads as follows:

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 7			
REVENUES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
100-55500-01-433453	LIBRARY STATE AID GRANT	\$33,319	
EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
100-55500-25-562700	BOOKS	\$33,319	
Purpose: The State Library of North Carolina notified that the Burke County Public Library will receive \$168,319 in state aid for FY 23 - 24. This is an increase of \$33,319 over the \$135,000 the library projected in its budget for FY 23 - 24. As the library's state aid amount is not determined until a few months into the current fiscal year, the library was not able to account for this increase as part of its FY 23 - 24 budget request. The library requests approval to use these additional funds to purchase print books and eBooks.			
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.			

Approved this 20th day of February 2024.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain

Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman

Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn

Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC

Clerk to the Board

BCPS - PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

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 with quarterly financial reports for the 2023 - 2024 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 2023, February 2024 and May 2024, respectively.

BCPS						
Estimated Revenues						
2023/2024						
	Annual		December YTD			% of Budget
	Previous	Current Fcst	Previous	Current	% Change	Received
State	92,233,989	93,617,499	45,351,021	46,246,889	2.0%	49.4%
Federal	23,584,588	22,641,204	8,951,875	11,546,026	29.0%	51.0%
Local	15,593,566	17,695,796	7,867,754	9,714,222	23.5%	54.9%
Charter Schools	709,442	804,204	244,434	285,778	16.9%	35.5%
Fines & Forfeitures	241,513	250,000	124,884	144,835	16.0%	57.9%
Receivables	53,852	12,500	53,898	30,933	-42.6%	247.5%
Special Revenues	6,513,465	6,578,600	2,909,919	3,501,865	20.3%	53.2%
Total	\$ 138,930,415	\$ 141,599,803	\$ 65,503,785	\$ 71,470,548	9.1%	50.5%
Although Federal spending is down, still higher than historical numbers due to ESSER spending						
We rank 2nd out of 115 LEA's in the state in ESSER utilization, 45.5M spent 99.67%						
This year we are paying 10 charter schools for 608 students, 3 are Virtual, and 37 for Avery County, Jonas Ridge children						
The \$790 per student cap of local funds for Virtual Charters was repealed, they now receive 100% local allotment						

BCPS									
Local Financials by Purpose & Function Level									
2023/2024									
Expenses	'20/21	'21/22	'22/23	'23/24					
				Budget	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Regular Instructional Services	4,787,687	5,647,012	5,521,972	6,840,714	509,631	2,607,248			3,116,879
Instructional Support	10,358,944	10,197,710	10,283,484	10,881,123	3,310,775	2,813,968			6,124,743
Other Governmental Units	635,937	759,694	692,840	987,234	49,613	937,621			987,234
Revenues Over/(Under)	509,982	(170,801)	100,077	53,429	831,217	(884,305)			(53,088)
Grand Total	\$ 16,292,550	\$ 16,433,615	\$ 16,598,373	\$ 18,762,500	\$ 4,701,236	\$ 5,474,532	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,175,768
% of Annual Budget									54.2%
Revenue									
Burke County	15,495,366	15,435,254	15,593,566	17,695,796	4,529,972	5,184,250			9,714,222
Timber Receipts	58,552	-	-	-	-	-			-
Charter Schools	495,287	613,951	709,442	804,204	95,028	190,750			285,778
Fines & Forfeitures	230,225	371,986	241,513	250,000	46,563	98,272			144,835
Schools' Receivables	13,120	12,424	53,852	12,500	29,673	1,260			30,933
Grand Total	\$ 16,292,550	\$ 16,433,615	\$ 16,598,373	\$ 18,762,500	\$ 4,701,236	\$ 5,474,532	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,175,768

Motion: To accept the report as presented.**RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]****MOVER:** Randy Burns, Commissioner**AYES:** Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Phil Smith**SHERIFF - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF COUNTY-ISSUED SERVICE SIDE ARM AND BADGE**

In accordance with NCGS § 20-187.2(a), Sheriff Hinceman is requesting that the gun (Glock, Model 17 Gen 4, Serial Number BERL - 506) and badge worn by Sergeant Timothy Scott Carico be awarded to him due to retirement for the fee of \$1.00. Sergeant Carico retired on November 27, 2019.

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2024-03.**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]****MOVER:** Randy Burns, Commissioner**AYES:** Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell and Phil Smith

Resolution No. 2024-03 reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

Resolution Awarding County-Issued Service Side Arm and Badge Pursuant to
North Carolina General Statute 20-187.2 A

WHEREAS, Sgt. Timothy Scott Carico retired from the Burke County Sheriff's Department on November 27, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Timothy Scott Carico was a dedicated law enforcement officer to the citizens of Burke County since March 19, 2008; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 20-187.2 (a), permits Burke County to donate the badge worn at no cost, and to sell the service-issued side arm to retiring law enforcement officers at a price determined by the Board of Commissioners; and

THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BURKE COUNTY RESOLVES THAT:

1. Sgt. Timothy Scott Carico's service weapon and badge be declared surplus property; and
2. The Sheriff of Burke County, Banks Hinceman, is authorized to present Sgt. Timothy Scott Carico with his Burke County Sheriff's Department issued badge at no cost, upon his retirement; and

3. The Sheriff of Burke County, Banks Hinceman, is also authorized to sell a Glock, Model 17 Gen 4, Serial Number BERL - 506 pistol at a set price of \$1.00 to Sgt. Carico upon his retirement.

Adopted this 20th day of February 2024.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain

Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman

Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn

Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC

Clerk to the Board

TAX DEPT. - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024

The Board of Commissioners was presented with the Tax Collection Report for January 31, 2024, at the pre-agenda meeting as follows:

Category	Annual Budget	Amount Collected YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$52,699,577.00	\$50,269,530.98	95.39%	\$2,430,046.02
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$6,200,000.00	\$194,667.09	51.53%	\$3,005,332.91
Current Year Taxes	\$8,899,577.00	\$53,464,198.07	90.77%	\$5,435,378.93
Delinquent Taxes	\$700,000.00	\$501,724.33	71.67%	\$198,275.67
Penalty & Interest	\$329,000.00	\$203,582.86	61.88%	\$125,417.14

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	\$53,843,269.16	\$50,269,530.98	93.36%	\$3,573,738.18

Motion: To accept the Tax Collection Report for January 2024 as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Phil Smith

TAX DEPT. - RELEASE REFUND REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024

The Board of Commissioners was presented with the Tax Release Refund Report for January 31, 2024, at the pre-agenda meeting as follows:

Tax System Refunds and Releases			
Report Amount	Rebilled Amount	Net Release	Refund Amount
\$10,066.31	\$5,891.78	\$4,174.53	\$0.00

The report reads as follows:

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount(\$)	Release Amount(\$)	Bill Amount after Release(\$)
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Adjustment							
0000016510-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	KELLER, WILLIAM I	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	1/5/2024	2,431.11	6.16	2,424.95
Subtotal						6.16	
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Billing Correction							
0024052530-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	FORLONG LLC	7/3/2023	AMANDA CONLEY	1/22/2024	2,742.64	2,742.64	0.00
Subtotal						2,742.64	
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Business Closed							
0000076524-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	JAMIE S YOUNG MD PHD PA	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	1/17/2024	17.48	17.48	0.00
Subtotal						17.48	
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Duplicate Billing							
0000016510-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	KELLER, WILLIAM I	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	1/5/2024	2,437.27	6.16	2,431.11
Subtotal						6.16	
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Mapping Correction							
0000061056-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	BOWMAN, DAVID L	7/1/2019	AMANDA CONLEY	1/19/2024	6.88	6.88	0.00
0000061056-2020-2020-0000-00-REG	BOWMAN, DAVID L	7/1/2020	AMANDA CONLEY	1/19/2024	6.88	6.88	0.00
0000061056-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	BOWMAN, DAVID L	7/1/2021	AMANDA CONLEY	1/19/2024	6.88	6.88	0.00
0000061056-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	BOWMAN, DAVID L	7/1/2022	AMANDA CONLEY	1/19/2024	6.88	6.88	0.00
0000061056-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	BOWMAN, DAVID L	7/3/2023	AMANDA CONLEY	1/19/2024	6.08	6.08	0.00
Subtotal						33.60	
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Not in Burke County							
0024075067-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	VELOCITY TRUST LTD	12/19/2023	LINDA WILBUR	1/8/2024	205.56	205.56	0.00
Subtotal						205.56	
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Over Assessment							
0000047091-2017-2017-0000-02-REG	STAMEY, NELLIE S	7/1/2017	LINDA WILBUR	1/24/2024	115.53	107.88	7.65
0000047091-2018-2018-0000-00-REG	STAMEY, NELLIE S	7/1/2018	LINDA WILBUR	1/24/2024	117.53	37.88	79.65
0000047091-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	STAMEY, NELLIE S	7/1/2019	LINDA WILBUR	1/24/2024	123.57	43.92	79.65
0000047091-2020-2020-0000-00-REG	STAMEY, NELLIE S	7/1/2020	LINDA WILBUR	1/24/2024	123.57	43.92	79.65
0000047091-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	STAMEY, NELLIE S	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	1/24/2024	127.57	119.92	7.65
0000047091-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	STAMEY, NELLIE S	7/1/2022	LINDA WILBUR	1/24/2024	133.57	43.92	89.65
0000058796-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	HERNANDEZ, MARIA FELICITAS	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	1/3/2024	944.18	287.09	657.09
Subtotal						684.53	
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Release LFUF							
0000047091-2018-2018-0000-00-REG	STAMEY, NELLIE S	7/1/2018	LINDA WILBUR	1/24/2024	79.65	72.00	7.65
0000047091-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	STAMEY, NELLIE S	7/1/2019	LINDA WILBUR	1/24/2024	79.65	72.00	7.65
0000047091-2020-2020-0000-00-REG	STAMEY, NELLIE S	7/1/2020	LINDA WILBUR	1/24/2024	79.65	72.00	7.65
0000047091-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	STAMEY, NELLIE S	7/1/2022	LINDA WILBUR	1/24/2024	89.65	82.00	7.65
0000047091-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	STAMEY, NELLIE S	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	1/24/2024	92.13	88.00	4.13
Subtotal						386.00	
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Situs Correction							
0024070680-2023-2023-0000-01-REG	ALL WOOD FLOORCRAFT	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	1/9/2024	92.40	92.40	0.00
Subtotal						92.40	
Total						4,174.53	

VTS Refunds Over \$100	
	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	\$307.79

Primary Owner	Address 1	Address 3	Refund Type	Bill #	Refund Description	Refund Reason	Tax Jurisd.	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
BOUCHER, JAMES PETER	2068 ENON RD	MORGANTON, NC 28655	Adjustment >= \$100	0074818764	Refund Generated due to adjustment on Bill #0074818764-2023-0000	Situs error	01	Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							57	Tax	(\$170.15)	\$0.00	(\$170.15)
							57	Vehicle Fee	(\$20.00)	\$0.00	(\$20.00)
							27	Tax	\$34.03	\$0.00	\$34.03
							Refund				\$156.12
SOUTH MOUNTAIN CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES	PO BOX 3387	MORGANTON, NC 28680	Adjustment >= \$100	0061181605	Refund Generated due to adjustment on Bill #0061181605-2022-0000-00	Exempt Property	01	Tax	(\$129.34)	\$0.00	(\$129.34)
							41	Tax	(\$22.33)	\$0.00	(\$22.33)
							Refund				\$151.67
Refund Total										\$307.79	

*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 2024 as presented.

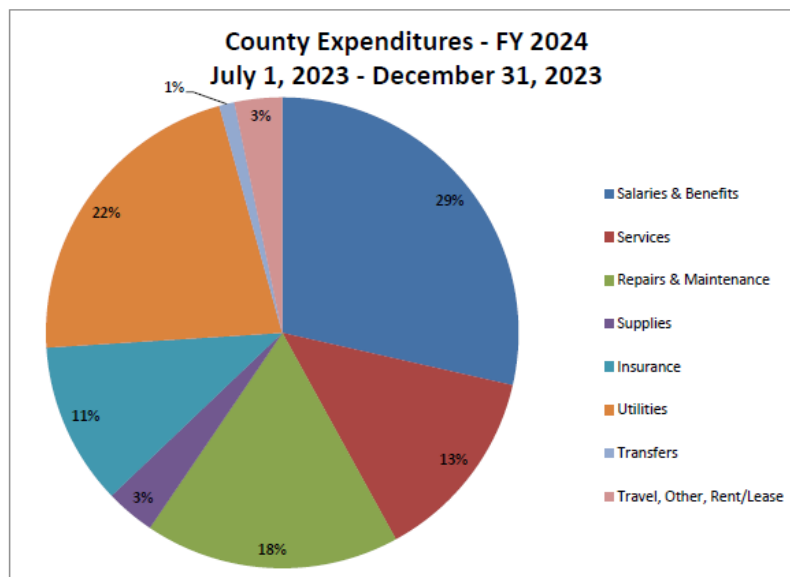
RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Phil Smith

WPCC – PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

An overview of the College's financial data was presented at the pre-agenda meeting for the period ending December 31, 2023.



Western Piedmont Community College
County Expenditures by Category
FY 2024 - Actual Expenditures - July 1, 2023 thru December 31, 2023

Salaries & Benefits	384,432	28.6%
Services	180,884	13.4%
Repairs & Maintenance	234,758	17.5%
Supplies	45,391	3.4%
Insurance	150,040	11.2%
Utilities	291,981	21.7%
Transfers	14,086	1.0%
Travel, Other, Rent/Lease	43,722	3.2%

1,345,294 100%

WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FY 2023-2024 SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

Summary of Revenues	STATE			COUNTY			INSTITUTIONAL		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	REMAINING	PGLT	ACTUAL	REMAINING	BUDGET	ACTUAL	REMAINING
State Appropriations	14,577,231	7,879,111							
Add. Allocations (detail below)	1,252,310								
County Appropriations				2,898,204	1,449,102				
Rent & Interest Income				7,500	11,179				
Institutional Funds							6,145,228	3,304,233	
Total Budgeted Revenues	15,829,541	7,879,111	7,950,430	2,905,704	1,460,281	1,445,423	6,145,228	3,304,233	2,840,995
Summary of Expenditures									
Institutional Support	3,225,339	1,936,232	60%	266,218	211,484	79%	170,679	24,979	15%
Curriculum Instruction	7,066,962	3,421,842	48%				433,450	371,749	86%
Non Curriculum Instruction	2,280,496	860,533	38%				63,000	115,353	183%
Academic Support	1,508,755	650,356	43%				500	-	0%
Student Support	1,289,211	804,300	62%				1,204,155	275,392	23%
Plant Operations & Maint.				2,639,486	1,133,810	43%			
Proprietary / Other							1,001,820	809,841	81%
Student Aid							3,271,624	1,841,882	56%
Capital Outlay (excluding Capital Improvements)	458,778	118,224	26%						
Total Budgeted Expenditures	15,829,541	7,791,487	8,038,054	2,905,704	1,345,294	1,560,410	6,145,228	3,439,196	2,706,032
		49.2%	50.8%		46.3%	53.7%		56.0%	44.0%

ADDITIONAL FUNDING DESIGNATED FOR APPROVED PROJECTS			
Customized Training Projects	42,904	Perkins Carryforward	22,032
Underserved Outreach/Advising	48,243	Fac Recruit/Retent	75,143
GEER Scholarships	2,629	Longevity	
Finish Line Grant	45,356	ST Workforce Dev	4,412
Apprenticeship Expansion	241,070		
Apprenticeship Building	26,500		
Budget Stabilization funds	91,862		
Basic Skills Carryforward	74,841		
Male Minority Grant - Aviso	38,069		
NCWorks Career Coach	149,058		
Federal Portion - Basic Skills	242,458		
CTP Regional Trainer	147,733		
Total Other	1,252,310		

For Year Ending June 30, 2024			
Total College Budget	\$	24,880,473	
Total Expenditures	\$	12,575,977	50.5%

Fund Balance: County Funds			
Fund Balance, Beginning July 1, 2023			638,482
Current Operating Cash			114,987
Current Fund Balance			753,469
			26%

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Phil Smith

ITEMS FOR DECISION**CM - APPROVAL OF AUDITOR & CONTRACT FOR AUDIT SERVICES**

Brian Epley, County Manager, reported that the North Carolina General Statute §159-34 requires the County to have its accounts audited annually by a certified public accountant. The firm of Lowdermilk Church & Co., LLP has audited the County's books for over 15 years and has done an excellent job. However, to maintain objectivity, avoid complacency and mitigate potential risk, the County sought proposals from qualified firms for professional auditing services as indicated in the following documentation. Two (2) proposals were received. They were carefully evaluated, and both audit firms were interviewed. The firm recommended by the review committee is Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Co., P.A.

Vendor:	Contact:	Bid:
Lowdermilk Church & Co.,LLP	Phillip Church	\$ 46,850.00
Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Co., PA	Alan Thompson	\$ 49,500.00

Budgetary Effect: N.A. Funding in the amount of \$49,500 will be included in the FY 24-25 budget.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he proceeded to the next agenda item.

Motion: To approve Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Co., P.A. as Burke County's auditor for FY 23 - 24 and authorize the Chairman to execute the related contract in the amount of \$49,500 on behalf of the Board, subject to review and or revision by the County Attorney.

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

HEALTH - RESOLUTION DIRECTING EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR MULTIPLE USES

Katie Varnadoe, Human Services Planner, relayed that Burke County, NC will receive funding from national Opioid Settlements for a period of 18 years. Funding may be expended on items listed in Options A or B of the NC Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the use of Opioid Settlement funding. This resolution allocates Opioid Settlement funding to four (4) interventions that fall under Option A of the NC MOA. These interventions also position the county to further access funds under Option B upon completion of the collaborative strategic planning process.

Ms. Varnadoe highlighted that the strategies developed by the Opioid Settlement Work Group align with the Commissioners' Strategic Plan, which prioritizes both workforce development and public health and safety.

Strategy No. 1 is a request to authorize funding to develop a Peers Partnering for Excellence Committee (PPEC). This would be made up of local peer supports who would be able to provide valuable insight derived from their personal experiences. This would serve to aid in developing a

strategic plan as well as serve as a recovery advisory board, in addition to offering recommendations to the Board of Health and the Board of Commissioners. This initiative positions Burke County as a pioneer in funding a peer support networking and professional development group statewide.

Strategy No. 2 is a request to authorize funding for qualitative data collection, culminating in a video project that amplifies the voices of individuals with lived experiences. The results will go into shaping the strategic plan while simultaneously serving as a demonstrable that recovery is achievable.

Strategy No. 3 is a request to authorize funding for consulting services to finalize the collaborative strategic plan and long-term spending plan. This will encompass the development of a comprehensive evaluation plan with outcome reporting, the results of which will then be presented with several intervention strategies for the Board's consideration at a future time. This aims to expand the options available under NC MOA Option B as well as develop an evaluation and reporting framework.

Strategy No. 4 is a request to authorize funding for the acquisition of technology for the Overdose Fatality Review / Public Health and Safety Team. ARC GIS mapping is a software developed by ESRI that tracks and reports key indicators of the Opioid Epidemic.

Thus far, \$126,595 has been allocated for a substance use coordinator position, and \$110,000 has been designated for a Naloxone purchase. The total opioid settlement funds received by the County for FY 22 - 23 amount to \$1,745,171, leaving a remaining balance of \$1.3 million. Additionally, approximately \$3.4 million is expected to be received for FY 23 - 24. This information is publicly accessible on the opioid settlement dashboard at <https://ncopioidsettlement.org/>.

Budgetary Effect: None. Opioid settlement funds in the amount of \$126,500 will be utilized for Opioid Abatement interventions under Option A, No. 1, Collaborative Strategic Planning priority of the NC MOA for the Use of Opioid Settlement funding. These interventions include developing a peer support specialist network, contracting with a consulting firm to develop a strategic plan for the allocation of Opioid Settlement funding, conducting a qualitative information-gathering project, and supporting the Overdose Fatality Review / Public Health & Safety Team.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Ms. Varnadoe received a comment from Commissioner Burns. There being nothing further, Chairman Brittain opened the floor for a motion.

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2024-02.

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

The NC MOA excerpts referenced above read as follows:

a. <u>Option A.</u> i. Without any additional strategic planning beyond the meeting described in Section E.4 above, Local Governments may spend Opioid Settlement Funds from the list of High-Impact Opioid Abatement Strategies attached as Exhibit A. This list is a subset of the initial opioid remediation strategies listed in the National Settlement Agreement. ii. Exhibit A may be modified as set forth in Exhibit D below; <u>provided, however,</u> that any strategy listed on Exhibit A must be within the list of opioid remediation activities for the then-current National Settlement Agreement. Opioid remediation activities undertaken under a previously authorized strategy list may continue if they were authorized at the time of the Local Government's commitment to spend funds on that activity.	
EXHIBIT A TO NC MOA: HIGH-IMPACT OPIOID ABATEMENT STRATEGIES ("OPTION A" List) <i>keeping with the National Settlement Agreement, opioid settlement funds may support programs or services listed below that serve persons with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) or any -occurring Substance Use Disorder (SUD) or mental health condition.</i> <i>used in this list, the words "fund" and "support" are used interchangeably and mean to create, expand, or sustain a program, service, or activity.</i> Collaborative strategic planning. Support collaborative strategic planning to address opioid misuse, addiction, overdose, or related issues, including staff support, facilitation services, or any activity or combination of activities listed in Exhibit C to the MOA (collaborative strategic planning). Evidence-based addiction treatment. Support evidence-based addiction treatment consistent with the American Society of Addiction Medicine's national practice guidelines for the treatment of opioid use disorder – including Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) with any medication approved for this purpose by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration – through Opioid Treatment Programs, qualified providers of Office-Based Opioid Treatment, Federally Qualified Health Centers, treatment offered in conjunction with justice system programs, or other community-based programs offering evidence-based addiction treatment. This may include capital expenditures for facilities that offer evidence-based treatment for OUD. (If only a portion of a facility offers such treatment, then only that portion qualifies for funding, on a pro rata basis.) Recovery support services. Fund evidence-based recovery support services, including peer support specialists or care navigators based in local health departments, social service offices, detention facilities, community-based organizations, or other settings that support people in treatment or recovery, or people who use drugs, in accessing addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need to improve their health or well-being. Recovery housing support. Fund programs offering recovery housing support to people in treatment or recovery, or people who use drugs, such as assistance with rent, move-in deposits, or utilities; or fund recovery housing programs that provide housing to individuals receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment for opioid use disorder. Employment-related services. Fund programs offering employment support services to people in treatment or recovery, or people who use drugs, such as job training, job skills, job placement, interview coaching, resume review, professional attire, relevant courses at community colleges or vocational schools, transportation services or transportation vouchers to facilitate any of these activities, or similar services or supports. Early intervention. Fund programs, services, or training to encourage early identification and intervention for children or adolescents who may be struggling with problematic use of drugs or mental health conditions, including Youth Mental Health	First Aid, peer-based programs, or similar approaches. Training programs may target parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health or human services professionals, or others in contact with children or adolescents. Naloxone distribution. Support programs or organizations that distribute naloxone to persons at risk of overdose or their social networks, such as Syringe Service Programs, post-overdose response teams, programs that provide naloxone to persons upon release from jail or prison, emergency medical service providers or hospital emergency departments that provide naloxone to persons at risk of overdose, or community-based organizations that provide services to people who use drugs. Programs or organizations involved in community distribution of naloxone may, in addition, provide naloxone to first responders. Post-overdose response team. Support post-overdose response teams that connect persons who have experienced non-fatal drug overdoses to addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need to improve their health or well-being. Syringe Service Program. Support Syringe Service Programs operated by any governmental or nongovernmental organization authorized by section 90-113.27 of the North Carolina General Statutes that provide syringes, naloxone, or other harm reduction supplies; that dispose of used syringes; that connect clients to prevention, treatment, recovery support, behavioral healthcare, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need; or that provide any of these services or supports. Criminal justice diversion programs. Support pre-arrest or post-arrest diversion programs, or pre-trial service programs, that connect individuals involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system to addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, prevention, or other services or supports they need, or that provide any of these services or supports. Addiction treatment for incarcerated persons. Support evidence-based addiction treatment, including Medication-Assisted Treatment with at least one FDA-approved opioid agonist, to persons who are incarcerated in jail or prison. Reentry Programs. Support programs that connect incarcerated persons to addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need upon release from jail or prison, or that provide any of these services or supports.

Resolution No 2024-02 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

**A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF BURKE
TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

WHEREAS Burke County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug

distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals;

WHEREAS the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and certain bankruptcy resolutions ("Opioid Settlement Funds") are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation ("MOA");

WHEREAS Burke County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA;

WHEREAS section E.6 of the MOA states:

E.6. Process for drawing from special revenue funds.

- a. Budget item or resolution required. Opioid Settlement Funds can be used for a purpose when the Governing Body includes in its budget or passes a separate budget resolution authorizing the expenditure of a stated amount of Opioid Settlement Funds for that purpose or those purposes during a specified period of time.
- b. Budget item or resolution details. The budget or resolution should (i) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds; (ii) state the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy, and (iii) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in alignment with the NC MOA, Burke County authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

1. Strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Collaborative Strategic Planning: Peers Partnering for Excellence
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 1
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$30,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date of February 20, 2024, through End date of June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Develop a network of Peer Support Specialists in Burke County. The Peer Support mentor network will serve to advocate for best practices in the peer support specialist scope of work, coach and support newly certified peer support specialists, as well as aid in the design and development of peer support services in the community. The allocated amount will be for the purpose of meeting accommodations and supplies, training, and travel for members of the Peer Support professional group.
 - g. Provider: Burke Public Health Department

2. Strategy authorized

- a. Name of strategy: Collaborative Strategic Planning: Qualitative Data Collection to Include Voices of Individuals with Lived Experience
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 1
- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$30,000
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date of February 20, 2024, through End date of June 30, 2024
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Qualitative information collection project that captures input from individuals with lived experience related to Opioid Use Disorder, which supports the collaborative strategic planning process of integrating the voices of individuals with lived experience. Funding for this strategy will be designated for qualitative data collection and videography services.
- g. Provider: Procurement Process

3. Strategy authorized

- a. Name of strategy: Collaborative Strategic Planning: Consulting Services
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 1
- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$65,000
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date of February 20, 2024, through End date of June 30, 2024
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Provide assessments and analytics related to strategies under Exhibit B of the NC MOA, including feasibility & sustainability studies and implementation planning.
- g. Provider: Procurement Process

4. Strategy authorized

- a. Name of strategy: Collaborative Strategic Planning: Overdose Fatality Review/Public Health and Safety Team
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 1
- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$1,500
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
Start date of February 20, 2024, through End date of June 30, 2025
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Burke County's Overdose Fatality Review/Public Health and Safety Team utilizes the ARC GIS mapping software developed by ESRI. Funding will support annual ARC GIS licenses and credits necessary to track and report key indicators of the Opioid Epidemic.
- g. Provider: Burke Public Health Department

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$126,500.

Adopted this 20th day of February 2024.

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

Attest:

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

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for reports and comments from Board members and professional staff. Clerk Draughn expressed gratitude to the Lake James State Park Superintendent for hosting the upcoming budget retreat meetings. Commissioner Carswell shared that he and Sheriff Banks will be attending an opioid strategy meeting in Durham as part of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' One More Thing initiative, focusing on alternative treatments for incarcerated individuals affected by narcotics. He commended Ms. Varnadoe's report and highlighted North Carolina's leading role in addressing the opioid epidemic. Chairman Brittain relayed information on the upcoming meetings and community events. He then issued friendly reminders to spay and neuter your pets and to adopt or foster a pet from Animal Services as well as to not litter, to pick up trash, to cover your loads when transporting trash to the landfill or a convenience site.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLERK - BOARDS AND COMMITTEES VACANCY REPORT

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, announced the following vacancies on county boards or committees as follows:

- Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee
- City of Morganton - Board of Adjustment (ETJ)
- City of Morganton - Planning Board (ETJ)
- Council on Aging
- Burke County Board of Health
- Hickory Regional Planning Commission
- Drexel Planning Board - ETJ Alternate

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments and then encouraged citizens to participate and get involved.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

CLOSED SESSION

RESULT: NOT NEEDED; NOT HELD.

RECESS

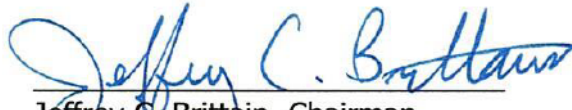
Motion: To recess the meeting until March 7, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. At the Lake James State Park Visitors Center located at 2229 Lake James State Park Road, Nebo, NC.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

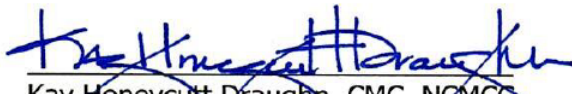
MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee, Randy Burns, Johnnie W. Carswell, and Phil Smith

Approved this 21st day of May 2024.


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

Attest:


Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board