

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

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Burke County Services Building, 110 N. Green Street, Entrance E, in Morganton, North Carolina. 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. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2024-17, adopted and effective on August 20, 2024, the Burke County Board of Commissioners conferred upon itself all the power, duties and responsibilities of the Board of Health and the Social Services Board. Those present were:

COMMISSIONERS: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Phil Smith, Vice Chairman
Brian Barrier
Randy Burns
Mike Stroud

STAFF: Brian Epley, County Manager
Dylan Laws, Wilson, Lackey, Rohr & Hall P.C.
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Clerk to the Board

STAFF ABSENT: Margaret Pierce, Finance Director/Dep. Co. Manager (Vacation.)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brittain called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Burns delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boy Scout Pack 199 and Heather Smith, Cubmaster, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.



Front row: Boy Scout Pack 199. Back Row: Commissioner Stroud, Commissioner Burns, Chairman Brittain, Vice Chairman Smith, and Commissioner Stroud.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended: moved the audit presentation to the March regular meeting at the request of the auditor due to the inclement weather.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Vice Chairman

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: To approve the October 1, 2024 (pre-agenda), October 15, 2024 (regular), and November 5, 2024 (pre-agenda) meeting minutes as written.

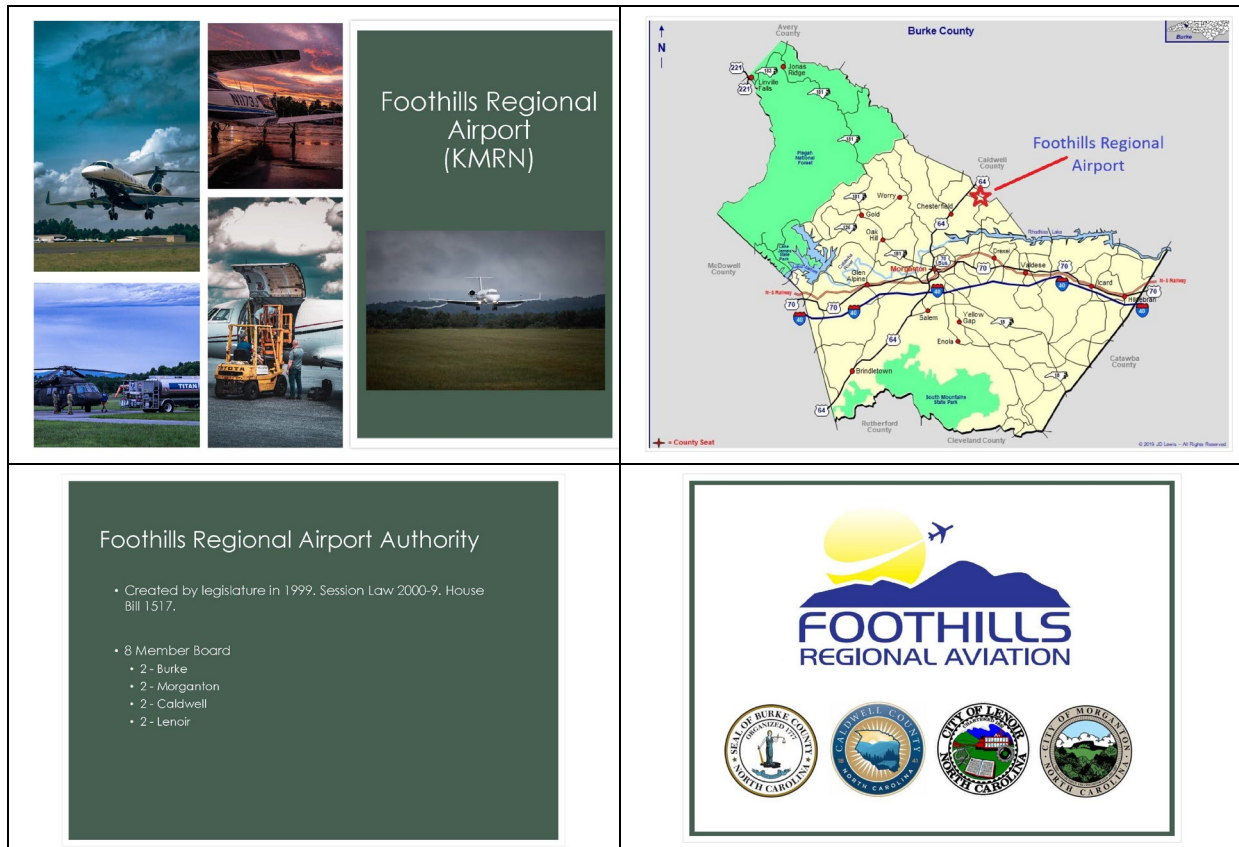
RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

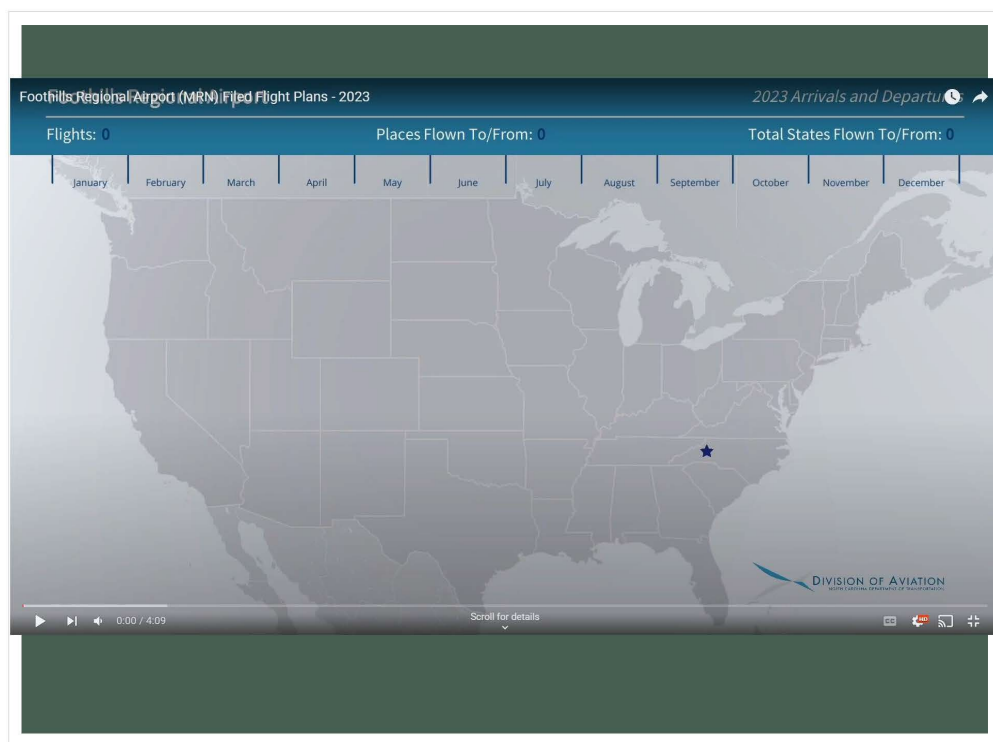
MOVER: Phil Smith, Vice Chairman

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

PRESENTATIONS**BOC - UPDATE FROM THE FOOTHILLS REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

Airport Administrator, Brent Brinkley, Foothills Regional Airport Authority, provided an update to the Board of Commissioners on recent activities, ongoing projects, and future plans for the Foothills Regional Airport as well as a financial overview and details on partnerships with local governments, businesses, and industries that rely on the airport for transportation and logistics. Highlights of Mr. Brinkley's presentation were as follows:





Note: the slide (above) is a video of transient traffic in and out of the airport in 2023. The video is hereby incorporated into the meeting minutes by reference.

2025 Economic Impact of:
Foothills Regional (MRN)
Morganton



125
JOBS
SUPPORTED



\$1.5
MILLION
IN TAX
REVENUE



\$10.3
MILLION
IN PERSONAL
INCOME



\$25.3
MILLION
ECONOMIC
IMPACT



153,631
N.C. POPULATION
WITHIN 30 MINUTES
OF AIRPORT



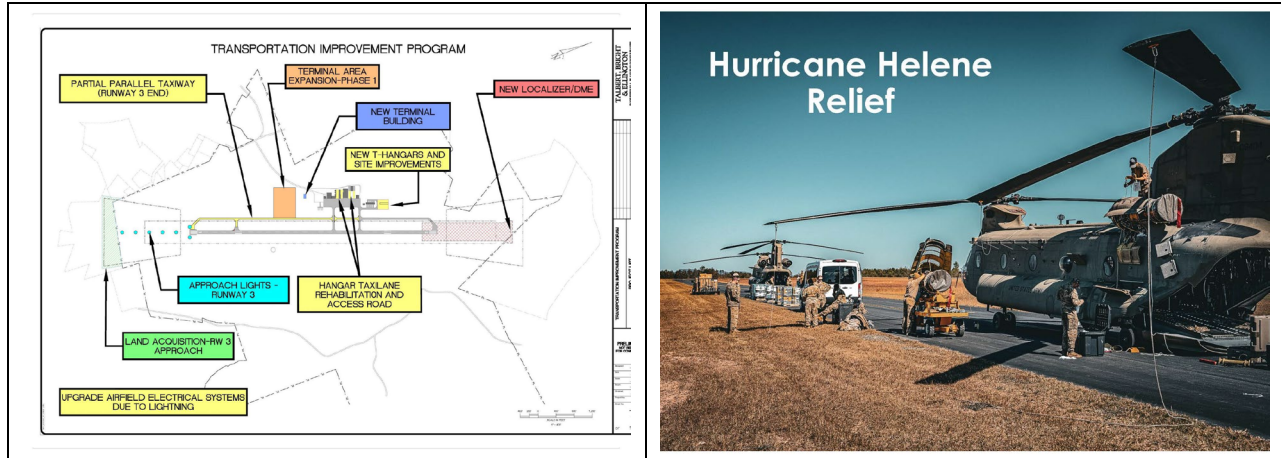
17,000
OPERATIONS
(ANNUAL)



60
BASED
AIRCRAFT

Based on 2023 data





Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Commissioner Burns inquired about the waiting list, and Mr. Brinkley reported that there were 90 individuals on the list. Commissioner Stroud asked about the facility's capacity, to which Mr. Brinkley responded that it was 60. Commissioner Barrier asked if a logbook was in place, but Mr. Brinkley stated there was not one set up. In response to a question from Commissioner Stroud, Mr. Brinkley confirmed that there is no restaurant at the airport. Vice Chairman Smith inquired about the composition of the waitlist, asking whether it consisted primarily of recreational or business clients. Mr. Brinkley stated that it was about evenly split. With no further discussion, Chairman Brittain opened the floor for a motion.

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

CM - PRESENTATION OF FY 23-24 AUDIT

Note: This item was moved to the March regular meeting during the approval of the agenda.

Information from the agenda packet:

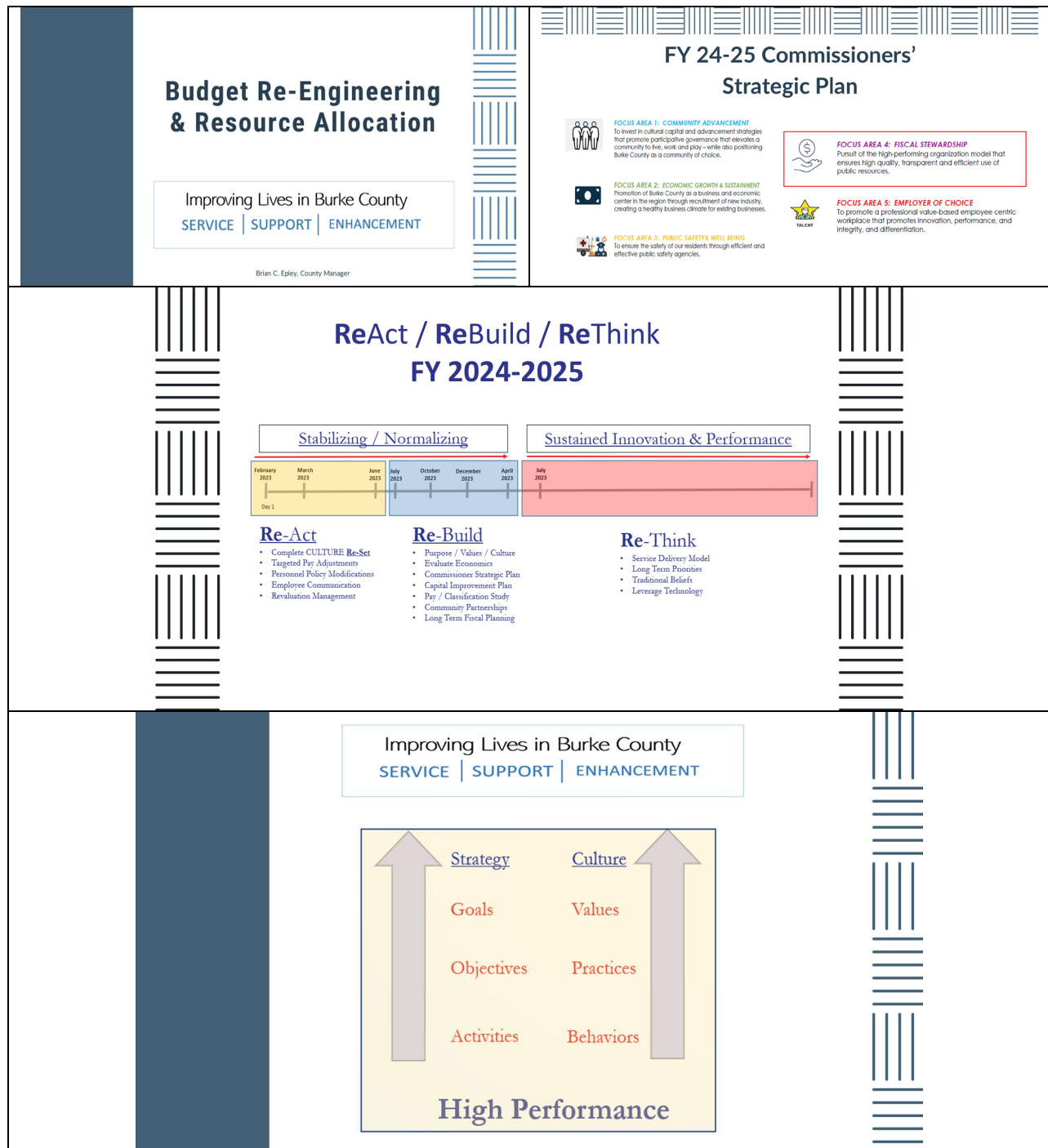
The County's independent auditors, Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Co., P.A., will present an overview of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit Report. This presentation will provide a comprehensive review of Burke County's financial statements, compliance with state and federal regulations, and overall fiscal health. Key findings and recommendations, if any, will be highlighted during the presentation.

As required by North Carolina General Statutes, the audit has been submitted to the Local Government Commission (LGC) for review and approval.

RESULT: MOVED TO THE MARCH 4, 2025, MEETING AT 3:00 P.M. DUE TO THE INCLEMENT WEATHER AT THE FIRMS HEADQUARTERS.

CM - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE FROM EMS COLLECTIONS

Brian Epley, County Manager, reported that earlier this year, Burke County made the strategic decision to bring EMS billing operations in-house, aiming to streamline processes, improve efficiency, and boost the collection rate for emergency medical services. This initiative was implemented with the goal of enhancing revenue recovery while providing better oversight and accountability. Mr. Epley presented a detailed report outlining the results of this transition so far, providing insights into the effectiveness of this approach, including any improvements in collection rates, operational efficiencies, and overall financial impact. The highlights of which were as follows:



Benefits of a Culture that Promotes High Performance

- Increases Production
- More Innovative
- Reduce Turnover
- Promotes Connection and Accountability

WHAT IS HIGH PERFORMANCE.....

Good

Better

Best

← High Performance →

What is Budget Re-engineering?

Re-Engineering – Restructuring of existing resources to connect to highest priorities:

Operational Costs

X

Resource Re-Allocation

=

Budget Outcome Improvement

- Cost Avoidance
- Revenue Maximization
- Efficiency Enhancements / Cost Reductions

Budget Re-Engineering Strategies

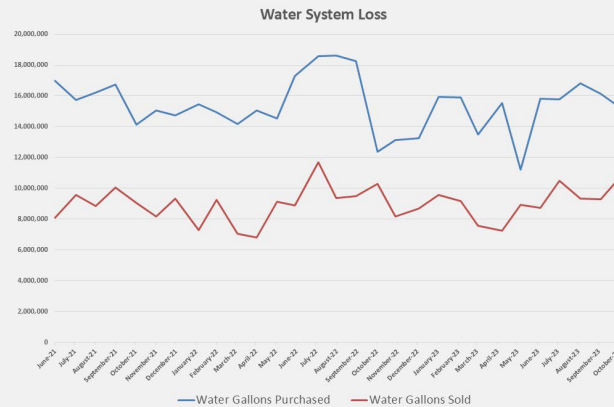
Solid Waste Fund

- Project: MSW Transport**
 - Impact: 66,000 Tons hauled annually
 - Disposal Savings: \$20 per ton, \$1,320,000 annual
 - Year 1 Savings, including startup cost: \$660,000
 - Ongoing Operational Savings: \$1,066,000
- Project: Cardboard Compaction**
 - Impact: in-sourcing and compacting recycled cardboard
 - Savings: \$160,000 contract avoidance
- Project: Operational Overtime Elimination**
 - Savings: \$80,000

Water & Sewer Fund

1. Project: Water Loss Identification

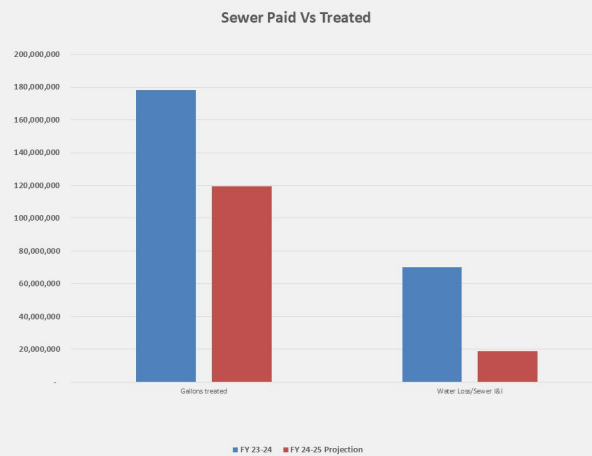
- Annualized lost revenue: \$455,000
- Solution: awarded state grant funding for asset inventory and analysis study



Water & Sewer Fund

1. Project: Project: Excess Sewer Treatment

- *I&I is excess rainwater that infiltrates the sewer system. Burke County pays to treat this as sewer, but Burke County does not receive offsetting revenue.



Public Safety Radio Management



Project: Development of a centralized management system for public safety radios

- Impact: Inter-agency bulk purchase agreement to reduce cost by 51%- \$1,266,004
- Negotiated bulk purchase discount of 29%
- Negotiated technology credit of \$500K

Organizational Fleet Management

Project- Develop and implement a systematic fleet replacement program

- Impact: \$90,000 savings year 1



Information Technology

Project- Project: iPad deployment for EMS

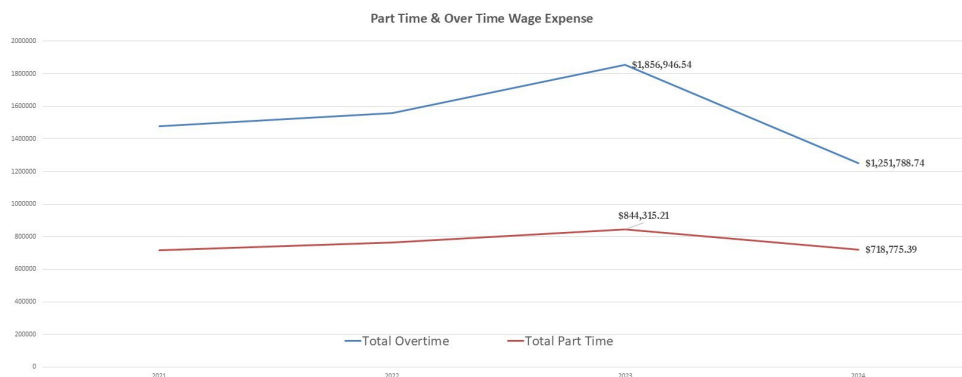
- Challenge: ruggedized computers cost upwards of \$4,000
- Solution: Deploy touch tablets with ruggedized cases, at a cost of \$800
- One-time savings: \$19,200

Project- Migrate to Self-Hosted Server Infrastructure

- Impact- reduce annual operational costs by over \$50,000



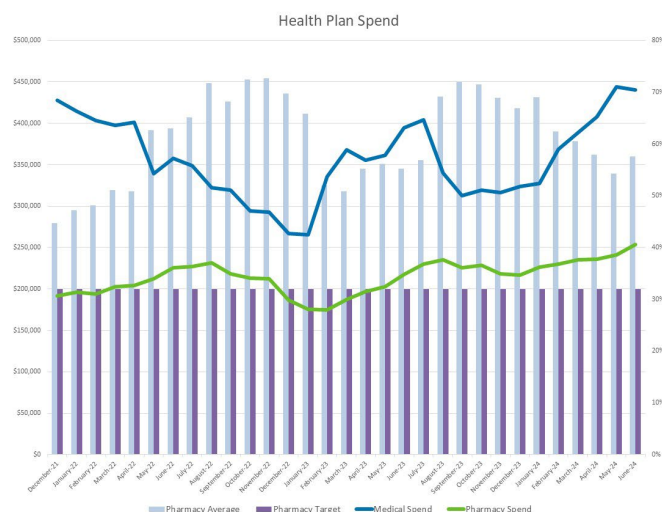
Human Capital Management



Health Management

1. Project: Medical and Pharmacy Management

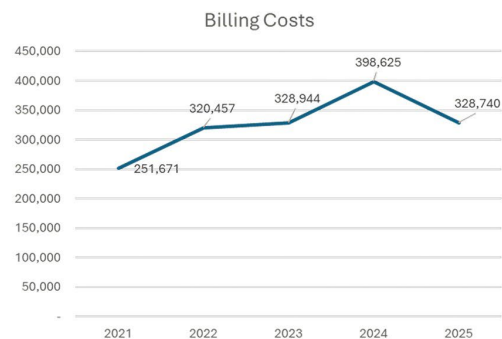
- Challenge: 16% annual health spend increase, 40% Pharmacy Spend
- Impact: \$1M annual savings



EMS BILLING UPDATE

Where have we been?

- Third Party Billing
 - EMSMC Contract
 - Flat Revenues
 - Non-Competitive Collection %
- Contract Cost (FY24)
 - Increasing Contract Costs
- Limited Control
 - Innovation Challenges
- Delays
 - Dependent processing times



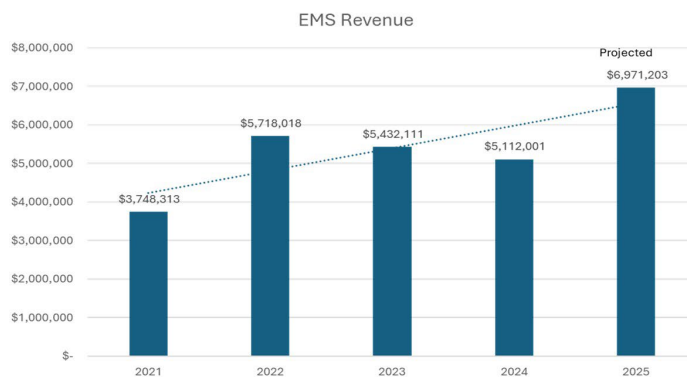
EMS Billing

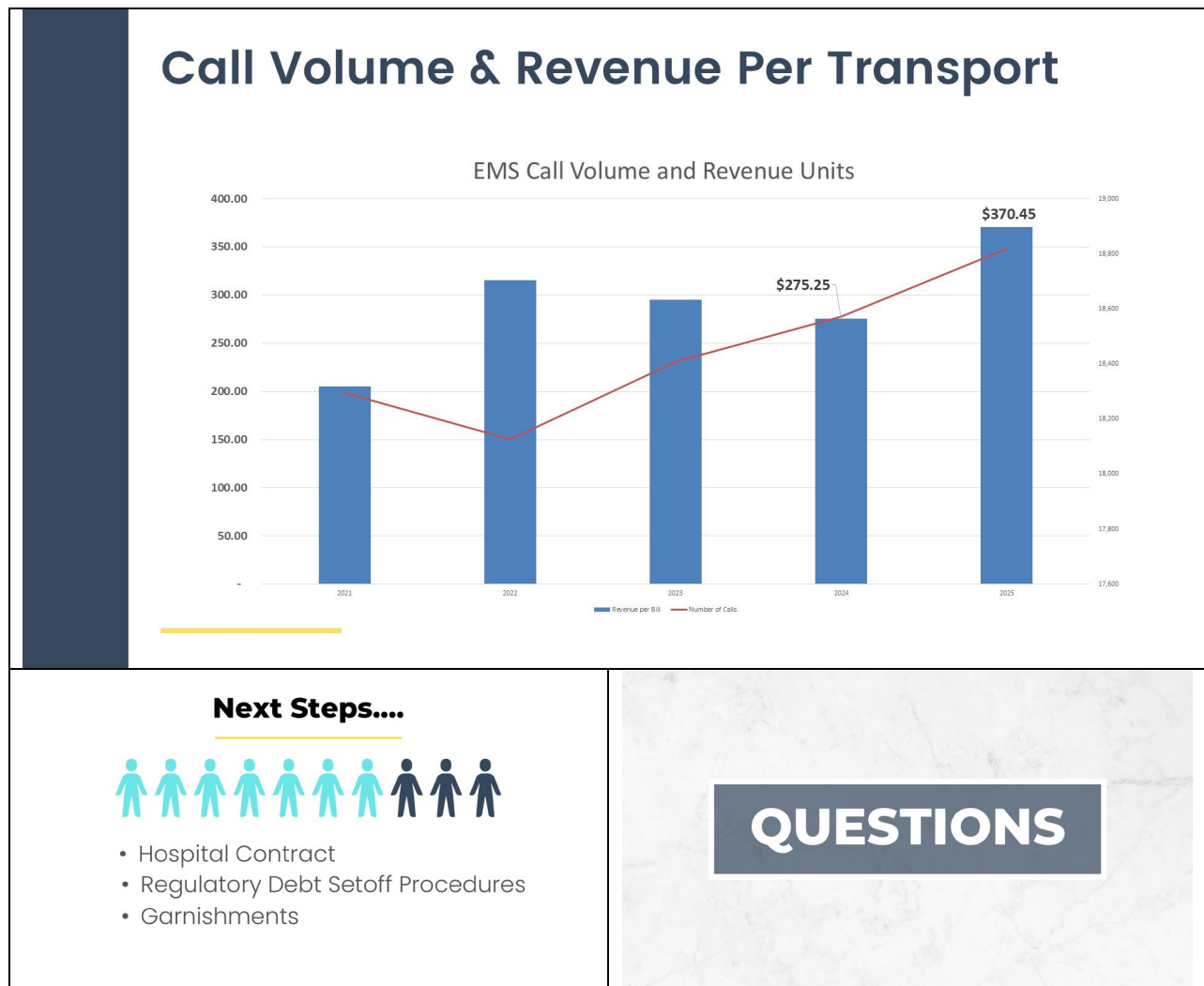
- Project: In-sourcing EMS billing

	In-House			Outsourced			
	Cleveland	Medic	Stanley	Burke	Caldwell	Wilkes	Alexander
Total Transports	25,258	111,245	10,951	18,408	11,453	14,568	6,546
Total Revenue	\$ 8,111,821	\$ 42,636,927	\$ 3,397,043	\$ 5,100,000	\$ 1,485,548	\$ 3,155,012	\$ 1,580,141
Revenue per transport	\$ 321.16	\$ 383.27	\$ 310.20	\$ 277.05	\$ 129.71	\$ 216.57	\$ 241.39

EMS Revenue Projection

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Projected 2025
EMS Revenue	\$ 3,748,313	\$ 5,718,018	\$ 5,432,111	\$ 5,112,001	\$ 6,971,203





Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Commissioner Barrier asked what happens to the old radios when the county upgrades. Mr. Epley explained that they continue to be used until they are no longer functional, even if that means repurposing them for alternative uses. He noted that surplus options were considered, but the radios held very little residual value. There being no further discussion, Chairman Brittain opened the floor for a motion.

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMM. DEV. - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT ZMA 2024-10 & PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.

Alan Glines, Planning Director / Deputy County Manager, presented highlights of the following rezoning request:

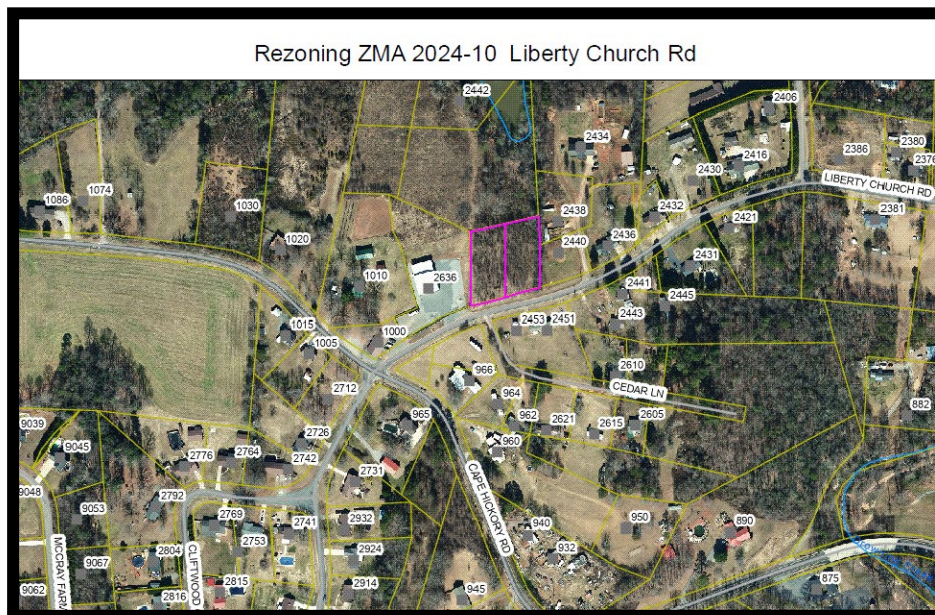
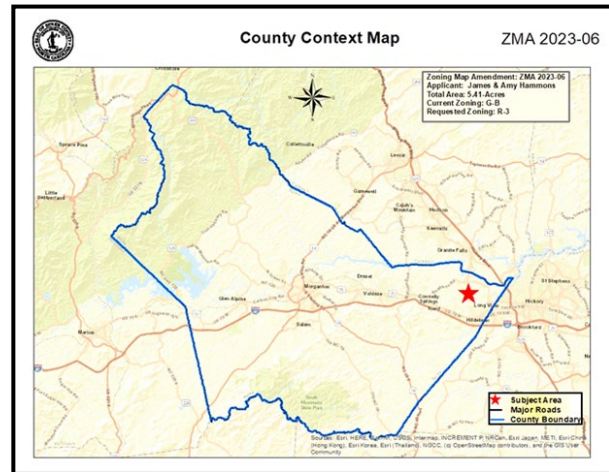
REZONING REQUEST

APPLICANT: John and Rita Yount

ADDRESS: 0 Liberty Church Road, Hickory, NC 28601

PINS: 2783261136 & 2783260135

REQUEST: Rezone two (2) parcels, approximately 1.02 acres from General Business (GB) to Residential-Three (R-3)



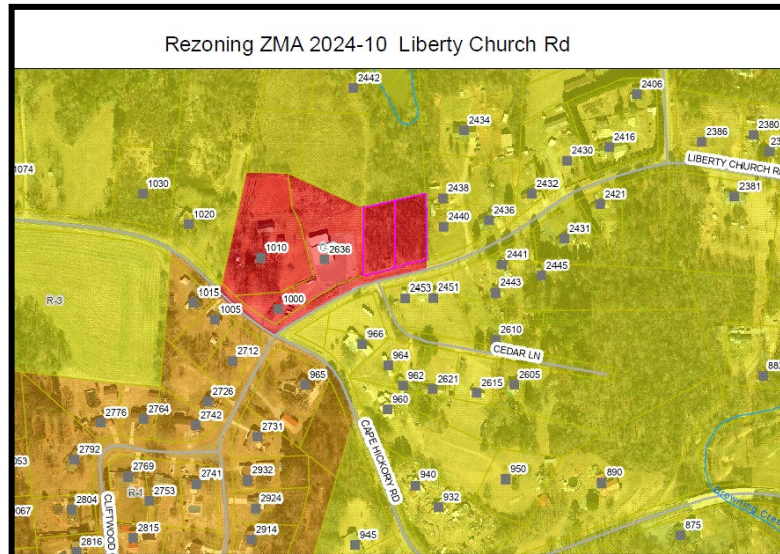
BACKGROUND:

Property owners, John and Rita Yount wish to rezone two (2) neighboring parcels totaling approximately 1.02-acres of land. The request was to rezone the parcels from General Business (G-B) to the Residential-Three (R-3) district to be able to use the parcels for two (2) new residential units.

SURROUNDING AREA:

The parcels were part of a larger tract of land that operated as the 72 Degrees Heating and Air Company for many years. The business closed and the parcels were sold. The neighboring tract on the north side was the subject of a similar rezoning request at ZMA 2023-06 to rezone an area of GB to R-3. The county zoning in this area is predominately R-3 and the General Business zoning was originally established to support this former business. A neighborhood to the southwest is zoned R-1. The character of the area is rural / residential.

Existing Zoning and Land Uses within the Surrounding Area		
	Current Zoning	Existing Land Uses
North	R-3	Vacant / new home
South	R-3	Residential uses
East	R-3	Residential uses
West	G-B	Warehouse use



Current Zoning Map

General Business



Future Land Use Map

BLUEPRINT BURKE LAND USE PLAN:

The current land use plan for Burke County is the 2022-2030 Blueprint Burke Strategic Land Use Plan. The Future Land Use Map (*above*) places the subject parcel in the *general business* land use category. As in many cases, the future land use map closely resembles the current zoning map. This is the case because these parcels were a part of the business-owned tracts.

The surrounding area shows *residential infill* which anticipates allowing a wide variety of residential uses. Burke County is experiencing a shortage of housing. A change to residential infill will be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and the goals of the plan. The plan encourages the development of new housing across Burke County in a variety of formats, including single-family, modular, multifamily and manufactured housing.

STAFF COMMENTS:

The properties are vacant, and they were part of the properties owned by a nearby business. Staff feel a rezoning change to Residential Three (R-3) provides an opportunity for housing infill for this area. A similar request was made and approved last year for a neighboring tract to the north under rezoning application ZMA 2023-06.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning Board met on December 5, 2024, to hear the rezoning request. Staff presented the report, and John Yount addressed the board. He stated that if approved, he plans to construct homes on the two (2) parcels. No one was present to provide public comment. The Board voted 6/0 to recommend approval of the rezoning request.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Driving directions from Long View town limits: take Cape Hickory Road north. Liberty Church Road will be on the right in about 1.5 miles. The parcels are on the left just past the corner.



Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he opened the public hearing at 6:43 p.m. The Public Hearing Notice was published in the News Herald on January 9 and January 16, 2025. Further, the notice was also posted on the County's website (www.burkenc.org) on January 9, 2025. There being no one present to address the Board, the public hearing was closed at 6:43 p.m.

Motion: To adopt Ordinance No. 2025-02 as it relates to ZMA 2024-10 rezoning two parcels of land corresponding to PINs 2783261136 and 2783260135 located at 0 Liberty Church Road, Hickory, from General Business (G-B) District to Residential Three (R-3) District. The Board finds the rezoning to be consistent with the intent of the Blueprint Burke Strategic Land Use Plan because the plan shows residential infill surrounding the site. The Future Land Use Map shall be adjusted to Residential Infill.

Furthermore, the Board finds that the request is reasonable and in the public interest because:

- 1. Burke County is experiencing a housing shortage and rezoning the parcels will support infill housing.**
- 2. Rezoning two parcels totaling 1.02-acres to the Residential-Three (R-3) zoning district will support the character of the area with compatible residential uses.**

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

Ordinance No. 2025-02 reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

An Ordinance Amending the Official Burke County Zoning Map
ZMA 2024-10

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

Two parcels of land corresponding to PIN 2783261136 and 2783260135 located at 0 Liberty Church Road, Hickory, shall be rezoned from General Business (G-B) District to Residential- Three (R-3) District.

Consistency Statement:

The Commissioners find that Ordinance No. 2025-02 related to the rezoning application ZMA 2024-10 located at 0 Liberty Church Road, Hickory, N.C., for two (2) parcels corresponding to PIN 2783261136 and 2783260135 to be consistent with the broader goals of the Blueprint Burke Land Use Plan along with the Future Land Use Map which shows the surrounding area to focus on Residential Infill with a smaller area of General Business. The plan supports the expansion of new housing units, and this rezoning will provide an option for additional housing. The Future Land Use Map shall be amended to Residential Infill land use category.

Adopted this 21st day of January 2025.

/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

COMM. DEV. - TEXT AMENDMENT ZTA 2024-03 TEMPORARY DWELLINGS / RVS AND CAMPERS - PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.

Alan Glines, Planning Director / Deputy County Manager, reported that since Hurricane Helene made landfall in late September, residents are still trying to recover and repair and, in some cases, replace their homes. As of mid-November, about 160 households in Burke County are receiving some sort of FEMA-provided housing, whether it be a hotel accommodation or other means. Counties in western North Carolina that have been severely impacted by the storm are discussing options to house individuals. After looking at other temporary housing ordinances from coastal counties of North Carolina and discussing this matter with our building inspectors, staff presented the following text amendment / ordinance to offer solutions for temporary dwellings.

A temporary dwelling can take the form of a Recreational Vehicle, a camper, a FEMA-provided unit or similar unit, or a temporary housing building. The temporary dwelling use will generally be tied to an active building permit for repairing the home or during the process of building a new home or accessory dwelling. The duration of the permit will generally be for 18 months and terminate when a certificate of occupancy is issued.

Planning Board Review: As is required with all text amendments, the Planning Board reviewed the proposed draft at their meeting on December 5, 2024. The Board discussed the need for this type of temporary housing and how it would be applied. After making several suggestions to clarify the text amendment / ordinance, the Board voted 6/0 to recommend approval. The version currently being reviewed is the final version recommended by the Planning Board as amended following recommendations from County Attorney Timothy J. Rohr.

During the pre-agenda meeting with the Board of Commissioners, a commissioner asked about an option to issue a temporary zoning permit at a separate location from the building site to assist during times when the primary location is not ready to occupy. This temporary zoning option would follow similar standards. That language is in blue font as proposed in section 3.12(B)(6).

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, he opened the public hearing at 6:49 p.m. The Public Hearing Notice was published in the News Herald on January 9 and January 16, 2025. Further, the notice was also posted on the County's website (www.burkenc.org) on January 9, 2025. There being no one present to address the Board, the public hearing was closed at 6:49 p.m.

Motion: To adopt Ord. No. 2025-01 amending the Burke County Zoning Ordinance as it relates to ZTA 2024-03 and the following consistency statement:

Consistency Statement:

The Burke County Board of Commissioners finds the zoning text amendment corresponding to ZTA 2024-03 amending Article III of the Burke County Zoning

Ordinance by adding a new section, 3.12 Temporary Dwellings / RVs and Campers, to be consistent with the Blueprint Burke Strategic Land Use Plan. The plan supports the development of new housing stock in Burke County and maintaining and repairing older housing units. The amendment will allow property owners to have a new option to stay on their property during the construction of new dwellings or repairing an existing unit. Burke County has a housing shortage, and this may alleviate some of the difficulty of finding housing when building a new home, which is a goal consistent with the plan. The permitting process allows the inspection of temporary utility connections to ensure safety.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Vice Chairman

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

Ordinance No. 2025-01 reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

An Ordinance Amending the Burke County Zoning Code
ZTA 2024-03

(New Text = Red & Blue Font)

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

Add a new section to the Table of Contents and Article III as outlined below:

Section A.

Amend the Table of Contents to add: **Sec. 3.12 Temporary Dwellings / RVs and Campers**

Section B.

Amend Article III by adding a new section: **3.12 Temporary Dwellings / RVs and Campers**

3.12 A Definitions.

1. **Recreational vehicle-** Recreational Vehicle is defined in Section 2 of this ordinance.
2. **Temporary Dwelling-** Temporary Dwelling includes recreational vehicles, temporary housing buildings and temporary trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
3. **Temporary Housing Building-** Temporary Housing Building refers to temporary shelters meeting the requirements of the North Carolina Administrative Code authority of 11 NCAC 08.0211 and are not to be electrified.

3.12 B Property owners may temporarily reside in a temporary dwelling located on their lot while their home is being renovated or repaired or during the construction of a new home on the same property subject to the following requirements:

- 1) A zoning permit is required for a temporary dwelling and only a single unit is permitted.

- 2) The issuance of a zoning permit may only be in conjunction with a building permit for the repair or construction of a primary or accessory dwelling unit on the same parcel.
- 3) A zoning permit for a temporary dwelling is only valid in conjunction with an active building permit, which may not exceed 18 months. However, a temporary dwelling zoning permit is renewable in six-month increments with approval of the Community Development office by demonstrating good faith progress towards completion such as by scheduling required inspections.
- 4) Applicants must adhere to all applicable local, state and federal laws and permits for the temporary dwelling are required for the connection of power, water and septic systems.
- 5) A Certificate of Occupancy for the primary or accessory dwelling unit may not be issued until the temporary dwelling has been disconnected from water and septic systems. At the discretion of the building inspector, a 30-day extension may be provided to close down the temporary dwelling.
- 6) As an additional option, a zoning permit may be approved to reside in a temporary dwelling on a separate site for a period of 6 months. This would assist during an active building project while remaining compliant with the requirements of 3,4,5 as listed above.

Adopted this 21st day of January 2025.

/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.

Cristy Gupton, 200 La Foret Drive, expressed her gratitude for her recent appointment to the Public Health Advisory Board. She listed some of her credentials that qualified her for the Board and proposed periodically sharing brief insights during public comment sessions, focusing on topics such as:

- The role of independent pharmacies in community health
- Reducing prescription drug costs by bypassing Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs)
- Using direct primary care models to lower overall healthcare costs
- Leveraging data analytics to prevent overspending and promote local healthcare investment
- Exploring ways the County Health Department can benefit from local healthcare sourcing

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 seven (7) items on the consent agenda, which were approved by a single motion.

BOC - RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CODE OF ETHICS

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute § 160A-86, local governing boards are required to adopt a Code of Ethics to guide their actions as public officials. The Burke County Board of Commissioners last adopted a Code of Ethics in 2018. However, with the election of Commissioners Barrier and Stroud, and the re-election of Commissioner Brittain, the composition of the Board has changed.

To ensure compliance with statutory requirements and to reaffirm the Board's commitment to ethical governance, it is appropriate to adopt an updated Code of Ethics that includes the signatures of the current Board members. Other than updating the adoption date and signature block, no additional revisions have been made to the existing Code of Ethics.

Motion: Adopt Resolution No. 2025-01.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Vice Chairman
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

Resolution No. 2025-01 reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

Resolution Adopting a Code of Ethics
For the Board of Commissioners

WHEREAS, Section 160A-86 of the North Carolina General Statutes requires local governing boards to adopt a Code of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Board of Commissioners adopted a Code of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the Board of Commissioners changed in 2018, and a new Code of Ethics was adopted; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the Board of Commissioners changed with the election of Commissioners Barrier and Stroud in 2024, as well as the re-election of Commissioner Brittain, and the current Board desires to have a Code of Ethics on file with the signatures of the current membership; and

WHEREAS, public officials are charged with upholding the trust of the citizens and residents of Burke County and with obeying the law; and

WHEREAS, as public officials of Burke County, we believe our citizens and residents are entitled to the most open and ethical government possible under the law.

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition of our blessings and obligations as citizens of the State of North Carolina and as public officials representing citizens and residents of Burke County and acting pursuant to the requirements of Section 160A-86 of the North Carolina General Statutes, we the Burke County Board of Commissioners, do hereby adopt the Code of Ethics, attached hereto as Exhibit A, to guide the Board in its lawful decision-making. The Board of Commissioners directs all advisory boards and committees, which currently serve or may in the future be created to serve, to respect and abide by this Code of Ethics in the performance of their lawful duties inasmuch as they may be applicable to the performance thereof.

Adopted this 21st day of January 2025.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman

/s/: Phil Smith
Phil Smith, Vice Chairman

/s/: Brian Barrier
Brian Barrier, Commissioner

/s/: Randy Burns
Randy Burns, Commissioner

/s/: Mike Stroud
Mike Stroud, Commissioner

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

Exhibit A reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY CODE OF ETHICS
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The stability and proper operation of democratic representative government depends upon the continuing consent of the governed, upon the public confidence in the integrity of the government and upon responsible exercise of the trust conferred by the people. Government decisions and policies must be made and implemented through the proper channels and processes of the governmental structure. The purpose of this code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for the Burke County Board of Commissioners. It should not be considered a substitute for the law or a Commission member's best judgment.

Burke County Board of Commissioners must be able to act in a manner to maintain their integrity and independence; yet must be responsive to the interests and needs of those they represent. Commissioners serve in an important advocacy capacity in meeting the needs of their citizens and should recognize the legitimacy of this role as well as the intrinsic importance of this function to the proper functioning of representative government. At the same time, Commissioners must, at times, act in an adjudicatory or administrative capacity and must, when doing so, act in a fair and impartial manner. Commissioners must know how to distinguish these roles and when each role is appropriate, and they must act accordingly. Commissioners must be aware of their obligation to conform their behavior to standards of

ethical conduct that warrant the trust of their constituents. Each Commissioner must find within his or her own conscience the touchstone on which to determine appropriate conduct.

I. A County Commissioner Shall Obey the Law

County Commissioners of Burke County shall support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of North Carolina and the laws enacted by the Congress of the United States and the General Assembly pursuant thereto. Members specifically acknowledge and agree to comply with the requirements of N.C.G.S. §14-234 entitled "Public officers or employees benefiting from public contracts; exceptions."

II. County Commissioners Should Uphold the Integrity and Independence of His or Her Office

County Commissioners of Burke County should demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty and fortitude in all their public activities in order to inspire public confidence and trust in County government. County Commissioners should participate in establishing, maintaining, and enforcing, and should themselves observe, high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of their office may be preserved. The provisions of this Code should be construed and applied to further these objectives.

III. Burke County Commissioners Should Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety in All His or Her Activities

It is essential that county government attracts those citizens best qualified and willing to serve. Commissioners have legitimate interests of a private nature: economic, professional and vocational. Commissioners should not be denied and should not deny to other County Commissioners or citizens, the opportunity to acquire, retain and pursue private interests, economic or otherwise, except when conflicts with their responsibility to the public cannot be avoided. Commissioners must exercise their best judgment to determine when this is the case.

County Commissioners should respect and comply with the law and should conduct themselves at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity of the office of the Board of Commissioners.

County Commissioners should not allow family, social, or other relationships to unduly influence their conduct or judgment and should not lend the prestige of the office of the Board of Commissioners to advance the private interests of others; nor should they convey or permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence them. County Commissioners shall not grant any special consideration, treatment or advantage to any citizen beyond that which is available to every other citizen.

If a Board member believes that his or her actions, while legal and ethical, may be misunderstood, the member should seek the advice of the Board's attorney and should consider publicly disclosing the facts of the situation and steps taken to resolve it.

IV. A County Commissioner Should Perform the Duties of the Office Diligently

County Commissioners should, while performing the duties of the office as prescribed by law, give precedence to these duties over other activities. In the performance of these duties, the following standards should apply:

A. Legislative Responsibilities

1. County Commissioners should actively pursue policy goals they believe to be in the best interests of their constituents within the parameters of orderly decision-making, rules of the Burke County Board of Commissioners and open government.
2. County Commissioners should respect the legitimacy of the goals and interests of other Commissioners and should respect the rights of others to pursue goals and policies different from their own.

B. Adjudicative Responsibilities

1. County Commissioners should be faithful to the general and local laws pertaining to the office and strive for professional competence in them. They should be unswayed by partisan interests, public clamor, or fear of criticism.
2. County Commissioners should demand and contribute to the maintenance of order and decorum in proceedings before the Burke County Board of Commissioners.
3. County Commissioners should be honest, patient, dignified and courteous to those with whom they deal in their official capacity, and should require similar conduct of their staff and others subject to their direction and control.
4. County Commissioners should accord to every person who is legally interested in a proceeding before the Board full right to be heard according to law.
5. County Commissioners should dispose promptly of the business of the County for which they are responsible.

C. Administrative Responsibilities

1. County Commissioners should clearly distinguish legislative, adjudicatory and administrative responsibilities and should refrain from inappropriate interference in the impartial administration of County affairs by County employees. County Commissioners should diligently discharge those administrative responsibilities that are appropriate, should maintain professional competence in the administration of these duties and should facilitate the diligent discharge of the administrative responsibilities of fellow Commissioners and other County officials.
2. County Commissioners should conserve the resources of the County in their charge. They should employ County equipment, property, funds and personnel only in legally permissible pursuits and in a manner that exemplifies excellent stewardship.
3. County Commissioners should require County employees, subject to their

direction and control, to observe the standards of fidelity and diligence that apply to the Burke County Board of Commissioners as well as those appropriate for employees.

4. County Commissioners who become aware of improper conduct by a county employee should promptly inform the County Manager, or, in the case of a county employee who reports directly to the Board, initiate appropriate disciplinary measures.
 5. County Commissioners should not employ or recommend the appointment of unnecessary employees and should exercise the power of employment only on the basis of merit, avoid favoritism and refrain from illegal discrimination and nepotism. They should not approve compensation of employees beyond the fair value of services rendered.
- V. County Commissioners Should Conduct the Affairs of the Burke County Board of Commissioners in an Open and Public Manner

County Commissioners should be aware of the letter and intent of the State's Open Meetings Law, should conduct the affairs of the Board of Commissioners consistent with the letter and spirit of that law and consistent with the need to inspire and maintain public confidence in the integrity and fairness of County government and the office of the Burke County Board of Commissioners. Consistent with this goal of preserving public trust and in compliance with the State's Open Meetings Law, County Commissioners should be aware of the need for discretion in deliberations when the lack of discretion would pose a threat to the resources of the County, to the reputation of current or potential County employees, to orderly and responsible decision making, to the integrity of other governmental processes or to other legitimate interests of the County.

This Code of Ethics is adopted and effective this the 21st day of January 2025 and shall apply to all County Commissioners holding office on that date. Upon the effective date of this Code of Ethics, the previously adopted Code of Ethics of Burke County is hereby repealed.

/s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman

/s/: Phil Smith
Phil Smith, Vice Chairman

/s/: Brian Barrier
Brian Barrier, Commissioner

/s/: Randy Burns
Randy Burns, Commissioner

/s/: Mike Stroud
Mike Stroud, Commissioner

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

CLERK - REAPPOINTMENTS OR APPOINTMENTS TO THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

In North Carolina, the purpose and duties of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) are aligned with federal and state regulations under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). LEPCs focus on preparing for and responding to emergencies involving hazardous materials. Their responsibilities include:

- **Developing Emergency Plans:** LEPCs create and maintain emergency response plans for handling hazardous materials incidents. These plans are shared with local governments, responders, and the public.
- **Community Right-to-Know:** LEPCs ensure public access to information about hazardous chemicals stored, used, or released in the community, promoting transparency and safety awareness.
- **Coordination:** The committees coordinate with local governments, industry representatives, and emergency services to prepare for potential hazardous material incidents.
- **Training and Exercises:** LEPCs conduct training and simulations to test their emergency plans and improve response capabilities.
- **Incident Reporting:** LEPCs are responsible for receiving reports of hazardous materials releases and ensuring an appropriate response.

LEPCs are established in accordance with North Carolina General Statute Chapter 166A, which outlines the broader framework for emergency management, and they work closely with state and local emergency management agencies to fulfill their duties.

This 17-member committee serves 3-year terms that end January 31st. Appointments or reappointments are needed for Seats No.: 1 (Local Official), 4 (Emergency Mgmt.), 7 (Hospital), 10 (Civic / Community Group), 13 (Agriculture), 14 (EMS), and 15 (Facility Emergency Substance).

Motions: To remove the names of Pete Minter and Mike Willis from the LEPC roster due to retirement and thank them for their service. To appoint Alan Glines to Seat No. 1, Local Official, on the LEPC for 3-year term ending January 31, 2028. To complete the remainder of 3-year terms ending January 31, 2027, on the LEPC, appoint: Robert Bishop to Seat No. 4, Emergency Management, and James Robinson to Seat No. 14, representing EMS. For 3-year terms ending January 31, 2028, on the LEPC, reappoint: Ronnie Rector to Seat No. 7, Hospital, Charles Conley to Seat No. 10, Civic / Community Group, Spring Williams-Byrd to Seat No. 13, Agriculture, and Jeffrey McDaniel to Seat 15, Facility Emergency Substance.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Vice Chairman

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

CLERK - RESOLUTION REMOVING A PLAT REVIEW OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF MORGANTON

Morganton has requested the removal of Logan Hanchett as a Plat Review Officer for the City of Morganton due to an employment change.

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2025-02.**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]****MOVER:** Phil Smith, Vice Chairman**AYES:** Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

Resolution No. 2025-02 reads as follows:

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA**RESOLUTION UPDATING PLAT REVIEW OFFICERS**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Statutes (GS 47-30.2) requires the board of commissioners in each county, by resolution, to appoint persons to serve as Plat Review Officers to review each plat before it is presented to the register of deeds for recording and certify that it meets the statutory requirements for recording; and

WHEREAS, in August 2024, the Burke County Board of Commissioners, at the request of the City of Morganton, adopted a resolution appointing Logan Hanchett as a Plat Review Officer for the City of Morganton; and

WHEREAS, County officials were notified in December 2024 that Mr. Hanchett had resigned his position with the City of Morganton; and

WHEREAS, the City of Morganton, by letter, requests the removal of Logan Hanchett, as a Plat Review Officer for the City of Morganton; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Burke County Board of Commissioners hereby removes Logan Hanchett as a Plat Review Officer for the City of Morganton.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution designating the Plat Review Officers be recorded in the Burke County Register of Deeds Office and indexed in the name of the Review Officers.

Adopted this 21st day of January 2025./s/: Jeffrey C. Brittain

Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman

Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn

Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC

Clerk to the Board

CLERK - APPOINTMENT TO THE ADULT CARE & NURSING HOME CAC

The Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee is established under the authority of the North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS § 131D-31) and the NC Administrative

Code (10A NCAC 13F and 13G). Its primary purpose is to serve as a liaison between residents of adult care homes and nursing homes, their families, facility administrators, and the broader community. The committee's goal is to ensure the rights, dignity, and quality of care for residents by promoting communication, addressing concerns, and providing oversight.

This advisory board consists of 14 at-large seats with 3-year terms after the initial appointment to a 1-year term and requires at least 40 hours of training before applicants are eligible to be considered for appointment. Six (6) seats on this board are currently vacant despite numerous and continuous recruitment efforts.

Kathleen Andrews has completed her training, and the regional ombudsman requests her appointment to the Adult Care & Nursing Home CAC, Seat No. 6, for an initial 1-year term ending January 15, 2026.

Motion: To appoint Kathleen Andrews to the Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee, Seat No. 6, to a 1-year term ending January 15, 2026.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Vice Chairman
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

SO - APPROVAL OF JAIL MEDICAL PLAN

According to NC General Statute § 153A-225 and 10A NCAC 14J .1001, a governing body, such as the Board of Commissioners, must adopt the written medical plan for jail health services. This plan must be developed in consultation with the local health director and other appropriate officials, and it includes details about health services, mental health care, handling of chronic and communicable diseases, medication administration, and emergency care.

The local health director is also required to review and approve the plan annually, ensuring it remains up to date. After their review and consultation, the plan is then submitted for final adoption by the Board of Commissioners, as they are responsible for ensuring the health and welfare of inmates under their jurisdiction.

Motion: To approve the 2025 Jail Medical Plan as presented and authorize the Chairman to execute the Plan on behalf of the Board.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Smith, Vice Chairman
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

TAX DEPT. - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2024

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

Category	Amount Collected YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$45,202,848.02	82.50%	\$9,590,330.98
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$2,787,193.37	54.91%	\$2,289,050.63
Current Year Taxes	\$47,990,041.39	80.16%	\$11,879,381.61

Delinquent Taxes	\$371,188.45	53.03%	\$328,811.55
Penalty & Interest	\$161,803.36	49.18%	\$167,196.64

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	\$63,819,143.88	\$45,202,848.02	70.83%	\$18,616,295.86

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

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Vice Chairman

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

TAX DEPT. - RELEASE REFUND REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2024

The Board of Commissioners were presented with the following list of releases and refunds for consideration during the pre-agenda meeting as follows:

VTS Refunds Over \$100	
	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	\$244.72

Payee Name	Address 3	Refund Type	Refund Reason	Create Date	Tax Jurisdiction	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
BARBARA PAIGE SEGAL THIRDPARTY SUPPLEMENTALN EEDS TRUST DATED	ASHEVILLE, NC 28805	Adjustment >= \$100	Situs error	12/16/2024	01	TAX	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					57	TAX	(\$139.70)	\$0.00	(\$139.70)
					57	VEHICLE FEE	(\$20.00)	\$0.00	(\$20.00)
					30	TAX	\$22.35	\$0.00	\$22.35
								Refund	\$137.35
BROWNING, JANIE RUTH	MORGANTON, NC 28655	Adjustment >= \$100	Situs error	12/16/2024	01	TAX	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					57	TAX	(\$110.60)	\$0.00	(\$110.60)
					57	VEHICLE FEE	(\$20.00)	\$0.00	(\$20.00)
					22	TAX	\$23.23	\$0.00	\$23.23
								Refund	\$107.37
								Refund Total	\$244.72

Tax System Refunds and Releases			
Report Amount	Rebilled Amount	Net Release	Refund Amount
\$9,229.15	\$4,869.85	\$4,359.30	\$0.00

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							
0000017230-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	HART, ROGER AUSTIN	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/9/2024	1,407.09	1,407.09	0.00
0000017230-2024-2024-0000-01-REG	HART, ROGER AUSTIN	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/9/2024	747.54	747.54	0.00
Subtotal					2,164.63	2,164.63	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Assessed In Error							
0024075067-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	VELOCITY TRUST LTD	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/20/2024	205.56	205.56	0.00
Subtotal					205.56	205.56	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Duplicate Billing							
0024076582-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	HIGHLANDS BUTCHERY RESTAURANT	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/19/2024	555.94	555.94	0.00
Subtotal					555.94	555.94	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Not in Burke County							
0024083043-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	CAMPBELL, ELIZABETH	8/28/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/4/2024	91.66	91.66	0.00
Subtotal					91.66	91.66	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Over Assessment							
0024077439-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	DICKENS, HENRY V	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/11/2024	728.00	350.00	378.00
Subtotal					728.00	350.00	378.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Penalty Correction							
0000007088-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	RIDDLE, JOSEPH I JR	7/15/2024	KAYLA BURGESS	12/2/2024	3,691.55	3.68	3,687.87
Subtotal					3,691.55	3.68	3,687.87
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Process Correction							
0000073446-2020-2020-0000-01-REG	BALL, RICKY L JR	7/1/2020	LINDA WILBUR	12/16/2024	9.17	9.17	0.00
0000073446-2021-2021-0000-01-REG	BALL, RICKY L JR	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	12/16/2024	9.17	9.17	0.00
0000073446-2022-2022-0000-01-REG	BALL, RICKY L JR	7/1/2022	LINDA WILBUR	12/16/2024	9.17	9.17	0.00
0000073446-2023-2023-0000-01-REG	BALL, RICKY L JR	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	12/16/2024	12.32	12.32	0.00
0000073446-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	BALL, RICKY L JR	11/14/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/16/2024	12.32	12.32	0.00
Subtotal					52.15	52.15	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Situs Correction							
0024050672-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	HIGHLANDS FAMILY FARM, LLC	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	12/19/2024	533.07	533.07	0.00
Subtotal					533.07	533.07	0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Value Change							
0000029592-2024-2020-0000-00-REG	MURPHY, MINNIE W	12/17/2024	AMANDA CONLEY	12/17/2024	1,216.59	412.61	803.98
Subtotal					1,216.59	412.61	803.98
Total					9,229.15	4,359.30	4,869.85

*Note: The net release amount results from the reported amount minus the rebilled amount.

Motion: To approve the Tax Releases and Refunds for December 2024 as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Phil Smith, Vice Chairman

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

ITEMS FOR DECISION

CLERK - APPOINTMENT TO THE MORGANTON BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - ETJ

Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, reported that Burke County appoints two (2) members to the Morganton Board of Adjustment for the ETJ (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction) - one (1) regular and one (1) alternate. The terms are for three (3) years.

The Board of Adjustment is required by state law and acts in a quasi-judicial role, much like a judge in a court, to evaluate and interpret questions that come about concerning the zoning ordinance. The BOA provides several roles in the overall zoning process including: appeals of any administrative officer; providing decisions concerning the zoning ordinance or map when a disagreement over an interpretation occurs between an administrative officer and a member of the public, granting special use permits; requiring that certain land uses meet conditions beyond general zoning requirements on a given parcel, and granting variances; to grant relief when hardship results from the strict application of the ordinance's terms to a particular piece of

property.

An application was received from Johnnie Carswell and Gene Kirby, both are residents of the Morganton ETJ.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Burns suggested appointing both applicants, in one motion, based on the order the applications were received since both men are qualified. He moved to appoint Johnnie Carswell for Seat No. 1 and Gene Kirby for Seat No. 2.

Motion: To appoint Johnnie Carswell to the Morganton Board of Adjustment, ETJ Seat No. 1 - Regular, to complete a term ending June 3, 2028. To appoint Gene Kirby to the Morganton Board of Adjustment, ETJ Seat No. 2 - Alternate, to complete a term ending June 3, 2028.

RESULT:	APPROVED [3 TO 2]
MOVER:	Randy Burns, Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Randy Burns
NAYS:	Brian Barrier and Mike Stroud

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for reports and comments from Board members and professional staff. Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, reminded the public to bring their pets indoors as it would be extremely cold. Commissioner Stroud expressed appreciation for his fellow Board members, shared his disappointment over Gene Kirby not being appointed to Seat No. 1 on the Morganton Planning Board – ETJ, and noted that former Commissioner Carswell declined to shake his hand at a recent public event. Commissioner Burns notified the public that the YMCA had launched its fundraiser. Commissioner Smith explained that he felt former Commissioner Carswell was the better applicant for the Morganton Planning Board ETJ because of his experience. He also wished for a reconciliation between former Commissioner Carswell and Commissioner Stroud. Commissioner Barrier reported that he attended his first Child Protection & Child Fatality Prevention Team meeting. Chairman Brittain shared information on upcoming training, meetings, and community events, in addition to inviting youth groups to sign up to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at Commissioners' meetings. He also encouraged citizens to spay or neuter pets and to adopt or foster a pet from Animal Services. He then issued friendly reminders to not litter, to pick up trash, and to cover your loads when transporting trash to the landfill or a convenience site.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN.
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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
- Burke County Public Health Advisory Board
- Hickory Regional Planning Commission

- Drexel Planning Board - ETJ Alternate
- Burke County Planning Board
- Partners Health Management's Human Rights Committee

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments and then encouraged citizens to participate and get involved. Commissioner Barrier inquired about an application a citizen put in for the Planning Board and Clerk Draughn responded that it would be included in the February agenda.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

CLOSED SESSION

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

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

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

Motion: To come out of closed session.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Chairman Brittain announced that a proper motion was made to come out of closed session and that the Board authorized the County Manager to negotiate a personnel agreement.

RECESS

Motion: To recess the meeting to Feb. 14, 2025, 8:30 a.m., BOC meeting room, 110 North Green Street, in Morganton, N.C.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Randy Burns, Commissioner

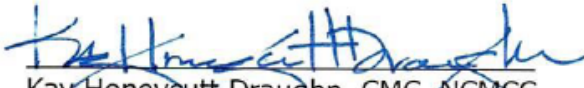
AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Phil Smith, Brian Barrier, Randy Burns, and Mike Stroud

Approved this 21st day of April 2025.



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

Attest:



Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMSC
Clerk to the Board