MINUTES
BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Burke County Services Building, 110 N. Green Street, Entrance E in Morganton, N.C. Those present were:

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr. (Health issues.)

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Steen, County Manager
Margaret Pierce, Deputy County Manager/Finance Director
J.R. Simpson, II, County Attorney
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Carswell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Under the leadership of Principal Cassandra Caldwell, students from Hillcrest Elementary School led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Afterwards, they had a commemorative photo taken with the Board and staff.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Addition: Draft minutes of January 15, 2019 regular meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 (regular) meeting as written.
RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Commissioner
AYES: Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor
ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr.
PRESENTATIONS

ROD - PRESENTATION OF ELECTRONIC TAX PORTAL
Stephanie Norman, Register of Deeds, presented information regarding the electronic tax portal as follows:

The Burke County Register of Deeds (RoD) office has worked with its software vendor, Courthouse Computer Systems, to develop an electronic portal that will allow them to send a deed to the tax office to obtain a tax certification stamp electronically! This eliminates the need for the customer to leave the RoD office and go to the tax office. They can pay delinquent taxes directly from the RoD office, unless they choose to go to the tax office to pay taxes. This electronic tax portal also allows the RoD office to send deeds that come through the mail without a tax certification stamp directly to the tax office for the customer instead of having to send it back to the submitter. It eliminates the need for multiple portals for e-recording and will provide a one-stop method for attorneys to obtain a tax certification stamp from the tax office.

Ms. Norman said on March 18th, 2014 the Board passed a resolution prohibiting the (RoD) office from recording a deed if there are delinquent taxes owed on the property which is allowed under GS 105-303(a)(2) and GS 161-31. Ms. Norman said in an effort to save time and to make the process more convenient, the RoD office has worked with their software vendor, Courthouse Computer Systems, to create the electronic tax portal. Ms. Norman explained the implementation process and noted that an average of 17 people per month have not had to leave the RoD office to go to the tax office just to pay delinquent taxes. Ms. Norman further stated Courthouse Computer Systems nominated the RoD office for the National Association of Counties 2019 Achievement Award for the creative use of technology that make county processes more efficient and cost effective. She noted that this initiative was created with no cost to the County and will serve as a model for other counties.

Commissioner Taylor commended Ms. Norman on the initiative.

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

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

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMM. DEV. - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT ZMA 2019-01 & PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.
Pete Minter, Senior Planner, presented information regarding ZMA 2019-01 as follows:

REQUEST
Staff has received a rezoning application from Michael Cioffeletti to rezone one (1) parcel of land totaling 0.46 acre. The request is to rezone the property from its current zoning of Residential Three (R-3) to the General Business (G-B) zoning district. The parcel is not within any Overlay District.
SITE ANALYSIS
The parcel is described as follows: The 911 address of the parcel is 2971 NC 181 Morganton. The parcel has approximately 200 feet of frontage on NC 181, a principle arterial road. The parcel is further identified in county records as (PIN# 1785048960 and REID# 24916).

As mentioned above, the parcel is 0.46 acre and has three structures on it. The Tax information for the property indicates that one structure is a single-family home and one is listed as “rural retail”. According to the Tax Dept., “that designation is a catch all description given to a small store of some sort”. The Business Listing Dept. has not had a business listed at the location for quite some time. The third structure is not on the property tax card; however, it appears to be a small storage building. The parcel is served by public water only (City of Morganton). Wastewater disposal would be handled by a private onsite septic system. The Environmental Health Dept. has indicated that the septic system would have to be verified prior to any use of the structure(s). They also stated that due to the size of the property and amount of usable area, the septic system would lend itself to a convenience store more so than a residence. This is because a residence uses more water than a convenience store. Approval of the septic system for other commercial uses would have to be examined on a case by case basis. The property is located within the Lake Rhodhiss Water Supply Watershed and is within the Oak Hill Fire District. The parcel is located within the Quaker Meadows Township of Burke County. The parcel has 200 feet of frontage along NC 181. NC 181 is classified as an “Minor Arterial” road. Minor arterials provide service to corridors with trip lengths and travel density greater than those served by Rural Collectors and Local Roads and with relatively high travel speeds. Minor Arterials link cities and larger towns and form an integrated network providing inter-county service.

SURROUNDING AREA
Land uses in the surrounding area are predominantly residential homes, and vacant land. There is one business located across the private drive to the east. The next closest commercially zoned properties are located approximately 1.0 mile to the north and 0.95 mile to the south. To the north of the property is scattered residences and several minor residential subdivisions and a major subdivision (Hunter’s Ridge). To the east is scattered residences on small lots, several minor subdivisions, and a few large lot residences. To the south is predominantly vacant land and several scattered dwellings. To the west are more scattered site residences and minor subdivisions.

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The table below indicates the existing land uses in the area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Zoning</th>
<th>Existing Land Uses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>Residences and some vacant land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>Vacant Land / Residences/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>Commercial Business / Residences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>Residences / Vacant Land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Existing Land Use Map and the 2014 aerial photo also provide a visual representation of the existing land uses in the area. The current Zoning Map shows where the current zoning districts are located.

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CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The current land use plan for Burke County is the 2016-2030 Blueprint Burke Strategic Land Use Plan. The parcel lies within an “Rural / Agricultural” Area of the county, approximately 1.7 miles from the nearest Secondary Growth Area. These areas are typically considered rural in nature and access to infrastructure
and public utilities will be more limited. Generally, residential uses are either scattered among large tracts of land or located within rural residential subdivisions. Some commercial, institutional, and industrial development is expected as needed to support the residential and agricultural nature of the area.

CONFORMITY WITH THE BURKE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE

The “current” zoning district for this parcel is Residential Three (R-3). The Zoning Ordinance defines the R-3 District as a medium density residential district which is less restrictive than either the R-1 or R-2 zoning district. This district allows a broader range of residential uses and a variety of compatible non-residential uses in an area that may be less suburban in nature.

The “proposed” General Business (G-B) District designation is intended to classify lands that because of their location, access, and availability of services are suitable for commercial development. This includes retail trade services that are easily accessible, compatible and geared for local neighborhood or regional needs.

PLANNING BOARD COMMENTS:

The Burke County Planning Board met on January 24, 2019 to hear the proposed rezoning request. Staff presented their report and the applicant spoke briefly about the request. The floor was opened to public comment and four citizens spoke against the proposed rezoning. The comments were related to:

- The small size of the parcel being used commercially;
- The ingress and egress of the property and parking at this location;
• The effect of NCDOT road widening project on the front of the property;
• The existing septic ability to handle a commercial use of the land, and
• A claim of underground storage tanks from a past business.

After the last citizen spoke, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed. The Planning Board then asked several questions of the applicant and of staff. After this discussion, The Chairman asked the Board to make a motion on the rezoning request. Richard Evey made a motion to “approve” ZMA 2019-01, a request to rezone (1) parcel of land consisting of 0.46 acres from the Residential Three (R-3) Zoning District to the General Business (G-B) Zoning District (Mike Cioffoletti, Applicant). His motion was seconded by Gary Kling. A full vote was taken and the motion to approve ZMA 2019-01 passed with a 3/2 vote.

Planning Board rationale for decision: “The subject parcel is consistent with General Business. Leaving the property R-3 is basically rendering the subject parcel useless. The brick building is too close to the main road and would not meet current setback requirements for a residential neighborhood”.

STAFF COMMENTS:
Whenever a property changes from one zoning district to another there is a possibility of opposition. Each of the concerns voiced by the public are debatable.
• The small size of the parcel will limit the types of commercial uses that can take place. However, there are certain businesses that could potentially operate with this challenge.
• The ingress and egress could possibly be problematic. Before any development of the property could take place, a site development plan would have to be submitted for review. One of the reviewers of the site plan is NCDOT. NCDOT could possibly deny a commercial driveway permit if it felt the ingress/egress was unsafe. NCDOT could require specific requirements be met prior to issuance of the driveway permit. The same would apply for parking. The property owner/developer would have to comply with any and all NCDOT requirements prior to receiving the driveway permit. A Zoning Permit would not be issued until all federal, state, and local requirements are met.
• The Senior Planner has checked with NCDOT and there is no road widening project proposed either currently or in the future for this stretch of NC 181.
• As for the existing septic system handling a commercial business, the Environmental Health Dept. would review any site development plan for septic availability and suitability for the proposed use. That department could deny the use of existing septic system for the proposed use or require the septic to be brought up to the necessary standards. A Zoning Permit would not be issued until all federal, state, and local requirements are met.
• Staff has put a call into the NC Dept. of Environmental Quality concerning the claim of underground storage tanks. At the time of this report, NCDEQ has not responded. This would be looked at during the site plan review. The developer would have to comply with whatever NCDEQ required. A Zoning Permit would not be issued until all federal, state, and local requirements are met.
Staff did make a specific recommendation for this rezoning petition. There are pro’s and con’s for approving or disapproving this rezoning request.

Although, there is one commercially zoned parcel adjacent to the subject property, the surrounding area is predominately residential. The subject property is located on a minor arterial road where commercial development could be appropriate. The property at 0.46 acre, is rather small for most types of commercial development. The small size of the property would limit the type of commercial uses/activities on the property, when setbacks and parking are reviewed. Although the existing structures are grandfathered, any new structures would have to meet required setbacks and parking would not be permitted within the 60’ right-of-way of NC 181 without NCDOT approval. NCDOT would also have to approve the access for any commercial type development.
Mr. Minter also reported the property has two (2) existing buildings, one (1) was previously a restaurant. In response to some citizens’ concerns over the proposed rezoning, Mr. Minter said the area of NC 181 where the property is located will not be widened by NCDOT in the near future. In regard to a septic system, he advised that Burke County Environmental Health has no records because of the age of the property, but before a commercial entity could begin operations, Environmental Health would have to evaluate any potential septic system. Another concern that some citizens had was the potential for underground storage tanks on the property. Mr. Minter said after speaking with NCDEQ, they could not find any records regarding underground storage tanks. In conclusion, Mr. Minter said any commercial business that wants to operate on the property will be thoroughly reviewed before they can be approved. He also responded to questions from Commissioner Taylor and Vice Chairman Mulwee.

At 6:34 p.m., Chairman Carswell opened the public hearing. The Public Hearing Notice was published in THE NEWS HERALD on March 7, 2019 and March 14, 2019; in addition, it was posted to the County’s website (www.burkenc.org) on March 7, 2019. There was no one present to address the Board; therefore, Chairman Carswell closed the public hearing.

Motion: To adopt Ord. No. 2019-02 amending the Burke County Zoning Map and related consistency statement.

Statement of Consistency
The proposed rezoning would be consistent with the 2016-2030 Burke County Strategic Land Use plan and considered reasonable and in the public interest because:
• The proposed zoning reclassification is consistent with the purposes, goals, objectives, and policies, of the adopted land use plan, and other plans for the physical development of the County as adopted by the Board of Commissioners;

• The proposed zoning reclassification is compatible with the overall character of existing development in the immediate vicinity of the subject property;

• There is adequate of public facilities and services to serve the subject property, including but not limited to; roadways, parks and recreational facilities, police and fire protection, schools, storm water drainage systems, water supplies and waste water treatment systems and garbage services; and

• The proposed zoning reclassification will not adversely affect a known archeological, environmental, historical, or cultural resource.

RESULT: ADOPTED [3 TO 1]

MOVER: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Commissioner
AYES: Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee and Jeffrey C. Brittain
NAYS: Maynard M. Taylor
ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

Ordinance No. 2019-02 reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

An Ordinance Amending the Official Burke County Zoning Map
ZMA 2019-01

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

One parcel of land referenced by Property Identification Number (PIN # 1785048960), in the Quaker Meadows Township of Burke County is hereby rezoned from the Residential Three (R-3) Zoning District to the General Business (G-B) Zoning District.

Adopted this 19th day of March 2019.

/s/: Johnnie W. Carswell
Johnnie W. Carswell, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

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

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
At 6:36 p.m. Chairman Carswell opened the informal public comments portion of the meeting. There were four (4) citizens who signed up to address the Board.
Gwen Hood, 4077 Plantation Dr., Morganton, said she is representing the Burke County Animal Welfare Alliance. She presented a handout to the Board which outlines other options for pet owners wishing to surrender their animals, besides surrendering their animals to Animal Control. Ms. Hood also asked the Board to consider changing the animal ordinance to include “Charlie’s Law,” which would allow rescue agencies to pull animals that have been deemed aggressive (unadoptable) by Animal Control. Finally, she thanked County Manager Steen, Clerk Draughn, Mr. Riddle, Sheriff Whisenant, and the Commissioners for listening to them and making positive changes for the animals in Burke County.

Carla Wallace, 707 Vine Arden Rd, Morganton, said she has been recording videos of tame cats at Animal Control (AC) and while it has had a positive impact on the adoption rate, the policy was changed by AC, so now she can only video the cats when they are deemed tame and available for adoption. She said this has made it increasingly difficult due to additional time constraints which hinders the cats from getting adopted. Ms. Wallace said she would like the policy to be changed back. She said all the dogs can currently be videoed and the cats should be too.

Debbie Hawkins, 4043 Old Secrest Avenue, President of REASON (Reduce Euthanasia and Spay or Neuter), thanked Clerk Draughn, Lance Riddle, and County Manager Steen for their hard work on the animal recommendations. She also thanked the Sheriff’s Office and the County Commissioners for considering the proposal and for wanting to improve animal welfare in the County.

Bryant Lindsey, 113 Rockview Lane, Morganton, read an advertisement in the local newspaper for the installation of an AT&T telecommunications tower and asked if the Board has any say in the proposed location and when/if it may be constructed. If so, he would like to be able to address it at the proper time.

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

CONSENT AGENDA
At the request of Chairman Carswell, County Manager Steen reviewed the Consent Agenda.

BOC - PROCLAMATION DECLARING YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT DAY
The month of April is designated as National County Government Month throughout the United States. For the past 20 years, as part of Burke County’s participation in this annual event, students from the area high schools have been invited to spend a day with County staff touring County government facilities. Burke Middle College, Hallyburton Academy, and the Burke County Home School Educator Group were also invited to participate. Extension Director, Spring Williams-Byrd, has agreed to facilitate this event. The Board is asked to select a date for Youth in Government Day.

Motion: To designate April 18, 2019 as Youth in Government Day in Burke County and adopt Proclamation No. 2019-02.
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES: Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor
ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

Proclamation No. 2019-02 reads as follows:

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 18, 2019
AS “YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT DAY”

WHEREAS, the young people of today are the City, County, State, and Federal Government leaders of tomorrow; and,

WHEREAS, the month of April is designated as National County Government Month throughout the United States; and,

WHEREAS, Student Government Associations from Draughn High School, East Burke High School, Freedom High School, and Patton High School were asked to sponsor a group of students in observance of National County Government Month; and,

WHEREAS, students from the Burke Middle College, Hallyburton Academy and the Burke County Home School Educator Group were invited to participate in this national event; and,

WHEREAS, the students will spend the day with County government officials. They will begin the day with an orientation, receive a tour of County facilities and operations and conclude with a luncheon with the County Commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners heartily endorses the project, commends the leaders, and thanks the students for their participation.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Burke County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April as County Government Month in Burke County and designates April 18, 2019 as “YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT DAY IN BURKE COUNTY”.

Adopted this 19th day of March 2019.

/s/: Johnnie W. Carswell, Chairman

Attest:

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

Note: YIGD was cancelled in mid-April due to low enrollment.

CLERK - RESOLUTION APPOINTING NEW REVIEW OFFICERS
Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2019-08.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner

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

ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

Resolution No. 2019-08 reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

Resolution
Appointing New Review Officers

Whereas, Section 47-30.2 of the North Carolina General Statutes requires that the Board of Commissioners of each county designate one or more persons experienced in mapping or in land records management, as Review Officers, to review each map and plat required to be submitted for review before the map or plat is presented to the Register of Deeds for recording; and

Whereas, the review officer reviews subdivision plats for lands within the City's/County's land use jurisdiction; and

Whereas, the Towns of Drexel, Hildebran and Valdese requests the addition of Hunter Nestor as a review officer and the removal of Rebecca “Becca” Bleich; and

Whereas, Dustin Riddle is no longer employed by the County and needs to be removed from the official list of Review Officers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Burke County Board of Commissioners do hereby appoint Hunter Nestor as Review Officer for the Towns of Drexel, Hildebran and Valdese in Burke County, pursuant to NC General Statute 47-30.2 and give them the authority to perform all responsibilities as such. Further, the Commissioners do hereby remove Rebecca “Becca” Bleich as a Review Officer for the aforementioned Towns and Dustin Riddle as a Review Officer for the County of Burke.

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

Adopted this 19th day of March 2019.

/s/: Johnnie W. Carswell
Johnnie W. Carswell, Chairman
Burke County Board of Commissioners

Attest:
/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board
COMM. DEV. - RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT 2020 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION - OVNHT BOARDWALK

If awarded, the RTP (Recreational Trails Program) grant will fund approximately 150-ft of new boardwalk and a new bridge on an existing section of the OVNHT on Lake James State Park land. Currently the trail terminates into the hillside below NC 126 at Canal Bridge. The boardwalk would allow pedestrians dismounted bicyclists to get up to NC 126 and safely cross Canal Bridge. There is no effect to the County budget. The grant match will come from the Duke Energy CRA Agreement and/or additional grant funding secured in the future.

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2019-07.

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

Resolution No. 2019-07 reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

Resolution in Support of Application to the 2020 Recreational Trails Program – OVNHT Boardwalk

WHEREAS the North Carolina State Trails Program administered by the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation is tasked with distributing funds from the 2020 Recreational Trails Program; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina Trails Committee invited Burke County to apply for funds for the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and more specifically the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Boardwalk Project and

WHEREAS in order to receive funds Burke County is required to provide a 25 percent match, or up to $25,000, to the requested amount of which $100,000 is the maximum amount per project that may be requested for the 2020 grant cycle; and

WHEREAS Burke County desires add to the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail at Lake James State Park and County Park by building a new ridge and boardwalk to safely guide users from the existing trail up to NC 126 to cross Canal Bridge; and

WHEREAS this match will be provided via monies from Duke Energy's obligation to fund part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail through the Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and/or additional grant funding secured in the future.

NOW THEREFORE the Burke County Board of Commissioners resolves to support the application to the 2020 Recreational Trails Program and provide the 25 percent match via additional grant funding secured in the future and/or monies set aside from Duke Energy's obligation to fund part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and complete the project in the
March 19, 2019

specified timeframe.

Adopted this 19\textsuperscript{th} day of March 2019.

\hspace{1em} /s/: Johnnie W. Carswell
\hspace{1em} Johnnie W. Carswell, Chairman
\hspace{1em} Board of Commissioners

\hspace{1em} Attest:
\hspace{1em} /s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn
\hspace{1em} Kay H. Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
\hspace{1em} Clerk to the Board

\textbf{COMM. DEV. - RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT 2020 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM}

\textbf{GRANT APPLICATION - FFST NW GAP}

If awarded, the RTP (Recreational Trails Program) grant will fund approximately 0.75 miles of new trail including two (2) new bridges and 100 ft of elevated walkway on Fonta Flora County park land leased to Burke County by Duke Energy.

Once completed, this project will connect approximately 18-miles of trail from the Lake James State Park Visitor Center and Harris Whisnant Road. The Community Development Department applied for this project in the 2019 RTP cycle but was not awarded the grant. NC State Parks has encouraged Burke County to reapply for the project and it has been reworked to be more competitive in the 2020 RTP grant cycle.

Budgetary Effect: If awarded, this grant would require a 25\% match up to $25,000. Funding for this grant match was included in the Department’s FY 19-20 budget request.

\textbf{Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2019-06.}

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<tr>
<th>RESULT:</th>
<th>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</th>
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<tr>
<td>MOVER:</td>
<td>Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>AYES:</td>
<td>Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSENT:</td>
<td>Wayne F. Abele, Sr.</td>
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Resolution No. 2019-06 reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

Resolution in Support of Application to the 2020 Recreational Trails Program - Fonta Flora State Trail – Northwest Gap

WHEREAS the North Carolina State Trails Program administered by the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation is tasked with distributing funds from the 2020 Recreational Trails Program; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina Trails Committee invited Burke County to apply for funds for the Fonta Flora State Trail and more specifically the Fonta Flora State Trail – Northwest Gap; and
WHEREAS in order to receive funds Burke County is required to provide a 25 percent match, or $25,000 to the requested amount of $100,000, which is the maximum amount per project that may be requested for the 2020 grant cycle; and

WHEREAS Burke County desires to close the gap between Lake James State Park and County Park on the Fonta Flora State Trail, creating 18 contiguous miles of trail around more than half of Lake James in Burke County; and

WHEREAS this match will be provided by Burke County through an appropriation from its General Fund and/or additional grant funding secured in the future.

NOW THEREFORE the Burke County Board of Commissioners resolves to support the application to the 2020 Recreational Trails Program and provide the 25 percent match via additional grant funding secured in the future and/or monies appropriated from its General Fund to close this gap on the Fonta Flora State Trail.

Adopted this 19th day of March 2019.

/s/: Johnnie W. Carswell
Johnnie W. Carswell, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

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

COMM. DEV. - CRANBERRY BOG CONVENIENCE SITE LAND PURCHASE
Burke County has been working with Foothills Conservancy on the purchase of two parcels of land in the Jonas Ridge area. The two parcels total 19.84 acres +/- and would be split into two new parcels, one 3 acres and one 17 acres. The 3-acre parcel would be purchased by Burke County for a convenience site while the 17-acre parcel would be purchased by Foothills Conservancy to protect the cranberry bog on the property. The price for the 3-acre parcel is $24,000, plus any associated closing costs. Community Development is requesting an additional $25,000 for the planning and design of the new, eco-friendly convenience site and cranberry bog park that will feature integrated stormwater controls,
restrooms, and a bog walk trail that will highlight the unique natural features of the property. The current location of the Jonas Ridge Convenience Center is situated on leased property. The lease cost is $4,500 annually and ends June 30, 2022. Further, topographic constraints prevent that Convenience Center from being able to accept as many waste products as the other convenience centers accept. The new site, when completed, would eliminate this inequity.

Budgetary Effect: The total price of the land and planning is $49,000, plus closing costs. An appropriation of General Fund, Fund Balance is necessary to purchase the property and start the planning and design process.

Motion: Approve the purchase of the 3-acre parcel (Part of PIN #1841572234) of real property in northern Burke County for a convenience site and authorize the County Manager to execute the related documentation. Appropriate up to $49,000 of General Fund, Fund Balance for land purchase, planning and design services for the convenience center and cranberry bog park.

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

FM - APPOINTMENTS TO THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Burke County is required to organize and maintain the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) as a requirement of the federal law known as Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). EPCRA requires facilities with more than the threshold planning quantities of hazardous materials to report to the LEPC, Fire Departments, and the State Emergency Response Commission. This reporting is done through Tier II reporting on a program called E-Plan. E-Plan can be viewed by the LEPC, Fire Departments, and Emergency Services personnel. The LEPC is formed to work on the planned response and general safety measures in dealing with hazardous materials at fixed facilities and transportation routes. This committee is designed to work hand-in-hand with emergency response agencies, business and industry organizations and the general public.

The LEPC is required to have a certain cross section of representation with fifteen (15) members serving according to the by-laws. One (1) seat is open for appointment, Seat number 10. The term is for three (3) years.

Motion: To appoint Charles Conley (Burke County United Way) to Seat No. 10 on the LEPC for the remainder of a 3-year term ending January 31, 2022.

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

FIRE MARSHAL - ADOPTION OF REVISED LEPC BYLAWS
The Burke County Local Emergency Planning Committee by-laws were recently updated and are submitted to the Burke County Board of Commissioners for review and approval in accordance with Chapter 2, Article 4, Section 2-87 of the Burke County Code of Ordinances.

Motion: To approve the by-laws for Local Emergency Planning Committee.
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES: Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor
ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVAL OF WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN
A Water Shortage Response Plan establishes authority for declaration of a water shortage, defines different stages of water shortage severity, and outlines appropriate responses for each stage. Recently adopted rules governing water use during droughts and water emergencies (15A NCAC 02E. 0607) stipulate specific requirements for WSRPs. All public and privately-owned water systems subject to G.S. 143-355 (l) are required to prepare and submit a WSRP as part of their Local Water Supply Plan. This includes all units of local government that provide or plan to provide public water service and all community water systems having 1,000 or more connections or serving more than 3,000 people in North Carolina. Updated WSRPs are required every five years at a minimum. Updates may also be necessary to address changes such as population growth, new sources or additional demands for water or after implementation and evaluation of restriction effectiveness. Staff prepared the Plan and it was approved by the Division of Water Resources on January 31, 2019. The public notice requirement for the Plan was met by posting a notice on the County’s website, posting notices at the Comm. Development office as well as the water and sewer office in Hildebran. Further, a notice was enclosed with customers’ water bills. Formal adoption of the following resolution approving the Plan is requested.

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2019-09.
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES: Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor
ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

Resolution No. 2019-09 reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
BURKE COUNTY WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (l) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water service and each large community water system shall develop and implement water conservation measures to respond to drought or other water shortage conditions as set out in a Water Shortage Response Plan and submitted to the Department for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, as required by the statute and in the interests of sound local planning, a Water Shortage Response Plan for Burke County, has been developed and submitted to the Burke County Board of County Commissioners for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Burke County Board of County Commissioners finds that the Water Shortage Response Plan is in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute
143-355 (l) and that it will provide appropriate guidance for the future management of water supplies for Burke County, as well as useful information to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the development of a state water supply plan as required by statute;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Burke County that the Water Shortage Response Plan Burke County, North Carolina dated January 31, 2019, is hereby approved and shall be submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners intends that this plan shall be revised to reflect changes in relevant data and projections at least once every five years or as otherwise requested by the Department, in accordance with the statute and sound planning practice.

Adopted this 19th day of March 2019.

/s/: Johnnie W. Carswell
Johnnie W. Carswell, 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 FEBRUARY 2019

The Board of Commissioners is presented with the Tax Collection Report for the period between July 1, 2018 and February 28, 2019. It reflects the status of collections by the Burke County Tax Collection's Staff. For each category below, the following information is provided: the annual budget amount, the amount collected year-to-date, the balance to collect and the percent of budget collected. This report is a supplement to the Settlement Report submitted annually to keep Commissioners, County Manager and Finance Director informed of the status of tax collections in Burke County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
<th>Amount Collected YTD</th>
<th>Balance to Collect</th>
<th>% Collected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Year Taxes</td>
<td>$44,850,000.00</td>
<td>$42,727,882.82</td>
<td>$2,122,117.18</td>
<td>95.27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delinquent Taxes</td>
<td>$710,000.00</td>
<td>$451,913.86</td>
<td>$258,086.14</td>
<td>63.65%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late List Penalty</td>
<td>$300,000.00</td>
<td>$207,184.33</td>
<td>$92,815.67</td>
<td>69.06%</td>
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</table>

These two items below make up the current year taxes above.

Motion: To accept the Tax Collection Report for February 2019 as presented.
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES: Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor
ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

TAX DEPT. - RELEASE REFUND REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2019
Releases in value and/or refunds of taxes typically occur when:
• Taxpayers submit information that creates a reduction in value.
• Situs is corrected between counties and/or municipalities.
• Valuation appeals reduce the value for real or personal property.
• The postmark reveals a payment was timely sent.

The Board of Commissioners is presented with the following list of releases and refunds for consideration. The Net Release is a result of the Report Amount minus the Rebilled Amount.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tax System Refunds and Releases</th>
<th>Report Amount</th>
<th>Rebilled Amount</th>
<th>Net Release</th>
<th>Refund Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Releases (TR-304)</td>
<td>$1,771.81</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$1,771.81</td>
<td>$388.42</td>
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<tr>
<th>VTS Refunds Over $100</th>
<th>Refund Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>VTS Adjustments</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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*Note: The net loss amount is a result of the report amount minus the rebilled amount.

The TR-304 report reads as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Taxpayer Name</th>
<th>Bill Date</th>
<th>Operator ID (Name)</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
<th>Orig Bill Amount($)</th>
<th>Release Amount($)</th>
<th>Bill Amount after Release($)</th>
<th>NOTES AND REBILLED AMOUNT</th>
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<tr>
<td>TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY</td>
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Subtotal: 553.89 0.00

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Subtotal: 597.79 0.00

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Subtotal: 251.99 0.00

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Subtotal: 368.14 0.00
The TR-406 report reads as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Trans #</th>
<th>Refund Recipient Name</th>
<th>Refund Address</th>
<th>Refund Description</th>
<th>Opic</th>
<th>Refund Change Date</th>
<th>Refund Amount ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10854729</td>
<td>HEATHER D BAKER</td>
<td>2087 BRARWOOD DR MORGANTON,NC 28655</td>
<td>Refund on Bill # 0000653123-2014-2014-0009-00</td>
<td>DHUTCHINS1</td>
<td>2/12/2016 9:33:57 AM</td>
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<td>10854725</td>
<td>HEATHER D BAKER</td>
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<td>Refund on Bill # 0000653123-2017-2017-0009-00</td>
<td>DHUTCHINS1</td>
<td>2/12/2016 9:33:57 AM</td>
<td>129.81</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>388.42</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Motion: To approve the Tax Releases and Refunds for February 2019 as presented.

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

ITEMS FOR DECISION

CO. MGR. - PRESENTATION OF ANIMAL SHELTER INFORMATION / OPTIONS (PLACE HOLDER)

After introductory comments from County Manager Steen, Clerk Draughn, presented information regarding animal shelter information/options as follows:

The Chairman has asked staff to prepare a report on the animal shelter with recommendations for moving towards a new model/approach, in a methodical manner, to significantly reduce euthanasia rates and increase adoptions. A comprehensive review of the current animal shelter and animal shelter operations (BMP’s --best management practices) from counties across North Carolina will be presented at the March regular meeting along with a variety of recommendations for moving forward in a positive direction. Once the report is published, feedback from citizens, animal advocates and animal rescue agencies will be welcomed. Completion of the new model/direction will be a multifaceted process and will be finalized only after all recommendations are thoroughly reviewed. In the meantime, the 1974 animal shelter needs some additional care including paint, office furniture, and extensive cleaning to make it more appealing for staff and end users alike.

Budgetary Effect: An appropriation of up to $15,000 of General Fund, Fund Balance is requested for cleaning, painting, purchase of pre-owned office furniture, etc., for the animal shelter.

The animal shelter recommendations/options are as follows:
Facility Recommendations:

- Appropriate approximately $15,000 or more for minor renovations/repairs to ensure the current facility is as efficient, welcoming, and comfortable as possible until a permanent solution is determined. The renovations should be completed within the next 90 days.
- Replace the existing office furniture within the next 90 days with better used furniture until a permanent solution is determined.
- Upgrade the computers and software within the next 30 days to handle the demands of using modern social media practices.
- Issue an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for a firm with extensive animal shelter building expertise and animal welfare experience to conduct a facility needs assessment to learn the true needs for the shelter now and in the future.
- Once the RFQ process is complete, a firm would be selected and funding appropriated ($5,000 - $25,000 or other amount to be determined by the Board) at the April Commissioners’ meeting.
- It is recommended that the County explore a variety of funding options for a new animal center, examples include utilizing grants, loans, fundraising, pet licensing fees, municipal participation, pay-as-you-go, or bonds.
- Staff should work with the Finance Department to research what procedures need to be implemented to allow citizens, groups, and non-profits to donate money for the construction of a new Animal Services Center to ensure the process is as smooth as possible with the IRS.

Organizational Structure Recommendations:

- Moving forward, Animal Services should be placed under the direct authority of the county manager.
- The Burke County Sheriff’s Office should continue animal control operations, with the day to day operations of the animal center conducted by county staff.
- Initially, the new Animal Services Department should have three (3) full-time employees. One (1) Director, one (1) Shelter Coordinator, and one (1) Animal Technician or some comparable position.
- A robust volunteer program should be developed and implemented as soon as possible. Volunteers would provide administrative support services, would work with staff to ensure animals are cared for and to be advocates in our community.
- Inmate labor should not be used moving forward. The presence of an inmate at the shelter is inconsistent with our vision to make the shelter a welcoming, vibrant place for individuals and families to interact with center staff and their prospective pet(s) without anxiety or trepidation.

Operations Recommendations:

- The hours of operation for the Burke County Animal Services Center should be: Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
• Adoptions for both the public and approved rescue agencies should take place from 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily.

• In keeping with Burke County’s motto, “All About Advancing,” good public relations practices, and listening to public feedback, the sale of animal carcasses should cease.

• Animal Services staff should develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure consistency of service, equitable treatment of animals and the public, and to have a guide for everyday procedures within 30 days or less.

   **Education/Marketing Recommendations:**
   - Animal Services should utilize and be engaged with social media platforms. Using social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter will help ensure animals are visible and have an increased chance of being adopted, reduce euthanasia, and reduce the number of animals housed in the Burke County shelter.
   - Staff should frequently post pictures of animals that are up for adoption. Engage the community by having an “animal of the week” event that highlights a certain animal at the center, with a short write-up, and a picture.
   - Social media should be used to inform the community about any public/shelter events. Social media should also be used to inform the public about early closings or changes in hours.
   - Burke County Animal Services should frequently post and update their section of the Burke County website with relevant information and connect the public to animal resources.
   - In conjunction with social media, Animal Services should post photos and videos of adoptable animals to the website.
   - The website should have a community calendar section to let the public know in advance of any events.
   - Staff should work with groups such as REASON, vets, and foster groups to inform the public about any spay and neuter events/services, using social and traditional media.
   - Staff should work and collaborate with Burke County Public Schools and REASON to expand educational programs offered at schools and send spay and neuter literature home with students.
   - Presentations could be made to local civic groups and rescue organizations to inform the public about the importance of spaying and neutering their animals and the resources and services available.

   **Low or No Cost Education/Marketing Recommendations:**
   - “K-9 Cop for a Day” once a month an adoptable dog spends a portion of the day riding with a police officer and meets members of the community.
   - Feature adoptable pets at Burke County Board of Commissioners’ meetings. A photo or the actual animal can be presented to promote and encourage adoptions. With buy-in, this recommendation can also be extended to the municipalities in Burke County.
• Animal Services can partner with County departments and other municipalities to advertise services on digital signs to increase awareness of animal services, adoptions, and spay and neuter services.

**Marketing Recommendations - Some Cost**
• The Burke County Animal Shelter (Animal Services Center) can further increase their visibility by utilizing billboard space on I-40.
• Animal Services could reach out to local news media for free or reduced advertising, public service announcements, pet of the week.
• Burke County could partner with REASON, local vets, and foster groups to develop a free spay and neuter day.
• Burke County could hire a marketing firm to rebrand the image of the animal shelter (Animal Services Department and the Animal Services Center) and to promote spay and neuter education / services.

**Adoption Recommendations:**
• Burke County Animal Services staff should research home fostering opportunities. This would allow those who are not officially affiliated with a rescue group to have the opportunity to foster an animal in their home. This will free space at the center, help animals find a permanent home, and help socialize animals.
• Burke County Animal Services staff should research and evaluate current adoption fees to ensure adoption fees do not hinder anyone seeking to adopt an animal from the center.
• Burke County Animal Services staff should research the prospect of approved rescue groups pulling animals that have been deemed aggressive by staff to be evaluated by an animal behavioral specialist.
• Adoptions, for both the public and approved rescue agencies, would take place from 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily.
• Burke County Animal Services staff should research and implement a Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program to humanely address feral/community cat issues.

**Legislative Recommendations:**
• Animal Services staff should research and evaluate any needed changes to the Burke County Animal Ordinance regarding the adoption process and any general changes to make the Ordinance more equitable and clearer for both citizens and staff. Any potential changes to the Ordinance should only occur after ample research is done, public input is acquired, and direction is given from the Burke County Board of Commissioners.
• Burke County Animal Services staff, in addition to evaluating the Animal Ordinance overall, should assess the cat colony section to gauge whether the scope of the section needs to be changed or removed.

Clerk Draughn then responded to several questions from Commissioner Taylor. Commissioner Mulwee said once the County completes the RFQ/needs assessment and input is gathered from the community, this project can be completed the right way, the first time.
Chairman Carswell said this project is not going to happen over night and until a needs assessment is completed, the Board does not know the full route they want to take. However, he said he wants Burke County to be number one (1) in the State and to be a model for other counties.

Motions: To solicit feedback from citizens, animal advocates and animal rescue agencies. (A special time-limited email address will be created to receive input from citizens on the recommendations. Further, a staff facilitated workshop with focus groups (animal advocates & rescue agencies) will be held within 90 days.) Direct staff to issue an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for an animal shelter facility study/ needs assessment. Appropriate up to $15,000 of General Fund, Fund Balance for refreshing the animal shelter.

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

HR - BURKE COUNTY SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT PAY PLAN ADJUSTMENT
Rhonda Lee, Human Resources Director, presented information regarding Burke County sworn law enforcement pay plan adjustment as follows:

Human Resources was commissioned by the Burke County Board of Commissioners’ Chairman to conduct a current market analysis for the starting pay for Deputy Sheriff and Detention Officer positions. The analysis included data from all counties that border Burke County and several municipalities within Burke County.

The results of the analysis show that the current starting rate for Burke County Deputy Sheriff positions has shifted approximately 12% below the current market average since the pay plan for this occupational group was last reviewed and adjusted in July 2017. The current starting rate for Burke County Detention Officer positions has shifted approximately 10% below the current market average for this occupational group.

In July 2017, the minimum and maximum salary ranges and current salaries of Sworn Law Enforcement occupations were shifted up 2.5%. This brought Burke County Deputy Sheriff positions to 100% of the market average hiring rate for the area at that time. The entire County pay plan was increased 1.5% in July 2017, which meant Sworn Law Enforcement Officers received a 4% total increase.

County Commissioners also approved Sworn Law Enforcement Certification pay in July 2017. Existing Officers and newly hired Officers who had obtained Intermediate and/or Advanced Law Enforcement Certifications, received 1.5% added to their base salary for each certification.

County Commissioners also approved enhancing Sworn Law Enforcement Officer Education pay in July 2017. Officers receive $500 annually for associate degree,
$1,000 annually for a bachelor's degree and $1,500 annually for a master's degree. Degrees must be related to the field of Criminal Justice.

Since July 2017, the following counties have implemented pay plan adjustments: Avery, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Lincoln and Rutherford. These adjustments are attributable to the recent upward shift in the market.

The Burke County Sheriff's Office has experienced an increase in employee turnover within the past year and a half and they are finding it difficult to fill vacant positions. In addition, enrollment in local basic law enforcement training programs has decreased over the past several years. This is a factor in a decrease in qualified applicants for sworn law enforcement positions. Increased employee turnover and a reduction in a steady stream of qualified candidates creates a competitive environment where employers must evaluate and adjust recruitment and retention efforts, including but not limited to pay adjustments.

For the Burke County Sheriff's Office to remain competitive in their recruitment and retention efforts, it is recommended that the Sworn Law Enforcement Pay Plan be increased 12% to the current hiring rate market average. It is also recommended that the salaries of employees currently occupying Sworn Law Enforcement positions be increased 12%, excluding the Sheriff. The pay plan analysis for the Sheriff is currently being reviewed for the upcoming FY19/20 budget year, along with other Department Head positions. It is recommended that the Sworn Law pay plan adjustment go into effect the pay period beginning March 23, 2019 with the first pay date being April 12, 2019.

There is currently one vacant Detention Officer position compared to multiple sworn law enforcement vacancies. For this reason, it is recommended that pay adjustments for Detention Officer positions be addressed in the FY19/20 budget process.

Budgetary Effect: Approximately $150,500 for the remainder of FY18/19. Approximately $558,920 annually.

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Commissioner Taylor presented a handout to the Board (shown on the following page) and made several comments stating his displeasure with giving a pay increase just because neighboring counties are paying higher wages. Commissioner Taylor said not all counties are the same and compared income/financial information from Burke with Catawba, Mecklenburg and other counties. Commissioner Taylor said based on his comparison, Burke County is not underpaying the Sheriff’s Deputies and said comparing starting salaries is a good place to start, but it cannot be the only variable to consider and this sets a bad precedent.
To prevent confusion, Commissioner Brittain clarified that Commissioner Taylor’s numbers were total compensation amounts, not base pay amounts.

Motion: To approve a twelve percent (12%) increase to the Burke County Sworn Law Enforcement Pay Plan and to increase the salaries of existing Burke County Sworn Law Enforcement Officers by the same amount, excluding the Sheriff, effective on the pay period beginning March 23, 2019 with the first pay date of April 12, 2019 and to appropriate up to $150,500 in General Fund, Fund Balance.

RESULT: APPROVED [3 TO 1]

MOVER: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Commissioner
AYES: Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee and Jeffrey C. Brittain
NAYS: Maynard M. Taylor
ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Chairman Carswell opened the floor for comments and reports.

Commissioner Taylor said his reports are in the agenda packet and said he attended the Burke County Soil and Water Essay Contest, Agriculture Steering Committee Web Conference, and the Burke County Cattlemen’s annual meeting. He also distributed a transportation handout and said there will be a community event at the CB Hildebrand Public Library – Burke County Senior Center in Hildebran on Saturday with many amenities.

Vice Chairman Mulwee said his reports are in the agenda packet and said he attended a Tourism Development Authority meeting and reported a new hotel is being constructed and relocation numbers are increasing. Vice Chairman Mulwee also said he and Chairman Carswell will be at a Chamber of Commerce meeting called “coffee and conversation” at 7:30 a.m. on Friday at Judges Riverside Restaurant.

Commissioner Brittain said the DSS Board met today and said there are around 250 children and 98 adults in foster care and encouraged citizens who may be interested to seriously consider fostering or adoption.
Clerk Draughn reminded the Board of the following events:

- March 29th - Legislative Breakfast meeting with WPCC at the Foothills Higher Education Center.
- April 2nd - pre-agenda meeting will be held at Lake James Fire and Rescue.
- April 2nd - Burke County 4H Achievement Night.
- April 17th - Master gardener graduation.

Clerk Draughn thanked the Board for being asked to work on the animal recommendations/options.

County Manager Steen encouraged citizens to attend the event at the CB Hildebrand Public Library – Burke County Senior in Hildebran on Saturday.

Chairman Carswell thanked the citizens in attendance for coming to the meeting and said a lot of good business was conducted this evening. He encouraged everyone to please spay/neuter their pets and to not litter.

**RESULT:** **NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CLERK - BOARDS AND COMMITTEES VACANCY REPORT**

The following vacancies on boards and committees are available.

- Hickory Regional Planning Commission
- Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee
- Council on Aging
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- City of Morganton - Board of Adjustment (ETJ)
- City of Morganton - Planning Board (ETJ)
- Voluntary Agriculture Board
- Burke Co. Board of Adjustment & Planning Board
- Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority - Transportation Advisory Board
- Partners Behavioral Health Mgmt.
- Animal Advisory Board
- Burke Senior Center Advisory Council

**RESULT:** **NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**RESULT:** **NOT NEEDED. NOT HELD.**

**RECESS OF MEETING - WPCC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST MEETING**

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Carswell recessed the meeting at 7:39 p.m., until 8:00 a.m. on Friday, March 29, 2019 at the Foothills Higher Education Center, Room 211, 2128 S. Sterling Street in Morganton.
Approved this 16th day of July 2019.

[Signature]

Johnnie W. Carswell, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

[Signature]

Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board