

April 21, 2020 (Special Regular)

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

Both Burke County and the State of North Carolina had previously declared a state of emergency which was ongoing as of April 21, 2020 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Following the N.C. Governor's Executive Order limiting mass gatherings and to protect the health of all meeting participants, the Burke County Board of Commissioners' regularly scheduled in-person regular meeting on April 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. was cancelled on April 16, 2020. A special remote meeting via Zoom, a virtual meeting / teleconferencing platform with simultaneous communication, was scheduled for April 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to facilitate the meeting. Chairman Carswell executed the combined notice of meeting cancellation and notice of a special virtual meeting which was published on April 16, 2020. The Commissioners, the County Manager, the County Attorney, the Clerk and County staff as well as any citizens that joined the virtual meeting, could hear and see one another for the duration of the meeting. Citizens that joined by telephone, could only hear the meeting. Citizens were also invited on April 16, 2020 to watch a live stream of the meeting on the County's YouTube channel, BurkeCountyNC or view the meeting later on the local cable systems. During the meeting, the Clerk shared each agenda item on her computer screen so that meeting participants could see the item being discussed and the agenda, in its entirety, was posted to the County's website, www.burkenc.org, several days prior to the meeting as usual. A verbal roll call was conducted.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Johnnie W. Carswell, Chairman
Scott Mulwee, Vice Chairman
Wayne F. Abele, Sr.
Jeffrey C. Brittain
Maynard M. Taylor

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 remote meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Kevin E. Frederick, Waldensian Presbyterian Church, delivered the invocation remotely.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

J.R. Simpson, II, County Attorney, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of September 3, 2019 (recessed), September 17, 2019 (regular), October 1, 2019 (pre-agenda), October 15, 2019 (regular), November 5, 2019 (pre-agenda), and November 19, 2019 (regular) meetings as written.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

PRESENTATIONS

AS - PET OF THE MONTH

Kaitlin Settlemire, Animal Services Director, presented pictures of Kanga, a dog, and Sunnie, a cat, who are in need of their "forever" home. Chairman Carswell encouraged citizens to continue adopting pets during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN.
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SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE.

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Due to the Board holding a remote meeting, public comments were submitted to Clerk Draughn in advance to be read aloud at the meeting. Four (4) citizens submitted public comments.

Loralie Clark, Owner/Manager, Lakeside Pagoda LLC

"I would like to respectfully request a lift on the ban on all VRBO, AirBnB and other vacation rentals of less than one month. Burke county is not a population dense area and the majority of the vacation rentals are located in private homes that are not near busy public areas. Guests will be able to practice the recommended COVID-19 safety precautions. Vacation rentals offer an alternative to hotels, which have remained open throughout this stay at home order. The many rentals located on or near Lake James and Linville Gorge offer proximity and convenience to access public boat ramps and Lake James, which is open for public use. Memorial Day weekend has traditionally been the beginning of the summer tourism season in the Burke county area. Most of these vacation rentals are operated as small businesses. During the summer months they earn the majority of the income needed to support that business for the entire year. Continuing the ban on vacation rentals into the summer months will have a devastating effect on these small businesses as well as the local economy which is dependent on summer tourism. Thank you for your consideration in this matter."

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Karen Hennessee, Office Manager/ Property Manager, Lake James Real Estate

"I understand that we are in unprecedented times and I respectfully approve of the social distancing precautions that have been implemented throughout our county. Vacation rentals offer families a private and safe environment to stay. There is no shared space with other people, unlike motels and hotels, they get the entire property. These homes are professionally cleaned during each stay. Our guests will be able to practice the recommended COVID-19 safety precautions during their stay. These rentals are a great source of economy to Burke County Tourism and also relieve a great financial burden on the owners, who rely on this income. With Memorial Day weekend fast approaching, and our season being limited to summer and early fall, the owners would appreciate the ability to resume rentals and lessen the financial impact on their income. Thank you for your consideration."

Al Raynor and Eileen Raynor

"Please consider lifting the ban on short term rentals. Our home at Lake James is a single-family residence--no different than the thousands of other single-family residences where families are sheltering in place. Our guests have no desire to contract Coronavirus, and therefore would not be mingling with the neighbors or violating public health recommendations. The closest our guests might come to a neighbor would be approximately 40 feet, and that would be outside in open air, and only then if both parties chose to engage each other. That is a much safer scenario than in hotels, which are allowed to operate, and a safer scenario than most of us encounter every day at the grocery store, Wal Mart, post office, bank, and boat ramps, all of which remain open. Our VRBO website has over 25 reviews from previous guests, and many of them delineate what they enjoyed about our home: Reading on the porches, swinging on the dock, watching sunsets, privacy, fishing, grilling, relaxing. Not one guest has ever imposed himself or herself on a neighbor, and it seems incomprehensible that a vacationer would subject the neighbors to any realistic risk. Thank you for your consideration."

Isaac Hoff, Director of Operations, Beanstalk Builders

"I would like to respectfully request a lift on the ban on all rentals of less than one month. As these rentals offer a safer option to hotels for personnel that do have to travel during this time. Thank you."

With there being no further comments, Chairman Carswell closed this portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

As requested by the Chairman, County Manager Steen reviewed the items on the consent agenda, which were approved by one (1) vote.

BOC - RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROPOSED FY 2019-2021 BIENNIUM BUDGET

The following resolution encourages the State to adopt the proposed FY 2019-2021 Biennium Budget and requests funding for certain projects/initiatives in Burke County.

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Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2020-09.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

Resolution No. 2020-09 reads as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SUPPORTING THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S
PROPOSED FY 2019-2021 BIENNIUM BUDGET

WHEREAS, Burke County, North Carolina is a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina;

WHEREAS, Burke County is recognized as a center for tourism, a revered education system, prospering rural municipalities, and exceptional business growth;

WHEREAS, Burke County and the municipalities within it provide essential public safety services, such as law enforcement and fire services that are dependent on strong funding support from the State;

WHEREAS, Burke County and the municipalities within it provide critical treatment programs for individuals with mental health disorders, substance use disorders, along with facilities for offenders that have been adjudicated by law that require sustained state funding;

WHEREAS, the excellent educational opportunities and business growth in Burke County are critically supported with state funding;

WHEREAS, Burke County Public Schools is among the highest performing public-school systems in North Carolina, with graduation rates at 89.7% cohort for all four high schools; 7 of 23 schools exceeding growth at 30% (SA 20%); 12 schools met growth at 52%; Draughn High School's graduation rate was 95.1% and Burke Middle College was 100%. All four high schools received a grade of B and Burke Middle College received an A (99); ranked #22 on Niche.com list of best school districts in the state; tied for 3rd for districts our size behind Chapel Hill-Carborro and Henderson County;

WHEREAS, Western Piedmont Community College is responsible for over \$177 million per year in income added by its graduates to the regional workforce and is considered one of the top attractions for recruiting business and industry to Burke County;

WHEREAS, Burke County recognizes that strong collaborative efforts in the community create lasting, positive impact for residents of Burke County and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the current proposed bipartisan state budget for the FY 2019-2021 biennium would include funding for several critical county and community investments, including:

Burke County Items in H966 – Appropriations Act

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- \$15.8 million to Burke Schools for school construction and R&R
 - \$3.9 million to Western Piedmont Community College for school construction and R&R
 - \$15 thousand to the Veterans Killed in Action Fund
 - \$25 thousand to East Burke Christian Ministries for the provision of food, clothing, and emergency financial aid to low income individuals in the community
 - \$25 thousand to Burke United Christian Ministries for the provision of food, clothing and emergency financial aid to low income individuals in the community
 - \$100 thousand to Christ Centered Recovery Program
 - \$180 thousand to Partners Behavioral Health Management to study the feasibility of starting a behavioral health crisis center
 - \$15 thousand to the Pregnancy Care Center of Burke County
 - \$1 million to Burke County for the repair and renovation of the courthouse
 - \$50 thousand to the Town of Valdese for parks
 - \$50 thousand to the City of Morganton for Main street improvements
 - \$5.6 million to the North Carolina School of Science and Math – Morganton campus for staff, operating expenses, and equipment
 - \$2 million to the Department of Natural and Cultures Resources for the development of the Wilderness Gateway Trail in McDowell, Rutherford, Burke, and Catawba counties
- TOTAL: \$28.7 Million

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Burke County strongly encourages all members of the General Assembly to act in accordance with the needs of the State and support Burke County by taking measures to enact the proposed bipartisan state budget, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor, to ensure these important programs for the institutions and communities that they will so clearly benefit.

This the 21st day of April 2020.

/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

CLERK - APPOINTMENTS TO CPCF TEAM

The terms of appointment for Seats 1, 2 and 4 on the CPCF (Child Protection Child Fatality Team) end April 30, 2020. Sheriff Whisenant (Seat 1) and Chris Jernigan (Seat 4) are willing to serve another 3-year term. Greg Curry, the EMS Director, has applied for Seat 2 formerly held by Major Jason Black.

Motion: To reappoint Sheriff Steve Whisenant (Seat 1 - Law Enforcement) and Chris Jernigan (Seat 4 - At-large) to the Child Protection Child Fatality Team for 3-year terms ending April 30, 2023. To appoint Greg Curry (Seat 2 - EMS) to the Child Protection Child Fatality Team for a 3-year term ending April 30, 2023.

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

CLERK - RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SCFAC

The State Consumer & Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC) has composed a draft resolution asking each of NC's 100 counties to consider adopting showing support for the SCFAC as the members meet on May 19th with legislators. The goal is to inform law makers of the needs associated with treatment and services for Mental Health (MH), Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

Motion: To adopt Res. No. 2020-10.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

Resolution No. 2020-10 reads as follows:

County of Burke
State of North Carolina

Resolution in Support
of
NC State Consumer & Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC)

WHEREAS, North Carolina's 100 counties experience on a daily basis; short falls in treatment of its residents in resources to treat, support and sustain life and health;

WHEREAS, NC counties are challenged with the decision to spend tax dollars for needed services for those experiencing Mental Health/Intellectual Developmental Disabilities/Substance Use Disorder/Traumatic Brain Injury (MH/IDD/SUD/TBI) challenges;

WHEREAS, the NC State CFAC is tasked with seven (7) statutory mandates to advise the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the legislature;

- Review, comment on, and monitor the implementation of the State Plan for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services
- Identify service gaps and underserved populations
- Make recommendations regarding the service array and monitor the development of different services
- Review and comment on the State budget for mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services
- Participate in all quality improvement measures and performance indicators
- Receive the findings and recommendations by local CFAC's regarding ways to improve the delivery of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services
- Provide technical assistance to local CFACs in implementing their duties

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THEREFORE, the NC State CFAC in its efforts to address the needs of MH/IDD/SUD/TBI individuals, their families and the larger community, requests county support for the engagement of:

- Systems Advocacy;
- Improved Service Delivery;
- Ensure Provision of Quality Services and
- Cultivation of Community Engagement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NC State CFAC is endorsed by the Burke County Board of Commissioners to represent the needs of Burke County.

Adopted this 21st day of April 2020.

/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

COMM. DEV. - ACCEPT 2020 ABANDONED MANUFACTURED HOME GRANT

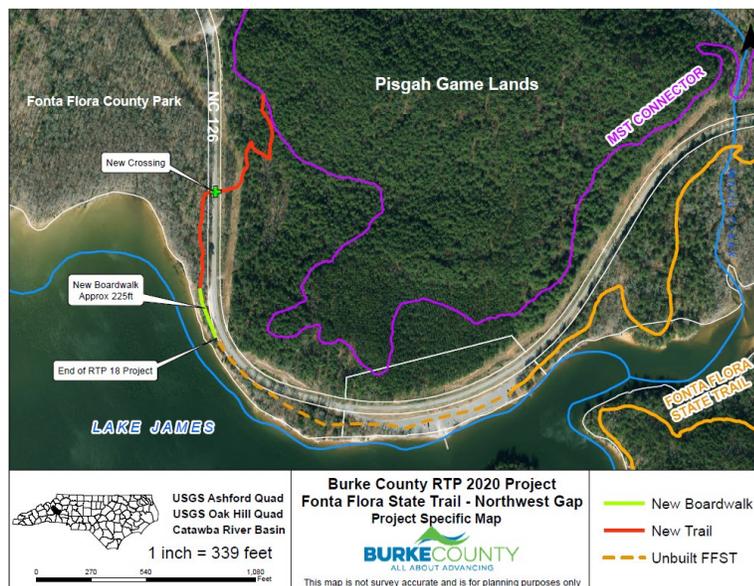
The Community Development Department applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from NC Department of Environmental Quality to remove 6-7 Abandoned Manufactured Houses. The grant would reimburse \$1,500 per single-wide unit removed or \$2,500 per double-wide unit. The department has already had more applicants to the program than the grant would cover. The applicants have agreed to pay the tipping fee for disposal at the landfill. The County would hire a contractor to remove the unit and separate out any hazardous materials. The removals would be bid out as a single contract. The County would be responsible for any amount over the reimbursement rate and the department is requesting authorization of up to \$2,335 from the General Fund to complete the removals. An increase of \$2,335 from the grant and an expense of up to \$2,335 from the General Fund for any additional expenses.

Motion: To accept the Abandoned Manufactured Housing Removal Grant in the amount of \$10,000 and authorize up to \$2,335 of Fund Balance from the General Fund for the completion of the removals. Further, authorize the County Manager to execute the grant agreement and removal contract on behalf of the Board, subject to review and/or revision by the County Attorney.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

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COMM. DEV. - ACCEPT RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM 2020 GRANT CONTRACT - NORTHWEST GAP 2



With the Board of Commissioner's approval, the Burke County Community Development Department has applied to and has received a \$89,400 Recreation Trails Program grant from North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) to complete the trail and boardwalk construction on the Fonta Flora State Trail at Linville Access across NC 126 to the existing MST Connector trail. This grant requires a \$22,350 match. In order to receive the money, the Board of Commissioners must approve the

grant agreement.

At the time of application, there was concern that we would not be able to complete the project with the initial grant as the amount of necessary boardwalk was doubled to comply with NCDOT requirements. The resulting low bid should allow us to complete the project in its entirety. Because the original grant request has been met, Community Development is working with NC Parks to amend the grant for a project on the other side of Lake James. The new project will be approximately 2 miles of new trail on the Fonta Flora/Overmountain Victory National Historic Trails through 1780 and the Enclave subdivisions. This new project can be matched with Duke Energy CRA funding, and no match will be necessary from Burke County. If State Parks approves the requested changes to the grant, then there will be no effect to the County budget. The grant would be matched with Duke Energy CRA funding.

Motion: To approve the Recreational Trails Program grant contract for \$89,400 between the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and Burke County. Further, authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board, subject to review and/or revision by the County Attorney.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

COMM. DEV. - ACCEPT RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM 2020 GRANT CONTRACT - OVNHT BOARDWALK

With the Board of Commissioner's approval, the Burke County Community Development Department has applied to and has received a \$68,000 Recreation Trails Program grant from North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) for trail and boardwalk construction on the Fonta Flora State Trail/Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. This grant requires a \$17,000 match which will come from the Duke Energy CRA funding. This project will cover trail and boardwalk construction from the existing trail on Lake James State

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Park Land to Canal Bridge on NC 126 which the trail will use to cross Lake James. In order to receive the money, the Board of Commissioners must approve the grant agreement. There is no effect to the County budget. The grant match will come from the Duke Energy CRA funding.

Motion: To approve the Recreational Trails Program grant (\$68,000) contract between the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and Burke County. Further, authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board, subject to review and/or revision by the County Attorney.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

CD - RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT 2021 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION - OVNHT/FFST CANAL BRIDGE

The Community Development Department is applying for a 2021 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant. If awarded, this grant will fund a new section of trail connecting the existing sections of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and Fonta Flora State Trail at Lake James State Park to other portions of the park across Canal Bridge on NC 126. 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. 2020-07.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

Resolution No. 2020-07 reads as follows:

Burke County
North Carolina

Resolution in Support of Application to the 2021 Recreational Trails Program
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail - Canal Bridge

WHEREAS the North Carolina State Trails Program administered by the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation is tasked with distributing funds from the 2021 Recreational Trails Program; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina Trails Committee invited Burke County to apply for funds for the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) and Fonta Flora State Trail (FFST), and more specifically the OVNHT/FFST - Canal Bridge project; and

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WHEREAS in order to receive funds Burke County is required to provide a 25 percent match up to \$50,000 for a request of \$200,000, which is the maximum for the 2021 grant cycle; and

WHEREAS Burke County desires to continue advancing the OVNHT and FFST by connecting sections of Lake James State Park across Canal Bridge on NC 126; and

WHEREAS this match will be provided via monies from Duke Energy's obligation to part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail through the Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA) 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 2021 Recreational Trails Program and provide the 25 percent match via OVNHT CRA funding and/or additional grant funding secured in the future.

Adopted this 21st day of April 2020.

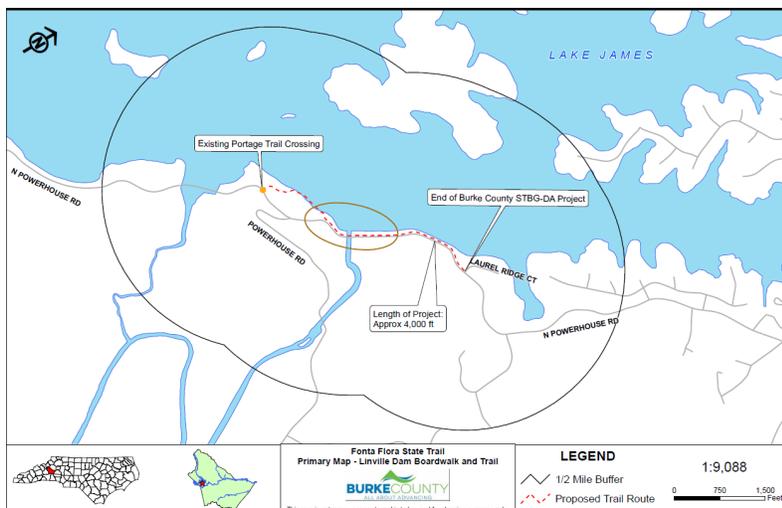
/s/: Johnnie W. Carswell
Johnnie W. Carswell, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

Attest:

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

COMM. DEV. - ACCEPT STBG-DA GRANT AGREEMENT - LINVILLE DAM

The Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) issued a call for projects to agencies in its jurisdiction for Surface Transportation Block Grant - Direct Attributable Funding (STBG-DA). Burke County Community Development Department applied for and was awarded \$400,000 for the Fonta Flora State Trail - Linville Dam and Boardwalk and trail. This grant will be matched with \$100,000 of County funds approved by the Board of Commissioners as part of the FY 20 budget.



Motion: To approve the STBG-DA grant (\$400,000) contract between the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Burke County. Further, authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board, subject to review and/or revision by the County Attorney.

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

HEALTH DEPT. - ACCEPTANCE OF COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDS

The Division of Public Health (DPH), Public Health Preparedness & Response (PHP&R) Branch, is making funds available to all local health departments through the "CDC-RFATP18-1802, Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response: Public Health Crisis Response, COVID19 Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement - Components A and B Supplemental Funding" to carry out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications, and other preparedness and response activities. This is one-time non-recurring state funds. There are specific deliverables which are provided for your review. The Board of Health approved the allocation on April 1, 2020.

Motion: To accept the \$92,783 of state one-time funds into the Health Department budget for execution of deliverables for COVID-19 Crisis Response.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

TAX DEPT. - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR MARCH 2020

The Board of Commissioners is presented with the Tax Collection Report for the period between July 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020. It reflects the status of collections by the Burke County Tax Collection's Staff. Included is the status comparing Collections to Levy and comparing Collections to Budget. Levy information is for Property Tax only and does not include the Vehicle Tax. The information below is comparing Tax Collections to the Tax Levy. Tax Levy is the total taxable property value times the tax rate. The levy changes monthly with the addition of discoveries, other changes or corrections and when Public Utility values are added.

Category	Tax Levy	Amount Collected YTD	Balance to Collect	% Collected
Property Tax	\$44,881,650.00	\$43,454,369.80	\$1,423,163.01	96.83%

The information below is comparing Tax Collections for Property Tax and Motor Vehicle Tax to the Annual Budget. This information is a supplement to the Annual Settlement Report.

Category	Annual Budget	Amount Collected YTD	Balance to Collect	% Collected
Current Year Taxes	\$48,070,000.00	\$47,131,164.72	\$938,835.28	98.05%
Delinquent Taxes	\$650,000.00	\$674,057.84	NONE	103.70%
Late List Penalty	\$250,000.00	\$310,870.20	NONE	124.35%

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

Category	Annual Budget	Amount Collected YTD	Balance to Collect	% Collected
Property Tax	\$43,470,000.00	\$43,454,369.80	\$15,630.2	99.96%

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Motor Vehicle Tax	\$4,600,000.00	\$3,676,794.92	\$923,205.08	79.93%
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Motion: To accept the Tax Collection Report for March 2020 as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

TAX DEPT. - RELEASE REFUND REPORT FOR MARCH 2020

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.

Tax System Refunds and Releases				
	Report Amount	Rebilled Amount	Net Release	Refund Amount
Releases (TR-304)	\$1,902.62	\$	\$1,902.62	\$

VTS Refunds Over \$100	
	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	\$206.71

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

Motion: To approve the Tax Releases and Refunds for March 2020 as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

The tax reports read as follows on the next page:

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TR-304 BILL RELEASE REPORT MARCH 2020

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount(\$)	Release Amount(\$)	Bill Amount after Release(\$)	Notes and Rebilled Amount
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Assessed In Error								
0024009501-2015-2015-0000-00-REG	CARTER, HERBERT L III	7/1/2015	LINDA WILBUR	3/9/2020	67.76	67.76	0.00	0.00
0024009501-2016-2016-0000-00-REG	CARTER, HERBERT L III	7/1/2016	LINDA WILBUR	3/9/2020	67.76	67.76	0.00	0.00
0024009501-2017-2017-0000-00-REG	CARTER, HERBERT L III	7/1/2017	LINDA WILBUR	3/9/2020	69.26	69.26	0.00	0.00
0024009501-2018-2018-0000-00-REG	CARTER, HERBERT L III	7/1/2018	LINDA WILBUR	3/9/2020	69.26	69.26	0.00	0.00
0024009501-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	CARTER, HERBERT L III	7/1/2019	LINDA WILBUR	3/9/2020	155.47	155.47	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						429.51		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Business Closed								
0000084711-2014-2014-0000-00-REG	STEPHENS CONSTRUCTION INC	7/1/2014	LINDA WILBUR	3/6/2020	151.81	151.81	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						151.81		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Deceased								
0000072156-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	NEWTON, DENNIS A	7/1/2019	RENEE AUSTIN	3/3/2020	7.57	7.57	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						7.57		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Discovery Billing								
0000080438-2013-2013-0000-00-REG	FRANCISCO, MARIO	7/1/2013	LINDA WILBUR	3/3/2020	91.03	91.03	0.00	0.00
0000114391-2009-2009-0000-00-REG	FRANCISCO, MARIO	7/2/2009	LINDA WILBUR	3/3/2020	73.21	73.21	0.00	0.00
0000118872-2010-2010-0000-00-REG	FRANCISCO, MARIO	7/1/2010	LINDA WILBUR	3/3/2020	75.96	75.96	0.00	0.00
0000124466-2011-2011-0000-00-REG	FRANCISCO, MARIO	7/1/2011	LINDA WILBUR	3/3/2020	77.41	77.41	0.00	0.00
0000140914-2012-2012-0000-00-REG	FRANCISCO, MARIO	7/1/2012	LINDA WILBUR	3/3/2020	78.89	78.89	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						396.50		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Duplicate Billing								
0024007873-2015-2015-0000-00-REG	CORNETTE, VICTOR ANTHONY	7/1/2015	LINDA WILBUR	3/27/2020	85.57	85.57	0.00	0.00
0024007873-2016-2016-0000-00-REG	CORNETTE, VICTOR ANTHONY	7/1/2016	LINDA WILBUR	3/27/2020	88.57	88.57	0.00	0.00
0024007873-2017-2017-0000-00-REG	CORNETTE, VICTOR ANTHONY	7/1/2017	LINDA WILBUR	3/27/2020	94.10	94.10	0.00	0.00
0024007873-2018-2018-0000-00-REG	CORNETTE, VICTOR ANTHONY	7/1/2018	LINDA WILBUR	3/27/2020	96.10	96.10	0.00	0.00
0024007873-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	CORNETTE, VICTOR ANTHONY	7/1/2019	LINDA WILBUR	3/27/2020	95.73	95.73	0.00	0.00
0024025992-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	VAUGHN, KENNETH	7/1/2019	BARBARA HARTLEY	3/13/2020	12.39	12.39	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						472.46		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Release LFUF								
0000082782-2014-2014-0000-00-REG	SHOEMAKER, CASEY	7/1/2014	LINDA WILBUR	3/9/2020	96.24	60.60	35.64	0.00
0000082782-2015-2015-0000-00-REG	SHOEMAKER, CASEY	7/1/2015	LINDA WILBUR	3/9/2020	101.21	62.00	39.21	0.00
0000082782-2016-2016-0000-01-REG	SHOEMAKER, CASEY	7/1/2016	LINDA WILBUR	3/9/2020	104.21	65.00	39.21	0.00
0000082782-2017-2017-0000-00-REG	SHOEMAKER, CASEY	7/1/2017	LINDA WILBUR	3/9/2020	110.07	70.00	40.07	0.00
0000141089-2012-2012-0000-00-REG	SHOEMAKER, CASEY	7/1/2012	LINDA WILBUR	3/9/2020	89.39	60.95	28.44	0.00
Subtotal						318.55		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Sold/Traded								

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0000078726-2015-2015-0000-00-REG	WALKER, TIMOTHY DANIEL	7/1/2015	RENEE AUSTIN	3/19/2020	21.54	21.54	0.00	0.00
0000078726-2016-2016-0000-00-REG	WALKER, TIMOTHY DANIEL	7/1/2016	RENEE AUSTIN	3/19/2020	21.54	21.54	0.00	0.00
0000078726-2017-2017-0000-00-REG	WALKER, TIMOTHY DANIEL	7/1/2017	RENEE AUSTIN	3/19/2020	19.84	19.84	0.00	0.00
0000078726-2018-2018-0000-00-REG	WALKER, TIMOTHY DANIEL	7/1/2018	RENEE AUSTIN	3/19/2020	17.85	17.85	0.00	0.00
0000078726-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	WALKER, TIMOTHY DANIEL	7/1/2019	RENEE AUSTIN	3/19/2020	16.09	16.09	0.00	0.00
0024026062-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	BRYANT, WILLIAM DAVID JR	7/1/2019	BARBARA HARTLEY	3/25/2020	24.77	24.77	0.00	0.00
0024033894-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	CARICO, SAMUEL	7/1/2019	CONNIE HOLDER	3/3/2020	4.59	4.59	0.00	0.00
Subtotal					126.22		0.00	
Total					1,902.62		0.00	
Net Release Amount					1,902.62			

NCVTS PENDING REFUND REPORT OVER \$100

Payee Name	Primary Owner	Address 1	Address 3	Refund Type	Bill #	Refund Description	Tax Jurisd.	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
MCDOWELL COUNTY TAX OFFICE	HEMMER, JENNA SUE	60 E COURT ST	MARION, NC 28752	Adjustment >= \$100	0052091511	[AS0168] - Refund Generated due to adjustment on abstract # : 0052091511-2019-2019-0000 RMV	01	Tax	(\$102.58)	\$0.00	(\$102.58)
							57	Tax	(\$84.13)	\$0.00	(\$84.13)
							57	Vehicle Fee	(\$20.00)	\$0.00	(\$20.00)
										Refund	\$206.71
										Refund Total	\$206.71

ITEMS FOR DECISION – NONE.

BOC - REPORTS & COMMENTS

Chairman Carswell opened the floor for reports and comments from Commissioners and staff.

Commissioner Taylor said his reports are in the agenda packet for review and that he has received multiple calls within the past few days regarding the location of the proposed convenience site in the eastern part of the County. Commissioner Taylor said citizens who called him were angry and he instructed them to send their comments to Clerk Draughn as stated in the agenda. Clerk Draughn noted she did not receive any comments concerning the proposed convenience site. He then encouraged citizens to complete the 2020 Census.

Commissioner Brittain thanked the employees who are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and said he appreciates them. He especially thanked DSS who continues to provide services to citizens and have adapted to the current situation while continuing to make personal visits. He noted there are currently 231 children in foster care and 87 adults.

Vice Chairman Mulwee echoed Commissioner Brittain’s words of appreciation for Burke County employees during this unprecedented time. He said WPCC faculty and staff have adapted to moving online and noted WPCC’s graduation will take place on August 1.

County Manager Steen said he sent a memo to the Board regarding the proposed purchase of property for a convenience site in eastern Burke County. He said the Geotechnical Engineering Report on the property, which was reviewed by himself and the County Engineer, indicated that

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the soil is not suitable for the potential intended uses; therefore, he will work with the County Attorney to inform the property owners that the County will not proceed with the purchase of the property.

J.R. Simpson, II, County Attorney, provided an update on projects he has worked on since the last Board meeting.

Chairman Carswell thanked Burke County's Incident Management Team, comprised of Rebecca McLeod, Health Director, Mike Willis, Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director, and others who are working around the clock during the pandemic. He said they have done a great job ensuring information is getting out to the County in a timely manner. He then reminded everyone of the following upcoming events:

- May 19th -regular and/or special meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- May 22nd - budget meeting at 2:00 p.m.
- May 25th is Memorial Day and County offices will be closed.
- May 28th - budget meeting at 2:00 p.m.
- June 2nd - pre-agenda meeting at 3:00 p.m.
- June 4th - budget meeting at 2:00 p.m., if needed.

Chairman Carswell also reminded everyone to please spay/neuter their pets, to pick up litter, like the County on Facebook, and to please complete the 2020 Census because only 45 percent of Burke County citizens have done so. He said the Census means a lot of federal money for Burke County especially now. He further encouraged citizens to follow CDC (Centers of Disease Control) guidelines for COVID-19 and stay home or if anyone must go out, please wear a mask.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

CLERK - BOARDS AND COMMITTEES VACANCY REPORT

Clerk Draughn announced the following vacancies on boards and committees:

- 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.
- Burke Senior Center Advisory Council
- Recreation Commission

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

CLOSED SESSION

RESULT: NOT NEEDED. NOT HELD.

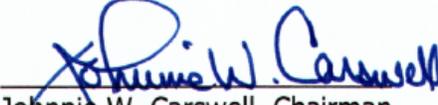
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ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn at 6:32 p.m.

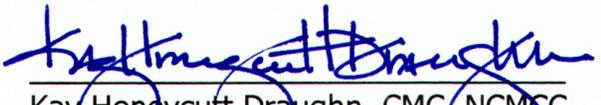
RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] BY A VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Johnnie W. Carswell, Scott Mulwee, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

Approved this 18th day of August 2020.



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

Attest:



Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board