



2012

Summary of Accomplishments

The following information is a brief summary of accomplishments by the Board of Commissioners and Staff during the calendar year and does not identify every activity that was completed to benefit our citizens during 2012.

Economic Development

*Information supplied by Burke Development Inc.

Recruitment and Expansion

| <u>Project Name</u> | <u>New Jobs</u> | <u>New Investment</u> | <u>Grant Funds</u> | <u>Type of Grant Funds</u> | <u>Additional Benefit</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|--|
| Spartacraft | 15 | \$500,000 | \$60,000 | Building Reuse | Expansion/Renovation of existing plant to accommodate more production |
| James Tool | 35 | \$2 million | | | Expansion/construction of new 30,000 sq.ft. building/new machinery |
| Siegwerks | 20 | \$3 million | \$240,000 | Building Reuse | Expansion of water based ink process. Company will lease 65,000 sq. ft from former Capri manufacturing facility which was redeveloped in part due to this expansion. |
| Zion Industries | 15 | | \$60,000 | Building Reuse | Expansion of current facility Adding 10,000 sq. ft. to current building |
| Leviton | 152 | \$7 million | \$1.2 million | JDIG (Job Development Investment Grant) | Expansion of current facility with new line |
| Fitzgerald Nursery | 10 | | \$250,000 | SBEA | |
| TOTALS | 247 | \$12.5 Million | \$1.8 Million | | |

Workforce Development

Project RENEW was developed and implemented by Burke Development Inc. (BDI) in early 2012 as a unique workforce development program with funding from a NC Rural Center grant. RENEW stands for Re-Educating a New Employable Workforce and is a 96-hour course that is meant to re-educate, re-tool and re-invent the local workforce. The project began as a response to concerns from local companies who saw a skills gap in potential employees. Collaboration with these employers, along with Western Piedmont Community College, led to early success.

The first class, which ended in June 2012, had 44 graduates and 37 were able to find full time employment within a month's time. The early success of this program caught the attention of the North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions. In late November 2012, Roger Shackelford, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, awarded BDI a \$154,594 demonstration grant to continue Project RENEW for another two years. The grant will allow up to 300 citizens to take advantage of the training platform and the third RENEW class begins in January 2013. There are plans to expand the program, deepen the curriculum and develop additional employer relationships, all of which will continue to grow the program and result in more Burke County citizens being put back to work.

Other

- Received Efficiency Assessment and Staffing Level Analysis and began implementation of recommendations with available funds
- Temporarily waived certain fees for 01-11-2012 Tornado Victims: Septic Tank Re-inspection Fees for victims that could use their existing septic tank after reconnection; Solid Waste Fees, Burke County Water Sewer Fees, and Building Permit Fees
- Approved temporary Ordinance to permit temporary usage of recreational vehicles (RVs) or campers by citizens impacted by the tornado on January 11, 2012.
- Adopted a resolution and formally recognized the exceptional actions of our Tele-Communicators who served the needs of our citizens during the Tornado as well as their ongoing service to all Burke County citizens.
- Approved Amendments to Burke County Personnel Policy Article VIII. Separation and Reinstatement and Article X. Grievance Procedure for Complaints of Unlawful Workplace Harassment and/or Discrimination.
- Conducted safety inspection of all County Facilities.

- Developed and conducted Burke County's first Supervisor Training sessions.
- Implemented and processed employee performance/merit increases *(approved in 2012/2013 budget.)*
- Completed Building Improvements at the Burke-Catawba District Confinement Facility.
- Completed renovation of Indian Hills Pump Station.
- Made repairs on two of the five water booster pump station buildings.
- Eliminated Huffman Avenue and Drowning Creek Sewer Pump Stations.
- Awarded Engineering Services Contract to West Consultants for design of the Eckerd Creek Sewer Outfall.
- Sand blasted and repainted Mineral Springs Mountain Water Tank.
- Awarded bid/contract to Bennick Enterprises for construction of the Rhoney Road Convenience Site.
- Initiated process to replace HRC Building HVAC and Generator.
- Initiated process to replace Courthouse HVAC system and upgrade Electrical Service.
- Completely renovated Courthouse elevator.
- Purchased new X-Ray machine for Courthouse Security.
- Provided REACT with additional funds to enable the purchase of a permanent building.
- Approved two Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) grants to assist Burke County Emergency Management and REACT.
- Approved Grant Agreement with the NC Department of Commerce, State Energy Office for the Smart Grid Program.

- Replaced failed telephone system used by DSS and Health Department at the HRC Building.
- Engaged 911 Consolidation Project Consultant and contracted with Architect and Engineering firm to initiate process for construction of the new 911 facility.
- Approved Formal Merger Agreement for Partners Behavioral Health Management.
- Entered into a MOU concerning mutual aid with the Burke Cooperative Water Board.
- Replaced outdated/obsolete PAN at the landfill.
- Relocated DSS unit in Valdese to the HRC Building in Morganton.
- Approved execution of an Economic Development Incentive Grant Agreement with James Tool, Inc. for building expansion.
- Approved NC Reuse Grant Application and Resolution for SpartaCraft, Inc.
- Approved the submission of a Building Reuse and Restoration Program Grant Application to the NC Rural Economic Development Center for proposed expansion of facilities at Master Workholding, Inc.
- Approved Economic Development Grant Agreement with Leviton, Inc.
- Approved an Economic Development Agreement between Burke County, Town of Valdese and Rhodhiss Development LLC to enable completion of a failed housing development.
- Adopted Schedule of Values and Present Use Schedule of Values for use in 2013 Revaluation Project.
- Initiated process to replace Burke County Tax Software.
- Authorized Tax Administrator to contract with Tax Management Associates to perform Business Personal Property Audits.
- Adopted a policy mandating background checks for Burke County Parks and Recreation Program Volunteers.

- Approved / accepted LSTA EZ Technology Grant from the State Library of North Carolina to purchase and install eighteen new PC's and two new printers at the Valdese Public Library.
- Hired four department heads: EMS Manager, Fire Marshal, Planning Director and Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners.
- Worked with Burke County Board of Education to develop, approve and submit a Joint Resolution to the Local Government Commission (LGC) to authorize transfer of \$2.1 Million of Burke County School System's Article 42 Sales Tax Funds.
- Authorized County Manager to hire part-time fire inspectors.
- Adopted **24** Resolutions and approved **72** Board Appointments.