MINUTES
BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, May 30,2026, at 2:00 p.m., in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Burke County Services Building, 110 N. Green Street, Entrance E, in Morganton, North Carolina. The purpose of the special meeting is to recognize Cooperative Extension Director Spring Williams-Byrd on her retirement; appoint Amber Austin, Terry Redman, and Ron Blancaflor to the Spring 2026 class of the Burke County Citizens Academy; hold a closed session to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information, discuss threatened or pending litigation, preserve the attorney-client privilege, discuss economic development matters, discuss contractual matters, and discuss personnel matters as authorized by N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1), (3), (4), (5), and (6); appoint a Clerk to the Board or an Interim Clerk to the Board and administer the oath of office; and appoint an Interim Local Health Director and administer the oath of office. Chairman Brittain executed the public notice, which was published on March 23, 2026. The meeting was streamed live on the County's YouTube channel, BurkeCountyNC, and it was broadcast on the local cable systems. The agenda, in its entirety, was posted to the County's website, www.burkenc.org, several days prior to the meeting. Those present were:

COMMISSIONERS:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman Phil Smith, Vice Chairman Brian Barrier Randy Burns Mike Stroud
STAFF:	Brian Epley, County Manager (Late- arrived at 2:04 p.m.) Margaret Pierce, Finance Director/Deputy County Manager Dylan Laws, Wilson, Lackey, Rohr & Hall P.C. Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brittain called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.

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

PRESENTATIONS

BOC - RECOGNITION OF SPRING WILLIAMS-BYRD ON HER RETIREMENT

The Board recognized Spring Williams-Byrd, County Extension Director, for her upcoming retirement on April 1, 2026, following 37 years of dedicated service with Cooperative Extension.



RESULT:	**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

CLOSED SESSION
At 2:06 p.m., upon motion by Vice Chairman Smith, the Board entered closed session.

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

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

Motion: To come out of closed session.

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 2:44 p.m., upon motion by Commissioner Burns, the Board returned to open session. Chairman Brittain announced that a proper motion was made to come out of closed session and that no action was taken in closed session.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

BOC - APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CLERK TO THE BOARD OR CLERK TO THE BOARD
Chairman Brittain explained that Kay Draughn, Clerk to the Board, will retire effective March 31, 2026. In order to ensure continuity of operations and compliance with statutory requirements, it is necessary for the Board of Commissioners to appoint an Interim Clerk or Clerk to the Board. Chairman Brittain called for a motion.

Motion: To appoint Katherine "Kat" Wright as Interim Clerk to the Board, effective April 1, 2026, to serve until the position is filled, or until a Clerk to the Board is appointed, whichever comes first.

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



The Clerk to the Board administered the oath of office.

BOC - APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM HEALTH DIRECTOR EFFECTIVE APRIL 3, 2026
Chairman Brittain explained that Danny Scalise, Local Health Director, has submitted his resignation, with his last day of employment with Burke County being April 2, 2026. In order to ensure continuity of public health services and compliance with North Carolina General Statutes,

it is necessary for the Board of Commissioners to appoint an Interim Local Health Director. Chairman Brittain called for a motion.

Motion: To appoint Ashley Jarrett as interim local health director for Burke County, effective April 3, 2026.

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



The Clerk to the Board administered the oath of office.

CM - CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL CITIZENS ACADEMY APPLICANTS

Chairman Brittain announced that the County had received additional applicants interested in the 2026 Spring Citizens Academy and then called for a motion.

Additional information from the agenda packet:

> At the March 16, 2026, meeting, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the 12 applications that were received for the Spring 2026 Burke County Citizens Academy. Since that time, three (3) additional applications have been received from Amber Austin, Geronimo "Ron" Blancaflor, and Terry Redman. With the spring session slated to begin on April 9th, staff respectfully request consideration of adding these additional applicants.

Motion: To approve the addition of Amber Austin, Geronimo "Ron" Blancaflor, and Terry Redman to the Spring 2026 Citizens Academy class.

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

ADJOURN
Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

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

Approved this 20th day of July 2026.

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Randy Burns, Acting Chair
Burke County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

_____
Morgan Buchanan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners