# MINUTES
# BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
# PRE-AGENDA MEETING

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a pre-agenda meeting on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Burke County Services Building, 110 N. Green Street, Entrance E, in Morganton, North Carolina. The meeting was streamed live on the County's YouTube channel, BurkeCountyNC, and it was broadcast on the local cable systems. The agenda, in its entirety, was posted to the County's website, www.burkenc.org, several days prior to the meeting. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2024-17, adopted and effective on August 20, 2024, the Burke County Board of Commissioners conferred upon itself all the power, duties, and responsibilities of the Board of Health and the Social Services Board. Those present were:

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| **COMMISSIONERS:** | Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman (Late: arrived at 3:04 p.m.)<br>Phil Smith, Vice Chairman<br>Brian Barrier<br>Randy Burns<br>Mike Stroud |
| **STAFF:** | Brian Epley, County Manager<br>Dylan Laws, Wilson, Lackey, Rohr & Hall P.C.<br>Katherine "Kat" Wright, Interim Clerk to the Board |
| **STAFF ABSENT:** | Margaret Pierce, Finance Director/Deputy County Manager (Excused) |

## CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion: To approve the agenda as amended, with the removal of Items for Decision No. 2, *General Liability/Worker's Comp Insurance Renewal (Place Holder),* as coverage is provided through the County's membership in the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC).**

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

## PRESENTATIONS

## SHERIFF – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF COUNTY-ISSUED SERVICE SIDE ARM AND BADGE AND PRESENTATION OF ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATE

Sheriff Hinceman requested that the service weapons and badges issued to retiring officers be awarded to them at a purchase price of $1.00. Specifically, this includes the service weapon (Glock G45, Serial Number CETE946) and badge issued to Lieutenant Thomas Hester, and the service weapon (Glock G45, Serial Number CETE958) and badge issued to Sergeant Samuel Crump. Additionally, Sheriff Hinceman will present Lieutenant Clint Lail with his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate in recognition of his professional achievement and dedicated service at

the regular meeting.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

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| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**BOC - RECOGNITION OF THE UNITED WAY OF BURKE COUNTY ON ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY**

Chairman Brittain stated that the Burke County Board of Commissioners will recognize the United Way of Burke County on the occasion of its 70th anniversary during their regular meeting.

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| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**BCCC - RECOGNITION OF WINNERS FROM THE B.I.G. CHALLENGE**

Tonia Stephenson, Chamber President, requested recognition of the winners of the 2026 B.I.G. Challenge (Burke Impact Group Challenge) at the Board's regular meeting. In prior years, the Chamber coordinated an annual week-long litter sweep event; however, in 2026, the initiative was expanded into a month-long community service effort held throughout April. The B.I.G. Challenge encouraged participation from businesses, civic groups, churches, nonprofits, and other organizations in a variety of service activities, including environmental cleanup, community outreach, and volunteer-based improvement projects. This expanded format promotes broader community engagement and recognizes organizations making a positive impact across Burke County.

Ms. Stephenson reported that participating organizations completed numerous community improvement projects, including the installation of a Storybook Trail, fundraising for Royal Park, a community resource event, Hearts for Hearts, Sewing for a Cause, construction of an accessibility ramp, Hurricane Helene recovery projects, development of an edible garden at Valdese Lakeside Park, a Habitat for Humanity build, and nine (9) groups went out and did a litter sweep. She announced that the Chamber would celebrate the conclusion of the challenge and present awards recognizing excellence in community cleanup, innovation, service, and overall community impact. Ms. Stephenson thanked the Board for proclaiming April as B.I.G. Challenge Month and for its continued support of community service initiatives.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

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| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**CD - ZMA 2026-01, 3637 MILLER BRIDGE ROAD, CONNELLY SPRINGS, NC - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT & PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:00 P.M.**

Patrick Dickinson, Planner, presented highlights of the following zoning map amendment request:

Zoning Map Amendment 2026-01

Applicant: Innovative Property Management Solutions, Inc.
PIN: 2762735247
Address: 3637 Miller Bridge Road, Connelly Springs, NC
Request: Rezone a single parcel of 31.61 acres *from* Industrial (IND) *to* Planned Residential Mixed Use-Conditional (PRMU-CD)
Location: Located on Miller Bridge Road (I-40 exit 116), just past East Burke Middle School and the Carolina Rehab Center of Burke.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
The Community Development Department received a rezoning application from Innovative Property Management Solutions, Inc., requesting to rezone their parcel totaling approximately 31.61 acres from the current zoning of Industrial (IND) to Planned Residential Mixed Use-Conditional (PRMU-CD).

This rezoning will occur as a conditional rezoning through a community master plan. This rezoning requires a site plan, and future development will be governed by the site plan and uses outlined by the developer, the community, and our governing boards. Sewer constraints in this area have caused the developer to phase home placement.

The applicant has stated that they would like to rezone the property to PRMU-CD through a community master plan, as they would like to develop a mixed-use, workforce housing development with two (2) parcels for light commercial uses. The site was initially zoned as industrial, but development never occurred, and the property was put up for sale.

SITE ANALYSIS AND SURROUNDING AREA
Current Conditions:

- The subject parcel is mostly cleared, with some remaining forested areas.
- It is located within the Icard township and fire district.
- Parcel access is provided from Miller Bridge Road, a state-maintained road, with proposed future access on Shoupes Grove Church Road.

Surrounding Zoning and Land Use:

| Direction | Current Zoning | Existing Land Use |
|---|---|---|
| North | R-2 | Healthcare/ Carolina Rehab Center |
| South | R-MU | Residential |
| East | IND/R-MU | Light Manufacturing & Residential |
| West | R-MU | Residential |

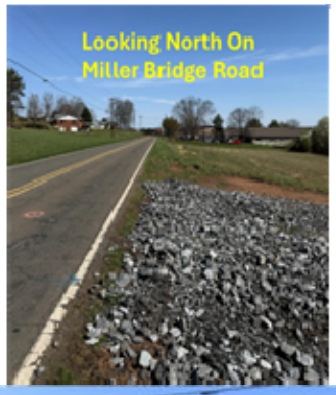
This parcel is in a “mixed-use” area of Miller Bridge Road and Old NC 10. The surrounding uses vary from industrial uses, such as Ike, Inc., which borders the parcel, to institutional uses such as healthcare services, schools, businesses, and single-family residences.

Map 1: Satellite & Existing Land Use




Site Photos



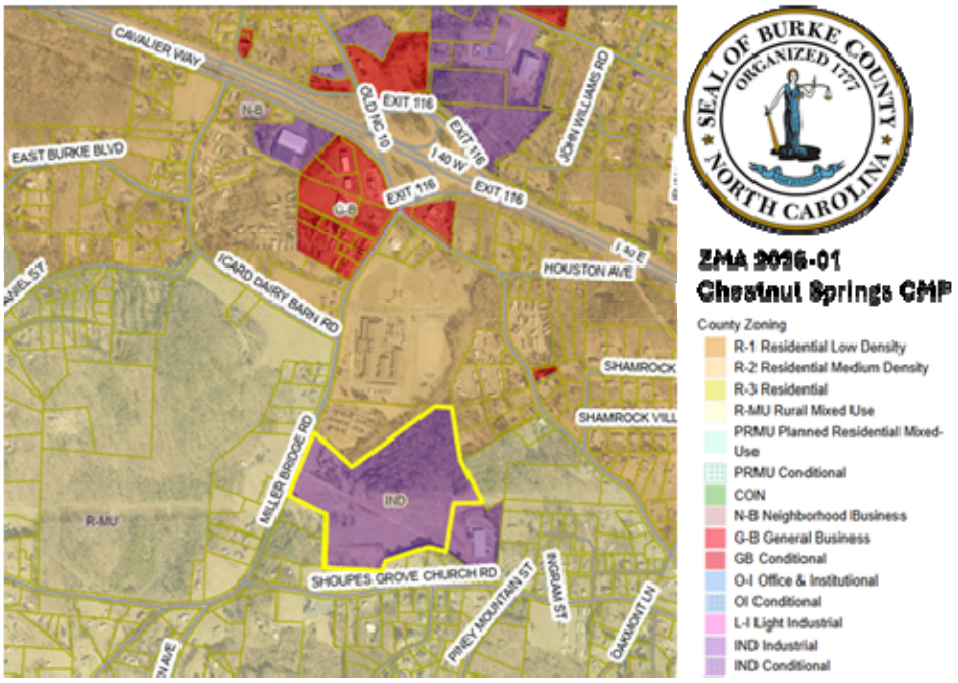







ZONING & FUTURE LAND USE CONSIDERATIONS

**Map 2: Current Zoning**




Current Zoning: Industrial (IND)

- The industrial (IND) zone in Burke County is established for manufacturing, warehousing, transportation, and utility uses. This is the most intensive land use category in Burke County.
- Permitted uses include scrapyards, concrete plants, debris landfills, solar farms, auto repair, and manufacturing and processing facilities.

Proposed Zoning: Planned Residential Mixed Use-Conditional (PRMU-CD)

- The PRMU district is established to allow developments composed of a mix of residential, retail, and office uses to occur in harmony with surrounding land uses.
- PRMU allows residential and light commercial uses such as convenience stores, restaurants, retail sales under 3,000 sq. ft., recreational facilities, and childcare.
- The developer has requested the following uses: 85 lots for “CrossMod” homes; retail uses including grocery stores, gas stations, day care, and healthcare-related businesses. Recreational uses include walking trails and a dedicated green space. These uses are governed by the master plan and ordinance.

<u>COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN</u>

The 2022-2030 Blueprint Burke Strategic Land Use Plan designates this parcel as *Industrial* on the future land use map.

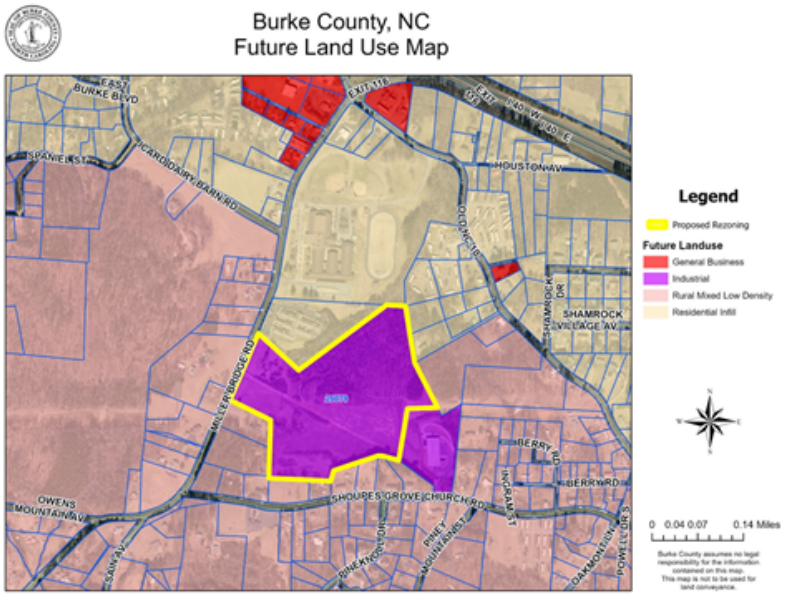
The industrial infill category supports the following:

- Parcels with access to major roadways and necessary utilities, including water, sewer, and natural gas.
- Manufacturing and industrial uses include warehouses, materials processing, and other intensive land uses.

The requested zoning of PRMU is not consistent with the future land use map and would require a change to Residential Infill on the future land use map.

Residential Infill supports the following:

1. Major road access under NCDOT maintenance, infrastructure including water and sewer, and development roadways built to NCDOT standards.
2. Encourages uses such as single-family, multifamily, and manufactured residential development, along with neighborhood-supported businesses.




STAFF FINDINGS:

Community development staff find the rezoning request reasonable and in public interest based on the following:

- The surrounding mix of land uses and zoning supports this type of Community Master Planned Residential Mixed-Use development.
- This development is a candidate for condition zoning as it is to cluster development or manage uses on a parcel in a way that may not be permitted by conventional zoning while maintaining or enhancing the goals of the ordinance.
- The parcel is located along Miller Bridge Road and within proximity to I-40 and US 70.
- While the rezoning is not consistent with the Blueprint Burke Strategic Land Use Plan and Land Use Map, it is consistent with its goals to reduce Burke County's housing crisis and provide workforce development housing to facilitate “live work and play” within the county.

PLANNING BOARD DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The Burke County Planning Board discussed this rezoning request at their March 26, 2026, meeting. Two (2) members of the public spoke. The board recommended the approval of the rezoning with a vote of 6-0.

Public Comment:

Community Development did not receive any correspondence from adjoining parcel owners or the surrounding public via phone, mail, or email. At the meeting, one speaker owns property adjoining the parcel, and the other lives near the parcel. Both speakers spoke against the rezoning. The adjoining citizen expressed concerns about density and screening around her

property. The other expressed concerns about the increased traffic near the schools, the preservation of an area for community yard sales, and the density of the project. The applicant discussed the importance of bringing workforce housing to the county and that the requested density is part of the affordability aspect of the site's development. The applicant also agreed to meet with the adjoining citizen to walk her property with his team after the meeting.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

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| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**CM - VALDESE BLUFFS DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:00 P.M.**
Brian Epley, County Manager, stated that at the April 20, 2026, regular meeting, the Burke County Board of Commissioners approved the terms and conditions of a Development Agreement between Burke County, the Town of Valdese, and Natural Land Alliance, Inc., as presented, subject to review and/or revision by the County Attorney. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160D-1005, a legislative public hearing is required, and the Board scheduled the public hearing for May 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as persons may be heard. The Valdese Bluffs project is anticipated to include a phased residential development of approximately 140 single-family lots. The project represents a coordinated effort between Burke County and the Town of Valdese to support residential growth and infrastructure investment within the community.

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| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**BDI - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**
Brandon Ruppe, President & CEO, BDI, announced that he will present an economic development update at the regular meeting.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Following a brief discussion, the Board reached consensus to move the item to presentations for the regular meeting.

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| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION AS A PRESENTATION ITEM AT THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**BCPS - PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2026**
Keith Lawson, Finance Officer, BCPS, in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement approved by the County and the Board of Education, the Board of Education presented the County with quarterly financial reports for the 2025 - 2026 budget year as follows:

BCPS

Estimated Revenues

2025/2026

| | Annual | | Mar YTD | | | % of Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Previous | Current Fcst | Previous | Current | % Change | Received |
| State | 99,867,340 | 97,770,126 | 75,777,186 | 72,631,633 | -4.2% | 74.3% |
| Federal | 13,959,820 | 12,101,500 | 7,500,384 | 7,193,192 | -4.1% | 59.4% |
| Local | 19,279,613 | 19,481,204 | 14,533,009 | 14,715,157 | 1.3% | 75.5% |
| Charter Schools | 970,387 | 1,018,796 | 654,491 | 659,843 | 0.8% | 64.8% |
| Fines & Forfeitures | 289,181 | 260,396 | 233,261 | 170,837 | -26.8% | 65.6% |
| Receivables | 47,416 | 42,674 | 47,415 | 33,424 | -29.5% | 78.3% |
| Special Revenues | 12,850,279 | 12,593,273 | 6,305,152 | 5,025,002 | -20.3% | 39.9% |
| Total | $ 147,264,036 | $ 143,267,969 | $ 105,050,898 | $ 100,429,088 | **-4.4%** | **70.1%** |

Since we have no state budget officially adopted this year you may expect funding to be flat. However, enrollment declined by 93, and we lost $1.4M in State Low Wealth funding.

Employer matching retirement increased 3% and health 5%, with no increased state revenue.

Difficulty in adjusting expenses to a declining enrollment is we are 86% payroll, and student decline doesn't happen in nice, neat whole classes, it's one at this grade at this school, a couple at that, and so on.

14 elementary schools lose one 1st grader each. So you are funded for 1:19 at an Elementary. You have 24 at Elementary A, which results in 2 classes of 12, that is 7 under in each class the allotted ratio, almost 75% of a teacher position not funded by the state but required by class size.

This year we have 699 Kindegarten students and 923 Seniors, for a difference of 224. Statewide enrollment declined 4,328.

Last year we were paying for 576 charter school students and this year it is 561, down 15.

National birth rate for 2024 declined to a historic low of 1.5999, below the replacement level needed to stay flat at 2.1. That is 23.8% below what is needed to hold our population steady, as reported by the CDC.

BCPS

Local Financials by Purpose & Function Level

2025/2026

| | Expenses | '22/'23 | '23/'24 | '24/'25 | Budget | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5XXX | Regular Instructional Services | 5,521,972 | 8,342,293 | 9,064,177 | 8,435,386 | 838,874 | 2,679,282 | 1,638,835 | | 5,156,991 |
| 6XXX | Instructional Support | 10,283,484 | 10,865,457 | 11,133,022 | 11,641,999 | 3,728,769 | 2,580,153 | 2,621,025 | | 8,929,947 |
| 8XXX | Other Governmental Units | 692,840 | 895,393 | 1,102,573 | 1,230,028 | 62,282 | 360,635 | 392,956 | | 815,873 |
| 4XXX | Revenues Over/(Under) | 100,077 | 176,296 | (713,175) | (504,343) | 591,747 | (461,779) | 546,482 | | 676,450 |
| XXXX | Grand Total | $ 16,598,373 | $ 20,279,439 | $ 20,586,597 | $ 20,803,070 | $ 5,221,672 | $ 5,158,291 | $ 5,199,298 | $ - | $ 15,579,261 |
| | % of Annual Budget | | | | | | | | | **74.9%** |
| | Revenue | | | | | | | | | |
| 4110 | Burke County | 15,593,566 | 19,157,406 | 19,279,613 | 19,481,204 | 5,123,644 | 4,788,479 | 4,803,034 | | 14,715,157 |
| 4110 | Charter Schools | 709,442 | 842,594 | 970,387 | 1,018,796 | 1,356 | 336,521 | 321,966 | | 659,843 |
| 4410 | Fines & Forfeitures | 241,513 | 242,444 | 289,181 | 260,396 | 64,436 | 32,103 | 74,298 | | 170,837 |
| 4493 | Schools' Receivables | 53,852 | 36,995 | 47,416 | 42,674 | 32,236 | 1,188 | - | | 33,424 |
| 44XX | Grand Total | $ 16,598,373 | $ 20,279,439 | $ 20,586,597 | 20,803,070 | 5,221,672 | 5,158,291 | 5,199,298 | - | 15,579,261 |

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments.

Commissioner Burns asked whether there had been any recent discussions at the state level regarding the sharing of special revenue funds. Mr. Lawson responded that the issue had largely lost momentum during the COVID-19 pandemic and had not recently resurfaced. Commissioner Burns requested to be informed if the topic is revisited. Commissioner Burns also inquired about current state allotments for assistant principals and school nurses. Mr. Lawson explained that the state provides funding for one 10-month assistant principal for every 965 students. Regarding school nurses, he stated that the recommended ratio is one nurse per 750 students. He explained that the school system increased nursing staff during the COVID-19

pandemic but has since reduced staffing as federal and state funding has declined. The system currently has 14 nurses, with one additional position to be posted, returning staffing to pre-pandemic levels. While this meets the state's recommended ratio overall, Mr. Lawson noted that elementary schools continue to share nursing staff and that having one nurse assigned to each school would be preferable if funding were available.

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| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

## TDA - FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2026

Ed Phillips, CEO, TDA, in accordance with Session Law 2007-265, HB 78, reported on the TDA's receipts and expenditures for the preceding quarter. He also invited the Board to a couple of upcoming community events.

**BURKE COUNTY TDA**
**BUDGET TO ACTUAL JULY 1, 2025-MARCH 31, 2026**

| | Budget | Actual | Available Balance |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Income** | | | |
| 4010 · Burke Co. Govt. - Occup. Tax | $ 1,200,000 | 573,725.31 | $ 626,274.69 |
| 4110 · Interest Income | $ - | 18,884.03 | $ (18,884.03) |
| 4120 · Miscellenous | $ 25,000 | 32,570.32 | $ (7,570.32) |
| 4530 · America 250 Grant | $ 23,851 | 11,851.27 | $ 11,999.73 |
| 5000 · Trolley Revenue | $ 10,000 | 14,098.19 | $ (4,098.19) |
| **Total Income** | $ 1,258,851 | 651,129.12 | $ 607,721.88 |
| **Expense** | | | |
| 5010 · Accounting/Audit | $ 10,000 | - | $ 10,000.00 |
| 5020 · Marketing/Advertising | $ 271,000 | 161,277.16 | $ 109,722.84 |
| 5023 · America 250 | $ 23,851 | 17,141.98 | $ 6,709.02 |
| 5102 · Membership Dues | $ 2,500 | 2,123.93 | $ 376.07 |
| 5109 · Building Maintenance | $ 4,800 | 4,054.02 | $ 745.98 |
| 5113 · City of Morganton/Tourism | $ 270,000 | 129,088.20 | $ 140,911.80 |
| 5115 · Town of Valdese/Tourism | $ 150,000 | 117,094.29 | $ 32,905.71 |
| 5117 - Bank Charges | $ - | 84.50 | $ (84.50) |
| 5150 · Insurance | $ 35,000 | 30,898.85 | $ 4,101.15 |
| 5180 · Office Supplies | $ 7,000 | 3,315.02 | $ 3,684.98 |
| 5200 · Payroll Expenses | $ 411,000 | 266,844.97 | $ 144,155.03 |
| 5250 · Postage | $ 1,000 | 479.28 | $ 520.72 |
| 5265 - Retail Items | $ - | - | $ - |
| 5280 · Office Rent | $ 30,000 | 22,500.00 | $ 7,500.00 |
| 5285 · Utilities | $ 5,200 | 1,990.83 | $ 3,209.17 |
| 5290 · Telephone | $ 7,000 | 5,383.32 | $ 1,616.68 |
| 5300 · Travel/Training | $ 20,500 | 13,569.90 | $ 6,930.10 |
| 5301 · Trolley Expenses | $ 10,000 | 3,571.99 | $ 6,428.01 |
| 5400 · Misc. Expense | $ - | 1,434.99 | $ (1,434.99) |
| **Total Expense** | $ 1,258,851 | 780,853.23 | $ 477,997.77 |
| **Net Income** | **$ -** | **-129,724.11** | **129,724.11** |

**BURKE COUNTY TDA**
**MARCH 31 2026**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Assets** | | |
| **1014** | **First Citizens Bank** | $ 291,516.89 |
| **1015** | **NC Capital MGMT Account** | $ 650,352.57 |
| **1210** | **Accounts Receivable** | $ - |
| | **Total Checking** | $ 941,869.46 |
| **Liabilities** | | |
| **2000** | **Accounts Payable** | $ 7,755.18 |
| **2050** | **City of Morganton - Payable** | $ 43,407.12 |
| **2053** | **Grant Funds Paid in Advance** | $ - |
| **2075** | **Town of Valdese - Payable** | $ 147,971.68 |
| **2100** | **Payroll Liabilities** | $ (1,906.07) |
| | **Total Liabilities** | $ 197,227.91 |
| **Equity** | | |
| **3900** | **Retained Earnings** | $ 874,365.66 |
| | **Net Income** | $ (129,724.11) |
| | **Total Equity** | $ 744,641.55 |
| **Total Liabilities & Equity** | | $ 941,869.46 |

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

**RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

**WPCC - PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2026**

Sandy Hoilman, Vice President for Administrative Services / Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of the College's financial data for the period ending March 31, 2026.

**Western Piedmont Community College**
**County Expenditures by Category**
**FY 2026 - Actual Expenditures - July 1, 2025 thru March 31, 2026**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salaries & Benefits | 660,378 | 27.9% |
| Services | 440,661 | 18.6% |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 325,631 | 13.7% |
| Supplies | 67,469 | 2.8% |
| Insurance | 189,323 | 8.0% |
| Utilities | 509,352 | 21.5% |
| Transfers | 39,466 | 1.7% |
| Travel, Other, Rent/Lease | 137,735 | 5.8% |
| | **2,370,015** | **100%** |

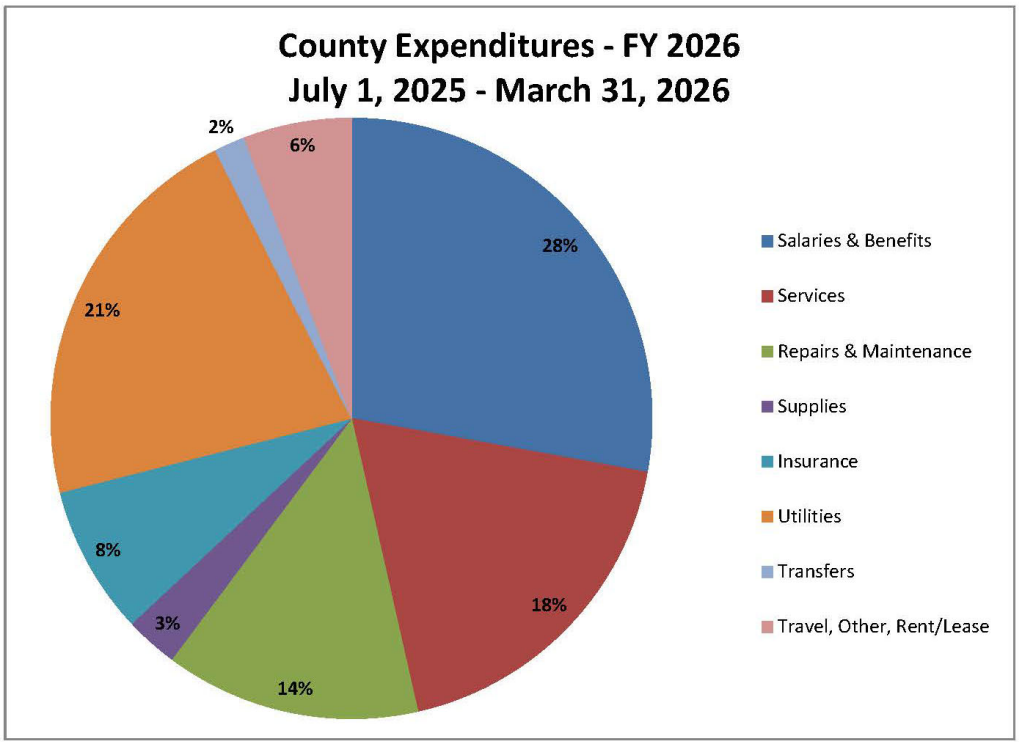
**WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
**FY 2025-2026 SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 31, 2026**

| | STATE | | | COUNTY | | | INSTITUTIONAL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Summary of Revenues** | BUDGET | ACTUAL | REMAINING | BUDGET | ACTUAL | REMAINING | BUDGET | ACTUAL | REMAINING |
| State Appropriations | 17,506,477 | 13,139,046 | | | | | | | |
| Add. Allocations (detail below) | 662,650 | | | | | | | | |
| County Appropriations | | | | 3,129,864 | 2,347,398 | | | | |
| Rent & Interest Income | | | | | 25,909 | | | | |
| Institutional Funds | | | | | | | 10,960,844 | 7,744,425 | |
| Total Budgeted Revenues | **18,169,127** | **13,139,046** | **5,030,081** | **3,129,864** | **2,373,307** | **756,557** | **10,960,844** | **7,744,425** | **3,216,419** |
| **Summary of Expenditures** | | | | | | | | | |
| Institutional Support | 3,603,857 | 2,659,013 | 74% | 328,234 | 304,555 | 93% | 44,150 | 72,201 | 164% |
| Curriculum Instruction | 7,510,901 | 5,609,177 | 75% | | | | 800,000 | 976,262 | 122% |
| Non Curriculum Instruction | 2,344,022 | 1,517,733 | 65% | | | | 150,000 | 74,048 | 49% |
| Academic Support | 1,549,708 | 1,112,925 | 72% | | | | | 48 | 0% |
| Student Support | 1,946,850 | 1,416,921 | 73% | | | | 2,000,000 | 1,199,096 | 60% |
| Plant Operations & Maint. | | | | 2,801,630 | 2,065,460 | 74% | - | - | 0% |
| Proprietary / Other | | | | | | | 1,600,000 | 842,769 | 53% |
| Student Aid | | | | | | | 6,366,694 | 4,328,372 | 68% |
| Capital Outlay (excluding Capital Improvements) | 1,213,789 | 457,154 | 38% | | | | - | - | - |
| Total Budgeted Expenditures | **18,169,127** | **12,772,923** | **5,396,204** | **3,129,864** | **2,370,015** | **759,849** | **10,960,844** | **7,492,796** | **3,468,048** |
| | | **70.3%** | **29.7%** | | **75.7%** | **24.3%** | | **68.4%** | **31.6%** |

| ADDITIONAL FUNDING DESIGNATED FOR APPROVED PROJECTS | | |
|---|---|---|
| Customized Training Projects | 109,149 | |
| ApprenticeshipNC | (60,453) | |
| Career Coach allocation | 149,058 | |
| Safety Regional Trainer | 160,922 | |
| Disaster - Hurricane | 11,200 | |
| Faculty Retention & Nursing | 31,919 | |
| Longevity | 151,952 | |
| Small Business Center | (14,626) | |
| Enrollment Growth | 123,529 | |
| | | |
| Total Other | **662,650** | |

| For Year Ending June 30, 2026 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total College Budget | $ 32,259,835 | |
| Total Expenditures | $ 22,635,734 | **70.2%** |

| Fund Balance: County Funds | |
|---|---|
| Fund Balance, Beginning July 1, 2025 | 688,735 |
| Current Operating Cash | 3,292 |
| Current Fund Balance | **692,027** |
| ** transferred $59,000 from STIF - 10/28/2025* | |
| | **22%** |




Ms. Hoilman reported that approximately 70% of the College's courses are now offered in eight-week sessions, noting that the first year of implementation has produced positive results and will continue to be evaluated. She also reported an 8% overall enrollment increase, representing

approximately 168 additional budgeted full-time equivalent (FTE) students, with the majority of the growth occurring in curriculum programs.

Ms. Hoilman highlighted several campus projects, including the new Emergency Services Training Center, which is expected to open during the fall semester, with a grand opening planned for September 11, 2026. She also provided updates on ongoing infrastructure improvements, including repairs to underground water lines discovered during the Phifer Hall chiller replacement project, replacement of Federal Pacific electrical panels, reconstruction of the ropes course and a tower damaged by Hurricane Helene, and the planned relocation of the College's cosmetology program from Magnolia Plaza Shopping Center to the K Building.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments. Ms. Hoilman responded to a question from Commissioner Stroud. There being no further discussion, this item was moved to the following meeting without objection.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**JCPC - ANNUAL PLAN FY27**

AJ Coutu, JCPC Administrator, presented the annual Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Plan, which assesses the needs of adjudicated and at-risk youth and identifies delinquency prevention and intervention services for Burke County. She explained that approval of the annual plan certifies that the JCPC has completed all state-required planning, assessment, and funding recommendation processes necessary to receive funding from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice. The proposed funding allocation of $287,074 remains unchanged from the previous year and requires a 30% local match, which is provided by the funded programs through cash and in-kind contributions.

Ms. Coutu reported that the JCPC Outreach Committee surveyed youth-serving agencies to identify service gaps, while the Finance Committee conducted the required request-for-proposals process, evaluated applications, and recommended funding allocations approved by the Council. She noted that the funded programs continue to support juvenile court counselors and have contributed to reducing the number of youths entering the juvenile justice system through diversion and intervention efforts. She also highlighted the continued success of the School Justice Partnership, which coordinates the efforts of the school system, juvenile court, law enforcement, and school resource officers to address juvenile behavior and improve outcomes for youth.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

This space is intentionally left blank.

**Burke County**

**NC DPS - Community Programs - County Funding Plan**

Available Funds: $ $287,074 Local Match: $ $93,818 Rate: 30%

DPS JCPC funds must be committed with a Program Agreement submitted in NC Allies and electronically signed by authorized officials.

| # | Program Provider | DPS-JCPC Funding | LOCAL FUNDING | | | OTHER | OTHER | Total | % Non DPS-JCPC Program Revenues |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | County Cash Match | Local Cash Match | Local In-Kind | State/ Federal | Funds | | |
| 1 | JCPC Admin | $13,911 | | | | | | $13,911 | |
| 2 | Adolescent Substance Abuse Assessment & Treatment - Burke Council on Alcoholism | $19,191 | $2,000 | | $6,396 | $6,393 | | $33,980 | 44% |
| 3 | Burke Restorative Services - Repay | $66,347 | | | $19,904 | | | $86,251 | 23% |
| 4 | Just Girls - Burke - Repay | $26,798 | | | $8,434 | | $13,789 | $49,021 | 45% |
| 5 | Juvenile Mediation/Conflict Resolution Education Conflict Resolution Center | $49,934 | | | $18,095 | | | $68,029 | 27% |
| 6 | Kids at Work! Burke - Aspire Youth & Family | $27,632 | | $1,000 | $8,880 | | | $37,512 | 26% |
| 7 | Psychological Services - Burke - Repay | $21,078 | | | $6,923 | $2,684 | | $30,685 | 31% |
| 8 | SAIS - Burke - Repay | $51,183 | | | $15,355 | $14,385 | | $80,923 | 37% |
| 9 | R.I.S.E. - Repay | $11,000 | | | $6,831 | $10,023 | | $27,854 | 61% |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | | | |
| | TOTALS: | $287,074 | $2,000 | $1,000 | $90,818 | $33,485 | $13,789 | $428,166 | 33% |

**RESULT: MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

**CLERK - APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADULT CARE & NURSING HOME COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Kat Wright, Interim Clerk to the Board, stated that Ms. Dolores Huffman's term expires May 31, 2026, and she has expressed a willingness to continue serving; her reappointment was requested. Additionally, Ms. Loretta Welcher is expected to complete the required training on May 7, 2026. Upon successful completion and state authorization, her appointment to an initial one-year term ending May 15, 2027, was requested.

Additional information from the agenda packet:

> The Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee is established under the authority of the North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS § 131D-31) and the NC Administrative Code (10A NCAC 13F and 13G). Its primary purpose is to serve as a liaison between residents of adult care homes and nursing homes, their families, facility administrators, and the broader community. The committee's goal is to ensure the rights, dignity, and quality of care for residents by promoting communication, addressing

concerns, and providing oversight. This advisory board consists of 14 at-large seats with 3-year terms after the initial appointment to a 1-year term and requires at least 40 hours of training before applicants are eligible to be considered for appointment.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**CLERK - APPOINTMENT & REMOVAL FROM THE CHILD PROTECTION & CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION TEAM**

Kat Wright, Interim Clerk to the Board, reported that Danny Scalise resigned as Health Director for the County effective April 2, 2026. This was a request to remove him from the CPCFPT roster and to appoint the Interim Health Director, Ashley Jarrett, in his place.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved to the following meeting without objection.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**CLERK - REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE EAST BURKE SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Kat Wright, Interim Clerk to the Board, reported that Karen Robinson and Jacqueline Fleck both currently serve on the East Burke Senior Center Advisory Council, and their terms are set to expire on May 31, 2026. Both individuals have expressed a willingness to serve an additional term.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved to the following meeting without objection.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**CM - APPROVAL OF AUDIT CONTRACT FOR FY27**

Brian Epley, County Manager, stated that pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 159-34, the County is required to have its accounts audited annually by a certified public accountant. The County's current audit firm, Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A., has submitted a proposal to do the work for $51,500.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**CM - APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING CAPITAL FUNDS**

Brian Epley, County Manager, relayed that a portion of lottery proceeds is deposited into a

special fund administered by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction called the Public-School Building Capital fund. This fund is used by counties in addressing their school capital needs. Monies deposited into the fund accumulate and earn interest until drawn down by the county. In order to draw down funds, the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education must approve and submit an application for an eligible project. Historically, the County has used debt service on school construction as their projects. An application has been received for the Board's consideration for debt service on Patton and Draughn High Schools.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**CM - LEASE FOR ADULT CORRECTIONS**

Brian Epley, County Manager, explained that the lease for the NC Department of Adult Corrections Office for District 25 has expired. This request was to renew the lease at the same location in the Courthouse Annex for a 12-month term, for the period of May 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027, at a rental rate of $1.00. This lease arrangement supports the County's statutory obligation to provide suitable office space for probation services pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 15-209(a) and is exempt from the 30-day notice requirements of N.C.G.S. § 160A-272.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved to the next meeting without objection.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**CM - APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 30 - $369,328**

Brian Epley, County Manager, requested approval of Budget Amendment No. 30 to recognize a request from Burke County Public Schools for the allocation of School Nutrition funds for kitchen equipment associated with the Central Office Renovation Project. With this allocation, the total project budget will be $11,239,822. Any additional project costs beyond this amount will be funded by Burke County Public Schools.

| BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 30 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| REVENUES AND EXPENSES | | | |
| ACCOUNT NUMBER | DESCRIPTION | INCREASE | DECREASE |
| REVENUES | | | |
| 222-00000-01-434101- | School Nutrition Funds | $369,328 | |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| 222-00000-30-590050 | Central Office Building Renovation | $369,328 | |
| | | | |
| Purpose: To allocate funds to the Burke County Public Schools Central Office Renovation Project for kitchen equipment. There are no County dollars in this increase. | | | |

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**CM - APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 31 - $20,000**
Brian Epley, County Manager, requested approval of Budget Amendment No. 31 to recognize additional Tropical Storm Helene disaster recovery funds from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) for the Department of Social Services.

| BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 31 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| REVENUES AND EXPENSES | | | |
| ACCOUNT NUMBER | DESCRIPTION | INCREASE | DECREASE |
| REVENUES | | | |
| 100-52000-01-433441- | DSS Administrative Funds | $20,000 | |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| 100-52050-20-554000- | SAA/SAD Disaster Assistance | $20,000 | |
| | | | |
| Purpose: To recognize and appropriate $20,000 in disaster assistance funds from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) for adult services. No County funds are required for this amendment. | | | |

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**ITEMS FOR DECISION**

**CLERK - APPOINTMENTS, REAPPOINTMENTS, AND REMOVALS TO THE LEPC**
Kat Wright, Interim Clerk to the Board, reported that the following members have terms that ended January 31st:

- Israel Gibson, Seat No. 3 (Fire Service)
- Brooke Jarlson, Seat No. 6 (Environmental Health)
- April Pope, Seat No. 9 (Citizen Representative)
- Joshua Mashburn, Seat No. 12 (Transportation)
- Beth Anderson, Seat No. 16 (At-Large*)
- Patti Nelson, Seat No. 18 (At-Large)

*Note: The roster has been updated to clarify Seat No. 16 as an At-Large position consistent with Board action taken in January 2020. The prior “SAFT” designation reflected the affiliation of the initial appointee and has been corrected administratively.

Due to retirements, the removal of Alan Glines, Seat No. 1 (Local Official), and Spring Williams-Byrd, Seat No. 13 (Agriculture), was requested. Damon Pollard, NC Cooperative Extension Agricultural Extension Agent, is the recommended replacement for Seat No. 13. Additionally,

staff requested the removal of Brooke Jarlson, Seat No. 6 (Environmental Health), and April Pope, Seat No. 9 (Citizen Representative), due to lack of compliance with Burke County Code of Ordinances Section 2-92 (Attendance). Staff recommended Jonathan Heflin for Seat No. 6 and Bradley Hinton for Seat No. 9.

Further, Jeffrey McDaniel no longer meets the criteria for Seat No. 15 (Facility Emergency Planning) due to a change in employment; therefore, his removal was requested. It is further requested that Beth Anderson be reassigned from Seat No. 16 (At-Large) to Seat No. 15 (Facility Emergency Planning), as her employment with SAFT meets the qualifications for that seat.

Additional information from the agenda packet:

> In North Carolina, the purpose and duties of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) are aligned with federal and state regulations under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). LEPCs focus on preparing for and responding to emergencies involving hazardous materials. Their responsibilities include:
>
> 1. Developing Emergency Plans: LEPCs create and maintain emergency response plans for handling hazardous materials incidents. These plans are shared with local governments, responders, and the public.
> 2. Community Right-to-Know: LEPCs ensure public access to information about hazardous chemicals stored, used, or released in the community, promoting transparency and safety awareness.
> 3. Coordination: The committees coordinate with local governments, industry representatives, and emergency services to prepare for potential hazardous material incidents.
> 4. Training and Exercises: LEPCs conduct training and simulations to test their emergency plans and improve response capabilities.
> 5. Incident Reporting: LEPCs are responsible for receiving reports of hazardous materials releases and ensuring an appropriate response.
>
> LEPCs are established in accordance with North Carolina General Statute Chapter 166A, which outlines the broader framework for emergency management, and they work closely with state and local emergency management agencies to fulfill their duties.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**CM - GENERAL LIABILITY/WORKER'S COMP INSURANCE RENEWAL (PLACE HOLDER)**
Note: This item was removed during the approval of the agenda, as coverage is provided through the County's membership in the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC)

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **REMOVED DURING THE APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.** |

**CM - CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A POLICY ON ZERO-BASED BUDGETING (ZBB)**

Brian Epley, County Manager, presented a resolution to adopt a Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB) Policy for Burke County. He explained that the County has utilized zero-based budgeting practices since 2023 and that the proposed policy formally establishes the County's commitment to incorporating ZBB principles into the annual budget development process. The proposed policy is intended to promote fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability by incorporating ZBB principles into the development of the County's annual budget.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**CM - PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FY 26-27 AND SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING (PLACE HOLDER)**

Brian Epley, County Manager, will present a thorough overview of the FY 2026 - 2027 recommended budget to the Board of Commissioners and the public on Monday, May 18, 2026. A copy of the recommended budget will be filed in the office of the Clerk to the Board that day and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Burke County Governmental Offices, public libraries, and senior centers. Additionally, the recommended budget will be available for viewing on Burke County's website at: http://www.burkenc.org/2265/Budget-Documents. A public hearing on the recommended budget is required, and citizens are encouraged to present written or oral comments.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**TAX - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING APRIL 30, 2026 (PLACE HOLDER)**

Namrita Nelson, Interim Tax Administrator, stated that she will present the Tax Collection Report for the period ending March 31, 2026, at the regular meeting.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**TAX - TAX RELEASE AND REFUND REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING APRIL 30, 2026 (PLACE HOLDER)**

Namrita Nelson, Interim Tax Administrator, stated that she will present the Release and Refund Report for the period ending March 31, 2026, at the regular meeting.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments; there being none, this item was moved without objection to the next meeting.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **MOVED WITHOUT OBJECTION TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 18, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.** |

**REPORTS AND COMMENTS**
Chairman Brittain requested that Board members submit their reports to the Interim Clerk for inclusion in the regular meeting agenda packet. He reminded attendees of upcoming community events and Board of Commissioners meetings. Chairman Brittain also invited youth groups to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at future meetings and encouraged faith leaders to contact the Clerk's Office if interested in delivering an invocation.

Vice Chairman Smith recognized the 100th anniversary of George Hildebran Elementary School, noting his appreciation as an alumnus of the school. He also thanked County Manager Brian Epley and General Services Director Mark Delehant for coordinating with the Carolina Raptor Center to safely rescue an injured owl that had become trapped at the school during the anniversary celebration. He noted that the owl was being rehabilitated and would be released back into the wild upon recovery.

Commissioner Barrier announced an upcoming community event hosted by the Child Fatality Prevention Team in partnership with Burke County Public Schools at Patton High School. He encouraged the public to attend the program, which would focus on youth mental health, suicide awareness and prevention, recognizing warning signs, behavioral support services, web monitoring, and available crisis resources.

**OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS - NONE**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**BOC – APPOINTMENT OF THE CLERK TO THE BOARD**
Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 153A-111, the Board of Commissioners is required to appoint or designate a Clerk to the Board. The Clerk shall perform such duties as prescribed by law and as directed by the Board and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. Following the retirement of Kay Honeycutt Draughn on March 31, 2026, Kat Wright has been serving as Interim Clerk to the Board effective April 1, 2026, during the recruitment process.

**Motion: To appoint Morgan Buchanan as Clerk to the Board, effective May 11, 2026.**

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

At an invitation from Chairman Brittain, Morgan Buchanan approached the podium, then thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as Clerk to the Board and expressed her enthusiasm for joining Burke County. She stated that she looks forward to working with the board, county staff, and Kat Wright, and to contributing to the county's continued success.

**DSS – DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2026**
Korey Fisher-Wellman, DSS Director, presented the DSS departmental update as follows:

# Social Services

**Director's Monthly Report**
**May 4, 2026**

BURKECOUNTY

## PERSONNEL



BURKECOUNTY

## HIRING & SEPARATION REPORT FEBRUARY 2026

### Current Openings:

| Position Title | Position #: | Status |
|---|---|---|
| IMC III Lead worker | 51769 | |
| IMC II | 51783 | |
| IMC II | 51403 | |
| IMC II | 51375 | |
| Part Time Social Worker IAT | 52080 | |
| Social Worker IAT | 51905 | |
| Social Worker IAT | 51436 | |
| Social Worker IAT | 51438 | |
| Social Worker IAT | 51441 | |
| Social Worker IAT | 51444 | |
| Social Worker III | 52013 | |

Separations:
Total = 3

Number of Hirings:
Total = 9
After Hours Placement Support = 1
Attorney = 1
IMC II = 1
PA IV = 1
Social Worker II = 1
Social Worker III = 3
Social Work Supervisor III = 1

BURKECOUNTY

Note: During his presentation, Mr. Fisher-Wellman clarified that this was data from March 2026.

## OPERATIONS

# Economic Services MOU Data

| METRICS PER MOU | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES | | | | | |
| | | MOU MEASURE | 95% | 95% | | |
| ACTIVE RECIPIENTS | ACTIVE CASES | APP TIMELINESS RATE- REGULAR | APP TIMELINESS RATE-EXPEDITE | RECERT TIMELINESS RATE | | |
| 9,889 | 5,197 | Achieved | Achieved | Acheived | | |
| WORK FIRST FAMILY ASSISTANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES | | | | | | |
| ACTIVE RECIPIENTS | ACTIVE CASES | MOU MEASURE | 95% | 95% | | |
| | | | APPLICATION TIMELINESS | RECERT TIMELINESS RATE | | |
| 79 | 49 | | Achieved | Achieved | | |
| MEDICAID | | MOU MEASURE | 90 | 90 | 95 | |
| TOTAL MEDICAID RECIPIENTS | ACTIVE CASES | | REPORT CARD MAD | REPORT CARD OTHER | Straight Through Processing | |
| 28,446 | 23,220 | | Achieved | Achieved | Achieved | |
| | | | | | | |
| SPECIAL ASSISTANCE | | | | | | |
| | MOU PERFORMANCE MEASURE | | | 85% | 85% | |
| SA ACTIVE CASES | | | | SAA TIMELINESS APPLICATIONS | SAD TIMELINESS APPLICATIONS | |
| 254 | | | | Achieved | Achieved | |
| | | | | | | |
| ENERGY PROGRAMS | | | | | | |
| | MOU PERFORMANCE MEASURE | | | | 95% | 95% |
| | CIP APPLICATIONS PROCESSED | LIEAP APPLICATIONS PROCESSED | | | % PROCESSED TIMELY -NO SOURCE 1 DAY | % PROCESSED TIMELY -WITH SOURCE 2 DAYS |
| | 21 | 49 | | | Achieved | Achieved |
| CHILD CARE SUBSIDY | | | | | | |
| | | PERFORMANCE MEASURE | | 95% | | |
| | ACTIVE CASES | | | APPLICATION TIMELINESS | | |
| | 382 | | | Achieved | | |

# Economic Services Update

MEDICAID

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | MOU MEASURE | 90 | 90 | 95 | | | |
| | AGED OR DISABLED ADULT ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS Does not include MXP or FP cases | ADULT ACTIVE CASES *Does not include MXP or FP cases | FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS | FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVE CASES | TOTAL MEDICAID APPLICATIONS TAKEN | TOTAL MEDICAID REVIEWS | TOTAL MEDICAID REVIEWS WITHOUT WAIVERS | CAP REFERRALS | LTC REFERRALS | TOTAL MEDICAID RECIPIENTS | TOTAL NEMT TRIPS | REPORT CARD MAD | REPORT CARD OTHER | RECERT COMPLETION TIMELINESS RATE | Straight Through Processing | Total | |
| MAR | 5356 | 7,618 | 23247 | 15,012 | 411 | 855 | 2969 | 11 | 13 | 28603 | 735 | 100% | 95% | | 100% | 95% | |
| APR | 5389 | 7,752 | 23481 | 15,037 | 380 | 1571 | * | 4 | 12 | 28,870 | 683 | 96% | 95% | | 100% | 95% | |
| MAY | 5351 | 7,658 | 23365 | 15,147 | 382 | * | * | 3 | 9 | 28,716 | 713 | 93% | 97% | | 100% | 97% | |
| JUN | 5338 | 7,683 | 23515 | 15,235 | 346 | 1540 | n/a | 0 | 17 | 28,851 | 698 | 96% | 94% | | 100% | 95% | |
| JUL | 5327 | 7,734 | 23,544 | 15,333 | 382 | 1435 | n/a | 2 | 18 | 28,873 | * | 93% | 95% | | 100% | 95% | |
| AUG | 5283 | 7,753 | 23448 | 15,418 | 325 | 1386 | n/a | 1 | 12 | 28,731 | 823 | 100% | 96% | | 100% | 96% | |
| SEP | 5289 | 7,744 | 23471 | 15,459 | 378 | 1586 | n/a | 2 | 16 | 28,740 | 756 | 100% | 94% | | 100% | 94% | |
| OCT | 5311 | 7,747 | 23422 | 16,290 | 398 | 1606 | n/a | 1 | 16 | 28,733 | 638 | 100% | 98% | | 100% | 98% | |
| NOV | 5342 | 7,755 | 23,381 | 15,465 | 472 | 1825 | | 2 | 12 | 28,723 | 624 | 100% | 96% | | 100% | 97% | |
| DEC | 5313 | 7,761 | 23,324 | 15,542 | 560 | 1890 | | 3 | 15 | 28,637 | 832 | 100% | 95% | | 100% | 96% | |
| JAN | 5319 | 7,748 | 23194 | 15,527 | 531 | 503 | | 2 | 19 | 28,513 | 606 | 100% | 93% | | 100% | 93% | |
| FEB | 5318 | 7,781 | 23123 | 15,439 | 405 | 1893 | | 2 | 10 | 28,441 | 809 | 100% | 87% | | 100% | 88% | waiver |
| MAR | * | 7,826 | * | 15,420 | 504 | 1767 | | 3 | 11 | 28,446 | 933 | 90% | 94% | * | 100% | 94% | |

# Economic Services Update

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

| | ACTIVE RECIPIENTS | ACTIVE CASES | APPLICATIONS TAKEN | APP TIMELINESS RATE-REGULAR | APP TIMELINESS RATE-EXPEDITE | RECERT TIMELINESS RATE | RECERTS COMPLETED | FNS EBT BENEFITS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MOU MEASURE | | | | 95% | 95% | 95% | | |
| MAR | 11,907 | 6183 | 499 | 97.21% | 100% | 98.48% | 526 | 1,965,566.00 |
| APR | 11,396 | 5959 | 591 | 97.24% | 100.00% | 97.77% | 720 | 1,871,687.00 |
| MAY | 11,002 | 5732 | 576 | 98.11% | 99.15% | 99.13% | 692 | 1,808,941.00 |
| JUN | 10,804 | 5,597 | 598 | 97.69% | 92.73% | 98.19% | 553 | 1,783,246.00 |
| JUL | 10,715 | 5,556 | 594 | 96.83% | 96.84% | 98.74% | 548 | 1,760,696.00 |
| AUG | 10,783 | 5602 | 558 | 99.52% | 99.31% | 98.86% | 528 | 1,778,789.00 |
| SEP | 10,794 | 5605 | 580 | 99.13% | 97.98% | 99.41% | 509 | 1,752,253.00 |
| OCT | 10,695 | 5568 | 512 | 99..07% | 99.02% | 98.65% | 445 | 1,797,705.00 |
| NOV | 10,418 | 5445 | 417 | 99.15% | 98.81% | 99.70% | 336 | 1,759,731.00 |
| DEC | 10,269 | 5389 | 479 | 100.00% | 100% | 99.36% | 336 | 1,721,688.20 |
| JAN | 10,112 | 5307 | 505 | 96% | 99.09% | 97.51% | 482 | 1,662,857.00 |
| FEB | 9,992 | 5228 | 542 | 100.00% | 98.15% | 98.15% | 432 | 1,645,153.00 |
| MAR | 9,889 | 5197 | 543 | 98.45% | 99.28% | 99.21% | 505 | 1,647,954.00 |

# ADULT SERVICES UPDATE



**Guardianship**
- Total Wards: 74
- Contracted Wards: 17

**SAIH (Special Assistance In-Home)**
- Active Cases: 60
- State Average Caseload: 25-30

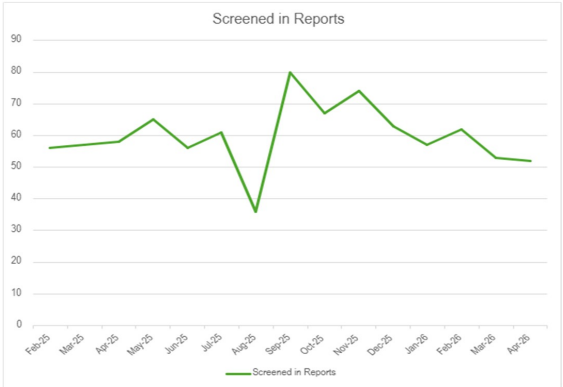
**CAP (Community Alternatives Program)**
- Current Enrollment: 132
- Waiting list for CAP: 34

## March APS Data

| Category | Number | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Total APS Reports Received | 36 | |
| APS Reports Screened In | 13 | Reports meeting criteria for an investigation |
| Substantiated Cases | 2 | |
| Confirmed Cases | 3 | Includes substantiations and other confirmations |
| Cases Opened for Services | 5 | Ongoing support and case management |
| Outreach Cases Assigned | 12 | Proactive engagement with at-risk adults |
| Service Referrals | 12 | Referrals for supportive community services |
| Guardianship Referrals | 3 | Referrals for potential legal guardia... |

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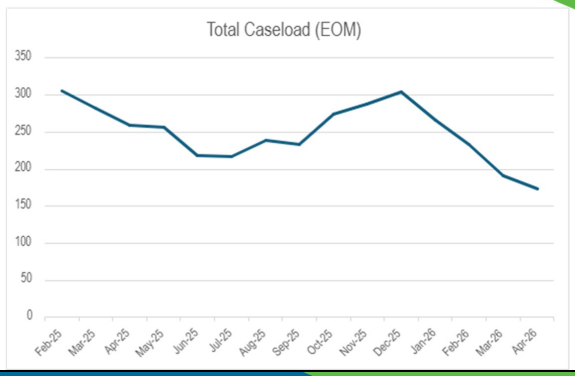
# CPS REPORTS AS OF 4/27




- September 2025 intake peak
- As of 4/27, 52 Screen-In's for April

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# CPS CASELOADS




- Caseload currently at 153
- 43% reduction within CY26

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# FOSTER CARE UPDATE



*Every child deserves a family*

**Foster Care Snapshot – Burke County**

- Total children in foster care: 212
- New entries into care this period: 11
- Exits from care this period: 2

# Social Work Appreciation Month

- Recognized staff contributions through weekly appreciation highlights
- Hosted a staff appreciation luncheon to celebrate our team
- Provided small tokens of appreciation to all social work staff
- Shared messages of gratitude from leadership and community partners
- Highlighted the impact of social work through internal communications
- Encouraged team engagement and peer recognition throughout the month




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# THANK YOU

**Questions?**

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for questions or comments.

In response to a question from County Manager Brian Epley, Mr. Fisher-Wellman explained that the Special Assistance In-Home (SA/IH) program transitioned from a capacity-based program with a waiting list to an entitlement program beginning the previous year. As a result, counties are now required to serve all eligible applicants regardless of staffing levels, eliminating the ability to maintain a waiting list. He noted that Burke County currently has 60 active SA/IH cases administered by one full-time employee, resulting in caseloads that exceed the state's recommended levels.

In response to a question from Chairman Brittain, Mr. Fisher-Wellman further explained that the Community Alternatives Program provides Medicaid-funded supportive services that enable eligible individuals to remain in their homes rather than enter institutional care. He noted that the County currently has the capacity to serve additional participants as referrals become available throughout the state.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Brittain called for a motion.

**Motion: To accept the report as presented.**

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

**BOC - RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL CLERKS TO THE BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' WEEK**

Chairman Brittain recognized Professional Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners Week and expressed the Board's appreciation to Kat Wright for her service as Interim Clerk to the Board during the transition following the retirement of Kay Honeycutt Draughn, as well as for her continued service in her primary role as Deputy Clerk to the Board. He also welcomed Morgan Buchanan as the County's newly appointed Clerk to the Board and recognized the important role of the Clerk's office in supporting the Board and serving the citizens of Burke County.

**ADJOURN**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 4:03 p.m.**

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

Approved this 20th day of July 2026.

_____

Randy Burns, Acting Chair
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:

_____
Morgan Buchanan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners