BURKE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
BURKE COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING
110 N. GREEN STREET, ENTRANCE E
YOUTUBE: BURKECOUNTYNC
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INVOCATION

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

6. PRESENTATIONS

1. NCEIPD - National Disability Employment Awareness Month (Oct.) 2025
2. CE - 4-H Program Overview & Recognition of 4-H State Championship Winners (Place Holder)
3. CE - Proclamation Declaring National 4-H Week
4. CM - End of the Year Report (Place Holder)
5. DSS - Foster Care Presentation (Place Holder)

7. SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. To participate, please pre-register by emailing the Clerk prior to the meeting or sign-in with the Clerk at the meeting.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda are noncontroversial and routine. Prior to the adoption of the meeting agenda, any request by a board member to remove an item from the consent agenda requires a majority vote of the board. All remaining consent agenda items shall be considered and adopted by a single motion.

1. AAB - Approval of Updated Rules of Procedure
2. Clerk - Appointment to Council on Aging

3. Tax Dept. - Tax Collection Report - August 2025

4. Tax Dept. - Release Refund Report - August 2025

10. ITEMS FOR DECISION

1. Clerk - Reappointment to Board of Adjustment

2. Clerk - Reappointments to BC Planning Board

3. Clerk - Appointments to the Revaluation Task Force (Place Holder)

4. Clerk - Appointments / Reappointments to the Veterans Service Board

5. CD & ROD - Centralize the Plat Review Function to County Staff (Place Holder)

11. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

1. BOC - Reports & Comments

12. VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Clerk - Vacancy Report

13. CLOSED SESSION

1. BOC - Closed Session

14. ADJOURN

In accordance with ADA regulations, persons in need of an accommodation to participate in the meeting should notify the County Manager's office at 828-764-9350 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

PRESENTATIONS

Subject Title: NCEIPD - National Disability Employment Awareness Month (Oct.) 2025

Presented by: Janet Hannah

Summary of Information:
October is recognized as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The attached proclamation formally designates October for this observance, with this year's theme: "Celebrating Value and Talent." Approval of the proclamation is requested.



Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
No. 1- Community Advancement
To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: To approve Proclamation No. 2025-14.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

PRESENTATIONS

Subject Title: CE - 4-H Program Overview & Recognition of 4-H State Championship Winners (Place Holder)

Presented by: Nicki Carpenter

Summary of Information:
4-H Agent, Nicki Carpenter, will present an overview of the 4-H program in Burke County and recognize this year's winners in a variety of disciplines. The recognition of the winners and taking a commemorative photo is requested.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
No. 1- Community Advancement
To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: To accept the report as presented.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

PRESENTATIONS

Subject Title: CE - Proclamation Declaring National 4-H Week

Presented by: Nicki Carpenter

Summary of Information:
This is a request to approve a proclamation declaring October 5-11, 2025, as National 4-H Week in Burke County. This year's theme is "Beyond Ready."

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
No. 1- Community Advancement
To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: To approve Proclamation No. 2025-15.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

PRESENTATIONS

Subject Title: CM - End of the Year Report (Place Holder)

Presented by: Brian Epley

Summary of Information:
The Year End Report for FY 24-25 will be presented at the regular meeting.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
N.A.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: To accept the report as presented.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

PRESENTATIONS

Subject Title: DSS - Foster Care Presentation (Place Holder)

Presented by: Will Winters

Summary of Information:
Will Winters, Foster Care Program Manager, from the Department of Social Services, will provide the Board with an update on the Foster Care program.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
No. 1- Community Advancement
To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: N.A.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: No action is requested.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: AAB - Approval of Updated Rules of Procedure

Presented by: Debbie Hawkins

Summary of Information:
An annual review and update as required by County Code.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
N.A.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: To approve the Animal Advisory Board's rules of procedure as presented.

RULES OF PROCEDURE
ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD
BURKE COUNTY

Applicability:
These rules apply to all meetings of the Animal Advisory Board of Burke County. For purposes of these rules, a meeting of the board occurs whenever a majority of the board's members gather, whether in person or simultaneously by electronic means, to conduct hearings, deliberate, vote, or otherwise transact public business within the board's real or apparent jurisdiction. The term "majority" as used here and elsewhere in these rules means, unless otherwise specified, a simple majority, that is, more than half.

Quorum:
The presence of a quorum is necessary for the board to conduct business. A quorum consists of a majority of the board's membership. Vacancies do not reduce the number of members necessary to establish a quorum. A member who withdraws from a meeting of the board without being excused by a majority vote of the remaining members present is deemed present for quorum purposes.

Agenda:
Preparation. The secretary to the board shall prepare an agenda in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair in advance of each meeting of the board. For a regular meeting, a request to have an item of business placed on the agenda must be received by the secretary at least 5 days before the date of the meeting.

Supplemental information/materials. Any supporting information related to items on the agenda should be emailed to each board member at least 72 (seventy-two) hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Delivery to board members. Except in the case of an emergency meeting, each member shall receive an electronic copy of the agenda and agenda packet at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting.

Public inspection. The agenda will be available to the public 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Order of Business. Items shall be placed on a regular meeting agenda according to the order of business. The usual order of business for each regular meeting shall be as follows:

1. Call to order.
2. Approval of meeting minutes.
3. Approval of the agenda.
4. Informal public comments.
5. Old or unfinished business.
6. New business.
7. Adjourn.

Without objection, the chair may call agenda items in any order most convenient for the dispatch of business.

Officers / Duties:
Chairperson. The Chairperson shall be elected by the appointed members of the Advisory Board for a term of one (1) year at the first meeting of each calendar year. It shall be the duties of the Chairperson to conduct business as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, notify the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners should there be: a resignation or any other termination of membership; any changes of address of appointed members, and other such duties as may be prescribed.

Vice-Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the appointed members of the Advisory board for a term of one (1) year at the first meeting of each calendar year. The Vice Chairperson's duties shall be to direct all meetings in the absence of the Chairperson to ensure the development and maintenance of a strong and active Advisory Board.

Secretary. The Secretary shall be elected by the appointed members of the Advisory board for a term of one (1) year at the first meeting of each calendar year. The Secretary shall prepare the agenda in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair prior to each meeting. The Secretary shall also have the Animal Advisory Board's agenda posted on the County website 24 hours prior to the meeting. The Secretary will keep, record, and disseminate the minutes of the Advisory Board meetings and have the minutes posted on the County website.

The board must keep full and accurate minutes of all meetings, including subcommittee meetings. To be "full and accurate," minutes must record all actions taken by the board. They should set out the precise wording of each motion and make it possible to determine the number of votes cast for and against each motion. The minutes need not record discussions of board members, though the board, in its discretion, may decide to incorporate such details into the minutes.

The Secretary shall also keep a current list of Advisory Board members' names, email and mailing addresses, and other contact information.

Composition of the Board:
The Animal Advisory Board shall be composed of eight (8) members appointed by the Board of Commissioners. All members must reside in the County. This Board shall include one member, as defined by the listed parameters, for each of the following seats:

- Member of a 501 (c) 3 animal rescue agency or foster agency
- Veterinarian (practicing or retired)
- Board of Health member or designee, excluding Health Director
- At – large (Pet Owner)
- Law enforcement officer, excluding Animal Control officers
- Breeder
- At – large (Pet Owner)
- Large Animal Owner

The Animal Services Director or his/her designee will attend and be responsible for the proper advertisement of meetings. He/she also shall serve as the staff resource for the Board in its research and deliberations. However, he/she shall have no vote on any matter coming before the Board unless in the event of a tie.

The Public Health Director or designee will attend all meetings. He/she shall also serve as a public health resource for the Board in its research and deliberations. However, he/she shall have no vote on any matter coming before the Board.

Vacancy:
In the event of a vacancy due to resignation or removal of a board member, the vacancy shall be filled by the subsequent appointing authority (i.e., Burke County Board of Commissioners).

Term Appointments:
Initially, three of the members shall be appointed for one-year terms, and four of the members shall be appointed for two-year terms. All subsequent appointments shall be for two-year terms, so that the membership appointments are staggered. Such officers may be reelected for not more than three consecutive terms. Board members shall serve their term unless removed for any reason by the Board of Commissioners. In the event of any vacancy on the Board, the Board of Commissioners shall appoint a replacement member.

Animal Advisory Board members shall not serve more than one unexpired term and four full terms of office consecutively, provided that this provision shall not prevent any person from serving any number of nonconsecutive terms, nor shall it apply to any board or commission whose authorization or bylaws conflict with this provision.

Compensation:
Members of the Animal Advisory Board shall serve without compensation.

Types of Meetings

Regular Meetings:
All meetings of the Animal Advisory Board will be open to the public.

All meetings will be held in accordance with the ordinance provisions, adopted and approved Rules of Procedure, and the North Carolina Open Meetings laws.

In January of each year, the Chairperson shall be responsible for notifying the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and the news media of the regular meeting time and place for all regular meetings in the calendar year.

Regular attendance of advisory board meetings by appointed members is expected by the Board of Commissioners. No appointed member shall, without good and sufficient reason, fail to attend three consecutive meetings or fail to attend fifty percent (50%) of all the regularly scheduled meetings in one calendar year. Any member who at any time does not comply with this

requirement shall be deemed to have abandoned and forfeited membership on this board and the term of office of such absentee shall thereby terminate. It shall be the responsibility of the Chairperson to notify the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners that a vacancy exists on the Animal Advisory Board.

A simple majority of the Animal Advisory Board members shall constitute a quorum for conducting Animal Advisory Board business.

The board shall meet at least quarterly for review and discussion of any issue(s) that it deems appropriate regarding the operation of the Animal Services Center.

Additional meetings may be scheduled, if requested by the Board of Commissioners, County Manager, Animal Services Director, or the Chairperson of the Animal Advisory Board. Appointed members can also make a motion, have it seconded, and subsequently voted and approved by a majority of the attending board members to cancel or postpone any meeting.

All regular meetings shall be publicly advertised no less than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting; location, date, and time shall be included in the public advertisement.

An "agenda" shall be presented at the beginning of each meeting listing the business of the day, as well as time for "public comments".

Recessed Meetings:
When conducting a properly called regular meeting, the board may recess the meeting to another date, time, or place by a procedural motion made and adopted in open session. The motion must state the time (including the date, if the meeting will resume on a different day) and place at which the meeting will reconvene.

Subcommittee Meetings:
When the board determines there are issues that require open dialogue and sharing of ideas, the board may call for a subcommittee meeting. These meetings are open to the public and minutes will be taken in order to document a record of discussion.

Motions and Voting

Action by the Board:
Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the board shall act by motion. Any member may make a motion.

One Motion at a Time:
A member may make only one motion at a time.

Withdrawal of Motion:
The member who introduces a motion may withdraw the motion unless the motion has been amended or put to a vote.

Adoption by Majority Vote:
A motion is adopted if supported by a simple majority of the votes cast, a quorum being present, except when a larger majority is required by these rules or state law.

Changing a Vote:
A member may change his or her vote on a motion at any time before the presiding officer announces whether the motion has passed or failed. Once the presiding officer announces the result, a member may not change his or her vote without the unanimous consent of the remaining members present. A member's request for unanimous consent to change a vote is not in order unless made immediately following the presiding officer's announcement of the result.

Each board member shall be given an opportunity by the Chairperson to state their position on any item before the board.

The majority of the board may ask any member to leave the meeting if the member is disruptive or disrespectful.

Procedural Motions

To Adjourn:
This motion may be used to close a meeting. It is not in order if the board is in closed session.

To Recess to a Time and Place Certain:
This motion may be used to call a recessed meeting. The motion must state the time (including the date, if the meeting will reconvene on a different day) and place at which the meeting will resume.

Public Comment Periods:
Frequency of Public Comment Periods. The board should provide at least one opportunity for public comment at a regular meeting.

Rules for Public Comment Periods:
The board may adopt reasonable rules for public comment periods that, among other things,

- fixes the maximum time allotted to each speaker at 3 minutes,
- provides for the designation of spokespersons for groups supporting or opposing the same positions,
- provides for the selection of delegates from groups supporting or opposing the same positions when the number of persons wishing to attend the public comment period exceeds the capacity of the meeting room (so long as arrangements are made for those excluded from the meeting room to listen to the public comment period), and
- provides for the maintenance of order and decorum in the conduct of the public comment period,

- requires each speaker to complete a "speaker's card" and submit it to the Chairperson or AAB member before the meeting convenes,
- prohibits the extension of a speaker's time without a majority vote by the Board, and
- prohibits the transfer of a speaker's time to another speaker.

Upon recognition by the presiding officer to speak at the meeting, such person shall appear at the location designated by the presiding officer and provide their name and address for the record.

If such person addressing the board has printed materials to distribute to members of the board, such materials shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Animal Advisory Board.

If such person wishes to distribute printed material to the general audience in attendance, such person shall place the materials in the area designated by the presiding officer in order to provide public access to the materials.

The presiding officer may establish time limits on public comments regarding an issue, provided time limits for differing opinions are equivalent.

All attendees must refrain from conversation or creating noise of any kind that may cause a disruption to the meeting. If a non-member causes disorder or interruption to the meeting, the presiding officer may require the person to cease the offensive behavior or leave.

No campaigning of any kind shall be permitted as public input under this procedure and provide for the designation of spokespersons for groups supporting or opposing the same positions.

Content-Based Restrictions Generally Prohibited:
The board may not restrict speakers based on subject matter, as long as their comments pertain to subjects within the board's real or apparent jurisdiction.

Duties of the Board:
In addition to such other powers and duties as may be set forth in the chapter, the Animal Advisory Board shall have the power and duty to:

Study Animal Services Center organizational and operational-related issues and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners, County Manager, and Animal Services Center Director.

Review and make recommendations as determined by the "majority" of the voting board members regarding ordinances relating to the control and welfare of animals in the County.

Supply reports to the Board of Commissioners at such frequency as the Board may require.

To provide positive support and public awareness of the Animal Services Center programs.

To endorse the philosophy of "humane care, humane housing and treatment" of impounded animals.

To select from within their appointed members a spokesperson for the Board's decisions on all items entertained and/or voted on.

To serve as an integral part of the community, bridging the gap of philosophical differences between various animal welfare agencies.

To stand as one voice united by supporting and respecting the "majority vote" of the Animal Advisory Board members.

Amendments:
New bylaws may be adopted by a majority vote of the Advisory Board at any regular meeting or special meeting, but will not be considered approved until approved by the Burke County Board of Commissioners. All bylaws, regulations, and rules of procedures shall be approved by the Board of Commissioners. These bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed by a majority of the Advisory Board, upon approval from the Board of Commissioners.

Adopted this ___ day of _____ 2025.

_____
Debbie Hawkins, AAB Chair

Attest:

_____
Dr. Jenny McGrady, AAB Secretary

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: Clerk - Appointment to Council on Aging

Presented by: Kay Draughn

Summary of Information:
Maxine Childers has been unable to attend the Council on Aging meetings. Removal of her name from the roster and thanking her for her service is requested. An application has been received from Heather Ward, and her appointment to Seat No. 4 is requested to complete the remainder of a 3-year term ending November 30, 2026.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
No. 1- Community Advancement
To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: To remove Maxine Childers' name from the official roster for the Council on Aging and thank her for her service to the community.

To appoint Heather Ward to the Council on Aging, Seat No. 4, to complete the remainder of a 3-year term ending November 30, 2026.

Kat Wright

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Friday, August 1, 2025 7:20 AM
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

CAUTION: Don't be quick to click! We're counting on you! This email is from an external sender! **Don't click** on links or open attachments from unknown sources. If you know this is spam delete the message. If you believe this message is a phish attack, Click the Phish Alert button above. If you are unsure what to do, contact the helpdesk at 9410.

Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Heather
Last Name	Ward
Address	400 Bass St NW
City	Valdese
State	NC
Zip Code	28690
Home Phone Number	8283909541
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8283909541
Email Address	Heathernkward@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Event Specialist
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Elected Official or County Staff
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No

If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	*Field not completed.*
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No
	(Section Break)
List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.	
First Choice	Citizens Academy
Second Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Third Choice	Council on Aging
	(Section Break)
Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	*Field not completed.*
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	As a member of the Valdese Town Council I would like to know more about how things work on the county level.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular	Yes

basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

Burke County is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: Tax Dept. - Tax Collection Report - August 2025

Presented by: John Bridgers

Summary of Information:
The Board of Commissioners was presented with the Tax Collection Report for the period between July 1, 2025, and August 31, 2025, at the pre-agenda meeting. This reflects the status of collections by the Burke County Tax Collection's Staff. This information is a supplement to the Annual Settlement Report.

Category	Amount Collected YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	$29,710,699.64	53.98%	$25,328,314.36
Motor Vehicle Tax	$ 1,064,954.52	19.52%	$ 4,391,902.48
Current Year Taxes	$30,775,654.16	50.87%	$29,720,216.84
Delinquent Taxes	$ 233,117.54	33.30%	$ 466,882.46
Penalty & Interest	$ 62,036.16	18.86%	$ 266,963.84

The Tax Levy is the total property tax value, not including motor vehicles, times the tax rate. This amount changes monthly with the addition of discoveries, other changes, or corrections, and when Public Utility Values are added, typically during September.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
No. 4- Fiscal Stewardship
Pursuit of the high-performing organization model that ensures high quality, transparent and efficient use of public resources.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: To accept the Tax Collection Report for August 2025 as presented.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: Tax Dept. - Release Refund Report - August 2025

Presented by: John Bridgers

Summary of Information:
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 of real or personal property.
- The postmark reveals that a payment was submitted timely.

The Board of Commissioners was presented with the following list of releases and refunds for consideration during the pre-agenda meeting. The Net Release results from the Report Amount minus the Rebilled Amount.

Tax System Refunds and Releases			
Report Amount	**Rebilled Amount**	**Net Release**	**Refund Amount**
$56,640.41	$25,913.42	$30,726.99	$7,613.57

VTS Refunds Over $100	
	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	$409.58

*Note: The net release amount results from the reported amount minus the rebilled amount.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
No. 4- Fiscal Stewardship
Pursuit of the high-performing organization model that ensures high quality, transparent and efficient use of public resources.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion:

To approve the Tax Releases and Refunds for August 2025 as presented.

Trans #	Refund Recipient Name	Refund Address	Refund Description	Opid	Refund Change Date	Refund Amount ($)
19288508	WALTER M NORMAN	4615 PATTON ROAD MORGANTON,NC 28655	Refund on Bill # 0000054328-2020-2020-0000-00	DHUTCHINS1	8/20/2025 9:54:00 AM	147.39
19288506	WALTER M NORMAN	4615 PATTON ROAD MORGANTON,NC 28655	Refund on Bill # 0000054328-2021-2021-0000-00	DHUTCHINS1	8/20/2025 9:54:00 AM	151.31
19288504	WALTER M NORMAN	4615 PATTON ROAD MORGANTON,NC 28655	Refund on Bill # 0000054328-2022-2022-0000-00	DHUTCHINS1	8/20/2025 9:54:00 AM	164.87
19288502	WALTER M NORMAN	4615 PATTON ROAD MORGANTON,NC 28655	Refund on Bill # 0000054328-2023-2023-0000-00	DHUTCHINS1	8/20/2025 9:54:00 AM	109.79
19288500	WALTER M NORMAN	4615 PATTON ROAD MORGANTON,NC 28655	Refund on Bill # 0000054328-2024-2024-0000-00	DHUTCHINS1	8/20/2025 9:54:00 AM	108.61
19302776	KAYLEIGH ICARD	218 JOYCE ST MADISON,NC 27025	Overpayment on Payment of SYSTEM on Bill # 0000023841-2025-2025-0000-00 of $1,232.30	DHUTCHINS1	8/27/2025 10:03:36 AM	1,232.30
19302779	JOSEPH J LAFAUCI,JR	19 KENDRICK LN DIX HILLS,NY 11746	Overpayment on Payment of SYSTEM on Bill # 0024069582-2025-2025-0000-00 of $1,163.79	DHUTCHINS1	8/27/2025 10:04:28 AM	1,163.79
19302976	GRAYHAWK LEASING LLC	1412 MAIN ST STE 1500 DALLAS,TX 75202	Overpayment on Payment of CHECK on Bill # 0024034624-2025-2025-0000-00 of $486.78	DPCLBX	8/27/2025 6:05:04 PM	486.78
19303377	JOHN VAN RIPER,III	279 HILLCREST DR SOUTHERN SHORES,NC 27949	Refund on Bill # 0000026627-2025-2025-0000-00	DPCADJ	8/29/2025 10:14:30 AM	199.22
19303635	JIMMY L SETZER	2443 ICARD SCH RD CONNELLY SPRINGS,NC 28612	Overpayment on Payment of CHECK on Bill # 0000026601-2025-2025-0000-00 of $1,311.41	DPCLBX	8/29/2025 6:05:10 PM	1,311.41
19303708	WAYNE E BOWMAN	6325 WADE LOWMAN RD CONNELLY SPRINGS,NC 28612	Overpayment on Payment of CHECK on Bill # 0000042787-2025-2025-0000-00 of $109.88	DPCLBX	8/29/2025 6:05:16 PM	109.88
19303843	MARK REMBERT GLASS	2110 EAST WINDS AVE MORGANTON,NC 28655	Overpayment on Payment of CHECK on Bill # 0000046015-2025-2025-0000-00 of $2,428.22	DPCLBX	8/29/2025 6:05:27 PM	2,428.22
Total						**7,613.57**

Payee Name	Primary Owner	Refund Type	Bill #	Transaction #	Refund Reason	Tax Jurisd.	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
PREISER, CONNIE EPLEY	PREISER, CONNIE EPLEY	Adjustment >= $100	0072363561	231611038	Over Assessment	01	TAX	($110.60)	$0.00	($110.60)
						26	TAX	($23.70)	$0.00	($23.70)
									Refund	**$134.30**
WALKER, SANDRA JENKINS	WALKER, SANDRA JENKINS	Adjustment >= $100	0086612038	465896660	Situs error	01	TAX	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
						57	TAX	($319.10)	$0.00	($319.10)
						57	VEHICLE FEE	($20.00)	$0.00	($20.00)
						27	TAX	$63.82	$0.00	$63.82
									Refund	**$275.28**
									Refund Total	**$409.58**

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount($)
0024054718-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MARLIN LEASING INC	7/1/2025	LOUISE JOHNSON	8/27/2025	40.26
0024076701-2025-2024-0000-00-REG	DAVIDSON HOLLAND WHITESELL & CO PLLC	6/24/2025	LINDA WILBUR	7/31/2025	778.46
0024076701-2025-2024-0000-00-REG	DAVIDSON HOLLAND WHITESELL & CO PLLC	6/24/2025	LINDA WILBUR	7/31/2025	274.88
0024084582-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MARLIN LEASING	7/1/2025	LOUISE JOHNSON	8/27/2025	5.46
0024084656-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MARLIN LEASING INC	7/1/2025	LOUISE JOHNSON	8/27/2025	33.89
0024084661-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MARLIN LEASING INC	7/1/2025	LOUISE JOHNSON	8/27/2025	12.65
Subtotal					**1,145.60**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Adjustment Release**				
0000060630-2025-2025-0070-00-DLD	SEARCY, DAYLON KEITH	8/6/2025	AMANDA CONLEY	8/6/2025	378.27
Subtotal					**378.27**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Duplicate Billing**				
0000054328-2020-2020-0000-00-REG	NORMAN, WALTER M	7/1/2020	LINDA WILBUR	8/19/2025	140.11
0000054328-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	NORMAN, WALTER M	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	8/19/2025	144.11
0000054328-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	NORMAN, WALTER M	7/1/2022	LINDA WILBUR	8/19/2025	156.92
0000054328-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	NORMAN, WALTER M	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	8/19/2025	107.28
0000054328-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	NORMAN, WALTER M	7/15/2024	LINDA WILBUR	8/19/2025	105.53
0024007990-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	PEARSON, BILLY EDWARD	7/1/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	8/6/2025	5.80
0024076701-2025-2025-0001-00-REG	DAVIDSON HOLLAND WHITESELL & CO PLLC	7/1/2025	JOHN BRIDGERS	8/22/2025	642.29
0024083161-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	GRAJALES, OMAR VILLANEUVA	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	8/15/2025	10.75
Subtotal					**1,312.79**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Exempt Property**				
0000039008-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SEARCY, DAYLON KEITH	7/1/2025	AMANDA CONLEY	8/6/2025	465.86
0000060630-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SEARCY, DAYLON KEITH	7/1/2025	AMANDA CONLEY	8/6/2025	595.83
0000060630-2025-2025-0000-01-REG	SEARCY, DAYLON KEITH	7/1/2025	AMANDA CONLEY	8/11/2025	217.56
Subtotal					**1,279.25**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Late Listing**				
0000056813-2025-2025-0000-01-REG	MILLER, REBECCA N	7/1/2025	JOHN BRIDGERS	8/26/2025	390.97
0000070868-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	ONEMAIN FINANCIAL GROUP LLC 1824	7/1/2025	LINDA WILBUR	8/13/2025	317.55
0024009643-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MORGANTON HGTS ASSOC LMT PARTNERSHIP	7/1/2025	LINDA WILBUR	8/7/2025	86.05
0024009851-2025-2025-0000-09-REG	RAV PROPERTIES LLC	7/1/2025	JOHN BRIDGERS	8/26/2025	2,005.04
Subtotal					**2,799.61**

TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY **RELEASE REASON: Mapping Correction**

0000010983-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	ROBINSON, ROBERT	7/15/2024	AMANDA CONLEY	8/4/2025	2,316.14
0000010983-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	ROBINSON, ROBERT	7/1/2025	AMANDA CONLEY	8/4/2025	2,300.25
Subtotal					**4,616.39**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Not in Burke County**				
0024063102-2023-2023-0000-01-REG	CHAPMAN, RALPH E	7/3/2023	KAYLA BURGESS	8/1/2025	15.40
0024063102-2023-2023-0000-01-REG	CHAPMAN, RALPH E	7/3/2023	KAYLA BURGESS	8/1/2025	9.24
0024063102-2025-2024-0000-00-REG	CHAPMAN, RALPH E	7/23/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	8/1/2025	16.80
0024063102-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	CHAPMAN, RALPH E	7/23/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	8/1/2025	15.27
0024077581-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SCANLAN, TIMOTHY C	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	8/20/2025	208.10
0024077664-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MCLAUGHLIN, SHANNON L	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	8/19/2025	354.09
0024083950-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SAX, EVAN	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	8/19/2025	5.80
0024084430-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	HARWOOD, VIVIAN FARRIS	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	8/7/2025	4.17
0024084741-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MORTON, MICHAEL E	7/1/2025	JOHN BRIDGERS	8/25/2025	2,490.84
0000056813-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	MILLER, REBECCA N	7/1/2025	AMANDA CONLEY	8/8/2025	803.29
0024085108-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	BRISTOL, JEREMY DANIEL	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	8/7/2025	57.30
Subtotal					**3,980.30**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Over Assessment**				
0024060295-2025-2025-0001-00-REG	DALE, ALENE	8/4/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	8/8/2025	249.70
0024084734-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	CAUSEBE LLC	7/1/2025	JOHN BRIDGERS	8/13/2025	32,051.25
Subtotal					**32,300.95**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Process Correction**				
0024076701-2025-2024-0000-00-REG	DAVIDSON HOLLAND WHITESELL & CO PLLC	6/24/2025	LINDA WILBUR	7/31/2025	457.34
0024076701-2025-2024-0000-00-REG	DAVIDSON HOLLAND WHITESELL & CO PLLC	6/24/2025	LINDA WILBUR	7/31/2025	331.87
0024083393-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	ALLMAN, JIMMY DARRELL	7/1/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	8/26/2025	1,146.62
Subtotal					**1,935.83**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Release LFUF**				
0000029474-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	GANTT, TERRY M	7/1/2022	AMANDA CONLEY	7/31/2025	295.09
0000029474-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	GANTT, TERRY M	7/3/2023	AMANDA CONLEY	7/31/2025	251.81
0000056813-2025-2025-0000-01-REG	MILLER, REBECCA N	7/1/2025	AMANDA CONLEY	8/8/2025	482.97
0000089659-2023-2023-0000-01-REG	CLARK, EARL E	7/3/2023	LINDA WILBUR	8/26/2025	99.27
0000089659-2025-2024-0000-00-REG	CLARK, EARL E	7/23/2025	LINDA WILBUR	8/26/2025	100.30
0000089659-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	CLARK, EARL E	7/23/2025	LINDA WILBUR	8/26/2025	103.18
Subtotal					**1,332.62**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Situs Correction**				
0000072744-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	CATAWBA VALLEY PROPERTY	7/1/2025	LINDA WILBUR	8/18/2025	5.68

Subtotal					**5.68**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Sold/Traded**				
0000010926-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	DENTON, MARK ALAN	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	8/21/2025	868.83
0000052810-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	HOLDEN, STEPHEN W	7/1/2025	LINDA WILBUR	8/14/2025	1,514.75
0000052810-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	HOLDEN, STEPHEN W	7/1/2025	LINDA WILBUR	8/14/2025	1,508.65
0000052810-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	HOLDEN, STEPHEN W	7/1/2025	LINDA WILBUR	8/14/2025	1,485.88
0000070713-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	RUTHERFORD, GLORIA JEAN	7/1/2025	LOENDORF JOSEPH	8/26/2025	119.17
0024034670-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	GATES, DERRICK J	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	8/7/2025	9.16
0024052110-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	FENDER, JENNIFER BURGESS	7/1/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	8/26/2025	40.57
0024077040-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	PENDLETON, TIMOTHY W	7/16/2025	KAYLA BURGESS	8/13/2025	6.11
Subtotal					**5,553.12**
Total					**56,640.41**

Release Amount($)	Bill Amount after Release($)
40.26	0.00
321.12	457.34
274.88	0.00
5.46	0.00
33.89	0.00
12.65	0.00
688.26	**457.34**

378.27	0.00
378.27	**0.00**

140.11	0.00
144.11	0.00
156.92	0.00
107.28	0.00
105.53	0.00
5.80	0.00
642.29	0.00
10.75	0.00
1,312.79	**0.00**

465.86	0.00
595.83	0.00
217.56	0.00
1,279.25	**0.00**

35.54	355.43
28.87	288.68
7.82	78.23
2,005.04	0.00
2,077.27	**722.34**

2,316.14	0.00
2,300.25	0.00
4,616.39	**0.00**

6.16	9.24
9.24	0.00
16.80	0.00
15.27	0.00
208.10	0.00
354.09	0.00
5.80	0.00
4.17	0.00
659.34	1,831.50
803.29	0.00
15.82	41.48
2,098.08	**1,882.22**

67.65	182.05
11,294.25	20,757.00
11,361.90	**20,939.05**

125.47	331.87
56.99	274.88
1,146.62	0.00
1,329.08	**606.75**

82.00	213.09
88.00	163.81
92.00	390.97
88.00	11.27
88.00	12.30
92.00	11.18
530.00	**802.62**

5.68	0.00

5.68	**0.00**

9.15	859.68
6.10	1,508.65
22.77	1,485.88
23.42	1,462.46
119.17	0.00
9.16	0.00
40.57	0.00
6.11	0.00
236.45	**5,316.67**
25,913.42	**30,726.99**

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Subject Title: Clerk - Reappointment to Board of Adjustment

Presented by: Kay Draughn

Summary of Information:
Gregory Smith currently serves in Seat No. 4, West, on the Burke County Board of Adjustment. His term expires on September 30, 2025, and he has expressed a willingness to continue serving. Reappointment is requested.

4	West	Gregory Smith	A-UTR	9/17/2024
		Morganton NC 28655	TE	9/30/2025

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
No. 1- Community Advancement
To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: To reappoint Gregory Smith to the Burke Co. Board of Adjustment, Seat 4, West, to complete a 3-year term ending September 30, 2028.

Burke County Board of Adjustment
7-Members
3-Year Terms, 4 Term Limit
Section 8.16 of the Burke Co. Zoning Ordinance

Seat No.	Position	Name-Address		Term
1	East	Jennie Cook	A	9/19/2017
			R	9/15/2020
		Hildebran NC 28537	R	9/19/2023
			TE	9/30/2026
2	East	Tommy Craig	A-UT	12/20/2022
			R	9/17/2024
		Valdese NC 28690	TE	9/30/2027
3	West	Ray Johnson	A-UT	6/20/2023
			R	9/19/2023
		Morganton NC 28655	TE	9/30/2026
4	West	Gregory Smith	A-UT	9/17/2024
			R	
		Morganton NC 28655	TE	9/30/2025
5	At-large	Joyce Counihan	A	9/15/2020
			R	9/19/2023
		Morganton NC 28655	TE	9/30/2026
6	Alternate At-Large	Ed Hallyburton	A	9/15/2020
			R	9/19/2023
		Connelly Springs NC 28612	TE	9/30/2026
7	Alternate At-Large	Rick McClurd	A	9/17/2024
			R	
			TE	9/30/2027

A=Appointment
R=Reappointment
A-UT=Appointed to Complete Unexpired Term
TE=Term Expires

Kat Wright

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 7:45 PM
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

CAUTION: Don't be quick to click! We're counting on you! This email is from an external sender! **Don't click** on links or open attachments from unknown sources. If you know this is spam delete the message. If you believe this message is a phish attack, Click the Phish Alert button above. If you are unsure what to do, contact the helpdesk at 9410.

Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Gregory
Last Name	Smith
Address	208 Horse Shoe Lane
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	9194985803
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	9194985803
Email Address	geogs00@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Retired geologist/civil engineer
Retired From	NC DOT, AECOM (Private Engineering Firm)
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Elected Official or County Staff
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	Yes

If so, please identify the board or committee.	Burke Co. Planning Board
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Burke Arts Council, Hands of Hope, LLC, Burke County Planning Board, Morganton Planning & Zoning Commission
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	Yes
(Section Break)	
List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.	
First Choice	Burke Co. Board of Adjustment
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*
(Section Break)	
Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	Current Board of Adjustment member
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	To serve the residents of Burke County
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular	Yes

basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	None
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

Burke County is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

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Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Subject Title: Clerk - Reappointments to BC Planning Board

Presented by: Kay Draughn

Summary of Information:
The terms of appointment for Shawn Freeman (Seat 2 - East) and Andrew Lowdermilk (Seat 5, at-large) on the Burke County Planning Board end September 30, 2025. Both members are willing to serve another term. There are several applications on file for the Board's consideration. The term is for three (3) years.

2	East	Shawn Freeman	A-UT TE	2/17/2025 9/30/2025
5	At-large	Andrew Lowdermilk	A-UT TE	7/16/2024 9/30/2025

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
No. 1- Community Advancement
To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: To appoint _____ (Carol Lewis, Chase Billow, Heather Ward or Terri Swanson) OR reappoint Shawn Freeman to Seat No. 2, East on the Burke Co. Planning Board for a 3-year term ending September 30, 2028.

To appoint _____ OR reappoint Andrew Lowdermilk to Seat No. 5, at-large on the Burke Co. Planning Board for a 3-year term ending September 30, 2028.

Burke County Planning Board
7-Members
3-Year Terms, 2 Term Limit
Section 1704 of the Burke Co. Zoning Ordinance

Seat No.	Position	Name-Address		Term
1	East	Benjamin Ealy	A-UT TE	2/18/2025 9/30/2027
2	East	Shawn Freeman	A-UT TE	2/17/2025 9/30/2025
3	East	Brian King	A-UT R TE	2/28/2023 9/19/2023 9/30/2026
4	West	Gregory Smith	A-UT R TE	11/19/2024 9/30/2026
5	At-large	Andrew Lowdermilk	A-UT TE	7/16/2024 9/30/2025
6	West	Damion Patton	A-UT R TE	11/19/2024 9/30/2026
7	West	Joyce Counihan	A R TE	8/18/2020 9/19/2023 9/30/2026

A=Appointment
R=Reappointment
A-UT=Appointed to Complete Unexpired Term
TE=Term Expires

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 12:45:45 PM

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Tim
Last Name	Barnsback
Address	1945 Timber Trace
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	8284481613
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8284481613
Email Address	timbarnsback@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Teacher
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Website
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Casting for Hope (Executive Board Member): Supporting women in North Carolina living with ovarian or gynecological cancers through financial assistance and emotional support. One Head-One Bed (Founder): Addressing homelessness among students by providing portable beds to those in need. North Carolina Council on Economic Education (Regional Advisory Board Member): Promoting financial literacy and economic education to empower students and families in our region. Homegrown Leader (Certified by NC Rural Center): Advocating for equitable and sustainable community development, with a focus on leveraging local resources and fostering regional connections. Teacher and Mentor: Through my work as a high school teacher and department chair, I engage in educating and empowering future generations to become informed and active citizens.
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	As a dedicated member of the Burke County community, I am committed to supporting initiatives that enhance our local economy and improve the quality of life for all residents. My extensive experience in education, nonprofit leadership, and community development uniquely positions me to contribute meaningfully to the Planning Board's mission. Through my work with Casting for Hope and as the founder of One Head-One Bed, I have developed and implemented programs that address critical needs in our community, fostering resilience and well-being. As a Regional Advisory Board Member for the NC Council on Economic Education and a certified Homegrown Leader with the NC Rural Center, I have worked to promote financial literacy, economic opportunity, and equitable

	development across the region. These experiences, combined with my background in strategic planning and resource management, have equipped me to make informed, community-centered decisions that support sustainable growth and economic vitality in Burke County. I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the Planning Board and contribute to shaping a prosperous future for our county.
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	I am deeply invested in the growth and prosperity of Burke County and see serving on the Planning Board as an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to our community's future. As someone who has dedicated their career to education, leadership, and community service, I am passionate about fostering economic opportunities, addressing community needs, and supporting sustainable development that benefits all residents. My primary goals as a member of the Planning Board would be: Promote Sustainable Economic Growth: I aim to support initiatives that attract businesses, create jobs, and enhance the economic vitality of Burke County while preserving its unique character and resources. Advocate for Community-Centered Development: I believe in inclusive planning that considers the needs of all residents, ensuring equitable access to housing, transportation, and public services. Leverage Community Strengths and Partnerships: Drawing on my experience in nonprofits and leadership roles, I would focus on building collaborations that align local assets with future development opportunities. Serving on this board aligns with my lifelong commitment to making a positive impact, and I am eager to bring my skills and experience to the table to help Burke County thrive.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if	none

selected to serve on a board or committee.	
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	Timothy D Barnsback - Resume (2).pdf

Burke County is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: Kay Draughn
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees
Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 10:20:56 PM

CAUTION: Don't be quick to click! We're counting on you! This email is from an external sender! **Don't click** on links or open attachments from unknown sources. If you know this is spam delete the message. If you believe this message is a phish attack, Click the Phish Alert button above. If you are unsure what to do, contact the helpdesk @ support@burkenc.org.

Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Henry
Last Name	Beall
Address	123 Riverside Ct
City	Morganton
State	North Carolina
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	8289992989
Business Phone Number	8289992989
Cell Phone Number	8289992989
Email Address	henrybeall07@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Junior at Freedom High School
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Friend
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Teens For The Train (founder and president)-youth group started to bring public trains back to Morganton Burke Youth Organized Philanthropy (member)-youth group focused on funding worthwhile organizations in Burke County The Paper (weekly columnist) Freedom High School Key Club (member)-volunteer group Grace Episcopal Church (member) Freedom High School Investing Club (founder and president)-a club I started to bring education and interest to investing in the stock market (15 members) Freedom High School Quiz Bowl (captain)-a club I run, part of a national organization in which players compete against each other in areas of academics
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Morganton Planning Board (ETJ)
Second Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Third Choice	Blue Ridge Community Action

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	*Field not completed.*
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you	I am interested in helping my community and providing a voice for people my age. I add a valuable perspective on the challenges kids attending public high schools in Burke County face. I have actively attempted to help my community while in Burke County, and I believe I can continue that through a board

have?	or committee. I can add new ideas, perspectives, and a willingness to help.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	Columnist for The Paper
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 5:51:15 PM

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Chase
Last Name	Billow
Address	5365 Pine Ridge Dr
City	Connelly Springs
State	NC
Zip Code	28612
Home Phone Number	7049060174
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	7049060174
Email Address	chase.billow@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Project Manager
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Elected Official or County Staff
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	I'm the current President of Pine Mountain Property Owners Association. I am also the Republican Precinct Chair for the Lower Fork Precinct.
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	- Current President of Pine Mountain Property Owners Association - Attended Albany Law School 2007-09 - Some degree of Spanish language fluency - Eagle Scout Class of 2000
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	I try to be involved in my community and help out as much as possible. I think this would be a great opportunity to learn more and assist in local government functions. If there are other positions the Commission feels would be a betterc fit, I am open to serving wherever there is a need.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 -	Yes

Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Optional Remarks	Thank you all for your consideration
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 9:36:48 AM

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Christian
Last Name	Cothren
Address	102 mimosa hills Dr
City	Morganton
State	North Carolina
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	8288557690
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8288557690
Email Address	Christiantaylorcothren@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Caretaker
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Friend
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	*Field not completed.*
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Second Choice	Burke Development Inc
Third Choice	Social Services Advisory Board

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	College graduate in organizational /interpersonal communications as one degree, and another degree in German language arts.
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	I am interested in taking a more direct role in the community, and I feel this would be the way to do so.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 -	Yes

Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	No conflicts of interests
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees
Date: Monday, August 25, 2025 12:51:45 PM

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Shawn
Last Name	Freeman
Address	4337 Conservation Camp Road
City	Valdese
State	NC
Zip Code	28690
Home Phone Number	8284423425
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8284423425
Email Address	ncstatecop@yahoo.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Retired Police Chief
Retired From	Black Mountain Police Department
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Board / Committee Member
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	Yes
If so, please identify the board or committee.	Burke Co. Planning Board

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Church, BLET instructor at various community colleges
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	Through my experience with my previous position, I have had the opportunity to work with other town departments as it pertains to planning and implementing new businesses
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	I have served various other communities in many compacities, and now I want to serve the community I live in. I want to be more directly involved with the citizens of Burke County
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 -	Yes

Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	None
Optional Remarks	If chosen to do so, I look forward to continuing my service with the Burke County Planning Board and those I serve with.
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees
Date: Thursday, August 22, 2024 8:19:02 PM

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Luke
Last Name	Harrill
Address	2124 US 70 W
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	8285840852
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8282734973
Email Address	Lukeharrill27@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Farmer / warehouse manager
Retired From	N/A
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Board / Committee Member
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Burke county cattleman’s association
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No
	(Section Break)
List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.	
First Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Second Choice	Volunteer Agriculture Board
Third Choice	Burke Development Inc
	(Section Break)
Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	I am a US Marine Veteran and I sit on multiple agricultural committees with a direct interest in the development of Burke County.
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	I am a committed and active citizen in Burke County and have a young and sound mind with a passion for helping other people.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 -	Yes

Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	N/A
Optional Remarks	N/A
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 3:36:30 PM

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Tom (Thomas)
Last Name	Kenney
Address	110 Wedgewood Drive
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	828-391-7818
Business Phone Number	828-437-9930
Cell Phone Number	828-391-7818
Email Address	tkenney323@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Conservationist
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Board / Committee Member
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Community Development, Natural Resources Conservation, Open Space and Outdoor Recreation, farmland preservation
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Second Choice	Hickory Regional Planning Commission
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	Lengthy experience with natural resources conservation, watershed conservation planning, farmland preservation, and open space
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	To serve the larger Burke County community and all its citizens. To enhance and improve all aspects (economic, social, natural resources, conservation & recreation) for the continued wellness and attractiveness of Burke County in which to live, work, invest, and visit.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 -	Yes

Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	On the staff of Foothills Conservancy of NC, a non profit local land trust.
Optional Remarks	Welcome an opportunity to serve Burke County residents and contributing positively to increased economic, community development, outdoor recreation, parks and fish & wildlife area benefits to sustain and help the Burke County thrive.
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 1:40:48 PM

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Carroll
Last Name	Lewis
Address	2491 W Paradise Harbor Dr
City	Connelly Springs
State	NC
Zip Code	28612
Home Phone Number	8433857158
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8433857158
Email Address	carrollcars@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	President of Unlimited Auto Brokers LLC
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Elected Official or County Staff
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	*Field not completed.*
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No
	(Section Break)
List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.	
First Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Second Choice	Hickory Regional Planning Commission
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*
	(Section Break)
Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	*Field not completed.*
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	Interested in getting more involved in the local community.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 -	Yes

Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 8:25:37 PM

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Andrew
Last Name	Lowdermilk
Address	111 Wedgewood Ct
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	8284327369
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8284327369
Email Address	andrewl@thistimearoundllc.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	General Contractor
Retired From	N/A
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Elected Official or County Staff
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	Yes
If so, please identify the board or committee.	Burke Co. Planning Board

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	I currently serve on the Burke County Planning Board as well as the Board of Directors for the Western Piedmont Home Builders Association.
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Second Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Third Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	N/A
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	I continue to have a passion for seeing Burke County grow. As a lifelong resident and business owner, I believe it is important to support and encourage the county's growth. Thoughtful planning has a direct impact on the quality of life for residents, and I believe my perspective, skills, and dedication can contribute to making decisions that balance progress with preservation. My primary goals are to ensure that development aligns with the community's values, supports sustainable growth, and strengthens local infrastructure in a way that benefits both current and future residents of Burke County. I would like to see planning decisions that encourage responsible land use, protect natural resources, and foster opportunities for current local and non-local businesses while maintaining the character of our town.

	My objectives include engaging with residents to better understand their needs, promoting transparency in decision-making, and helping create a vision for growth that is practical, inclusive, and forward-thinking. By serving once again on the Burke County Planning Board, I hope to continue guiding our community toward a future that is both prosperous and respectful of our values.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	I do not currently have any business or personal relationships that would create a conflict of interest on the board. However, as a local business owner and general contractor, I recognize that situations could arise where a particular topic or application may present a potential conflict. In such cases, I would willingly abstain from both discussion and voting to ensure fairness and transparency.
Optional Remarks	I look forward to continuing my service on this board and contributing to the growth and success of Burke County.
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees
Date: Saturday, March 1, 2025 3:10:44 PM

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Terri
Last Name	Swanson
Address	2912 Icard Rhodhiss Road
City	Connelly Springs
State	NC
Zip Code	28612
Home Phone Number	NA
Business Phone Number	NA
Cell Phone Number	828-381-3866
Email Address	Thswanson1961@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Retired
Retired From	Project Management
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Friend
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	*Field not completed.*
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No
	(Section Break)
List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.	
First Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*
	(Section Break)
Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	*Field not completed.*
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	To ensure the best interests of county development.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 -	Yes

Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	Rezoning request ZMA 2025-02
Optional Remarks	This rezoning request has already been reviewed and voted on by the planning committee.
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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Kat Wright

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Friday, August 1, 2025 7:20 AM
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Heather
Last Name	Ward
Address	400 Bass St NW
City	Valdese
State	NC
Zip Code	28690
Home Phone Number	8283909541
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8283909541
Email Address	Heathernkward@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Event Specialist
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Elected Official or County Staff
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No

If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	*Field not completed.*
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No
	(Section Break)
List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.	
First Choice	Citizens Academy
Second Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Third Choice	Council on Aging
	(Section Break)
Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	*Field not completed.*
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	As a member of the Valdese Town Council I would like to know more about how things work on the county level.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular	Yes

basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Subject Title: Clerk - Appointments to the Revaluation Task Force (Place Holder)

Presented by: Kay Draughn

Summary of Information:

At the July 21, 2025, meeting, the Burke County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution establishing the Burke County Revaluation Task Force. The seven (7) member citizen advisory body is charged with promoting transparency, enhancing public understanding, and providing community input throughout the 2027 countywide property revaluation process.

The Board is now asked to appoint members to fill the following designated seats:

1. A citizen actively employed or retired from real estate, property appraisal, or tax administration
2. A licensed general contractor familiar with market-based construction costs
3. An active professional in insurance, risk management, or banking, familiar with market trends and asset replacement costs
4. A representative of the agriculture community
5. At-large community member
6. At-large community member
7. A citizen over the age of 55

Applications on file:

- **Kevin Farris** - Applicant for **Seat No. 3: Insurance professional**
- **Evan Crawley** - Applicant for **Seat No. 4: Ag. Community Representative**
- **Jerry Norvell** - Applicant for **Seat No. 6: At-Large Member**
- **Johnnie Carswell** - Applicant for **Seat No. 7: Citizen Over Age 55**

Applications are currently being accepted to fill the newly established Task Force. At this time, three (3) seats remain without a qualified applicant.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance

that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

No. 4- Fiscal Stewardship
Pursuit of the high-performing organization model that ensures high quality, transparent and efficient use of public resources.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: To appoint Kevin Farris to Seat No. 3, Insurance Professional, to the Revaluation Task Force, for a term ending January 1, 2027.

To appoint Evan Crawley to Seat No. 4, Agriculture Community Representative, to the Revaluation Task Force, for a term ending January 1, 2027.

To appoint Jerry Norvell to Seat No. 6, At-Large, to the Revaluation Task Force, for a term ending January 1, 2027.

To appoint Johnnie Carswell to Seat No. 7, Citizen Over Age 55, to the Revaluation Task Force, for a term ending January 1, 2027.

Kat Wright

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 3:03 PM
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Johnnie
Last Name	Carswell
Address	107 Drexel Rd
City	Morganton
State	North Carolina
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	8282050281
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8282050281
Email Address	johnniejr@charter.net
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Retired
Retired From	NC Department of Public Safety
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Social Media
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	Yes

If so, please identify the board or committee.	Opioid Advisory Board
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	*Field not completed.*
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	Yes
	(Section Break)
List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.	
First Choice	Revaluation Task Force
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*
	(Section Break)
Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	Former Commissioner with significant knowledge and understanding of the reappraisal process. I have been involved with several reappraisal projects.
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	To ensure that the main purpose of a reappraisal being to equalize the tax burden across different types of property is adhered to by the current administration.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular	Yes

basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	None
Optional Remarks	I would be honored to be a representative of the citizens of Burke County on the Revaluation Task Force.
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

Burke County is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

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Kat Wright

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Friday, August 8, 2025 7:29 AM
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Evan
Last Name	Crawley
Address	4356 Dentons Chapel Rd.,
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	(828) 448-1802
Business Phone Number	(704) 736-8503
Cell Phone Number	(828) 448-1802
Email Address	evan.crawley@lincolncountync.gov
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Director of Lincoln County Soil and Water
Retired From	n/a
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Elected Official or County Staff
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	Yes

If so, please identify the board or committee.	Volunteer Agriculture Board
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Director of the Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District, Treasurer of Area 2 NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation, Vice Chairman of the Burke Soil and Water Board of Supervisors, and Chairman of the Burke Volunteer Agricultural Board. Additionally, I'm a member of the state Community Conservation Assistance Program Committee and actively involved in the agricultural communities of both Burke and Lincoln counties
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Revaluation Task Force
Second Choice	Volunteer Agriculture Board
Third Choice	Volunteer Agriculture Board

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	I've dedicated the past 13 years to actively supporting and participating in Burke Soil and Water events, educating the community, and securing hundreds of thousands in crucial conservation grant funding to support agriculture in Burke County.
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	Having worked on conservation and education efforts through Burke Soil and Water, I've seen firsthand how critical it is to ensure that agricultural land is assessed fairly and accurately. My goal is to advocate for the unique needs of our farming community during the revaluation process, ensuring that assessments reflect the realities of agricultural operations. I

	aim to promote transparency, equity, and an understanding of the challenges faced by local farmers, while working to maintain the long-term sustainability of agriculture in our area.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	Jeff Brittain, County Commissioner, is my father-in-law
Optional Remarks	n/a
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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Kat Wright

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 9:53 AM
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	kevin
Last Name	farris
Address	pob 716
City	rutherford college
State	nc
Zip Code	28671
Home Phone Number	8282387193
Business Phone Number	8288743250
Cell Phone Number	8282387193
Email Address	mkfarris@farrisins.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Insurance
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Newspaper
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	Yes

If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Currently serving on E & R Board
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No
	(Section Break)
List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.	
First Choice	Revaluation Task Force
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*
	(Section Break)
Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	Currently serving on E & R Board
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	*Field not completed.*
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular	Yes

basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	none
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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Kat Wright

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 11:12 AM
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Jerry
Last Name	Norvell
Address	103 N Sterling St
City	Morganton
State	North Carolina
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	828-443-1377
Business Phone Number	828-433-9125
Cell Phone Number	8284431377
Email Address	norvelljt@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Developer
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Elected Official or County Staff
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No

If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	*Field not completed.*
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	*Field not completed.*
(Section Break)	
List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.	
First Choice	Revaluation Task Force
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*
(Section Break)	
Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	Knowledge of commercial real estate values.
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	Help get values correct.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular	Yes

basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	own commercial real estate in Burke County
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Subject Title: Clerk - Appointments / Reappointments to the Veterans Service Board

Presented by: Kay Draughn

Summary of Information:
The Veterans Service Board is comprised of five (5) at-large seats designated for veterans with an honorable service record. The terms for David Tubergen (Seat No. 3) and Edwin Ware (Seat No. 4) will expire on September 30, 2025. Th members have expressed a willingness to continue serving. Additionally, there are applications on file for Jim Frady and Dillon Smith.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
No. 1- Community Advancement
To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: To appoint _____or reappoint David Tubergen to the Veterans Service Board, Seat No. 3, and appoint _____ or reappoint Edwin Ware, Seat No. 4, for 3-year terms ending September 30, 2028.

Veterans Service Board
5-Members
All Appointed by BOC & Applicants Must Have Honorable Service Record
3-Year Terms
Meets As Needed

Seat No.	Position	Name-Address	Term	
1	At-Large	Gary Jennings	A-UT	12/19/2023
		101 Heritage Lane	R	
		Morganton NC 28655	TE	9/30/2026
2	At-Large	James Gribble	A-UT	12/19/2023
		109 Collingwood Drive	R	
		Morganton NC 28655	TE	9/30/2026
3	At-Large	David Tubergen	A	9/16/2014
		P.O. Box 2971	R	10/18/2016
		Morganton NC 28680	R	11/17/2020
			R	12/19/2023
			TE	9/30/2025
4	At-Large	Edwin Ware	A	9/16/2014
		111 Parkland Street	R	10/18/2016
		Morganton NC 28655	R	11/17/2020
			R	12/19/2023
			TE	9/30/2025
5	At-Large	Curtis Hildebran	A-UT	12/19/2023
			R	
			TE	9/30/2026

A=Appointment
R=Reappointment
A-UT=Appointed to Complete Unexpired Term
TE=Term Expires

Kat Wright

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 9:07 AM
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Jim
Last Name	Frady
Address	249 Forest Glen Way
City	Morganton
State	North Carolina
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	828-764-1333
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	828-764-1333
Email Address	Fradyfamily2011@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Sales customer service
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Social Media
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No

If so, please identify the board or committee.	Citizens Academy
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	*Field not completed.*
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Citizens Academy
Second Choice	Veterans Service Board
Third Choice	Glen Alpine Planning Board (ETJ)

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	*Field not completed.*
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	Learning more about the structure and process of Burke County
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular	Yes

basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

Burke County is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

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Kat Wright

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 9:44 AM
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Regina
Last Name	Lafferty
Address	8805 Hunter Court
City	Hickory
State	NC
Zip Code	28601
Home Phone Number	8282121238
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	none
Email Address	RLTLAFFERTY@GMAIL.COM
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Retired
Retired From	Sealed Air
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Social Media
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No

If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Volunteered for 10 years for non-profit serving disadvantaged elderly, Fallen Heroes ministry of Sandy Ridge Baptist Church; Co Coordinator for Wreaths Across America last 6 years; US Air Force Veteran-Vietnam Era
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No
(Section Break)	
List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.	
First Choice	Citizens Academy
Second Choice	Veterans Service Board
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*
(Section Break)	
Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	*Field not completed.*
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	To better understand the operations of county government; to be able to refer individuals where to obtain services.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular	Yes

basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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Kat Wright

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 7:45 PM
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Gregory
Last Name	Smith
Address	208 Horse Shoe Lane
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	9194985803
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	9194985803
Email Address	geogs00@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Retired geologist/civil engineer
Retired From	NC DOT, AECOM (Private Engineering Firm)
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Elected Official or County Staff
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	Yes

If so, please identify the board or committee.	Burke Co. Planning Board
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Burke Arts Council, Hands of Hope, LLC, Burke County Planning Board, Morganton Planning & Zoning Commission
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	Yes
	(Section Break)
List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.	
First Choice	Burke Co. Board of Adjustment
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*
	(Section Break)
Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	Current Board of Adjustment member
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	To serve the residents of Burke County
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular	Yes

basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	None
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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Kat Wright

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 2:26 PM
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	David
Last Name	Tubergen
Address	po box 2971
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	8284370177
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8284759994
Email Address	tubergen@bellsouth.net
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Retired USAF Master Sargeant
Retired From	WPCC & USAF
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Board / Committee Member
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	Yes

If so, please identify the board or committee.	Veterans Service Board
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Active in community service organizations. DAV/VVA/American Legion
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Veterans Service Board
Second Choice	Western Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees
Third Choice	Veterans Service Board

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	I live at 411½ North Green Street in Morganton, North Carolina..
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	I'm trying to give back to my community, especially veterans.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular	Yes

basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	I'm a DAV Transportation Driver and may miss or be a bit late for a meeting occasionally, not usually.
Optional Remarks	2023 Governor's Medalion Award Winner for Burke County.
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	20250426ThePaper David Tubergen.jpg

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Air Force vet David Tubergen lives a life of service in Burke

By TAD ELLIOTT
For The Paper



TAD ELLIOTT

Thanks to the N.C. School for the Deaf, Dave Tubergen landed in Morganton where he is known for his quiet spirit of selfless volunteerism.

At the age of 13, Tubergen moved from the family home in Elmhurst, Illinois to Morganton when his father took a job teaching physics at NCSD. While he was a student at Morganton High School, Tubergen "got in a lot of trouble" which resulted in his driver's license being revoked for two years. He quit going to school and obtained a GED from WPCC right on schedule with his former classmates in 1970.

By this time, Tubergen's older brother John had spent four years in the Air Force and suggested that enlisting would be a good way to "get out of trouble." After basic training at Lackland Air Force base in Texas, Tubergen was assigned to direct duty (without further training) at McClellan Air Force base in California and became a squadron dispatcher for EC-121 surveillance aircraft that were in use during the Cold War and also in Vietnam. While there, he was selected as the Airman of the Month for his squadron and the 552nd Air Wing.



FOR THE PAPER

In 2023, David Tubergen (left) received the Medallion Award for Volunteer Service from then-Gov. Roy Cooper.

During his time in California, Tubergen met Denita "Dani" Smith while visiting an Air Force buddy. They discovered that they had the same birthday, Aug. 29, and got married in 1974 even though she was still in high school.

Tubergen was transferred to Duluth, Minnesota where she completed the GED. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 8, 2024.

The base in Duluth was part of the NORAD early defense warning system extending from the U.S. and Canadian border to the North Pole. While at the 23rd Air Division, Tubergen was named the Junior Enlisted Advisor to the commander of the 23rd NORAD Region.

From there, Tubergen went to Spangdahlem, Germany which operated F-4 fighter jets as part of NATO. Next, he was assigned to the Joint Operations Centre which was the NATO underground strategic headquarters, "the Cave" as it was then known, in Maastricht, the Netherlands.

Tubergen retired as a master sergeant. His career was steeped in senior-level positions for early warning and control, reconnaissance, defense, and spy-type missions, including his last assignment at the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C.

As NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge) of Air Operations, he worked with many other government agencies including Congress, the State Department, the CIA, the United Nations, as well as the Space Shuttle Support Team.

After 20 years of service in far-flung duty stations, Tubergen retired from the Air Force in 1991 and returned to Morganton to care for his mother, Marie Butkus, who retired from NCSD as an art instructor.

In 2023, then-Gov. Roy Cooper presented Tubergen with the Medallion Award for Volunteer Service, the state's highest award, for his "will do" devotion to helping others in and around Burke County via the American Red Cross, AMOREM Hospice in Valdese, and DAV chapter 43 (Disabled American Veterans) in Morganton.

In 2008 and 2018, Tubergen received the Volunteer of the Year award from the VA Medical Center hospital in Asheville for transporting disabled veterans to Asheville and Hickory for medical appointments and for coordinating multiple trips per week with himself and other drivers as part of the DAV Volunteer Transportation Network.

Recently, Tubergen was presented with a 10-year service pin from AMOREM Hospice (formerly Burke Hospice) for his dedication to veterans and their families in a special program called Veterans Honoring Veterans.

Tubergen is also a first-responder in the local American Red Cross Disaster Action Team, on call around the clock to provide support and financial vouchers to local families in the event of a house fire or other disaster. He is a speaker and instructor for the Red Cross and has been a volunteer for 30 years.

An unheralded but significant part of Tubergen's volunteer service is assisting veterans with the VA disability claims process. He can be found at the DAV chapter on Saturday mornings from 9-11 a.m. every weekend. The DAV provides assistance to all veterans free of charge and is at 2779 DAV Ave., Morganton, just a short drive south of town on Hwy. 18.

Tubergen has been a member of DAV for 24 years and has held various positions including past commander and past adjutant/treasurer. He is currently a senior chapter service officer and the junior vice commander. He can be reached at tubergen@bellsouth.net.

"You've got to keep busy helping others," Tubergen likes to say. "You'll live longer!"

Tad Elliott is a Navy veteran and hospice volunteer who contributes to The Paper.

Kat Wright

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Friday, August 1, 2025 7:20 AM
To: Kay Draughn; Kat Wright
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

CAUTION: Don't be quick to click! We're counting on you! This email is from an external sender! **Don't click** on links or open attachments from unknown sources. If you know this is spam delete the message. If you believe this message is a phish attack, Click the Phish Alert button above. If you are unsure what to do, contact the helpdesk at 9410.

Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Heather
Last Name	Ward
Address	400 Bass St NW
City	Valdese
State	NC
Zip Code	28690
Home Phone Number	8283909541
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8283909541
Email Address	Heathernkward@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	Event Specialist
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Elected Official or County Staff
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No

If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	*Field not completed.*
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No
	(Section Break)
List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.	
First Choice	Citizens Academy
Second Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Third Choice	Council on Aging
	(Section Break)
Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	*Field not completed.*
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	As a member of the Valdese Town Council I would like to know more about how things work on the county level.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular	Yes

basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

Burke County is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

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Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Subject Title: CD & ROD - Centralize the Plat Review Function to County Staff (Place Holder)

Presented by: Alan Glines

Summary of Information:
The Register of Deeds and Community Development staff propose consolidating the plat review process. Under this change, Burke County Community Development staff would handle the review of plat elements prior to recording, with Register of Deeds staff serving as backup when needed.

Plat reviews generally involve two (2) major components:.

1. **Zoning and Watershed Review** - Municipal planners review plats for compliance with local codes and ordinances within their jurisdiction.

2. **Plat Standards Review** - A technical review to ensure compliance with N.C.G.S. § 47-30 (Plats and Subdivisions; Mapping Requirements). This includes verifying surveyor certifications, owner signatures, title block information, deed references, adjoining property owners, notes, and other required elements.

Currently, municipal planners are often involved in both parts of the review. Under the proposed process, municipal planners would continue to review plats for zoning and watershed compliance, but would then forward plats to Burke County Community Development staff for the technical review. This change is expected to improve consistency and ensure compliance with state law.

If approved by the Board of Commissioners, implementation would begin **October 1, 2025**, with a gradual rollout over three (3) months. Municipal planners may continue signing plats through **January 1, 2026**, after which Community Development staff will fully assume the review role prior to recording at the Register of Deeds.

This approach is well-established in North Carolina, with approximately 75 counties already utilizing county staff for plat review, and should create no more than 10 additional hours of work per month, which can readily be absorbed by existing staff.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
No. 1- Community Advancement
To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: The County Attorney’s Office has reviewed the proposed action for compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws. No legal concerns were identified. All statutory and procedural requirements appear to be met.

Suggested Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2025-30.

§ 47-30. Plats and subdivisions; mapping requirements.

(a) Size Requirements. – All land plats presented to the register of deeds for recording in the registry of a county in North Carolina after September 30, 1991, having an outside marginal size of either 18 inches by 24 inches, 21 inches by 30 inches, or 24 inches by 36 inches, and, for landscape format, having a minimum one and one-half inch border on the left side or, for portrait format, one and one-half inch border on the top side and a minimum one-half inch border on the other sides shall be deemed to meet the size requirements for recording under this section. Where size of land areas, or suitable scale to assure legibility require, plats may be placed on two or more sheets with appropriate match lines. Counties may specify either:

(1) Only 18 inches by 24 inches;
(2) A combination of 18 inches by 24 inches and 21 inches by 30 inches;
(3) A combination of 18 inches by 24 inches and 24 inches by 36 inches; or
(4) A combination of all three sizes.

Provided, that all registers of deeds where specific sizes other than the combination of all three sizes have been specified, shall be required to submit said size specifications to the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds for inclusion on a master list of all such counties. The list shall be available in each register of deeds office by October 1, 1991. For purposes of this section, the terms "plat" and "map" are synonymous.

(b) Plats to Be Reproducible. – Each plat presented for recording shall be a reproducible plat, either original ink on polyester film (mylar), or a reproduced drawing, transparent and archival (as defined by the American National Standards Institute), and submitted in this form. The recorded plat must be such that the public may obtain legible copies. A direct or photographic copy of each recorded plat shall be placed in the plat book or plat file maintained for that purpose and properly indexed for use. In those counties in which the register has made a security copy of the plat from which legible copies can be made, the original plat may be submitted in the form of black line on white paper instead of transparent and archival and may be returned to the person indicated on the plat.

(c) Information Contained in Title of Plat. – The title of each plat shall contain the following information:

(1) The property designation.
(2) The name of the owner; provided, however, that the name of owner shall be shown for indexing purposes only and is not to be construed as title certification.
(3) The location, to include county and State, and the township or city, if applicable.
(4) The date or dates the survey was made.
(5) The scale or scale ratio in words or figures and bar graph.
(6) The name and address of surveyor preparing the plat, including the firm name and firm license number, if applicable.
(7) The dates and descriptions of revisions made after original signing.

The information required pursuant to this subsection shall be listed prominently on the plat. Information listed in the notes contained on the plat does not satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

(d) Certificate; Form. – There shall appear on each plat a certificate by the person under whose supervision the survey or plat was made, stating the reference source for the boundary information for the surveyed property shown on the plat, including recorded deed and plat references shown thereon. The ratio of precision or positional accuracy before any adjustments must be shown. Any lines on the plat that were not actually surveyed must be clearly indicated and a statement included revealing the source of information. Where a plat consists of more than

one sheet, only one sheet must contain the certification and all other sheets must be signed and sealed. Multiple sheet plats shall be identified as a map set.

The certificate required above shall include (i) the source of information for the survey, (ii) data indicating the ratio of precision or positional accuracy of the survey before adjustments, and (iii) the seal and signature pursuant to Chapter 89C of the General Statutes, and shall be in substantially the following form:

"I, _____, certify that this plat was drawn under my supervision from an actual survey made under my supervision (deed description recorded in Book ____, page ____, etc.) (other); that the boundaries not surveyed are clearly indicated as drawn from information found in Book ____, page ____; that the ratio of precision or positional accuracy as calculated is ____; that this plat was prepared in accordance with G.S. 47-30 as amended. Witness my original signature, license number and seal this ____ day of ____, A.D., ____.

Seal or Stamp

_____

Professional Land Surveyor

License Number"

Nothing in this requirement shall prevent the recording of a map that was prepared in accordance with a previous version of G.S. 47-30 as amended, properly signed, and notarized under the statutes applicable at the time of the signing of the map. However, it shall be the responsibility of the person presenting the map to prove that the map was so prepared. The presence of the personal signature and seal of a professional land surveyor shall constitute a certification that the map conforms to the standards of practice for land surveying in this State as defined in the rules of the North Carolina State Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors.

(e) Method of Computation. – An accurate method of computation shall be used to determine the acreage and either the ratio of precision or the positional accuracy shown on the plat. Area by estimation is not acceptable nor is area by planimeter, area by scale, or area copied from another source, except in the case of tracts containing inaccessible sections or areas. In such case the surveyor may make use of aerial photographs or other appropriate aids to determine the acreage of any inaccessible areas when the areas are bounded by natural and visible monuments. In such case the methods used must be stated on the plat and all accessible areas of the tract shall remain subject to all applicable standards of this section.

(f) Plat to Contain Specific Information. – Every plat shall contain the following specific information:

(1) An accurately positioned north arrow coordinated with any bearings shown on the plat. Indication shall be made as to whether the north index is true, magnetic, North Carolina grid ("NAD 83," "NAD 27," or other published horizontal datum), or is referenced to old deed or plat bearings. If the north index is magnetic or referenced to old deed or plat bearings, the date and the source (if known) the index was originally determined shall be clearly indicated. North Carolina grid reference shall include the horizontal datum and the realization reference.

(2) The azimuth or course and distance of every property line surveyed shall be shown. Distances shall be in U.S. Survey feet or meters and decimals thereof. The number of decimal places shall be appropriate to the class of survey required.

(3) All plat distances shall be by horizontal ground or horizontal grid measurements. All lines shown on the plat shall be correctly plotted to the scale shown. Enlargement of portions of a plat are acceptable in the interest of clarity, where shown as inserts. Where the North Carolina grid system is used

the combined grid factor shall be shown on the face of the plat. If grid distances are used, it must be indicated on the plat.

(4) Where a boundary is formed by a curved line, the following data must be given: actual survey data from the point of curvature to the point of tangency shall be shown as standard curve data, or as a traverse of bearings and distances around the curve. If standard curve data is used the bearing and distance of the long chord (from point of curvature to point of tangency) must be shown on the plat.

(5) Where a subdivision of land is set out on the plat, all streets and lots shall be accurately plotted with dimension lines indicating widths and all other information pertinent to reestablishing all lines in the field. This shall include bearings and distances sufficient to form a continuous closure of the entire perimeter.

(6) All corners which are marked by monument or natural object shall be so identified on all plats, and where practical all corners of adjacent owners along the boundary lines of the subject tract which are marked by monument or natural object shall be shown.

(7) The names of adjacent landowners, or lot, block, parcel, subdivision name designations or other legal reference, where applicable, shall be shown where they could be determined by the surveyor.

(8) All visible and apparent rights-of-way, watercourses, utilities, roadways, and other such improvements shall be accurately located where crossing or forming any boundary line of the property shown. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to modify the notification responsibility of persons engaged in excavation or demolition pursuant to G.S. 87-122.

(9) Where the plat is the result of a survey, one or more corners shall be labeled with coordinates on the plat, shown as "X" (easting) and "Y" (northing) coordinates, traceable to a published geodetic datum or the North Carolina State Plane Coordinate System, or both. The plat should include, at a minimum, the referenced horizontal datum and realization (i.e., "NAD 83 (2011)") as well as the data or method used to establish those coordinates, or both. If the bearings shown on the map are not referenced to the same datum as the grid coordinates shown, then either (i) the coordinates of a second point shall be labeled and the two labeled points tied together by a single azimuth or course and distance or (ii) the plat shall include, in written and graphical form, the conversion from plat bearings to reference bearings. Control monuments within a previously recorded subdivision may be used in lieu of grid control. In the interest of consistency with previously recorded plats, existing bearing control may be used where practical. Where no horizontal control monument of any United States or State agency survey system, such as the North Carolina Geodetic Survey, is located within 2,000 feet of the subject property, ties to other appropriate natural monuments or landmarks may be used in lieu of grid coordinates. In all cases, the tie lines shall be sufficient to reproduce the subject lands from the control or reference points used.

(10) A vicinity map (location map) and legend shall appear on the plat.

(11) Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this section, it is the duty of the surveyor, by a certificate on the face of the plat, to certify to one of the following:

a. That the survey creates a subdivision of land within the area of a county or municipality that has an ordinance that regulates parcels of land.
b. That the survey is located in a portion of a county or municipality that is unregulated as to an ordinance that regulates parcels of land.
c. Any one of the following:
1. That the survey is of an existing parcel or parcels of land or one or more existing easements and does not create a new street or change an existing street. For the purposes of this subsection, an "existing parcel" or "existing easement" is an area of land described in a single, legal description or legally recorded subdivision that has been or may be legally conveyed to a new owner by deed in its existing configuration.
2. That the survey is of an existing feature, such as a building or other structure, or natural feature, such as a watercourse.
3. That the survey is a control survey. For the purposes of this subsection, a "control survey" is a survey that provides horizontal or vertical position data for support or control of other surveys or for mapping. A control survey, by itself, cannot be used to define or convey rights or ownership.
4. That the survey is of a proposed easement for a public utility as defined in G.S. 62-3.
d. That the survey is of another category, such as the recombination of existing parcels, a court-ordered survey, or other exemption or exception to the definition of subdivision.
e. That the information available to the surveyor is such that the surveyor is unable to make a determination to the best of the surveyor's professional ability as to provisions contained in (a) through (d) above.

If the plat contains the certificate of a surveyor as stated in sub-subdivisions b. or c. of this subdivision, nothing shall prevent the recordation of the plat if all other provisions have been met. However, if the plat contains the certificate of a surveyor as stated in sub-subdivisions a., d., or e. of this subdivision, then the plat shall have, in addition to said surveyor's certificate, a certification of approval, or no approval required, as may be required by local ordinance from the appropriate government authority and the county review officer as provided in G.S. 47-30.2 before the plat is presented for recordation. The signing and sealing of the certification as required in subsection (d) of this section shall satisfy the certification requirement contained in this subsection.

(g) Recording of Plat. – In certifying a plat for recording pursuant to G.S. 47-30.2, the Review Officer shall not be responsible for reviewing or certifying as to any of the following requirements of this section:

(1) Subsection (b) of this section as to archival.
(2) Repealed by Session Laws 1997-309, s. 2.
(3) Subsection (e) of this section.
(4) Subdivisions (1) through (10) of subsection (f) of this section.

A plat, when certified pursuant to G.S. 47-30.2 and presented for recording, shall be recorded in the plat book or plat file and when so recorded shall be duly indexed. Reference in any instrument hereafter executed to the record of any plat herein authorized shall have the same effect as if the description of the lands as indicated on the record of the plat were set out in the instrument.

(h) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent the filing of any plat prepared by a professional land surveyor but not recorded prior to the death of the professional land surveyor. However, it is the responsibility of the person presenting the map to the Review Officer pursuant to G.S. 47-30.2 to prove that the plat was so prepared. For preservation these plats may be filed without signature, notary acknowledgement or probate, in a special plat file.

(i) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to invalidate any instrument or the title thereby conveyed making reference to any recorded plat.

(j) The provisions of this section shall not apply to boundary plats of State lines, county lines, areas annexed by municipalities, nor to plats of municipal boundaries, whether or not required by law to be recorded.

(k) The provisions of this section shall apply to all counties in North Carolina.

(*l*) This section does not apply to the registration of highway right-of-way plans provided for in G.S. 136-19.4 or G.S. 136-89.184.

(m) Maps attached to deeds or other instruments and submitted for recording in that form must be no larger than 8 1/2 inches by 14 inches and comply with either this subsection or subsection (n) of this section. A map submitted for recording pursuant to this subsection shall conform to one the following standards:

(1) An original map that meets the requirements of subsections (c) through (f) of this section and that bears the signature of a professional land surveyor and the surveyor's seal as approved by the State Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors.

(2) A copy of a previously recorded map that is certified by the custodian of the public record to be a true and accurate copy of the map.

(n) A map that does not meet the requirements of subsection (m) of this section may be attached to a deed or other instrument submitted for recording in that form for illustrative purposes only if it meets both of the following requirements:

(1) It is no larger than 8 1/2 inches by 14 inches.

(2) It is conspicuously labelled, "THIS MAP MAY NOT BE A CERTIFIED SURVEY AND HAS NOT BEEN REVIEWED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR COMPLIANCE WITH ANY APPLICABLE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AND HAS NOT BEEN REVIEWED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH RECORDING REQUIREMENTS FOR PLATS."

(o) The requirements of this section regarding plat size, reproducible form, and evidence of required certifications shall be met with respect to a plat that is an "electronic document," as that term is defined in G.S. 47-16.2(3), if all of the following conditions have been met:

(1) The register of deeds has authorized the submitter to electronically register the electronic document.

(2) The plat is submitted by a United States federal or a state governmental unit or instrumentality or a trusted submitter. For purposes of this subsection, "a trusted submitter" means a person or entity that has entered into a memorandum of understanding regarding electronic recording with the register of deeds in the county in which the electronic document is to be submitted.

(3) Evidence of required certifications appear on the digitized image of the document as it will appear on the public record.

(4) With respect to a plat submitted by a trusted submitter, the digitized image of the document as it will appear on the public record contains the submitter's name in the following completed statement on the first page of the document image: "Submitted electronically by _____ (submitter's name) in

compliance with North Carolina statutes governing recordable documents and the terms of the submitter agreement with the _____ (insert county name) County Register of Deeds.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the digitized image of the plat conforms to all other applicable laws and rules that prescribe recordation. (1911, c. 55, s. 2; C.S., s. 3318; 1923, c. 105; 1935, c. 219; 1941, c. 249; 1953, c. 47, s. 1; 1959, c. 1235, ss. 1, 3A, 3.1; 1961, cc. 7, 111, 164, 199, 252, 660, 687, 932, 1122; 1963, c. 71, ss. 1, 2; cc. 180, 236; c. 361, s. 1; c. 403; 1965, c. 139, s. 1; 1967, c. 228, s. 2; c. 394; 1971, c. 658; 1973, cc. 76, 848, 1171; c. 1262, s. 86; 1975, c. 192; c. 200, s. 1; 1977, c. 50, s. 1; c. 221, s. 1; c. 305, s. 2; c. 771, s. 4; 1979, c. 330, s. 1; 1981, c. 138, s. 1; c. 140, s. 1; c. 479; 1983, c. 473; 1987, c. 747, s. 20; 1989, c. 727, s. 218(6); 1991, c. 268, s. 3; 1993, c. 119, ss. 1, 2; 1997-309, s. 2; 1997-443, s. 11A.119(a); 1998-228, ss. 11, 12; 1999-456, s. 59; 2000-140, s. 93.1(b); 2001-424, s. 12.2(b); 2008-225, s. 9; 2010-180, s. 1; 2011-246, s. 7; 2012-142, s. 12.4(f); 2017-27, s. 1; 2019-35, s. 2.)

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Subject Title: BOC - Reports & Comments

Presented by: Jeff Brittain

Summary of Information:
Reports and comments from Commissioners and staff will be accepted at this time.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
N.A.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: N.A.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: N.A.

Burke County Opioid Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2025 | 3:30 PM
Burke County Commissioners Chambers | 110 N. Green Street, Morganton, NC
Livestream Link: https://www.youtube.com/live/oRMbf6kDnpA?si=i48foBIxV3WrAdNk

Committee Members Present: Dr. Anthony Frank; Sheriff Banks Hinceman; Katie Olsen; Karen Russell; Dr. Joel Welch; Jeff Brittain; Jerry Duckworth; Johnnie Carswell, Hannah Houston

Committee Members Not Present: Dr. Rivers Woodward; Dr. Paul Holden

Staff Present: Brian Epley; Dr. Katie V. Samuels, Brandi Greer

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by Chair Commissioner Jeff Brittain.

II. Invocation
The invocation was delivered by Brandi Greer.

III. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Johnnie Carswell.

IV. Approval of the Agenda
A motion to approve the agenda was made by Katie Olsen, seconded by Sheriff Banks Hinceman, and approved unanimously.

V. Approval of Minutes
A motion to approve the June 17, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Johnnie Carswell, seconded by Karen Russell, and approved unanimously.

VI. Presentations
Dr. Katie V. Samuels provided a comprehensive presentation on current initiatives and updates relevant to opioid settlement efforts. She reported that Burke County had officially received its first community health vending machine, secured through a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield. This machine, located at Catawba Valley Healthcare, is stocked with naloxone provided by both Partners and the state and will also distribute hygiene items, school supplies, and other basic necessities. The launch is anticipated within the next few weeks. Additionally, Dr. Samuels shared that the County's annual opioid settlement report, which includes financial and impact components, is due to the state in September. The report will include expenditures such as Recovery Court and staff salaries that occurred in the prior fiscal year.

Updates were also provided on two currently funded programs. Recovery Court reported 15 active participants, three individuals on the waitlist, and three recent graduations. The Peers Partnering for Excellence (PPE) initiative, composed of certified peer support specialists who live and work in Burke County, continues to play a critical role in community engagement and advocacy. PPE recently assumed the Advisory Board role for the Hope Center, now serving as

the county's Recovery Community Center. They are planning a National Overdose Awareness Day event in August that will include a memorial tree dedication. The PPE group is also working toward broader systems change, including peer workforce development, post-certification support, peer supervision models, and policy advocacy.

VII. Informal Public Comment

No public comments were received.

VIII. Items for Decision

a) Budget Recommendations – Dr. Katie V. Samuels

Dr. Samuels presented three county-led strategies for advancement: the Post-Overdose Response Team (PORT), naloxone distribution, and a Peer Community Navigator position. The PORT team would include four community paramedics and four peer co-responders working around the clock in joint field operations to respond to overdoses, reduce repeat incidents, and connect individuals to care. SMART performance indicators for the PORT program include a 60% engagement rate with peer services, a 15% reduction in repeat 911 calls, a 10% increase in EMS availability for high-priority calls, 150 referrals to services, and a 72-hour follow-up rate of 60% for non-fatal overdose cases.

The naloxone distribution strategy proposes distributing at least 650 kits annually through a multi-channel approach including EMS, leave-behind programs, vending machines, partner agencies, the justice system, and school system. The Peer Community Navigator, a new field-based role, would complement the PORT team by offering longer-term case management and service coordination. This navigator would support individuals transitioning from emergency departments, jail, or field response, aiming to improve system connectivity and provider collaboration. Metrics for this role include a 70% engagement rate among referred individuals, 60% retention among active clients, 100% linkage to at least one key service, and ongoing cross-sector case reviews.

A motion was made by Dr. Anthony Frank and the Committee voted unanimously to approve and advance these three strategies for further development and presentation to the Board of Commissioners.

b) RFP Submissions Review – Dr. Katie V. Samuels

The results of the internal pre-screening process for provider-submitted proposals in response to the county's recent RFP were presented to the Committee. Out of 11 proposals, four were recommended for advancement: A Caring Alternative (SAIOP/SACOT expansion), Good Samaritan Clinic (bilingual LCSW for SBIRT screening), High Country Community Health (low-barrier MOUD expansion), and SPARC (family-centered recovery support to prevent child welfare involvement). Three proposals were recommended for revision and potential resubmission, including those from Catawba Valley Healthcare, Christ Centered Recovery Program, and Burke Recovery. Four proposals were not recommended to proceed at this time due to misalignment with MOA criteria or duplication of services: BUCM, the Centre for Collaboration, Motivation and Innovation, Granite Falls Comprehensive Treatment Center, and The Cognitive Connection.

The Committee engaged in a robust discussion about the importance of sustainability, performance measurement, community-level outcomes, and the appropriate role of public dollars in funding private providers. Several members raised concerns about the need for more detailed plans from applicants before making final decisions.

A motion was made by Dr. Anthony Frank and unanimously approved to hold a special meeting on August 12, 2025, to allow the four recommended providers to present their proposals directly to the Committee and respond to questions regarding sustainability, measurable outcomes, and community impact. The Committee requested that providers submit supporting documentation in advance, including proposed performance metrics and budget refinements.

IX. Reports & Comments

Members reiterated the importance of evaluating services by real impact on the community and ensuring transparent reporting. The committee discussed logistics and timing for the August 12 special meeting, requesting a possible earlier start time and data packet distribution in advance.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47pm by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Katie V. Samuels
Secretary, Burke County Opioid Advisory Committee



GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

1880 2nd Avenue NW, PO Box 9026

Hickory, NC 28603

MINUTES

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (GHMPO)

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Wednesday, July 23rd, 2025 @ 2:30 PM In-person meeting and via Zoom

Present			**Absent**		
First Name	**Last Name**	**Representing**	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Representing**
Hank	Guess	City of Hickory	Larry	Yoder	Alexander County
Martin	Townsend	Town of Granite Falls	Genita	Hill	Town of Long View
Barbara	Beatty	Catawba County	Ike	Perkins	City of Lenoir
Jill	Patton	City of Hickory	Richard	Andrews	Town of Cajah's Mountain
Mike	Stroud	Burke County	Beth	Rudisill	Town of Maiden
Barry	Mitchell	Town of Hudson	Donna	Price	Town of Rhodhiss
Mark	Canrobert	City of Conover	Mary	Furtado	Catawba County
Les	Morrow	City of Claremont	Donald	Robinson	Town of Catawba
Jody	York	Town of Hildebran	Glen	Harvey	Town of Valdese
Roy	Johnson	City Newton	Wendy	Cato	City of Morganton
Holly	Crafton-Lay	Town of Maiden	Jack	Simms	Town of Taylorsville
			VACANT		Glen Alpine
			VACANT		Alexander County
			VACANT		Long View
			VACANT		Brookford
			VACANT		Caldwell County

			VACANT		Cedar Rock
			VACANT		Connelly Springs
			VACANT		Sawmills
			VACANT		Rutherford College
			VACANT		Drexel
			VACANT		Gamewell
			VACANT		Glen Alpine

WPCOG, FHWA & GUEST	**NC DOT STAFF**
Anthony Star – WPCOG	Dean Ledbetter – Div 11 & 12
Alison Alexander – WPCOG	Ruben Crummy – NC DOT TPD
Averi Ritchie – WPCOG	Sean Sizemore – Div 11
Daniel Odom – WPCOG	Michael Poe – Div 11
Casey Fullbright – WPCOG	Kenny Heavner – Div 11
Duncan Cavana – WPCOG	Travis Jordan – Div 12
Melani Harrel - WPCOG	Anil Panicker – Div 12
	Stephen Sparks – Div 13
	Dough Phillips – Div 13
	Brad Lail - BOT
	John Hunter - NCDOT
	Luke Bender - NCDOT

Call to Order/Ethics Awareness/ and Introductions: Chairman Guess called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM and welcomed all present. Introductions were conducted, followed by the Introduction of online viewers.

Approval of Remote Participation: Online attendees were Duncan Cavana, Stephen Sparks and Holly Crafton-Lay. Chairman Guess canvassed the committee for any objections to online participants. Upon a motion made by Chairman Guess and seconded by Mr. Johnson, online participation was approved.

Action Items:

I. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Chairman Guess called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Patton and a second by Mr. Morrow, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

II. **Transportation Improvement Program for Release**: Ms. Ritchie presented the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for release, outlining the 2026–2035 MTIP as a fiscally constrained, ten-year plan developed in coordination with NCDOT and regional stakeholders. The MTIP includes all local projects from the state's STIP, aligns with federal requirements, and highlights regional priorities in infrastructure, transit, and multimodal transportation. It plays a key role in funding authorization, with only listed projects eligible to receive federal dollars, and only the first five years (2026–2030) scheduled for delivery. Public engagement is central to the process, with the draft MTIP being released for comment ahead of planned adoption on August 27, 2025. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Patton and a second by Mr. Townsend, the board unanimously approved the Transportation Improvement Program for public comment.

III. **Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan—Interactive Tool Update:** Mr. Fullbright and Mr. Odom presented the Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan Interactive Tool Update, highlighting enhancements to the online viewer that allows users to explore active transportation projects and planning efforts across the region. The tool integrates GIS data to visualize existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities, safety concerns, and local priorities. They demonstrated how stakeholders can filter data by county, project status, and facility type, improving transparency and accessibility for both planners and the public. The presenters emphasized that the tool supports regional collaboration and decision-making by helping identify connectivity gaps and investment opportunities. Committee members expressed appreciation for the update and discussed ways the tool could be further utilized for future planning initiatives.

NCDOT Update –

- **NCDOT BOT-** Mr. Lail reported that the Board of Transportation met virtually in July and approved both the 2026–2035 STIP and Prioritization 8 (P8), which includes updates to the project scoring process. While the number of projects submitted remains consistent with Prioritization 7, P8 will see a 30% reduction in submissions,

with the current submittal window now open; projects in Prioritization 9 (P9) are expected to include at least 10 express designs, and all projects in Prioritization 10 (P10) will require them. Additionally, in response to hurricane damage, approximately $1 billion has been spent on infrastructure repairs, including the replacement of 149 bridges, 50 culverts, and thousands of pipes, with $182 million in federal aid providing only a 20% reimbursement rate.

- **Division 11:** Mr. Poe discussed project updates including, The US 321 Sawmills project is scheduled to begin in October. Additional reduced conflict intersection (RCI) projects are planned in Hudson and on Pine Mountain Rd.
- **Division 12:** Mr. Stafford provided updates in the packet, which now features a revised format. All projects listed in the adopted STIP are included, even if not yet started, to reflect all major construction activity within Division 12.
- **Division 13:** Mr. Phillips discussed project updates including, the completion of Bridge projects in Burke County. A new access road in a Burke construction park has been let and awarded. A multi-county striping contract is expected to begin by August. A resurfacing contract has been approved, but no work has started yet. Project R-3430 is scheduled to be let in August.
- **NCDOT-TPD:** Mr. Crummy stated that there are no new traffic forecasts at this time. The Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) quarterly update will be released on the 17th. Members were encouraged to review the latest TPD newsletter and review the IMD webinar. The Community Data Explorer (CDE) tool will be transitioning to TPD management.

- **NCDOT-IMD:** No updates

Reminders: Ms. Ritchie reminded members that Prioritization 8 (P8) workshops are upcoming, with opportunities to attend drop-in sessions or schedule separate meetings. Staff are reviewing both carryover and new project selections for P8. Public meetings related to the regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan are also being planned.

Public Comment/Announcements: None

Adjournment: Chairman Guess adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 27th, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hank Guess, TAC Chairman

Averi Ritchie, TAC Secretary



GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

1880 2nd Avenue NW, PO Box 9026

Hickory, NC 28603

MINUTES

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (GHMPO)

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TCC)

Wednesday, July 23rd, 2025 @ 1:00 PM In-person meeting and via Zoom

Present			**Absent**		
First Name	**Last Name**	**Representing**	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Representing**
Randy	Williams	City of Newton	Michael	Berley	City of Morganton
John	Marshall	City of Hickory	Patrick	Reach	Alexander County
Caroline	Kone	City of Hickory	Brian	Burgess	Alexander/Taylorsville
Wendy	Smith	Town of Morganton	Patrick	Creech	Alexander County
Rick	Justice	Town of Rhodhiss	Randy	Feirabend	Town of Cajah's Mtn
Bill	Carroll	Town of Drexel	Daniel	Cobb	Town of Granite Falls
Bradley	Kirkley	Burke County	Chris	Timberlake	Catawba County
Karen	Dickerson	City of Hickory	Greg	Wilson	Town of Granite Falls
Blake	Wright	Town of Maiden	Logan	Shook	Town of Hildebran
Laurie	LoCicero	Catawba County	Nathan	Hester	Town of Taylorsville
Dustin	Milsap	Town of Sawmills	Shelly	Stevens	Caldwell County
Steve	Miller	City of Hickory	Chris	Timberlake	Catawba County
Wilson	Elliott	City of Hickory	Amy	Bucknam	Alexander County
Jon	Greer	Town of Hudson	Erik	Schlichting	City of Conover
Danny	Hipps	Town of Catawba	Hannah	Williams	City of Lenior
Wayne	Rash	Caldwell County	Jon	Hogan	City of Lenoir

			Alan	Glines	Burke County
			Bryce	Carter	City of Claremont
			Bonnie	Caudie	Town of Gamewell
WPCOG, FHWA & GUEST			**NC DOT STAFF**		
Averi Ritchie – WPCOG			Dean Ledbetter – Div 11 & 12		
Daniel Odom – WPCOG			Ruben Crummy – NC DOT TPD		
Casey Fullbright – WPCOG			Sean Sizemore – Div 11		
Alexis Douglas – Intern Town of Newton			Kenny Heavner – Div 11		
			Michael Poe – Div 11		
			Anil Panicker – Div 12		
			Travis Jordan – Div 12		
			Stephen Sparks – Div 13		
			Dough Philips Div 13		
			Luke Bender – NC DOT		
			John Hunter – NC DOT		
			Steve Cannon – Div 13		

Call to Order/ Introductions: Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM and welcomed all present. Introductions were conducted, followed by the Introduction of online viewers.

Action Items:

I. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Chair Williams called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Upon a motion made by Mr. Justice and a second by Mrs. Kone, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

II. **Transportation Improvement Program for Release**: Ms. Ritchie presented the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for release, outlining the 2026–2035 MTIP as a fiscally constrained, ten-year plan developed in coordination with NCDOT and regional stakeholders. The MTIP includes all local projects from the state's STIP, aligns with federal requirements, and highlights regional priorities in infrastructure, transit, and multimodal transportation. It plays a key role in funding authorization, with only listed projects eligible to receive federal dollars, and only the first five years (2026–2030) scheduled for delivery. Public engagement is central to the process, with the draft MTIP being released for comment ahead of planned adoption on August 27, 2025. Seeing no objections, the committee unanimously approved the release for public comment.

III. **Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan—Interactive Tool Update:** Mr. Fullbright and Mr. Odom presented the Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan Interactive Tool Update, highlighting enhancements to the online viewer that allows users to explore active transportation projects and planning efforts across the region. The tool integrates GIS data to visualize existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities, safety concerns, and local priorities. They demonstrated how stakeholders can filter data by county, project status, and facility type, improving transparency and accessibility for both planners and the public. The presenters emphasized that the tool supports regional collaboration and decision-making by helping identify connectivity gaps and investment opportunities. Committee members expressed appreciation for the update and discussed ways the tool could be further utilized for future planning initiatives.

NCDOT Update –

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- **NCDOT-TPD:** Mr. Crummy stated that there are no new traffic forecasts at this time.

The Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) quarterly update will be released on the 17th. Members were encouraged to review the latest TPD newsletter and review the IMD webinar. The Community Data Explorer (CDE) tool will be transitioning to TPD management.

- **NCDOT-IMD:** No updates

Reminders: Ms. Ritchie reminded members that Prioritization 8 (P8) workshops are upcoming, with opportunities to attend drop-in sessions or schedule separate meetings. Staff are reviewing both carryover and new project selections for P8. Public meetings related to the regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan are also being planned.

Public Comment/Announcements: None

Adjournment: Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 27th, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Williams, MPO/TCC Chair	Averi Ritchie, TAC Secretary

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

MPL= Morganton Public Library | VPL= Valdese Public Library
CBH = C.B. Hildebrand Public Library | ** = pre-registration required.

Live Well
Burke County Public Library
Morganton • Valdese • C.B. Hildebrand

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 **Libraries Closed for Labor Day**	2 SAVORY SPICE CLUB SPICE PICK UP** Pre-registration required. Spice will be delivered to preferred library. Participants will receive a call when pick-up is available.	PARTNERS Improving Lives. Strengthening Communities. Educational Lunch Series Early Alzheimer's Symptoms Wednesday, September 10 12-1pm at MPL No registration. Bring your lunch. Snacks & bottled water provided. CEU's available.	4 SAVORY SPICE CHOP SHOP 5:30pm at VPL** Pre-registration required, but you do not need to be registered for the Savory Spice Club to attend.	5 NEEDLEWORK IN THE MORNING 10AM-NOON AT VPL	6
8 Bibliomaniacs A FREE Monthly Subscription box for Adult book lovers! Each month is a different theme, and includes a library book (3-week check out) and fun items relating to the theme. Boxes are available beginning Monday, September 8, on a first-come, first-served basis!	9 FAMILY GAME NIGHT 6pm VPL 16 Plot Hounds Book Discussion 10am at VPL	10 Digital Literacy for Seniors Intro to AI Wednesday, September 10 2-3pm at MPL Presented by WPCOG	11 CROCHET CAFE 6PM AT VPL A needlework program for YA & adults. 18	12 NEEDLEWORK IN THE MORNING 10AM-NOON AT MPL Happily Ever Afters Anonymous Book Club 4pm at CBH Open to Adults and Teens 19	13 FRIENDS of the Burke County Public Library 20 **Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale** at Collett Street Recreation Center, Morganton (downstairs) Friday, September 19: 4:30-7pm - Members only preview sale (can join at sale). Saturday, September 20: 9-12:30pm-open to everyone. | Bag sale: Saturday from 1-3pm Cash or check only. Please bring bags/boxes for your purchases. Bag sale Saturday: fill a brown bag for $7
22 THE ART OF JAZZ Monday, September 22 - 6pm at Burke Arts Council 506 S Sterling St., Morganton, NC Presentation & Demonstration (open to all ages)		24 Oxymorons New Adult Book Discussion 6pm at MPL Open to Adults and Teens		26 NEEDLEWORK IN THE MORNING 10AM-NOON AT MPL	27
29 Mixed Media Monday Faux Geode Skull - 6pm at MPL** Pre-registration required.	also on Monday, September 29: My Neighbor Totoro Movie & Make It Night 6pm at MPL (Open to all ages)	Picture Burke Throwback Thursday Join us each week on Facebook, and in *The News Herald* and *The Paper*, for pictures & history from the local area! Brought to you by the North Carolina Room.		One Card Endless Possibilities September is Library Card Sign-up Month	

BURKECOUNTY ALL ABOUT ADVANCING

FRIENDS of the Burke County Public Library

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION OF BURKE COUNTY

We're online @ www.bcpls.org
Facebook @bcpls and Instagram @bcplsnc

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

MPL= Morganton Public Library | VPL= Valdese Public Library
CBH = C.B. Hildebrand Public Library | ** = pre-registration required.

BURKE COUNTY
Live Well
FRIENDS of the Burke County Public Library
THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION OF BURKE COUNTY

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT

1
Closed for Labor Day!



Want to be the first to know about upcoming events, chat with other YAS teens, get reminders about programs, and more? Join the YAS BCPLS Discord server! **Contact Lizzie for access at lizzie.whisnant@burkenc.org.**



#YA2GO FREE A^YAS LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION.

Each themed box contains a library book, matching swag & bookish items! Boxes are available starting the first full week of the month on a first-come, first-served basis!



9 **Family Game Night**
6pm (VPL)



11 **Crochet Cafe**
6pm @ VPL

12 **Happily Ever Afters Anonymous Book Club**
4pm (CBH)





15 **DIY Book Bedazzling****
6pm (CBH)

16 **Sip & Paint Night**
6pm (VPL)



18 **D&D @ the Library****
4pm (online via Discord)



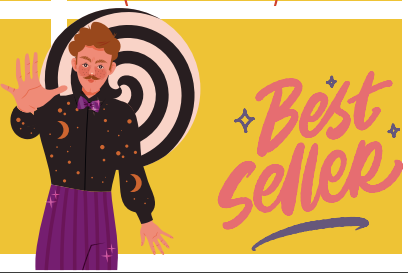


22 **Cake Pop Workshop****
5:30pm (CBH)

23 **Game Night**
6pm (VPL)

24 **Oxymorons Book Discussion Group**
6pm (MPL)
(teens + adults!)

25 **GasLIT: Fake it to Make It Challenge**
4pm (MPL)



27 **D&D @ the Library****
2:30-4:30pm
(CBH)

29 **Movie & Make It Night**
6pm @ MPL

30 **DIY Lanyard & Keychain Making****
6pm (VPL)

Programs marked with a ** require pre-registration with the YAS Coordinator at 828-764-9273 *or* lizzie.whisnant@burkenc.org.

Programs in RED are open to adults and teens!

YAS PROGRAMS ARE LIMITED TO MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

WEEKLY STORYTIMES

Pre-registration is required. Call the library or stop by to sign up.

Morganton Public Library
828-764-9274

Baby Bookworms (birth-24 months)
Mondays at 10:30am

Terrific Tots (2-3 year olds)
Tuesdays at 10:30am

Preschool Pals (4-5 year olds)
Thursdays at 10:30am

Library Explorers (K-2nd graders)
Tuesdays at 4:00pm

Cool Kids Club (3rd-5th graders)
Mondays at 3:30pm

Valdese Public Library
828-874-2421

Baby Bookworms (birth-24 months)
Thursdays at 10:00am

Terrific Tots (2-3 year olds)
Mondays at 10:00am

Preschool Pals (4-5 year olds)
Wednesdays at 10:00am

Library Explorers (K-2nd graders)
Mondays at 3:30pm

Cool Kids Club (3rd-5th graders)
Tuesdays at 3:30pm

C.B. Hildebrand Public Library
828-764-9283

Baby Bookworms and Terrific Tots (birth-2 year olds)
Thursdays at 10:45am

Preschool Pals (3-5 year olds)
Tuesdays at 10:45am

Family Storytime (all ages)
Wednesdays at 10:45am

Library Explorers (K-2nd graders)
Thursdays at 3:30pm

Cool Kids Club (3rd-5th graders)
Tuesdays at 3:30pm

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

MPL= Morganton Public Library | VPL= Valdese Public Library
CBH = C.B. Hildebrand Public Library | ** = pre-registration required.

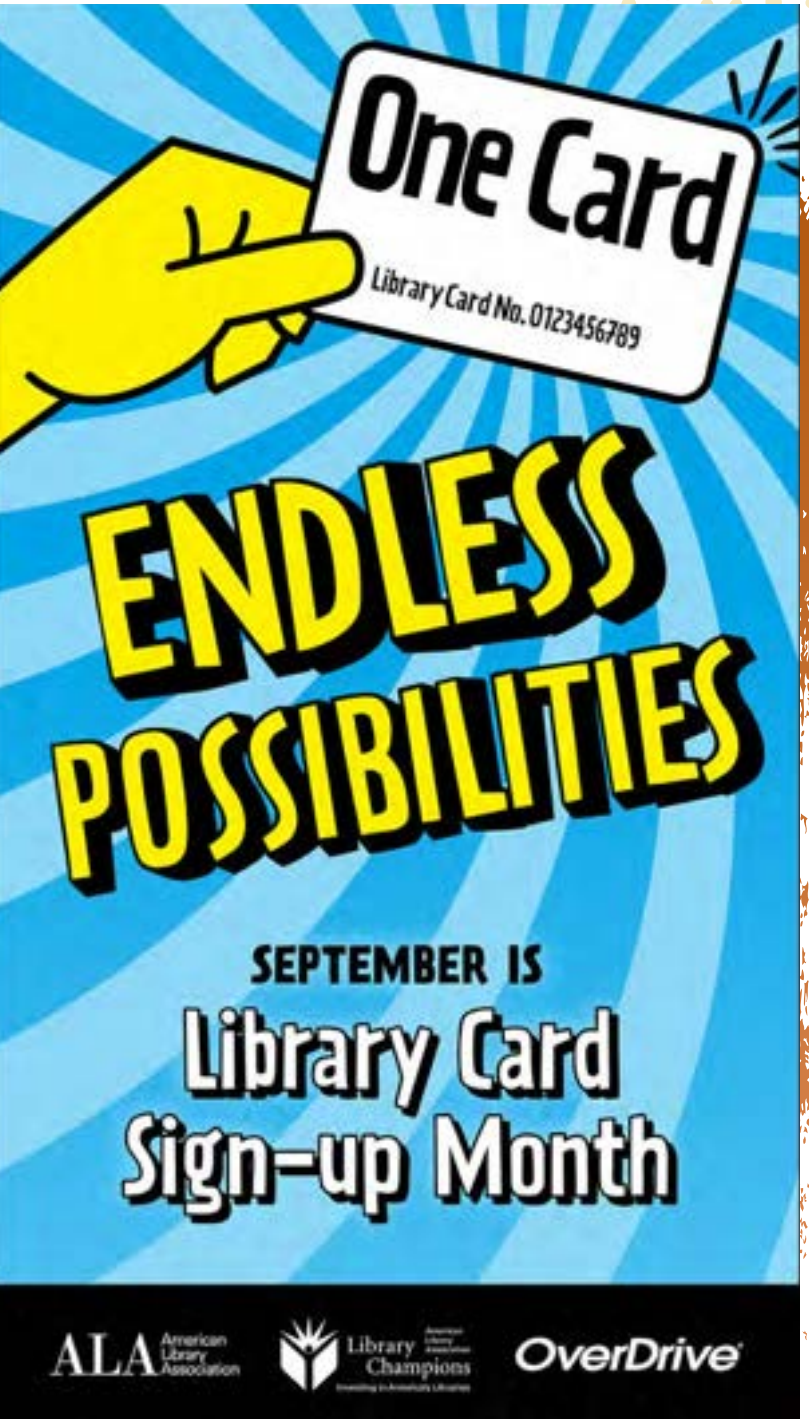
Live Well
Burke County Public Library
Morganton • Valdese • C.B. Hildebrand

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1000 Books Before Kindergarten Get started today! Call or come by any library to sign up and get your reading logs, or join us online (using READSquared) - info at bcpls.org/kids		MPL Pirate Coin Scavenger Hunt Stop by the Youth Services desk at MPL during September and pick up a scavenger hunt paper. Once you've completed it, stop by the YS Circ Desk for a prize! The scavenger hunt is for children of all ages; one prize per child.	CBH Scavenger Hunt Come by CBH, grab a scavenger hunt paper from the book shelf, and see if you can answer this month's question! Once you've completed it, bring it to the desk for a prize. The scavenger hunt is for children of all ages; one prize per child.	Seek-and-Find at VPL Have you discovered the Seek-and-Find Aquarium at VPL? It's in the Children's Room and changes each month. Kids 5th grade and under are encouraged to find all the listed items, and bring their sheet to the front for a prize (one per kid per month).	6 Story Stones 10:00am-3:30pm at MPL Drop in to make a set of story stones! No registration required.
8 Sport Spirit Poster Day Tuesday, September 9 - 5:30-7pm at VPL Make a poster to support your favorite team! For kids K-5th grade. No registration required, but supplies limited.	9 Family Game Night 6pm VPL				13 Juggling/Clowning Workshop with Cirque US 11am MPL front lawn** Rain location (CoMMA lobby). Pre-registration is required. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.
15	16	17 Cooking Club Online Apple Dumplings 3:30pm on Zoom** Program is for children in 3rd-5th grade. Register at CBH.			20 alphabet adventure day 9:30-11:00am at MPL Drop in for alphabet-themed sensory play! For kids Kindergarten & under. No registration required.
22 ROCK YOUR ART! at the Long View Recreation Center 5:30-7:30pm Bring the whole family to paint rocks to add a splash of color around the gazebo! No registration required.	23	24 Weaving Wonders 3:30pm at CBH** Bookmarks For ages 5-12. Registration is required, and space is limited.	25 Big Ideas, Little Readers Book Club** A book club for 4-6th Grade! **This month, we will be reading Louis Sachar's timeless classic *Holes*!** Participants will receive a copy of the book and will be invited to a celebration at the end of the month on the 26th. The celebration will have themed food, goodies, and a movie watch-party! Registration is required. Books will be available for pickup on the first of the month.	26	27 Silly Spooks & Marvelous Monsters Storytime 10:30am at VPL** Crafts, stories, & spooky snacks for kids 1st grade & under. Pre-registration required. Paintbox** Silly Scarecrow | 3:00pm at MPL Pre-registration required. Program for children K-5th grade.
29 My Neighbor Totoro Movie & Make It Night 6pm at MPL (Open to all ages)		ecoExplore It's Mycology Season! Become a Citizen Scientist and join ecoExplore! More information on the program can be found at EcoExplore.net, or visit your library for information and bi-monthly worksheets.			One Card, Endless Possibilities September is Library Card Sign-up Month

BURKE COUNTY ALL ABOUT ADVANCING
Friends of the Burke County Public Library
The Library Foundation of Burke County

We're online @ www.bcpls.org
Facebook @bcpls and Instagram @bcplsnc

ONLINE RESOURCES



NC Cardinal LIBRARY CATALOG

We are a member of the NC Cardinal Consortium, which gives you an additional 7 milllion items to borrow and share. Our catalog is available online at burke.nccardinal.org

OverDrive eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, & eNewspapers

We have three eMedia collections. NC Kids Digital (preK-4th), NC Kids Level Up (4th-8th), and e-iNC (for all ages and includes the newest releases). Information at bcpls.org/ebooks.

NC LIVE

NC LIVE is North Carolina's statewide library cooperative. Testing help, research for school, language learning, and more available at nclive.org.

Wowbrary The Newest Stuff at Your Library

Sign up for a weekly email newsletter highlighting all our newest stuff at the library. Visit bcpls.org/newbooks for the link and more information.

GRAB YOUR CARD AND OPEN UP ALL THESE (AND MORE)!

Live Well at your library
Burke County Public Library
Morganton • Valdese • C.B. Hildebrand

BURKE COUNTY ALL ABOUT ADVANCING

Friends of the Burke County Public Library

The Library Foundation of Burke County

Burke County Public Library Statistics -- FY 25-26

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	YTD Avg.
Door Count													
Morganton	4708	4108											4408.00
Valdese	1977	1684											1830.50
CB Hildebrand	1418	1284											1351.00
TOTAL:	**8103**	**7076**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7589.50**
Study/Meeting Room Use													
Morganton	92	70											81.00
Valdese	83	78											80.50
CB Hildebrand	102	44											73.00
TOTAL:	**277**	**192**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**234.50**
Programs -- Remote and In-Person													
Adult	22	14											18.00
Young Adult	12	12											12.00
Children	62	47											54.50
TOTAL:	**96**	**73**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**84.50**
Program Views/ Attendance													
Adult	269	266											267.50
Young Adult	218	123											170.50
Children	1955	1198											1576.50
TOTAL:	**2442**	**1587**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2014.50**
Pickup Bags													
Adult	80	56											68.00
Young Adult	0	0											0.00
Children	25	20											22.50
TOTAL:	**105**	**76**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**90.50**
Volunteers -- Number													
Adult	20	20											20.00
Young Adult	0	6											3.00
	20	**26**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**23.00**
Volunteers -- Hours													
Adult	158.5	175.75											167.13
Young Adult	0	12.5											6.25
	158.5	**188.25**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**173.38**
E-Book Users	5822	5882											
E-Book Checkouts	5080	5656											**5368.00**
Overall Circulation	23371	23154											**23262.50**
Turnover Rate (Print) >= 0.14	0.175	0.164											**0.170**
Tunrover Rate (Digital)>=0.14	0.180	0.185											**0.183**
Computer Sessions	943	885											**914.00**
New/Renewed Borrowers	192	161											**176.50**
NC Cardinal RS Items Out	2395	2172											**2283.50**
NC Cardinal RS Items In	2233	2379											**2306.00**
NC Cardinal RS Items TOTAL	4628	4551											**4589.50**
RS Time/Item <= 2 minutes	1.85	1.87											
HappyOrNot Kiosk -- MPL -- Goal is 90%	97	93											**95.00**
Social Media -- Facebook and Instagram													
Social Media Followers	7726	7795											**7760.50**
Soccial Media Staff Posts	141	146											**143.50**
Social Media Reach # that see library content	127161	101582											**114371.50**
Social Media Engagement # of interactions with content	10629	8141											**9385.00**
Social Media Video Views	1821	2444											**2132.50**

BURKE DEVELOPMENT INC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 18, 2025
BDI Office
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Members Present		Members Absent
Bill Carroll	Sally Sandy	Logan Shook
Mayor Watts	Todd Herms	Jessica Bargsley
Jim Toner	Dr. Joel Welch	Dr. Mike Swan
Terry Childers	Bryan Beam	Gary Paxton
Brian Epley	Chris Hawkins	Jeff Brittain
Lamar Smitherman		

Also present were Alan Wood, Hope Hopkins, and Caleb Gardner.

Call to Order

Chairman Brittain called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Approval of June 2025 Minutes

The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the June 20th meeting. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Watts, seconded by Terry Childers.

Approval of June 2025 Financial Report

Caleb Gardner presented the June financials. Caleb reported the operational and business park accounts showed standard activity. Expenditures and revenues were tracked as expected, with a noted $34,000 received in quarterly dues, with total expenditures just over $100,000, and $40,000 to Alliance Consulting for Great Meadows work. Year-end budget performance shows 53% of the annual budget spent, with revenues also at 53%. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Chris Hawkins and seconded by Sally Sandy.

By-Laws Update

Conelly Springs has chosen not to participate and has not paid dues for the fiscal year. The board discussed amending bylaws to reflect their removal, but agreed to circulate proposed language and vote at the August meeting.

Staff Updates

Staff provided updates on the business park and spec building, noting that 99% of plans are complete but finalization is paused to address soil issues from past grading. The project remains on track to bid in mid-August, with thirteen pre-qualified contractors interested. Phase one will be approximately 180,800 square feet with flexible office space and infrastructure to support various industries. The EDPNC Business Recruitment Team's early July visit generated several new project requests, and a new 18,500-square-foot building on Jamestown Road has been listed. At Great Meadows, surveys indicate strong potential as one of the Southeast's best large industrial sites, with environmental and cultural studies to follow once buildable areas are identified and infrastructure discussions continue. The housing update showed 3.3 months of inventory, a 9.8% year-to-date increase in median sale price, limited lot availability, and high preparation costs, though developer and builder interest remains active.

Adjournment

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Sally Sandy and seconded by Mayor Watts. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Caleb Gardner

Approved August 11, 2025

Burke County -- America 250 Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, July 14, 2025
Location: Burke Co. Travel & Tourism office
140 N. Sterling St., Morganton
Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Members Present:				Guests Present:
Gordon, Waits		Medford, Sylvia	✓	Phyllis Wogan
Hancock, Kevin		Patton, Robert	✓	
Johnston, Laurie (Secretary)	✓	Phillips, Ed (Chair)	✓	
Jones, Deborah	✓	Smith, Phil	✓	
Lindsey, Dr. Bryant	✓	Swan, Dr. Mike		
Lindsey, Dr. Linda	✓	Welch, Dr. Joel (Vice Chair)	✓	
McKesson, Dr. Leslie		Wilkinson, Sam	✓	
McSwain, Butch	✓			

Call to Order

Committee Chairman, Ed Phillips, called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members. A quorum was present. Ed introduced and acknowledged the presence of guest, Phyllis Wogan, Curator Emeritus from the History Museum of Burke County, visiting to represent the museum in the absence of Waits Gordon. She explained that the museum is working on an America 250 exhibit and that they have hired a well-trained curator Carly Collins.

Ed directed members to review the purpose of the committee, listed in the Agenda, reminding members that this is a county committee of 15 appointed members and thanking members for their participation.

Approval of Minutes from June 9, 2025

Minutes from the June 9 meeting were presented to members by email prior to the meeting and hardcopies were distributed at the meeting for discussion. No corrections or amendments were noted. Robert Patton moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Butch McSwain. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- 2025 Revolutionary War Days Update

Ed Phillips updated the group on some of the plans for the Revolutionary War Days events to be held September 26 and 27. He presented a draft of a resolution to distribute to the City of Morganton and other towns in the county. The goal would be to have resolutions presented at their town meetings in December of this year in support of the America 250 campaign as a kickoff to events in 2026. Feedback from the committee included checking dates of 1837 on the Burke County Courthouse and 1812 on the Charles McDowell House. Robert recommended to add the full date of October 7, 1780 for the Battle of Kings Mountain and add the Battle of Cowpens,

January 17, 1781, as "critical landmarks of time" that are locally relevant and important. Ed will finish the draft and send to Kay Draughn for presentation to the Morganton City Council. The main goal of the resolutions would be to solicit municipal support, gain publicity, and recognize the importance of the America 250 initiative.

Moving on to discuss the Revolutionary War Days events, Ed pointed out that we need to help with the details of these events. He referred to the handout with the budget and potential costs. Saturday, September 27th event will include an encampment at the McDowell House including a group of 'Burke Patriots' with Jordan Lowdermilk and friends, consisting of 5 or 6 people who will set up camp overnight in the style and dress of the Revolutionary period. We will be able to provide some compensation of the participants in this event using grant funds. Dr. Sonny Kelly, actor, has been confirmed as a performer to portray a 1700s enslaved man. His fee of $3000 includes arriving Friday by noon and performing both days as requested.

Ed reviewed and discussed several items from the budget sheet. Items discussed for the Rev. War encampment date of September 27 include providing 'dress-up' children's clothing, a living historians group, tents and chairs set up for the public, using the Trolley, and the site being prepared, including removal of a dead holly tree at the front area of the McDowell House.

Ed showed large America 250 yard signs that have been made and can be wired or zip-tied to posts. They are yet unassigned but can be posted to identify historic sites such as those on the site tour. Phyllis Wogan requested one for the History Museum of Burke County.

Port-a-Johns will be required at certain historic sites, such as Gilboa Methodist Church and the McDowell House.

Billboards and Facebook Marketing are being used to advertise and promote events along Highway 64. There was discussion about adding additional billboard advertising along highway 18/64 and highway 64/70. Ed explained some of the costs and procedures to the group.

There will be need for docent/student training before the September 26 & 27 events. There are 9 festival tents that have been purchased and prepared. They are on steel frames and are assembled on rollers and stored in the Arts Council basement. They are heavy-duty.

Committed for the September 26 & 27 event are Dr. Sonny Kelly, a photo booth set-up, and the Air Stream Camper from the state America 250 campaign. We do not have food trucks yet. Those contacted so far were already booked. The photo booth is set up as a backdrop and props for people to do self-portraits. We will need to provide staff to oversee.

Robert Patton mentioned that Historic Burke Foundation has Rev. War style plywood painted photo props made by Michael Berley—the type where participants put their face through the hole for a photo opportunity. They are currently being stored in Beth Spahn's home but need to be moved ASAP. They would require about a 10 by 10 foot storage space. They could be used for America 250 events as well.

Discussion was opened about budget items. The topic of children's clothing was discussed at length. Linda Lindsey talked about past events for the Overmountain men, where children's clothing was a big hit with the kids. They wanted to dress-up and feel the clothing. We would want to have caps and hats that could be used for years to come. Robert has purchased shirts and other clothing. Dennis & Lorraine Velker make period clothing. Linda will send contact info to Ed. With children's clothing, we would need items to be washable. Not only children but also adults would like to dress up. We could put together a children's kit and an adults kit with props. Bryant Lindsey pointed out that we may want to include Native American items as well. Ed pointed out the need to be aware of historical inaccuracies in dress vs. reality.

- Committee Assignments

We need to establish some help for the event on the 27th. In the past, Historic Burke Foundation has done a great job planning and executing this event but it is ramped up for this year. Linda said there would be 25 stations this year, garden tours, demonstrating, corn husk dolls. Lots of logistics to work out.

For the Historic Site tours, we will need people to help with that, and may need one person on each motor coach. We will need set-up help on the 27th. The Community House program for the 26th will include a speaker and we may be able to get Dr. Sonny Kelly to do a performance that day for the group.

- Other Burke County Events in 2025

Other ideas for America 250 events past September 27 include educational outreach to 4th graders, participation at local festivals, Burke County colonial Christmas, Christmas parade with colonial theme. Ed will plant the idea with the Downtown Development Association.

Ed is working on a separate logo that could be used for merchandise including shirts, etc.

Robert is working on coordinating a fife and drum group like that used at the Guilford Courthouse site. Alex Stillwell is learning to play the fife and plays many instruments. There are drummers with Patton & Freedom High Schools that may participate. Robert has offered to buy a fife for those who will learn to play. He is working on having a cannon firing at the 27th event.

New Business

- Establish July 4, 2026 Sub-Committee

Ed announced the need for establishing a July 4, 2026 sub-committee to initiate solid plans for next year's event. There was discussion about the prevalence of out-of-town travel for the fourth, viewing area for fireworks, parade, activities on the courthouse square, ringing the bell on the square, rides for kids, etc. Ed reminded the committee that we have no revenue stream for events except our current grant. We can spend money this year and must be spent by June 30 of next eyar. We need to involve towns. Volunteers for this committee include Joel Welch, Butch McSwain, Debbie Jones, Laurie Johnston, and we may ask Michael Berley from the City of Morganton to participate.

- Burke Events for 2026

Linda Lindsey discussed working on 4th grader event for the spring instead of trying to coordinate it for the week before the Rev. Days event this September due to the huge logistics of working with 17 different schools and nearly 1000 students. Mary Lou Furr and Dawn Poore had been the main organizers in past years but are not available due to personal obstacles this year. As this is a component of our grant proposal, we would need to follow through with plans for a coordination with Burke County School students for a spring event. Robert Patton suggested that is we involve Mike Swan, he can designate people on staff at the schools and have the school staff help share the load. It is amazing what teachers and school staff can accomplish, so they should be able to help.

Wrap Up

For now, we will focus on the September 27th event and plan for and additional event in the spring. There was concern that Linda and Historic Burke Foundation will need additional help in planning and carrying out the activities for the 27th. Linda will let us know how the committee may help.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm. The next meeting will be Monday, August 11 at 1:30 pm.

Submitted by Laurie Johnston, Secretary
August 11, 2025

Appendix:
Attachment A—Meeting Agenda
Attachment B—Resolution Draft
Attachment C—Grant Budget

Attachment A

AGENDA
BURKE COUNTY 250th PLANNING COMMITTEE
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Committee Members: Butch McSwain, Deborah Jones, Dr. Bryant Lindsey, Dr. Joel Welch, Dr. Linda Lindsey, Ed Phillips, Kevin Hancock, Laurie Johnson, Leslie McKesson, Mike Swan, Phil Smith, Robert Patton, Sam Wilkinson, Waits Gordon.

REGULAR MEETING **July 14, 2025**

1:30 P.M. **Burke Visitor Center**

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Purpose of the Committee- Burke County

"To engage all North Carolinians and ALL 100 counties through their many signatures and officially recognized programs, projects and events over the commemoration by inspiring future leaders and celebrating North Carolina's contributions to the nation over the last 250 years."

II. Approve Meeting Minutes from June 9, 2025

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. REV War Days Update
2. Committee Assignments
3. Other Burke County Events in 2025

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Establish July 4, 2026 Sub- Committee
2. Burke Events for 2026

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BURKE COUNTY IN CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S 250th ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the United States Semi quincentennial presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reflect on our nation's founding principles and to celebrate the people, places, and events that have shaped our shared American story; and

WHEREAS, Burke County holds a prominent place in North Carolina and American history, with deep ties to the Revolutionary War, including the Overmountain Men who mustered in this region before the pivotal Battle of Kings Mountain in 1780; and

WHEREAS, Burke County is home to significant historical landmarks, such as the Historic Burke County Courthouse (1837), the Charles McDowell House (1812) and numerous early settlements and structures that tell the story of our community's development; and

WHEREAS, the Burke County America 250 Committee was formed to recognize, promote, and coordinate local activities that honor the County's historic contributions and engage the public in meaningful commemoration; and

WHEREAS, the Committee aims to highlight and preserve local history through educational programs, commemorative events, community storytelling, heritage tours, and public engagement initiatives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burke County Board of Commissioners proudly recognizes the historical significance of Burke County in the founding and shaping of the United States and supports the ongoing efforts of the Burke County America 250 Committee;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board encourages all residents, municipalities, schools, businesses, civic organizations, and historical institutions to participate in and contribute to America 250 observances that showcase Burke County's unique role in the American story;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Burke County shall honor this milestone with dignity, pride, and public engagement to ensure that its historical legacy is preserved and celebrated for future generations.

Adopted this ___ day of _____, 2025.

	Rev War Week Outreach & Festival			
	Actual	Budget	Actual Costs	Confirmed
Income				
3000 · Historic Site Tour Revenue $25 x 40 ppl		1,000.00		
4200 ·Grant Revenue		30,000.00		
Total Income	0.00	31,000.00		
Expense				
6200 ·Burke Patriots Campers J. Lowdermilk		1,000.00		
6300 · Entertainment (Sonny Kelly)		3,000.00		Yes
6304 ·Children's Period Clothing		1,500.00		
6400 · Living Historians (SECLH)		2,500.00	12 ppl max	Yes
6730 · Canopy Tent Rental (2) 20 x 40		1,500.00		Yes
6730 · Chair Rental (175)		350.00		Yes
6750 ·Trolley Transporation (Shuttle)		0.00	In-kind	Yes
6760 ·Motor Coach for Historic Tours (2)		2,400.00		Contract Signed
6770 · Yard signs at Historic Sites		500.00		
6800 · Portajons Handicap plus Hand Stations		1,500.00		Yes
7200 · Event Supplies		1,500.00		
7240 ·4th Graders Outreach: Location TBD		2,000.00		
7250 · Take Home Tuesday Materials		2,000.00		
8350 · Marketing: BillBoards/Facebook		7,000.00		
8500 · Docent & Student Training Expense		2,500.00		
8800 · Festival Tents (10 x $300)		3,314.59	3314.59	Yes
8850 · Tour Lunch	45 x $15	675.00		Yes
9500 ·	0.00			
9900 ·	0.00			
Total Expense	0.00	33,239.59		
Net Income	0.00	-2,239.59		
Dr. Sonny Kelley- Black History Speaker				Yes
Food Trucks ?				
Air Stream Camper -Cultural Resources				Yes
OVNHT/NPS- Photo Booth				

2nd Quarter 2025 Data Snapshot
Western Piedmont Region

Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Employment

3.6% Unemployment Rate
+0.2% Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

169,127 Labor Force
-2,006 (-1.2%) Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

162,977 Employed Residents
-2,249 (-1.4%) Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

6,150 Unemployed Residents
243 (4.1%) Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Building Permits

432 Single-Family Units (Site Built)
-138 Less units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$120.5 M Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
-$23.2 ($Millions) Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

628 Total Units
-169 Less units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$143.5 M Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
-$25.7 ($Millions) Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Residential Real Estate (Multiple Listing Service)

1,669 New Listings
94 (6.0%) More Listings than 2nd Qtr. 2024

1,157 Closed Sales
44 (4.0%) More Sales than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$370,794 Average Sales Price
-$8,879 (-2.3%) Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

3.4 Supply of Housing Inventory (Months)
0.7 Months Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Sales and Use Tax Distribution and Taxable Sales*

$45.7 Million Sales and Use Tax Distribution
$3.8 Million (9.0%) Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$1,682.4 Million Taxable Sales
$142.7 Million (9.3%) Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

*Taxable sales are retail sales subject to State sales taxes.
Data Sources: NC Labor and Economic Analysis Division, Regional Building Inspection Departments, Canopy Inc, and NC Department of Revenue, 2025.

2nd Quarter 2025 Data Snapshot
Alexander County

Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Employment

3.6%
Unemployment Rate

0.0%
No Change from 2nd Qtr. 2024

16,082
Labor Force

-217 (-1.3%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

15,505
Employed Residents

-210 (-1.3%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

577
Unemployed Residents

-7 (-1.1%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Building Permits

22
Single-Family Units (Site Built)

3
More units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$8.8 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)

$3.3 ($Millions)
Higher Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

24
Total Units

5
More units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$9.2 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)

$3.7 ($Millions)
Higher Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Residential Real Estate (Multiple Listing Service)

104
New Listings

-1 (-1.0%)
Fewer Listing than 2nd Qtr. 2024

86
Closed Sales

14 (19.4%)
More Sales than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$361,582
Average Sales Price

-$14,728 (-3.9%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

3.4
Supply of Housing Inventory (Months)

0.4 Months
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Sales and Use Tax Distribution and Taxable Sales*

$3.9 Million
Sales and Use Tax Distribution

$0.2 Million (5.3%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$101.8 Million
Taxable Sales

$7.2 Million (7.6%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

*Taxable sales are retail sales subject to State sales taxes.
Data Sources: NC Labor and Economic Analysis Division, Regional Building Inspection Departments, Canopy Inc, and NC Department of Revenue, 2025.

2nd Quarter 2025 Data Snapshot
Burke County

Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Employment

3.8%
Unemployment Rate
+0.4%
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

39,749
Labor Force
-370 (-0.4%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

38,253
Employed Residents
-520 (-1.3%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

1,498
Unemployed Residents
153 (11.3%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Building Permits

81
Single-Family Units (Site Built)
-5
Fewer units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$23.2 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
-$2.5 ($Millions)
Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

101
Total Units
12
More units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$27.2 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
$0.6 ($Millions)
Higher Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Residential Real Estate (Multiple Listing Service)

290
New Listings
-28 (-8.8%)
Fewer Listings than 2nd Qtr. 2024

217
Closed Sales
-7 (-3.1%)
Fewer Sales than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$327,995
Average Sales Price
-$14,292 (-4.2%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

3.4
Supply of Housing Inventory (Months)
0.4 Months
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Sales and Use Tax Distribution and Taxable Sales*

$9.5 Million
Sales and Use Tax Distribution
$0.4 Million (4.7%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$315.3 Million
Taxable Sales
$26.8 Million (9.3%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

*Taxable sales are retail sales subject to State sales taxes.
Data Sources: NC Labor and Economic Analysis Division, Regional Building Inspection Departments, Canopy Inc, and NC Department of Revenue, 2025.

2nd Quarter 2025 Data Snapshot
Caldwell County

Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Employment

3.8%
Unemployment Rate
+0.5%
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

36,366
Labor Force
-339 (-0.9%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

34,980
Employed Residents
-493 (-1.4%)
Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

1,387
Unemployed Residents
154 (12.5%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Building Permits

63
Single-Family Units (Site Built)
-5
Less units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$20.9 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
-$4.7 ($Millions)
Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

65
Total Units
-3
Less units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$21.2 M
Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
-$4.5 ($Millions)
Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Residential Real Estate (Multiple Listing Service)

315
New Listings
57 (22.1%)
More Listings than 2nd Qtr. 2024

191
Closed Sales
-21 (-9.9%)
Fewer Sales than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$325,951
Average Sales Price
$2,818 (0.9%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

3.3
Supply of Housing Inventory (Months)
1.2 Months
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Sales and Use Tax Distribution and Taxable Sales*

$8.8 Million
Sales and Use Tax Distribution
$1.1 Million (14.3%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$277.5 Million
Taxable Sales
$32.6 Million (13.3%)
Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

*Taxable sales are retail sales subject to State sales taxes.
Data Sources: NC Labor and Economic Analysis Division, Regional Building Inspection Departments, Canopy Inc, and NC Department of Revenue, 2025.

2nd Quarter 2025 Data Snapshot
Catawba County

Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Employment

3.5% Unemployment Rate
+0.0% No Change from 2nd Qtr. 2024

76,930 Labor Force
-1,081 (-1.4%) Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

74,228 Employed Residents
-1,037 (-0.7%) Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

2,690 Unemployed Residents
-55 (-2.0%) Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Building Permits

266 Single-Family Units (Site Built)
-137 Less units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$67.5 M Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
-$19.3 ($Millions) Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

438 Total Units
-178 Less units than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$85.9 M Est. Construction Costs ($Millions)
-$25.5 ($Millions) Lower Est. costs than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Residential Real Estate (Multiple Listing Service)

960 New Listings
66 (7.4%) More Listings than 2nd Qtr. 2024

552 Closed Sales
-53 (-8.8%) Fewer Sales than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$404,405 Average Sales Price
-$9,146 (-2.2%) Lower than 2nd Qtr. 2024

3.3 Supply of Housing Inventory (Months)
0.5 Months Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

Sales and Use Tax Distribution and Taxable Sales*

$23.6 Million Sales and Use Tax Distribution
$2.6 Million (9.6%) Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

$987.8 Million Taxable Sales
$76.0 Million (8.3%) Higher than 2nd Qtr. 2024

*Taxable sales are retail sales subject to State sales taxes.
Data Sources: NC Labor and Economic Analysis Division, Regional Building Inspection Departments, Canopy Inc, and NC Department of Revenue, 2025.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Subject Title: Clerk - Vacancy Report

Presented by: Kay Draughn

Summary of Information:
County Appointment Opportunities

Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee
Several vacancies exist. Initial terms of appointment are for one (1) year. Training is required and provided by the Western Piedmont Council of Governments through the Aging Support Program. Contact Michael Layza, the Regional Ombudsman, at 828-485-4213 for more information.

Burke County Public Health Advisory Board
Applications are being accepted for several seats on the Public Health Advisory Board, an 11-member board that advises the Board of Commissioners about public health in Burke County. Pharmacists, veterinarians, optometrists, restaurateurs and citizens are encouraged to apply. The meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of even-numbered months at the Health Department at 5:00 p.m. The term is for three (3) years. Please contact the Health Director at 828-764-9160 or the Clerk at 828-764-9354 for more information or to apply.

Hickory Regional Planning Commission
One (1) vacancy exists. Contact Brian M. Frazier, Director of Planning, City of Hickory, at 828-323-7422 for more information.

Drexel Planning Board - ETJ Alternate
Applications are being accepted for an alternate seat on the Drexel Planning Board representing the ETJ (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction). Contact the Town of Drexel at 828-430-1794 for more information.

Burke County Planning Board
Applications are being solicited for residents (east) to serve on the Burke County Planning Board. The Planning Board is a 7-member board that plays a key role in shaping the future development of the county as it reviews subdivisions, assists in area plans, and makes land use decisions, which are forwarded to the Board of Commissioners. This board meets on the 4th Thursday of every month (except the months of November and December) at 5:30 p.m. Contact the Clerk at 764-9354 or a Planner at 764-9037 for more information.

Partners Health Management's Human Rights Committee
Applications are being accepted for Burke County residents with a background in mental health

(MH), intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), and substance use (SU) willing to serve on Partners Health Management's Human Rights Committee (HRC). The HRC is established to meet Partners Health Management's ultimate responsibility for the assurance of consumer rights as outlined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §122C, which shall oversee the protection of consumer rights as served by providers with whom Partners has an established compensation-based business relationship. The Committee reviews reports, trends, and allegations of rights violations concerning consumers or groups. If you are interested, please submit an application. For additional details, please reach out to Tammy Pyles, Senior Executive Assistant / Clerk to the Board, Partners Health Management at tpyles@partnersbhm.org or (704) 884-2625.

Revaluation Task Force

Burke County has established a new seven-member Revaluation Task Force to advise on the 2027 countywide property revaluation process. This citizen-led group will help ensure transparency, fairness, and public engagement throughout the revaluation

.

The Board of Commissioners is now accepting applications for the following seats:

- Licensed General Contractor
- Insurance, Risk Management, or Banking Professional
- Agriculture Community Representative
- Two (2) At-Large Members
- Citizen Over Age 55

Applicants should be Burke County residents with knowledge or interest in property taxation, real estate, or community advocacy. Terms are two (2) years, and the Task Force will serve until January 1, 2027.

Morganton-Burke Senior Center Advisory Board

Serve your community by joining the Senior Center Advisory Board! Members serve a three-year term and play a vital role in shaping programs and services that enhance the lives of our seniors. For more details or to get involved, please contact Roxanne Powell at 828-764-9392.

America 250th Planning Committee

Applications are being accepted for vacant Seat No. 9 on the A250PC, representing the Sons of the American Revolution, which has an unexpired term ending April 16, 2027. Contact Ed Phillips at the Burke TDA or Kay Draughn at 764-9354 for more information.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: N.A.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: No action requested.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

CLOSED SESSION

Subject Title: BOC - Closed Session to Discuss Threatened or Pending Litigation, to Preserve the Attorney-Client Privilege, to Discuss Economic Development Matters, to Discuss Contractual Matters and to Discuss Personnel Matters (If Needed.)

Presented by: Jeff Brittain

Summary of Information:
A closed session is needed 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) (3), (4), (5) and (6).

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

N.A.

Budgetary Effect: N.A.

County Manager's Recommendation: N.A.

Legal Review: N.A.

Suggested Motion: To go into closed session 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) (3), (4), (5) and (6).

§ 143-318.11. Closed sessions.

(a) Permitted Purposes. – It is the policy of this State that closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in this section. A public body may hold a closed session and exclude the public only when a closed session is required:

(1) To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

(2) To prevent the premature disclosure of an honorary degree, scholarship, prize, or similar award.

(3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded.

(4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations, or to discuss matters relating to military installation closure or realignment. Any action approving the signing of an economic development contract or commitment, or the action authorizing the payment of economic development expenditures, shall be taken in an open session.

(5) To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract.

(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.

(7) To plan, conduct, or hear reports concerning investigations of alleged criminal misconduct.

(8) To formulate plans by a local board of education relating to emergency response to incidents of school violence or to formulate and adopt the school safety components of school improvement plans by a local board of education or a school improvement team.

(9) To discuss and take action regarding plans to protect public safety as it relates to existing or potential terrorist activity and to receive briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law enforcement or emergency service officials concerning actions taken or to be taken to respond to such activity.

(10) To view a recording released pursuant to G.S. 132-1.4A.

(b) Repealed by Session Laws 1991, c. 694, s. 4.

(c) Calling a Closed Session. – A public body may hold a closed session only upon a motion duly made and adopted at an open meeting. Every motion to close a meeting shall cite one or more of the permissible purposes listed in subsection (a) of this section. A motion based on subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall also state the name or citation of the law that renders the information to be discussed privileged or confidential. A motion based on subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall identify the parties in each existing lawsuit concerning which the public body expects to receive advice during the closed session.

(d) Repealed by Session Laws 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 570, s. 2. (1979, c. 655, s. 1; 1981, c. 831; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 932, s. 5; 1991, c. 694, ss. 3, 4; 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 570, s. 2; 1995, c. 509, s. 84; 1997-222, s. 2; 1997-290, s. 2; 2001-500, s. 2; 2003-180, s. 2; 2013-360, s. 8.41(b); 2014-79, s. 9(a); 2016-88, s. 3.)