

**MINUTES
BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RECESSED MEETING**

Both Burke County and the State of North Carolina had previously declared a state of emergency which was ongoing as of May 27, 2021 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Following the N.C. Governor’s Executive Order limiting mass gatherings and to protect the health of all meeting participants, attendance in the County Board Room, Burke Services Building, 110 N. Green Street in Morganton, was limited on a first come first served basis, social distancing measures were imposed inside the meeting room and face coverings were recommended. The 2:00 p.m. meeting was streamed live on the County’s YouTube channel, BurkeCountyNC, and it was broadcast later on the local cable systems. The agenda, in its entirety, was posted to the County’s website, www.burkenc.org, prior to the meeting as usual. Those present were:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Scott Mulwee, Vice Chairman (arrived at 4:12 p.m.)
Wayne F. Abele, Sr. (left at 3:58 p.m. – family emergency)
Johnnie W. Carswell

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Maynard M. Taylor (farming)

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Steen, County Manager
Margaret Pierce, Deputy County Manager/Finance Director
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brittain called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Commissioner
AYES:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Wayne F. Abele, Sr. and Johnnie W. Carswell
ABSENT:	Scott Mulwee and Maynard M. Taylor

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

GS-SW - RECONSIDERATION OF FY 21-22 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Mark Delehant, General Services Director, requested the addition of a new \$366,093 large dump truck (Bell B30E Articulated) to the Solid Waste division (SWD) budget. He said they are currently using an old piece of equipment, a pan, to move dirt noting that it cannot hold as much as dirt nor go off-road like the requested dump truck can. Mr. Delehant said the dump truck can be used for a multitude of purposes such as being used to clean the sediment ponds at the landfill as required by the State. To rent a dump truck to clean the sediment ponds was estimated to cost \$26,000.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for discussion. Commissioner Carswell asked when the pan was purchased. Mr. Delehant said he was not employed with the County when it was purchased

so he does not know; however, he advised that the pan would require a \$24,000 repair soon. In response to a question from Chairman Brittain, Mr. Delehant said including a \$60,000 trade-in for the pan, the price of the dump truck would be \$306,000. Financing options for the dump truck were included in the agenda packet and reviewed. Efficiencies gained by having a dump truck at the landfill were also discussed. In response to questions from the Chairman, Margaret Pierce, Deputy County Manager/Finance Director, advised that that General Fund, Fund Balance dollars would be required to fund the equipment purchase. She did not recommend trading-in the pan to easily comply with state bidding requirements nor financing the dump truck. She recommended selling the pan as surplus equipment. Commissioner Carswell asked if the SWD fees have increased. Ms. Pierce answered in the affirmative noting it was increased by approximately 5½ percent which generates an additional \$100,000 of revenue. Ms. Pierce said they are still using fund balance to be able to meet the SWD expenses, noting they use the maximum amount they can from their fund balance. After additional discussion, Chairman Brittain asked the pleasure of the Board and noted he is in favor of proceeding with the request. Commissioner Abele expressed concern about weighing-in on the request since Mr. Delehant is his son-in-law. Commissioner Carswell expressed support for adding the dump truck to the budget and encouraged Commissioner Abele to weigh-in on the matter. The Board was unanimously in favor of the request and Chairman Brittain asked staff to add this item to the budget.

RESULT: ADDED \$366,093 FOR BELL B30E ARTICULATED DUMP TRUCK TO THE FY 21-22 SOLID WASTE DIVISION (SWD) BUDGET.

SHERIFF - RECONSIDERATION OF FY 21-22 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

At the request of Chairman Brittain, the Board reviewed each item one by one to decide if additional funding should be included in the recommended budget.

**ITEM 1 APPEAL RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR SMITH ROGERS & ALDRIDGE
24/7/365 LEGAL SERVICES - \$25,000**

Sheriff Whisenant presented the following information:

The Sheriff's Office is requesting funds to renew our current contract with Smith Rogers & Aldridge Legal Services. We entered into a contract with Smith Rogers & Aldridge in September of 2020. At that time there were available funds in the narcotics seizure account to cover the associated costs of this service. As of this request that account has diminished to the point that it alone will not be enough to support renewing the service. We have used Smith Rogers & Aldridge with significant benefits since September 2020. The questions we have asked for guidance range from criminal to civil, concealed handguns to jail issues. The following list is some of, but by no means all, the issues we have sought guidance on.

1. Questions concerning timetables, legal opinions on issuing and denying concealed carry issues. (Attorney Aldridge, formerly an Attorney for the NC Sheriffs' Association is known as one of the top authorities in the State regarding gun law and has taught classes throughout the State on gun laws).
2. Questions regarding retired military personnel DD-214 submission for concealed carry permits.

3. Questions regarding an inmate whose actions were detrimental to the security and operations of the jail.
4. Questions regarding due process.
5. Questions regarding inmate's ability to waive rights to jail rules disciplinary hearings.
6. Questions regarding competence in reference to emergency medical issues.
7. Questions associated with a complex civil issue.
8. Questions concerning a Freedom of Information Act that saved days of securing and copying hundreds, if not thousands of records.

Any officer can call Smith Rogers & Aldridge 24/7/365 days a year for assistance. We can receive immediate legal opinions in emergency situations and with non-emergencies, we receive some opinions in less than an hour. It is our understanding that counties with their own full-time attorneys' contract with this firm who specialize and focuses on law enforcement issues. Sheriff Whisenant spoke with a neighboring sheriff last week who advised, "I don't see how any sheriff's office can operate without Smith Rodgers & Aldridge." We highly recommend continuing this contract.

Cost of this service = \$25,000.00

Sheriff Whisenant noted an instance where the firm assisted the Sheriff's Office regarding a public information request that would have otherwise consumed a significant amount of staff time.

RESULT: NO CHANGE TO THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET.

ITEM 2 - APPEAL RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR PROGRAM SUPPLIES - \$8,000

Sheriff Whisenant presented the following information:

1. Program Supplies covers a wide scope of equipment and supplies that do not fit in other categories.
2. Our initial request for Program Supplies totaled \$130,604.00. The recommended budget allocated a total of \$50,000.00 for this line.
3. The initial request encompassed 41-line items ranging from evidence processing, individual officer gunshot wound kits, supplies for programs such as K-9 and boat patrol, and Stop Sticks to replace those used during vehicle chases.
4. We have a list of items below under the program supplies line that we feel are critical to daily operations. After reviewing the recommended budget and adjusting some of the quantities of items being requested, we feel compelled to request that the recommended amount of \$50,000.00 be increased to \$58,000.00.
5. Our reconsideration requests share two components: civil liability mitigation and officer safety.
6. TASER/AXON requires that each officer that is assigned a TASER fire two training cartridges per year. For our office this would total 224 cartridges. Total cost = \$6,075.00.
7. We requested ballistic protection equipment for our canine deputies. This would be a protective vest and helmet that the deputy could quickly put on before

beginning a track for a wanted fugitive. Total cost for our needs = \$4,500.00.
**(Recent events have shown the benefit of ballistic protection for officers involved in dangerous, rapidly developing situations. An officer in Watauga County was quite possibly saved by the fact he was wearing a ballistic helmet on May 5, 2021 where two deputies were murdered. Across the country there have been numerous instances where officers took rounds to the head and were saved by helmets.*

8. We requested rescue swimmer vests for our SWAT members. Burke County has two lakes, two major rivers and multiple streams. SWAT team members are subject to, and have been, called on to conduct water operations that require wearing their full ballistic protection equipment. In the event that a member was swept into the water while wearing this heavy, cumbersome equipment, it would be nearly impossible to stay on the surface or remove the equipment underwater in order to surface without drowning. Total cost for our needs = \$3,110.00 (**In October of 2019 the SWAT team conducted an operation on John's River. An armed suspect had shot a female and was on a boat in the river off 18N. SWAT members approached the suspect by means of small rubber boats and, after boarding the suspect's boat, placed him in custody. During this event a SWAT member came very close to falling into the river. This could have had tragic consequences*).
9. We requested four replacement heavy entries vests for SWAT. This would be the start of a replacement cycle for this equipment. Total cost = \$14,000.00.
10. We requested replacement cycle and new hire bulletproof vests. This is the vests that deputies rely on during every call. Total cost = \$13,500.00.
11. We originally requested ten new patrol rifles and ten new patrol shotguns. These would be used to replace older units and start a replacement schedule that we estimate would run several years. Total cost initially was \$10,770.00. We would request to be funded for one-half of our initial request for a total of five rifles and five shotguns. Total cost = \$5,385.00.

As previously mentioned, items 6 – 11 listed above will mitigate civil liability and protect officers. The total cost for those items is \$46,570.00 leaving a balance of \$3,430.00 to address all other items in the program supplies line.

We are requesting Program Supplies line to be increased from the recommended \$50,000.00 to \$58,000.00 to leave \$11,430.00 for all the other items in the Program Supplies line.

Chairman Brittain suggested funding requests 6, 7, 8, and half of 9 and 10. Ms. Pierce responded to a question from Commissioner Abele concerning the status of funding for vacant jail positions, she clarified that a lump sum (\$50,000) was budgeted for program supplies and said that the Sheriff could spend it as needed. Sheriff Whisenant clarified that they are only asking for \$8,000 above what the County Manager recommended. Commissioner Abele said he does not have as much heartburn with \$8,000, discussion ensued regarding the confusing format of the Sheriff's budgetary appeal requests. Chairman Brittain and Commissioner Carswell also expressed support for the \$8,000 request.

RESULT: INCREASED PROGRAM SUPPLIES BY \$8,000 FOR FY 21-22.

ITEM 3: APPEAL RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR TASER AXON CORE+ PLAN

Sheriff Whisenant presented the following information:

1. Our FY 21-22 budget request was to purchase a TASER program known as CORE+, which would supply 100 new Model #7 TASER's, ALL associated training and duty cartridges, 100 AXON body camera's, UNLIMITED data storage from those camera's, a clear chain of custody that would preserve vital evidence, allow a code to be provided for the District Attorney and Defense Attorneys to access and copy the requested records from the AXON database, without the Sheriff's Office having to produce those records for them. If this program were funded TASER/AXON will support the purchased units and repair/replace both TASERS and cameras without any costs.
2. Almost half the working TASER units at the Burke County Sheriff's Office are the older X26 model. These units have been reliable, but TASER has stopped producing batteries for them. When our limited supplies of batteries are exhausted these units will be surplus.
3. We have used the North Carolina Governors Crime Commission Grants over the last three years to secure the newer TASER X26P. These units were fielded and almost immediately began to have issues. The LCD screens were becoming inoperable, making it impossible to read battery strength or onboard faults in the units. TASER's answer to this problem is to buy new units.
4. TASER 7 is the newest offering. This new model will replace both the X26 and X26P versions.
5. It would take in excess of \$200,000.00 to simply replace current TASERs and buy training and duty cartridges. That would solve the TASER issue, but the office would still not have a body worn camera program with all the added benefits listed above and would not replace the TASERs at no cost.
Requested funding = \$1,018,395.00 (total cost with tax) or \$203,679.00 a year over a five-year period.

Sheriff Whisenant responded to numerous questions about TASERs and clarified the difference between the taser cartridge request in Item No. 2 v. the TASER Axon Core Plus program in Item No. 3. Commissioner Carswell said TASER owns law enforcement and they have been around since day one. He said if the Sheriff's Office wants to go to a Core Plus plan, then a group of people needs to be assembled to figure out a way to start saving for the plan.

RESULT: NO CHANGE TO THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET.

ITEM 4 APPEAL RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR CIVIL UNREST STORAGE TRAILER - \$6,200.00

Sheriff Whisenant presented the following information:

As part of the 2021 Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) grant process the Burke County Sheriff's Office applied for money to purchase 20 sets of civil unrest gear for deputies. Civil unrest is growing throughout the country and the Burke County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) assisted Morganton Dept. of Public Safety with an incident last year. The BCSO is part of a regional mutual aid system made up of the 100 NC Sheriff's Offices who will assist each other in the event that civil unrest occurs within the region. (We do believe we will be awarded the block

grant to purchase the gear for our deputies). We requested a trailer to store, transport, and organize the civil unrest gear applied for in the grant. This request has not been included in the recommended budget. Any type of civil unrest event tends to be fast developing and a drain on resources and manpower. Having a trailer to store, protect, and organize vital equipment is a component of a successful program. The equipment that we intend to purchase through the GCC grant includes bulky items such as shields, body armor, batons, and gas masks. We also need the ability to contain and transport quantities of 40mm gas munitions and the guns used to project those rounds. Individual deputies simply do not have the means to store, transport, and safeguard this type of equipment. Another key consideration is that this trailer would remain ready to go. It would simply be a matter of hooking a vehicle up to the trailer and proceeding to where the civil unrest is occurring. We would also use the equipment and trailer to respond to incidents within our jail. We would respectfully request that the trailer with a cost of \$6,200.00 be reevaluated and funded to enable us to safely protect our citizens and their property.

Sheriff Whisenant said they feel confident that they will get the equipment, but they have nowhere to store it, noting the need for a centralized location for the equipment for rapid deployment. Commissioner Carswell asked how many mutual aid calls for civil unrest did they go on last year. Sheriff Whisenant said two (2), discussion ensued, and Sheriff Whisenant noted that they are often asked to assist in civil unrest situations, but they do not have the officers or equipment to assist. Commissioner Carswell asked why would the County purchase the trailer now if they do not have the personnel or equipment. Major Banks Hinceman, who was in the audience, said they want to get the equipment so they can get their personnel trained and they need a place to store it. Chairman Brittain asked the Board if they would like to proceed with the request based on the awarding of the Governor's Crime Commission grant funds. Commissioner Abele agreed but Commissioner Carswell said he had mixed feelings on the request. After additional comments from Commissioner Carswell, County Manager Steen said if the Sheriff's Office gets the equipment later in the year, then this item could be considered at a later date and the \$6,200 could come out of General Fund, Fund Balance.

RESULT: NO CHANGE TO THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET.

ITEM 5 - APPEAL RECOMMENDATION BUDGET FOR JAIL

Sheriff Whisenant presented the following information:

1. UTILITIES - \$167,500 requested v \$150,000 recommended = \$17,500 shortfall. Our requested amount was based on billing received to date and we can only anticipate these costs either staying the same or increasing. They will not decrease. We request that our original request of \$167,500 be recommended by the County Manager.
2. M&R BUILDING AND GROUNDS - \$160,385 requested v \$75,000 recommended = \$85,385 shortfall. The shortfall is explained by the disapproval of our requests for Parking Lot; Fencing; Padded Cells repairs; and Decontamination of Cells costs. We are requesting that the Padded Cells repairs be approved as damage to these cells cannot be prevented and repairs must be made to restore the integrity of these cells. We are also requesting that the Decontamination of Cells costs be approved. Recently, the Sheriff's Office had to pay close to \$4,500 to

have one vehicle decontaminated following fentanyl exposure. The approval of these two items will increase the County Manager's recommended figure by \$33,500, for a total recommended figure of \$108,500.

3. COMMUNICATION WIRELESS PHONE - \$5,600 requested v \$4,055 recommended = \$1,545 shortfall. Our requested amount was based on billing received to date. We cannot reduce this cost without cancelling three of our cellphones. These phones are only used by Supervisors and On-Call Employees (Maintenance and Transport). For safety, emergencies, and efficiency, we should not reduce this number of cellphones and request that our original request of \$5,600 be recommended by the County Manager.
4. STAFF TRAVEL - \$11,800 requested v \$7,300 recommended = \$4,500 shortfall. \$3,500 of this shortfall was requested to send five attendees to the annual NC Jail Administrators Conference. In an effort to recruit, retain, and offer opportunities to further professionalize our jail staff we request this cost be approved. Jail courses and training opportunities for detention offices is already significantly limited and this training is an effort to improve those opportunities. Approval will increase the County Manager's recommended figure by \$3,500, for a total recommended figure of \$10,800.
5. PROGRAM SUPPLIES - \$116,410 requested v \$75,000 recommended = \$41,410 shortfall. \$9,900 of this shortfall was requested to purchase 10 x 'XPR 3500e Radios.' These are required as part of our process for maintaining safety and security of the building, staff, and inmates. Approval of this item will increase the County Manager's recommended figure by \$9,900, for a total recommended figure of \$84,900.
6. EQUIPMENT - \$191,000 requested v \$0 recommended = \$191,000 shortfall. \$13,500 of this shortfall was requested to purchase 2 x 'APX 8000 Radios'. These will be our only form of external communication in instances of phones/internet outage that we have experienced multiple times including an outage on Monday 24th May, from 11 am -7 pm, when a fiber cable was accidentally cut somewhere in Morganton. As recently as last night, we experienced a significant and dangerous situation with not having adequate communications from the inside the jail to the outside. With these two radios placed in the control room and booking locations, we would at least be able to communicate with Fire, EMS and others outside the jail. Approval of this item will increase the County Manager's recommended figure by \$13,500, for a total recommended figure of \$13,500.
7. SALARIES FULL TIME - \$2,542,310 requested v \$2,480,490 recommended = \$61,820 shortfall. We are requesting approval for the additional Lieutenant's position.

Appeal Budget Recommendation for Sworn/Training Jal Lieutenant
Justification

- Will provide the jail with a full-time training coordinator, certified as a General Instructor and an OC Spray Instructor.
- Allows for quicker training of staff, alleviating the training workload off shift Sergeants and Corporals.
- Provides another Lieutenant for the on-call rotation schedule for current jail staff.

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- Provides the jail with another sworn officer, who will have the ability to assist with serving papers on current inmates; performing local transportations of inmates; and other duties requiring a sworn officer.

Lt Steve Massey has been in this position since February 15, 2021, as approved by the Commissioners for the remainder of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year (ending June 30, 2021). During this time, he has:

- Reorganized the Supply Room.
- Transported inmates.
- Served warrants on current inmates (sometimes to include fingerprinting, also).
- Commenced training initiatives, including actions to be taken by officers in the event of a fire alarm being triggered, and daily training of newly hired detention officers. In light of the difficulty in hiring and retaining detention staff, the significant assistance this position has brought to our jail, currently with 15 vacancies, and our efforts in filling the vacancies, we ask that this position not be cut from the jail staff.

Chairman Brittain opened the floor for discussion. Commissioner Carswell asked why \$167,500 for utilities is being requested. Sheriff Whisenant said that is how much they paid in utilities last year and they do not believe they will be paying less in utilities this year. Ms. Pierce said the recommended \$150,000 is based on her estimate of what they need to cover existing utility bills. Discussion continued. Commissioner Carswell inquired as to why the jail is having problems with the padded cells and noted they were told the cells were indestructible. Captain Greg Huntley, Jail Administrator, said they were told the cells were indestructible, but the vendor was wrong, and the padded cells have been torn up four (4) times already. Discussion continued. Regarding Item No. 5 and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, Ms. Pierce said after reading the initial documentation, staff is hopeful that the request for fencing will qualify. Captain Huntley said based on the information Ms. Pierce provided, he removed the projects that may be eligible for ARP funds and the balance before the Board is to compensate for the padded cell repairs and the ability to do a Fentanyl decontamination in the jail, bus, or van. Chairman Brittain asked if the radios are \$6,000 each. Sheriff Whisenant said yes and discussion continued on radios. County Manager Steen said it was his understanding that there was at least one (1) Viper Radio in the command module and advised they did not see a justification to add more Viper Radios to the budget. While a lot of these requests are small, he said they do add up after a while. Discussion continued on radios in the jail, two (2) different radio systems and Chairman Brittain asked if there is a Viper Radio in the control room. Captain Huntley said no, the Viper Radio was purchased for the captain of the jail, noting he did not have one when he assumed his current role. Discussion continued and Captain Huntley said they need one (1) Viper Radio for the control room and one (1) for booking. Commissioner Carswell expressed support for adding the two (2) Viper Radios but not those under item No. 5 for internal usage. Chairman Brittain asked is there communication between the control room and booking when communications are out. Captain Huntley said the small radio is not impacted by anything that is supported by fiber optic, it is basically line-of-sight. After additional discussion, Commissioner Carswell expressed support for adding one (1) Viper Radio.

RESULT: ADDED FUNDING FOR ONE (1) VIPER RADIO TO THE FY 21-22 BUDGET.

BOC - DISCUSSION ON THE FY 21-22 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Information from the agenda packet:

May 27, 2021 (Recessed)

This is an opportunity for the Board to discuss the recommended budget, provide direction to staff on any proposed changes to the budget or for staff to address any questions the Board may have about the recommended budget for FY 21-22.

Chairman Brittain apologized for leaving early on Tuesday and opened the floor for questions and comments from the Board. Commissioner Carswell said it was recommended that VEDIC (Valdese Economic Development Investment Corporation) receive no funding, but he requested that they be given \$5,000 and that the County remain in the program. Further, he wanted the item listed under the donation line item in the budget instead of economic development, to avoid being associated with the County's economic development program. Discussion continued with Ms. Pierce inquiring whether to move the funding for the airports out of the economic development line item. Commissioner Carswell responded in the affirmative. Commissioner Abele expressed his support for the ongoing employee pay plan analysis and said the County has a lot of good employees. He said he is comfortable with the budget and with what they discussed today. While some people complain about a growing budget, that is a fact of life, and noted how the cost of running his business has increased. Commissioner Carswell asked how much did the retirement contributions increase. Ms. Pierce said 1.25 percent, discussion ensued regarding reduced health insurance premiums and the impact of the employee clinic. Commissioner Carswell asked what the is the status of County capital projects, especially concerning the Human Resources Center (HRC) building. County Manager Steen said funds for the continuation of the HVAC project are in the budget and noted they are trying to use the new federal funds once they receive the final rules. However, if the projects are budgeted, then the federal funds cannot be used. Ms. Pierce also advised that no funds are being set aside for long-term capital improvements and provided a short update on staff's efforts to hire a consultant to analyze county buildings. Mr. Steen also advised there are a lot of roof / building repairs included in the recommended budget. Commissioner Carswell expressed support for the recommended budget. Chairman Brittain requested in the next month or so that the Board receive a report on HVAC projects, especially at the HRC building. He also requested a report from HR and the jail on their employee recruitment / retention efforts. In response to a question from Clerk Draughn, Chairman Brittain said the reports could be a presentation at a pre-agenda meeting and it may not need to be moved to a regular meeting. County Manager Steen advised that some of the HVAC parts will not arrive until July. Staff responded to multiple questions from Chairman Brittain concerning budget requests for Cooperative Extension (vehicle), EMS (salaries), General Services (vehicles), IT (maintenance/repair software, computer equipment and telephone system), Parks and Recreation (equipment - open dozer blade quick coupler with a bucket), Tax Department (appraisal), and the water/sewer system (ARP (American Rescue Plan) funds will be used for eligible maintenance / repair projects). Chairman Brittain and Commissioner Carswell expressed support for funding the requested equipment for Parks & Recreation. Commissioner Carswell also asked Management staff to verify that the requested equipment is what is actually needed. Selling surplus vehicles, trail maintenance / security was also discussed.

RESULT: ADDED \$27,900 FOR EQUIPMENT (OPEN DOZER BLADE QUICK COUPLER WITH A BUCKET) TO THE FY 21-22 BUDGET AS REQUESTED BY THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.

Commissioner Abele left at 3:58 p.m. for a family emergency and was not present for the remainder of the meeting. Chairman Brittain announced that with the departure of

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Commissioner Abele, the Board lost its quorum. He asked the Clerk to contact Vice Chairman Mulwee and she reported he would be there in 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Carswell noted a minor discrepancy in the budget message. In response to a question from Chairman Brittain, County Manager Steen said they are still waiting for the final rules for the incoming federal ARP funds and noted he is pleased with the conversations he has had with the General Services Director regarding the projects he would like to complete. Further, he reported having met with judicial officials regarding the possibility of using the ARP funds for new capital projects at the courthouse and noted the need for Board approval before beginning the projects. In response to a question from Chairman Brittain, Sheriff Whisenant advised he has not been made aware of any COVID-19 funds coming to the Sheriff's Office. Discussion continued with the Sheriff during which he advised that the numbers in his budget appeal requests do add up. Commissioner Carswell reported the opioid lawsuit is in the final throws of settlement so they should see something soon.

RECESS OF MEETING

At about 4:00 p.m., the Board took a 10-minute recess while they waited for Vice Chairman Mulwee to arrive. Vice Chairman Mulwee arrived at 4:12 p.m. which created a quorum of the Board and the meeting resumed. Vice Chairman Mulwee was present for the remainder of the meeting.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

BOC - CANCELLATION OF JUNE 1 BUDGET MEETING

Chairman Brittain reported if the Board is comfortable in its review of the FY 21-22 recommended budget, then the Board may wish to consider cancelling the budget meeting scheduled for June 1st. At this time, staff does not have any other information to present to the Board at that meeting.

Motion: To cancel the June 1, 2021 budget meeting.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Johnnie W. Carswell, Commissioner
AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell
ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr. and Maynard M. Taylor

ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn at 4:14 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Scott Mulwee, Vice Chairman
AYES: Jeffrey C. Brittain, Scott Mulwee and Johnnie W. Carswell
ABSENT: Wayne F. Abele, Sr. and Maynard M. Taylor

Approved this 15th day of June 2021.

May 27, 2021 (Recessed)


Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board