

Cleveland County Board of Commissioners
June 20, 2023

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met on this date, at the hour of 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Cleveland County Administrative Offices.

PRESENT: Kevin Gordon, Chairman
Ronnie Whetstine, Vice-Chair
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner
Doug Bridges, Commissioner
Deb Hardin Commissioner
Tim Moore, County Attorney *via teleconference*
Martha Thompson, Deputy County Attorney
Todd Carpenter, Interim County Manager
Phyllis Nowlen, Clerk to the Board
Sheriff Alan Norman
Kerri Melton, Assistant County Manager
Sherry Lavender, Tax Assessor
Allison Mauney, Human Resources Director
Lucas Jackson, Finance Director
Tommy McNeilly, Emergency Medical Services Director
Tiffany Hansen, Health Department Director
Katie Swanson, Social Services Director
Scott Bowman, Maintenance Director
Perry Davis, Emergency Management Director/Fire Marshal

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order, and Emergency Management Director/Fire Marshal Perry Davis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the invocation.

AGENDA ADOPTION

ACTION: Commissioner Hardin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the agenda as presented.***

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

BURNS HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Burns High School won the 2023 North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) 2-A state baseball championship. This is the first championship for the high school's baseball program. Commissioners took turns commenting and giving congratulations, presenting the baseball team and coaches with the following proclamation:



Proclamation

08-2023

Burns High School NCHSAA 2-A Baseball Championship

WHEREAS, Cleveland County is proud to be home to Burns High School; and

WHEREAS, Burns High School Boys' Baseball Team, the Bulldogs, through hard work and perseverance over 32 hard-fought games, achieved the NCHSAA 2-A Baseball State Championship, as the Bulldogs take great pride in respecting their opponents and playing the game of baseball with class and dignity; and

WHEREAS, the demanding athletic competition requires the highest levels of skills, determination, teamwork, and focus on selfless commitment to others; and

WHEREAS, these 24 outstanding high school players, Ben Mauney, Joshua Powell, Colby Putnam, Gabe Holiday, Josh Taylor, Nick Williams, Jacob Whiteside, Hagan Hoyle, Haydin Smith, Ethan Guy, Camden Mackall, Mason Humphries, Reid Stroupe, Jaxon Dubesko and Marshall McGowan have represented themselves, their families, their school, and their community proudly;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved That the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners hereby commends, congratulates, and gives special recognition to the Burns High School Baseball team for the extraordinary achievement of its first-ever appearance at the state baseball tournament.

Adopted this the 20th day of June 2023.


Kevin Gordon, Chairman


J. Ronnie Whetstine, Vice-Chairman


Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner


Douglas Bridges, Commissioner


Deb Hardin, Commissioner



CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Clerk to the Board included the Minutes from the *June 2, 2023 Special Called Meeting* in Board members' packets.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and passed unanimously by the Board to, *approve the minutes as written.*

FINANCE DEPARTMENT: BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY

As required by North Carolina General Statute §159-15, all internal transfers shall be submitted to the Board of Commissioners. The budget transfer summary from May 30, 2023 through June 12, 2023 is included in Commissioner packets.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and passed unanimously by the Board to, *approve the budget transfer summary as presented.*

BUDGET TRANSFERS LEGEND: D = DEPARTMENTAL; L = LATERAL

BUD #	BUDGET TYPE	DATE SUBMITTED BY DEPT	DEPT #	DEPT TO NAME	DEPT #	DEPT FROM NAME	EXPLANATION	BUDGET AMOUNT
1622	D	5/30/2023	491.248	Cap Proj-Shell Bldg #4			Move funds to joint venture construction	\$ 37,478
1623	D	5/31/2023	010.418	Board of Elections			Move funds to cover rental and notary fee	\$ 450
1624	D	5/31/2023	054.473	SW Landfill			Move funds to cover capital equipment	\$ 66,761
1625	D	5/31/2023	010.411	Commissioners			Move funds to cover advertising	\$ 500
1626	D	5/31/2023	010.446	EMS	010.447	EMS Transition	Move funds to cover capital equipment	\$ 11,500
1627	D	5/31/2023	010.446	EMS			Move funds to cover dues/subscriptions & capital equipment	\$ 29,784
1628	D	5/31/2023	486.245	Cap Proj-CC Fair			Move funds to cover rental	\$ 500
1629	D	6/1/2023	054.473	SW Landfill			Move funds to cover controlled property exp	\$ 800
1630	D	6/1/2023	010.422	Travel & Tourism			Move funds to cover advertising	\$ 800
1631	D	6/1/2023	014.417	Court Facilities			Move funds to cover dues	\$ 82
1632	D	6/2/2023	010.446	EMS	10.447	EMS Transition	Move funds to cover accounts thru EOY	\$ 32,960
1633	D	6/5/2023	010.415	Finance			Move funds to cover dept supplies	\$ 500
1634	D	6/5/2023	010.447	EMS Transition			Move funds to cover capital equipment	\$ 776
1635	D	6/5/2023	010.447	EMS Transition			To correct account error posting on BUD#1634	\$ 776
1636	D	6/5/2023	010.446	EMS Transition	010.447	EMS Transition	Move funds to cover training	\$ 600
1637	D	6/5/2023	060.651	Property/Liability			Move funds to cover insurance claims-general	\$ 5,005
1638	D	6/5/2023	040.210	Cap Projs-General			Move funds to cover license/permit/certs	\$ 17,423
1639	D	6/6/2023	010.415	Tax Admin			Move funds to cover dept supplies and travel/training	\$ 2,000
1640	L	6/7/2023	010.411	Commissioners	010.412	Managers Office	Transfer funds to cover awards/appreciation	\$ 2,150
1641	D	6/7/2023	010.411	Commissioners			Move funds to cover awards/appreciation	\$ 385
1642	L	6/7/2023	010.411/ 010.413	Commissioners/Finance	010.998	Contingency	Transfer funds to cover contracted services and professional services	\$ 102,215
1643	D	6/7/2023	010.441	Sheriff's Office			Move funds to cover dues/subscriptions	\$ 15,000
1644	D	6/7/2023	010.444	Detention Center			Move funds to cover contracted services	\$ 11,000
1645	D	6/8/2023	020.600	Cleveland County Schools			Move funds to cover local option tax pymt	\$ 150,000
1646	D	6/8/2023	010.495	Cooperative Extension			Move funds to cover dept supplies and dues/subscriptions	\$ 1,766
1647- 1649	L	6/8/2023	010.433	JCPC Admin	010.432	Third Party Grants	Transfer funds to appropriate dept/accts for JCPC Admin expenses	\$ 27,350
1650	D	6/8/2023	055.480	LeGrand Center			Move funds to cover accounts thru EOY	\$ 3,621
1651	L	6/8/2023	010.445	Emergency Management	010.453	Haz-Mat	Transfer funds to cover accounts thru EOY	\$ 3,789
1652	D	6/8/2023	010.445	Emergency Management			Move funds to cover controlled property exp	\$ 7,700

BUDGET TRANSFERS LEGEND: D = DEPARTMENTAL; L = LATERAL

1653	L	6/9/2023	010.444/ 010.800	Detention Center / Debt Service	010.981	Contingency	Transfer funds to cover detention ctr contracted services and debt service pymt on ambulances	\$ 284,664
1654	D	6/9/2023	054.473	SW Landfill			Move funds to cover maint/bldg grounds	\$ 5,000
1655	D	6/9/2023	010.491	Planning/Zoning			Move funds to cover professional services	\$ 2,000
1656	D	6/12/2023	013.660	Employee Wellness			Move funds to cover contracted services	\$ 3,600
1657	D	6/12/2023	012.550	Primary Care			Move funds to cover contracted labor	\$ 11,000
1658	D	6/12/2023	012.550	Primary Care			Move funds to cover dept supplies, controlled property and maint/bldg grounds	\$ 30,000

TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §105-350.7, the Tax Collector shall submit to the governing body at each of its regular meetings a report to include the amount collected on each year's taxes with which she is charged, the amount remaining uncollected, and the steps being taking to encourage payment of uncollected taxes. The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding taxes collected during *May 2023*.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and passed unanimously by the Board to, *approve the May 2023 monthly tax report submitted by the Tax Collector.*

TOTAL TAXES COLLECTED MAY 2023			
YEAR	AMOUNT-REAL	AMOUNT-GAP	COMBINED AMT
DEF REV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2022	\$308,670.67	\$5,452.96	\$314,123.63
2021	\$50,411.04	\$2,465.51	\$52,876.55
2020	\$18,673.85	\$1,779.18	\$20,453.03
2019	\$15,722.49	\$0.00	\$15,722.49
2018	\$10,214.45	\$0.00	\$10,214.45
2017	\$5,569.20	\$0.00	\$5,569.20
2016	\$4,127.52	\$0.00	\$4,127.52
2015	\$2,873.11	\$0.00	\$2,873.11
2014	\$1,369.58	\$0.00	\$1,369.58
2013	\$768.80	\$0.00	\$768.80
2012	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
			\$428,098.36
TOTALS	\$418,400.71	\$9,697.65	\$428,098.36
DISCOUNT	\$0.00		\$0.00
INTEREST	\$42,885.18	\$1,091.44	\$43,976.62
TOLERANCE	(\$12.14)	(\$8.08)	(\$20.22)
ADVERTISING	\$1,235.08		
GARNISHMENT	\$7,959.63	\$2,278.67	\$1,726.21
NSF	\$66.05		
LEGAL FEES	\$20.28		
TOTALS	\$470,554.79	\$13,059.68	
MISC FEE	\$0.00		
TAXES COLL	\$470,554.79		\$483,614.47
DEF	\$10,366.62		\$12,515.74
DISC	(\$35.52)		\$496,130.21
TOL	\$0.59		
INT	\$457.84		
TOTAL TAXES UNCOLLECTED MAY 2023			
	AMOUNT-REAL	AMOUNT-GAP	COMBINED AMT
2022	\$2,108,484.98	\$111,757.42	\$2,220,242.40
2021	\$664,002.61	\$76,863.12	\$740,865.73
2020	\$531,951.61	\$40,578.85	\$572,530.46
2019	\$546,118.08	\$0.00	\$546,118.08
2018	\$286,792.04	\$0.00	\$286,792.04
2017	\$184,189.41	\$0.00	\$184,189.41
2016	\$129,889.53	\$0.00	\$129,889.53
2015	\$109,099.98	\$0.00	\$109,099.98
2014	\$115,658.44	\$0.00	\$115,658.44
2013	\$86,893.07	\$0.00	\$86,893.07
2012	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$4,763,079.75	\$229,199.39	\$4,992,279.14
DEF REV	\$40,734.65	\$101,952.52	\$142,687.17
TOTAL UNCOLLECTED	\$4,803,814.40	\$331,151.91	\$5,134,966.31

TAX ABATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS

The Tax Assessor provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding tax abatements and supplements during *May 2023*. The monthly grand total for tax abatements was listed as (\$3,134.72) and the monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as \$6,803.05.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and passed unanimously by the Board to, *approve the May 2023 tax abatements and supplements submitted by the Tax Assessor.*

TAX ADMINISTRATION: LATE APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION/EXCLUSION/DEFERRAL

Per North Carolina General Statute §105-282.1, every owner of property claiming exemption or exclusion from property taxes under the provisions of this Subchapter has the burden of establishing that the property is entitled to it. Upon a showing of good cause by the applicant for failure to make a timely application, an application for exemption or exclusion filed after the statutory deadlines may be approved by the Department of Revenue, the Board of Equalization and Review, the Board of County Commissioners, or the governing body of a municipality, as appropriate. All of the applications would have been approved by the Tax Assessor if they had been filed on time.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and passed unanimously by the Board to, *approve the late applications for exemption, exclusion or deferral as submitted by the Tax Assessor.*



2023 Late Applications				6/20/2023	
Owner Name	Parcel/Account	Physical Location	Type	Estimated Value to be Exempt/Deferred	Estimated Fiscal Impact (County Tax Only)
Momentum Ministries, Inc	1333947	1050 Sam Lattimore Rd	Charitable/Educational Exemption	\$ 5,140	\$ 28.14
White, Marsha H	1333461	214 Mace Rd	Continued Use - Present Use Farm Deferral	\$ 306,705	\$ 1,679.21
Rhoades, Shirley Fern	1211232	215 Chadwick Dr	Elderly/Disabled Homestead Exclusion	\$ 78,372	\$ 429.09
Hambridge, Elizabeth Goforth	1348348	199 Crystal Springs Ln	Elderly/Disabled Homestead Exclusion	\$ 89,659	\$ 490.88
Perkins, Kathy	1353553	2015 Melrose Dr	Elderly/Disabled Homestead Exclusion	\$ 21,929	\$ 120.06
Staff Recommendation:				Approve applications. All properties qualify for the program requested other than the late submission of the application.	
Total				\$ 501,805	\$ 2,747.38

SHERIFF’S OFFICE: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #066)

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

Account Number	Project Code	Department/Account Name	Increase	Decrease
010.441.4.810.00		Sheriff’s Office/Donations-Contributions	\$5,466.00	
010.441.5.790.00		Sheriff’s Office/Donations-Contributions	\$5,466.00	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation for \$5,466 in donated funds designated for the annual low country boil, drug endangered youth meeting supplies, and the Sheriff’s Christmas Project gifts.

SHERIFF’S OFFICE: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #067)

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

Account Number	Project Code	Department/Account Name	Increase	Decrease
010.441.4.800.41		Sheriff’s Office/Misc-Security Fees	\$10,500.00	
010.441.5.461.00		Sheriff’s Office/License-Permit-Certificate	\$10,500.00	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation for \$10,500 to cover the cost of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) license for the new Mobile Command Post.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #068)

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

Account Number	Project Code	Department/Account Name	Increase	Decrease
012.530.4.810.00		General/Donations-Contributions	\$2,500.00	
012.530.5.790.00		General/Donations-Contributions	\$2,500.00	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation for \$2,500 in donated funds from the North Carolina Pharmacy School to be used towards pharmacy supplies for the distribution of medicines to uninsured/underinsured patients.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #069)

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
012.538.4.800.00		Maternal Health/Misc Revenue	\$800.00	
012.538.5.500.00		Maternal Health/ Donations-Contributions	\$800.00	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation for \$800 in donated funds from Gardner-Webb University to be used toward the purchase of supplies to give to clients that participate in and successfully complete the Childbirth Class in the Maternity Clinic.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #070)

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.495.4.410.00		Cooperative Extension/Local & Other Grants	\$473.00	
010.495.5.700.00		Cooperative Extension/Grants	\$473.00	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation for \$473 in grant funds received from the Small Animal Producers to assist with the expenses associated with the goat shows held in May and June 2023 at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds with Cooperative Extensions' assistance.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #071)

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.440.4.810.43		Sheriff's Office/Donations-STAR Camp	\$500.00	
010.440.5.790.43		Sheriff's Office/Donations-STAR Camp	\$500.00	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation for \$500 in donated funds to be used for the STAR summer camp.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #072)

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
066.661.4.510.75		Dental Insurance/Dental Insurance Premiums	\$25,000.00	
066.661.5.234.00		Dental Insurance/Dental Insurance Claims	\$25,000.00	
060.651.5.586.08		Property-Liability/Excess Stop Loss	\$100,000.00	
060.651.4.465.00		Property-Liability/Admin Services Allocation	\$100,000.00	
065.981.5.233.00		Health Insurance/BCBS Weekly Claims	\$50,000.00	
065.981.4.991.00		Health Insurance/Fund Balance Appropriated	\$50,000.00	
010.410.4.980.27		General Revenues/Transfers from ARPA	\$9,028,143.00	
010.981.5.890.00		Fund Transfers/Interfund Transfers	\$9,028,143.00	
010.981.5.890.00		Fund Transfers/ Interfund Transfers	\$5,000,000.00	
493.250.4.980.10		Capital Proj-Justice Ctr/Contributions fm Pri Fd	\$9,028,143.00	
493.250.5.420.00		Capital Proj-Justice Ctr/Contracted Services	\$9,028,143.00	
011.506.4.465.00		DSS Admin/Admin Services Allocation	\$75,000.00	
011.506.5.121.00		DSS Admin/Salaries-Wages Reg	\$75,000.00	
012.530.4.465.00		Health Admin/Admin Services Allocation	\$75,000.00	
012.530.5.121.00		Health Admin/Salaries-Wages Reg	\$75,000.00	
013.660.4.465.00		Employee Wellness/Admin Services Allocation	\$30,000.00	
013.660.5.121.00		Employee Wellness/Salaries-Wages Reg	\$30,000.00	
055.480.4.465.00		LeGrand Center/Admin Services Allocation	\$50,000.00	
055.480.5.121.00		LeGrand Center/Salaries-Wages Reg	\$50,000.00	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation for \$14,028,143 in remaining budget allocations for year-end financial closing. This accounts for all year-end accruals (salaries, accrued vacation liabilities, and GASB standard entries). This budget amendment covers necessary accounts to ensure budgetary compliance at Y/E close and allows for transfers between funds to cover capital reserve, debt service, and necessary projects.

SOCIAL SERVICES: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #073)

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the following budget amendment:***


<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
011.508.4.350.00		Income Maintenance/State Grants Medicaid	\$369,939.00	
011.508.5.700.01		Income Maintenance/Grants Medicaid	\$369,939.00	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation for \$369,939 for funds for staffing Medicaid Expansion.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT: SALE OF COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY PARCELS 20254 AND 23043

Cleveland County acquired parcel 20254 for \$14,000 and 23043 for \$106,000 in 2019. These parcels of land have no residential structures. Cleveland County acquired this property for the purpose of building a new Board of Elections facility. Since the time of purchase, Cleveland County has acquired the old Shelby Rescue Squad building, which will be utilized for the new Board of Election. As a result, these parcels have been marketed for sale. Cleveland County listed these properties for sale at \$299,500. The county has received an offer to purchase both properties. This is a full-price offer.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, ***approve the offer made on parcels 20254 and 23043 and authorize County staff to advertise and open the upset bid process.***



Resolution

13-2023

Resolution Authorizing Negotiated Offer and Upset Bid (G.S. 160A-269)

WHEREAS, Cleveland County owns property identified as follows:

Parcel Number	Location	Offeror
20254	805 N Morgan Street	MECA Commercial Real Estate
23043	205 W Grover Street	MECA Commercial Real Estate

and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. § 153A-176 and N.C.G.S. § 160A-269 permit the County to sell property by upset bid, after receipt of an offer for the property; and

WHEREAS, the County has received a full-price offer to purchase the property described above in the amount as follows:

Parcel Number	Amount Offered
20254 and 23043	\$299,500

Cleveland County acquired parcel 20254 for \$14,000 and acquired parcel 23043 for \$106,000 in 2019. Cleveland County then listed these properties for sale for \$299,500.

and

WHEREAS, the required five percent (5%) deposit has been received from offeror;

THEREFORE, THE CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLVES THAT:

- The Board of Commissioners authorizes sale of the property described above through the upset bid procedure of N.C.G.S. § 160A-269.

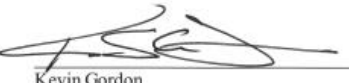
- The County paralegal will notify the offeror(s) of the Commissioners' authorization and the amount required of them for advertising costs to be paid by cash, money order or cashier's check to payable to the County and delivered to the County paralegal at 311 E. Marion Street, Suite 121, Shelby, North Carolina 28150.
- Following receipt of payment of the advertising cost(s) by the offeror(s), the Clerk to the Board will cause a notice of the proposed sale to be published. (In the event that one or more offeror declines prepayment of the advertising cost, the corresponding property will not be advertised.) The notice will contain a general description of the property, the amount and terms of the offer, and a notice that within ten (10) days any person may raise the bid by not less than ten percent (10%) of the first one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and five percent (5%) of the remainder or the sum of \$2,100.00 whichever is greater.
- Persons wishing to upset the offer that has been received shall submit a **sealed bid** with their offer to Christie Wooten, paralegal, Cleveland County Administrative Office Building, 311 E. Marion Street, Suite 121, Shelby, NC, 28150 for hand delivery or PO Box 1210 Shelby, NC 28151 for mail delivery on or before 3:00 p.m. on or before the 10th day following publication of said notice. Use of the mail or any means of delivery is at the bidder's risk and any bids received after the deadline will not be considered. Any bid with conditions or terms will not be accepted or considered. Use of the mail or any means of delivery is at the bidder's risk and any bids received after the deadline will not be considered. Any bid with conditions or terms will not be accepted or considered.
- At 3:00 p.m. on said date, the County Attorney/Chief Deputy County Attorney will open the bids, if any, and the highest such bid will become the new offer. If there is more than one bid in the highest amount, the first such bid received will become the new offer.
- If a qualifying higher bid is received, the County Clerk will cause a new notice of upset bid to be published and will continue to do so until a 10-day period has passed without any qualifying upset bid having been received.
- A qualifying higher bid must also be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid and accompanying One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$125.00), or higher in the event of an increase, for advertising costs. This amount may be made in cash, money order, or cashier's check.
- The County will apply the deposit of the final high bidder first to the costs of the bidding process, including but not limited to the cost(s) of advertising the notice(s) of the proposed sale, then the remaining balances to the purchase price at closing, unless the County withdraws the property from sale, at which time the deposit of the final high bidder will be returned. The County will also refund any deposit, excluding costs, made by bidders other than the final high bidder within two (2) weeks of the delivery of the deed to the final high bidder.

9. The terms of the final sale are that:

- The Board of Commissioners must review and decide whether or not to approve the final high offer before the sale is closed, which it will do within thirty (30) days after the final upset bid period has passed,
- Staff will negotiate a Purchase Sales Agreement “PSA” with buyer if necessary, and
- The buyer must pay with cash, money order, or cashier’s check at the time of closing.

10. The County reserves the right to withdraw any property from sale at any time before the final high bid is accepted and the right to reject at any time any bids. In no event shall the costs of advertising any proposed sale or upset bid be returned to an offeror.

Adopted this 20th day of June 2023.


Kevin Gordon
Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Phyllis Nowlen
Clerk
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners



REGULAR AGENDA

KINGS MOUNTAIN GATEWAY TRAIL UPDATE

Chairman Gordon recognized Kings Mountain Gateway Trail Director Shirley Brutko to give an update on the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail. Through several partnerships and collaborations, Kings Mountain Gateway Trail is now connected to several area parks via a seven-mile trail and is participating in the “2023 Year of the Trail” for North Carolina. The Gateway Trail opened in 2009 and now averages between 60,000 to 80,000 visitors annually, making it a tourism destination in Cleveland County. She spoke about the renovations and new construction happening at the trail, thanking Commissioners for their continued support and assistance. Several new projects include a new playground and a climbing wall.

Numerous activities are available at the Gateway Trail, such as walking, hiking, biking, running, picnicking, and nature watching. The Gateway Trail hosts an annual run every year in March. In 2023, 100 runners from various parts of the state and country participated in the event. Other annual events held at the Gateway Trail include Earth Day celebrations, butterfly garden, monarch butterfly release, national trails day, pollinator gardens, and various holiday events.

Commissioner Gordon opened the floor to the Board for questions and discussion. Commissioners thanked Ms. Brutko for the information and leadership provided at the Gateway Trail.

MEDICAID EXPANSION UPDATE

Chairman Gordon recognized Social Services Director Katie Swanson to present an update on Medicaid expansion. The current Medicaid plan only covered children, parents, caretakers, pregnant women, the disabled, and anyone over the age of 65 years old. The plan does not include coverage for adults without dependent children unless they are aged or disabled. There is a coverage gap currently with Medicaid for single people between the ages of 19 to 64 years of age. Medicaid expansion, which was passed recently by the General Assembly, is a part

of the Affordable Care Act. It allows Medicaid coverage for low-income non-disabled adults between the ages of 19 and 64. Coverage expansion across the state of North Carolina will add an additional 621,000 recipients to the Medicaid program.

In Cleveland County, as of May of 2023, there were 38,336 Medicaid recipients. That is a growing number. In 2018 the county had approximately 33,000 recipients. According to the state's estimate, Cleveland County will add over 6,000 new recipients with Medicaid expansion. This will bring Cleveland County to 44,000+ recipients. This is high compared to peer counties.

Medicaid expansion will help improve Cleveland County's community health rankings and will save lives. People with healthcare coverage are more likely to get preventative care that can detect and treat diseases like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease early. In addition, those with a healthcare plan are more likely to continue their medications because they can afford them. Expansion will include increased access to mental health and substance use treatment, assisting people with those services where currently they don't have access to treatment services. The new plan will also boost rural health care as it adds additional funding to rural communities to help retain providers, keep hospitals open, and recoup uncompensated costs that were previously from uninsured people, which in turn will help build a healthier workforce. Many types of jobs are not covered by insurance, like retail and childcare. Medicaid expansion will allow employees in those types of industry to stay in the workforce, and get treated earlier.

On March 27, 2023, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper signed Medicaid expansion into state law. In May 2023, Social Services staff learned Cleveland County would receive the \$369,939, that was approved by Commissioners on the June 20, 2023 consent agenda. It is anticipated that the Senate and House of Representatives will allocate more funding to counties for Medicaid expansion; however, those funds have not been approved yet. This money is to be used to provide additional staff to implement Medicaid expansion.

Social Services staff is requesting additional Full Time Employees (FTEs) in order to begin preparing for the implementation of Medicaid expansion in September 2023. The September date may change based on approval of the North Carolina state budget. It is important to understand that it takes time to train Medicaid staff, approximately six to seven months. Staff has created a training plan to train employees in three to four months. If the request for additional staff is approved, Social Services will begin recruiting for those positions. The plan is to interview and hire starting in July. Training will start in July and August. The goal is that by October/November, they would start taking caseloads off the current Social Services staff.

Cleveland County's total staffing recommendation, based on the state's survey, includes:

- 14 additional income maintenance workers (IMC) II staff
- 2 additional Income Maintenance Supervisors
- 2 additional IMC I support staff
- 4 additional IMC I Energy Staff
- Equipment for 22 additional staff

The initial request for phase I implementation includes:

- 7 additional IMC II staff
- 1 additional Income Maintenance Supervisors
- 1 additional IMC I support staff
- 4 additional IMC I Energy Staff
- Equipment for 13 additional staff: computers, cell phones, supplies

As a reminder, the state has already allocated \$369,939 in funds with the 75% reimbursement the county receives from the federal government, this will fully pay for the initial 13 positions this year. The following information and PowerPoint were presented to the Board.

Medicaid Expansion

Cleveland County
NORTH CAROLINA

Current Medicaid Eligibility

Medicaid currently covers children, parent/caretaker relative, pregnant women, blind, disabled, and anyone over the age of 65

North Carolina Medicaid in general does not cover adults without dependent children unless they are aged or disabled

This creates a coverage gap for those who are age 19-64.

What is Medicaid Expansion?

A provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Allows Medicaid coverage for low-income non-disabled adults between the age of 19 and 64 (coverage gap)

Will provide Medicaid coverage for an additional 621,000 North Carolinians

Medicaid Expansion for Cleveland County

As of May 2023, there are 38,336 Medicaid recipients in Cleveland County.

It's estimated there will be an additional 6,111 Cleveland County residents eligible with Medicaid Expansion

Total Medicaid Recipients
44,447

Benefits of Expanding Medicaid

- Medicaid expansion saves lives
- Increases access to mental health and substance use treatment
- Boosts rural health care, hospitals and families
- Builds a healthier workforce

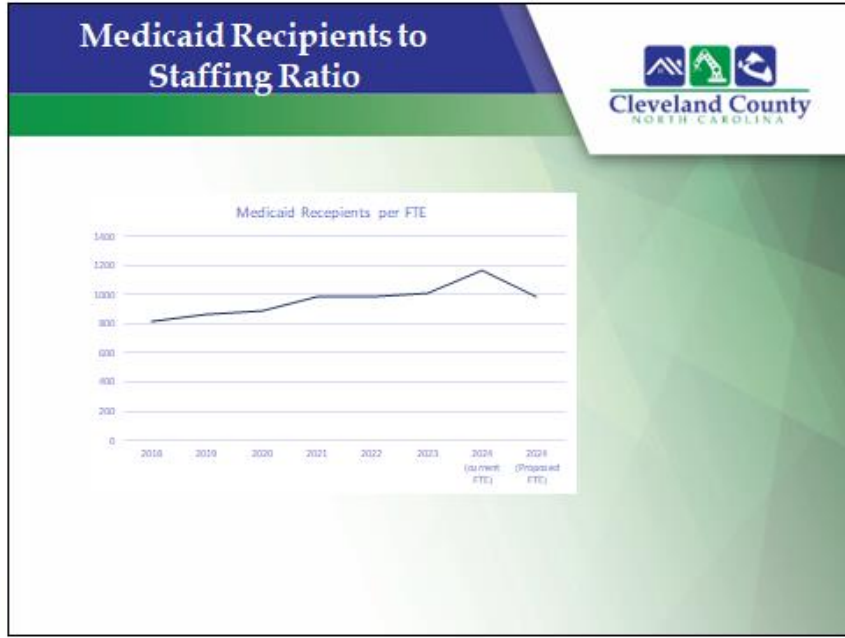
Medicaid Expansion Timeline

- March 27, 2023: State announces \$369,939 in money upfront for Cleveland County.
- May 17, 2023: Governor Cooper signs Medicaid Expansion into law.
- May 19, 2023: Interim County Manager signs to accept upfront money from the State.
- June 16, 2023: Receive upfront money from the state.
- June 20, 2023: Request new FTEs from CC BOC.
- September 2023: Anticipated implementation of Medicaid Expansion Policy.

Hire / Training Timeframe



- June 2023 • Recruit for Positions
- July 2023 • Interview & Hire
- July - August 2023 • Staff begin 3-4-month training program
- Oct - Nov 2023 • Staff ready to accept caseloads upon Medicaid Expansion Rollout



Additional Staffing Needs after full ramp up of Expansion



- 14 additional IMC II staff
- 2 additional Income Maintenance Supervisors
- 2 additional IMC I support staff
- 4 additional IMC I Energy Staff
- Equipment for 22 additional staff: computers, cell phones, supplies...




**** Total of 22 FTEs ****

Initial Request of FTEs




- 7 additional IMC II staff
- 1 additional Income Maintenance Supervisors
- 1 additional IMC I support staff
- 4 additional IMC I Energy Staff
- Equipment for 13 additional staff: computers, cell phones, supplies...

Initial Request of FTEs



- **Additional Budget Dollars are not required for these 13 FTEs**
- \$369,939 up front from the state (must be used towards Medicaid Expansion)
- 75% reimbursement rate from the State for Medicaid staff through Daysheet coding.



Questions/Action



Approve or Deny Request for 13 additional FTEs for Medicaid Expansion

Chairman Gordon opened the floor to the Board for questions and discussion. Commissioner Bridges commented on the difficulty of filling the positions with qualified people due to the current workforce shortage. He asked if the increased workload at Social Services would also cause an increased workload in the Health Department Care Clinic. Health Department Director Tiffany Hansen was in attendance and responded that they were prepared for Medicaid expansion and healthcare influx.

Mrs. Hansen explained another benefit of Medicaid expansion is the ability to get reimbursement for services, stating, “Staff is anticipating an influx of patients, we have the ability to handle those patients, and really are looking forward to the additional revenue as part of the expansion.” Hiring delays are expected due to the current labor market and vetting new solid employees. Commissioner Hutchins commented on providers turning away Medicaid patients due to not being reimbursed for services, causing people to go to the health department and social services for assistance and care. He continued, with the new expansion, local medical doctors will now pick

up more patients since there will be reimbursement of services for providers. Mrs. Hansen stated, “*Suppliers are really looking forward to the opportunity to generate more revenue, not only with primary care with traditional health care providers but also mental health and behavioral health. Patients with those types of needs can't get services rendered under the current plan. The medical community is discussing Medicaid expansion and trying to prepare as best as possible.*”

Commissioners thanked Ms. Swanson and Mrs. Hansen for the information and their staff for their continued hard work and service to the citizens of Cleveland County.

ACTION: Commissioner Bridges made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the request for thirteen (13) additional full-time employees for Medicaid expansion.*

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

CLEVELAND COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

ACTION: Commissioner Bridges made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to appoint Jimmy Hensley, Noel Kay, and Justin Davis to serve as members of this board, for a four-year term, scheduled to conclude on June 30, 2027, to appoint Jonie Blanton, Chad Jones, and Perry Davis to serve as members of this board, for a two-year term, scheduled to conclude on June 30, 2025, and to appoint Emergency Medical Services Director Tommy McNeilly and Emergency Medical Services Medical Director Ivan Sanchez to serve as members of this board.*

RURAL FIRE COMMISSION

Chairman Gordon turned this portion of the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Whetstine, asking to be recused from the conversation and voting for the Firefighter Association’s recommendations for appointments to the Rural Fire Commission, citing a conflict of interest.

ACTION: Commissioner Hardin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to recuse Chairman Gordon from conversation and voting for the Firefighter Association’s recommendations for appointments to the Rural Fire Commission.*

ACTION: Commissioner Hardin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the recommendations made by the Firefighter’s Association to appoint Brent Gordon and Todd McMurray to serve as the Firefighter’s Association representatives for a three-year term, scheduled to conclude on June 30, 2026.*

Vice-Chairman Whetstine turned the meeting back to Chairman Gordon.

ACTION: Commissioner Bridges made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hardin, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to re-appoint Chris Poole and Marvin Hutchinson and to appoint Gregory Harris, Clint Beam, Jimmy Hensley and Commissioner Doug Bridges to serve as a member of this board for a three-year term, scheduled to conclude on June 30, 2026.*

CLOSED SESSION

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to go into closed session per North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(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* (Copy of closed session Minutes are sealed and found in the Closed Session Minute Book).

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

ACTION: Commissioner Hardin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, *reconvene in open session.*

Chairman Gordon stated, “During the closed session, the Board took action on two items:

1. Gave direction to the Interim County Manager and staff to begin the search for a new Social Services Director.
2. Took action to appoint Rebecca Johnson to serve as the Interim Social Services Director.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hardin, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, *to appoint Rebecca Johnson to serve as the Interim Social Services Director.*

Clerk to the Board Phyllis Nowlen administered the oath to Rebecca Johnson for the appointment of Interim Social Services Director.

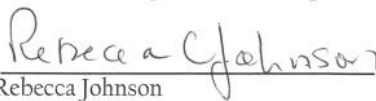
OATH OF OFFICE
INTERIM SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

I, Rebecca Johnson, do solemnly and sincerely swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States;

I, Rebecca Johnson, do solemnly and sincerely swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof;


I, Rebecca Johnson, do solemnly and sincerely swear (or affirm) that I will endeavor to support, maintain, and defend the Constitution and laws of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability;

I, Rebecca Johnson, do solemnly and sincerely swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Interim Director of the Cleveland County Social Services Department, so help me God.


Rebecca Johnson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 20th of June 2023.


Kevin Gordon, Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners


Phyllis Nowlen, Clerk to the Board
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners



The Board thanked Ms. Swanson, each commenting and thanking her service to Cleveland County and wished her well in her new career endeavor. They also congratulated Ms. Johnson on her new interim position.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Commissioner Whetstine made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adjourn*. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for *Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm* in the Commissioners' Chambers.

*Kevin Gordon, Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*

*Phyllis Nowlen, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*