

**MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 19, 2016**

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED REPEAL OF CONCEALED HANDGUN ORDINANCE – Chairman Eddie Settle declared the Public Hearing open concerning the proposed repeal of An Ordinance Permitting the Posting of Signs to Prohibit the Carrying of Concealed Handguns on Certain County Property at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 with the following members present: Chairman Eddie Settle, Vice Chairman Greg Minton, Commissioner Keith Elmore, Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and Commissioner David Gambill.

Also present were Tony Triplett, County Attorney; John Yates, County Manager; and Sarah Call, Clerk to the Board.

JIM ISLEY – was recognized and spoke in support of the proposed Repeal of the Concealed Handgun Ordinance.

RONALD R. SPIERS – was recognized and spoke in support of the proposed Repeal of the Concealed Handgun Ordinance.

MARY SHEW – was recognized and spoke in support of the proposed Repeal of the Concealed Handgun Ordinance.

MIKE INSCORE, MAYOR OF WILKESBORO AND CAPTAIN TOMMY RHODES – Mr. Inscore and Captain Rhodes spoke against the proposed Repeal of the Concealed Handgun Ordinance.

ANDY STEVENS – was recognized and spoke in support of the proposed Repeal of the Concealed Handgun Ordinance.

BARRY BUSH – was recognized and spoke in support of the proposed Repeal of the Concealed Handgun Ordinance.

There being no further comments or persons signed up to speak regarding the proposed repeal of the Ordinance Permitting the Posting of Signs to Prohibit the Carrying of Concealed Handguns on Certain County Property, Chairman Settle declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:03 P.M.

PUBLIC CONCERNS – None

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 7:03 P.M. with the following members present: Chairman Eddie Settle, Vice Chairman Greg Minton, Commissioner Keith Elmore, Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, and Commissioner David Gambill.

Also present for the meeting were Tony Triplett, County Attorney; John Yates, County Manager; and Sarah Call, Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Eddie Settle welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION – Commissioner David Gambill led the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Eddie Settle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Greg Minton, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on January 5, 2016.

CONCEALED CARRY ORDINANCE – REPEAL – Chairman Eddie Settle asked County Attorney Tony Triplett to read the motion that is under consideration. Mr. Triplett read the motion at this time.

Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to repeal “An Ordinance Permitting the Posting of Signs to Prohibit the Carrying of Concealed Handguns on Certain County Property” as adopted by the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners on November 21, 1995, with the effective date of repeal to be thirty (30) days from today’s date, and to have the County Attorney, with such assistance as may be directed by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, to draw up a new ordinance for consideration by the Board of Commissioners during said thirty (30) days which addresses concealed carry at the Health Department, the Department of Social Services, and facilities which are owned by the County and leased to other parties, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and passed unanimously.

RECESS – Chairman Eddie Settle declared the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners recessed at 7:08 P.M. He stated the meeting will reconvene in ten minutes.

RECONVENE – Chairman Eddie Settle reconvened the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 7:18 P.M. on Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

BLUE RIDGE OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (BROC) – COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FOR FY 2016-2017 – APPROVAL OF FORM 210, FORM 212, AND BUDGET – Chairman Eddie Settle welcomed Dare Stromer, Executive Director and Megan Wagoner, Community Services Block Grant Director. Ms. Wagoner said she is presenting the Community Services Block Grant funding application. She briefly went over Form 212 and Form 210 and the Budget. Ms. Wagoner said BROC is celebrating its 50th year this year and they would like to thank all the Commissioners, County Representatives, Members of their Board, and the Volunteers for making this possible.

Commissioner Elmore said the folks at BROC are a hard working group and he enjoys being a part of this group and serving as Assistant Treasurer. Chairman Settle and Commissioner Blevins both stated they had served in this role in the past as well. Commissioner Blevins

commended them for 50 years of service to the impoverished people in Wilkes County and especially to Dare Stromer. He added she is his hero and one of the best Executive Directors that Wilkes has ever had and she makes a difference. Ms. Stromer replied that is what they are there to do, make a difference. Chairman Settle added Ms. Stromer always does a great job and always has a smile.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve the application for Community Services Block Grant for FY 2016-2017, Forms 210, 212, and the Budget, as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

WILKES VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURE DISTRICT: Chairman Eddie Settle recognized Toby Lee Speaks, Wilkes County Voluntary Ag. District Vice Chairman and Michael Pardue, Director Wilkes Soil and Water Conservations District. Mr. Speaks stated they wish to provide their annual report and ask for the reappointment of three Board Members to the Wilkes Voluntary Agriculture District Board.

1. **ANNUAL REPORT OF ACRES ENROLLED** – Mr. Speaks gave the following agriculture totals and percentages:

Totals (all plans): thru October 28, 2015

Owners – 54 Groups

Parcels – 1142

Acres – 6,393.20

Percentage of Total:

Ag Land – 5,359.31 acres

Forestry Land – 988.49 acres

Horticulture Land – 45.4 acres

Chairman Settle asked where Wilkes ranked in the State for agricultural. Mr. Pardue replied Wilkes is one of the top in the State and over \$300 million is contributed to the Wilkes economy each year through agricultural.

2. **WILKES VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURE DISTRICT BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS** – Mr. Speaks stated they would like to ask the Commissioners to re-appoint Mr. Toby Lee Speaks, Mr. Gary Blake, and Mr. Dan Bumgarner to serve on the Wilkes Voluntary Agriculture District Board for another three-year term.

Vice Chairman Greg Minton made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Tony Lee Speaks, Mr. Gary Blake, and Mr. Dan Bumgarner to the Wilkes Voluntary Agriculture District Board for three-year terms as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

Mr. Speaks stated the farmers of Wilkes County thanks the Board for all they do for them and it is very much appreciated. He added the Board helped the VAD get started and they will continue to move forward.

AIRPORT – AARON AEROSPACE, INC. – APPROVAL OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR NEW LEASE FOR COMMUNITY HANGAR – County Attorney Tony Triplett stated this matter is before the Board and the memo explains the background. He said this is the first of two steps in the process to consider the approval of the renewal of this lease. Mr. Sherman Aaron has leased the Community Hanger at the Airport for several years and the most recent leased expired November 30, 2016, he added. The Airport Board is recommending to the Board for consideration a new lease for Mr. Aaron for 2-years, he stated. Mr. Triplett said the lease would be under the same terms as the prior lease, he will be paying \$2,000 per month in rent. He noted it will have the same operation and maintenance responsibilities as the prior lease. Mr. Aaron provides two jobs at his operation currently at the Airport, which counts toward the grant requirements, he added. Mr. Triplett said there is no other interest in the Community Hanger at this time. He stated for all these reasons the Airport Board is recommending this for approval to the Board.

Mr. Triplett said it is simply before you today as part of a two-step process; the first step is to authorize the publication of a notice in the newspaper. He stated the way this process works, it has to be publish for ten (10) days that the Board intends to render this lease, the public notice goes in the paper and then at the next meeting the Board of Commissioners could approve the new lease at that time if that is the desire. Mr. Triplett stated there is a specific Motion that is needed, and he read the motion at this time.

Commissioner Elmore asked if this lease has a provision that it could be canceled with written notice at any time. Mr. Triplett said in this particular lease there is not the Airport Board recommended a flat two-year lease with no right of renewal and no opportunity to cancel.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to Motion to publish notice, pursuant to G.S. 153A-176, 160A-272, and 63-53(3), of the intent of the Board of Commissioners to enter into a Lease and Operations Agreement between Wilkes County (as Lessor) and Aaron Aerospace, Inc. (as Lessee), for the community hangar at the Wilkes County Airport, as presented at tonight's meeting, with the County Attorney to present a Resolution for final approval of the Lease and Operations Agreement at the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

TAX DEPARTMENT – EXTENSION OF THE LISTING PERIOD - Tax Administrator Alex Hamilton stated North Carolina General Statute Section 105-307 is entitled the "Length of Listing Period; Extension; Preliminary Work". He stated this Statute gives the Board of County Commissioners the authority to extend the listing period by thirty (30) days. He stated he is requesting that the Board extend the listing period until March 1, 2016. Mr. Hamilton stated the statute also allows the County Commissioners to grant "individual extensions of time for the listing of real and personal property upon written request and for good cause shown"; the statute allows the Commissioners to delegate this authority to the Tax Administrator. Mr. Hamilton

stated the extensions granted under this paragraph shall not extend beyond April 15, 2016. He requested the Board delegate the authority to grant the individual extensions to him as Tax Administrator.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to approve the request to extend the listing period until March 1, 2016 and to delegate the authority to the Tax Administrator to grant individual extensions of time for the listing of real and personal property until April 15, 2016, as requested. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Greg Minton and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS – Commissioner Elmore stated there are a couple of meetings set with the Sheriff's Department, Department of Transportation, and Department of Corrections regarding trash clean up. Commissioner Blevins stated he was at Roaring River School over the weekend and Hwy. 268 looked very clean. He added he got Mr. Pinnix's number at DOC and will call and thank them for cleaning up Hwy. 268 because they did a great job. Chairman Settle stated it looked very good all the way to the Surry County line.

ADJOURN – Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Vice Chairman Greg Minton and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 7:35 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: