

**MINUTES**  
**WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**BUDGET WORK SESSION**  
**April 4, 2016**

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 5:30 P.M. at the Wilkes County Agricultural Center located at 416 Executive Drive, 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 John Yates, County Manager; Jerry Shepherd, Finance Officer, and Sarah Call, Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Eddie Settle welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**INTRODUCTION OF MEETING FACILITATOR** – Chairman Eddie Settle introduced David Nicholson, Outreach Associate, N.C. Association of County Commissioners. Mr. Nicholson made opening comments and provided an outline for the Budget Work Session.

**BUDGET OVERVIEW – PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS** – Mr. Nicholson went over a budget overview and past accomplishments. These included Wilkes County special projects and additional appropriations for schools security; additional current expense for low wealth funding; two Moravian Falls Renovations; Project ADMIT – Golden Leaf Grant match, Schools special appropriation; College – Health Sciences Building; purchase of Oakwoods property; two Sheriff renovations; Ag Center Building renovations; and Courthouse Drive Extension. The total of these projects and additional appropriations were \$6,731,551.63

**UPDATE** – Finance Director Jerry Shepherd provided a brief financial update. He stated the County should collect the budgeted amount for property tax this year, and could collect about \$150,000 over the budgeted amount. He said next year the County could have approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000 in property tax growth based on where he thinks the County will be June 30, 2016. This is about 1% growth, he added. Mr. Shepherd provided a Sales Tax comparison from 2007 through current and stated sales tax may meet the budgeted amount, but there would not be any extra. He noted any amount budgeted for possible new distributions in sales taxes that has been discussed for next year, would be a guess. At this time the County is 1% short in the amount collected in sales tax at this same time last year, he said.

Mr. Shepherd provided a statement of long term debt for 2016-2017 which included the outstanding school debt. He said the savings from the refinance for 2016-2017 will be \$155,458 for the school system and \$172,947 for the County. He also provided a statement of long term debt for all debts to include High Schools, Middle Schools, Jail-Detention Center and US Treasury Contract/Reservoir for a total of \$51,914,479 and payments totaling \$4,847,497.

They Board discussed the labor tax that may be received in the future and also the rising cost of health coverage for employees. Mr. Nicholson discussed examples from other counties he had worked with in both areas with the Board.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES** – Mr. Nicholson asked the Board to list the top budget priorities at this time. After some discussion the top four listed were School Capital needs; Fund Balance Policy; Employee Pay; and Schools Current Expenses.

The Budget Work Session concluded with Commissioners' comments.

**ADJOURN** – The Budget Work Session for the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners ended at 8:25 P. M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: