

**MINUTES  
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
April 5, 2016**

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 10:00 A.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 to the meeting.

**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 Commissioner Keith Elmore, seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on March 22, 2016.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS** – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to approve Budget Amendment No. 23 (Health - Programs – WIC; This request is to move unused WIC salary program funds to WIC operating expenses. Because of staffing changes they are able to have the correct staffing for WIC while transferring employees to other vacancies within the health department. In operations, this funding will be used to update equipment, buy a new computer, update waiting room furniture and move WIC to a vacant office owned by the Health Foundation next to the Diabetes and Nutrition Center. This move was approved by the state because this location will better serve clients since it is more centrally located to the hospital and doctors' offices and it provides an increase from 600 square feet of space to 1200 square feet of space and alleviated some of the overcrowding at the health department. This WIC program is funded by Federal money through the Department of Agriculture. This is not county money nor state money however the state has to approve how they spend WIC money and they have approved this revision.) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and passed unanimously.

**USAC PRO TIME TRIALS CHAMPIONSHIP AND NATIONAL MASTERS TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP** – Chairman Settle welcomed and recognized Bill Oakes, Alice Armstrong, Robin Morton, Sterling Swaim, and Angela Brame to the meeting. Mr. Oakes and Ms. Morton came forward to provide a presentation to the Board. Mr. Oakes thanked the board for allowing them to come. He said the USA National Cycling time trials and this event will be one of only two Olympic qualifiers in North Carolina and this is the feeder even to Rio. Mr.

## MINUTES

April 5, 2016

Page 2 of 10

Oakes stated there are maps and schedules in the packets provided to the Board. He added it is on old Hwy. 421 and will begin in the morning on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> which is the day after school ends in Wilkes, therefore buses will not be affected. It would close the highway along the route during the race, he noted. Mr. Oakes stated all the residence will have a phone number to call so they can be escorted in and out as needed or if there is any emergencies for fire, rescue, ems, or police all racing on the course would stop.

Mr. Oakes said the race will begin at 8 AM and run throughout the day, there is multiply lengths of races, the longest will begin first and it will shrink as the day goes. He added the longest course will be completed about lunch, but depends on the number of people that sign up. There are 600 riders expected over the day plus support staff, he noted. Mr. Oakes stated if approved by Wilkes there will be three races over the week, Wilkes, Winston, and Lewisville. He added the race will bring about \$3.5 million in economic impact to the area with about 20,000 attendees over the week. He said they are working with Mike Scott and David Carson from the Wilkes Sheriff Office along with Division 11 of the NC DOT and both are supportive. He stated in addition to the escorts provided to the residence they will also provide off-site parking with shuttle to and from. Personnel will be stationed at each intersection for commercial or other traffic that need to cross, he added. Mr. Oates said the race route would be closed except for emergencies and at crossings if traffic needs to cross the police will wait for racers and support staff to go by and they will allow this as needed. He added they will provide a gift card or something to the residences affected for any inconvenience this may cause them. Mr. Oates stated it will also bring business to the county for meals, gas and other items needed during this event.

Chairman Settle asked how they will get across at the intersections. Mr. Oates replied police will be there escorting cars through the intersections when racers are not there. He added some drivers may wait a few minutes to cross. He said they do this in Winston and they are used to dealing with traffic. Commissioner Keith Elmore asked if this was a race or time trail. Mr. Oates replied each person is racing against the clock. Commissioner Elmore stated this will have a staggered start. Mr. Oates replied yes. Commissioner Elmore asked about viewing. Mr. Oates replied anywhere along the course but the start and finish have not been finalized. He said they were waiting to make sure that the Board approved this event first. A good start and finish will be found so folks can view, these events are lots of fun to watch, he added.

Commissioner Elmore asked if Masters are competing. Mr. Oates replied yes masters and paraplegic are both competing. Commissioner Elmore asked about the two business along the road. Mr. Oates stated they are looking at purchasing the gift cards from the restaurant for the residence and they are not sure on the tire business. Commissioner Elmore said there is also Parsons Quick Stop. Mr. Oates replied they have not spoken with the Quick Stop yet. He added they will need meals and volunteer food, possibly from the restaurant. Mr. Oates stated that they will go talk to each one of them.

Chairman Settle asked about signs. Mr. Oates replied they will hand deliver the information to the residence but DOT told them they have to prepare signs with a traffic engineer. They met with DOT District 11 to talk about this plan and what is needed, he added. Chairman Settle said there are several residence and farmers in this area, this will be a busy time for them.

Commissioner Elmore said there is 6 miles in Wilkes and the other 4 are in Yadkin. Mr. Oates replied yes and they spoke with Chairman Austin in Yadkin and he sent them to the Mr. Todd at the Chamber of Commerce, they are supportive and have their blessing. Chairman Settle asked if it will end near Hwy. 77. He replied yes.

Commissioner Blevins stated he does not recall the Board ever taking action on closing a State Highway. Mr. Yates replied he spoke with Mike Pettyjohn with DOT and they need a letter stating that Wilkes is in support of this. Commissioner Blevins added DOT has the authority to close a State road, the County does not do this. Mr. Oates replied they are aware of that but the State DOT would not approve this without the support of the Board.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve a letter of support for the National Championship and Olympic Selection Time Trail Cycling Events be sent to N.C. DOT as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

**PLANNING – FINAL APPROVAL – HOLLY MTN. ACRES SUBDIVISION** – Eddie Barnes, Planning Director, gave maps to the Board for review. Commissioner Elmore asked if this is located off Hwy. 115. Mr. Barnes replied it is between Hwy. 115 and Fishing Creek Arbor Road and will be accessed from Fishing Creek Arbor Road.

Mr. Barnes stated he has the Holly Mtn. acres Subdivision for the Board's consideration, owned by Holly Mtn. LLC. He said on March 28, 2016 the Wilkes Joint Planning Board reviewed and recommended approval to the Board for the final plat for Holly Mtn. Acres Subdivision. The proposed subdivision is located on Fishing Creek Arbor Road and Holly Berry Lane in Wilkesboro Township, he added. Mr. Barnes said it consists of 16.72 acres and will be divided into 14 lots with an average size of 1.06 acres. He added the streets in the subdivision are to be public with paving and constructed to the NCDOT standards. This subdivision is not located in a zoned area or protected watershed, he noted. Mr. Barnes stated all documentation, lot size, and setback requirements have been met. He said the developer has submitted a performance guarantee for completion of roads and infrastructure.

Chairman Settle stated this is the first approval of this nature they have had in a while. Mr. Barnes replied it has been about 1 ½ years since the last one. Commissioner Elmore asked if sewer is anticipated. Mr. Barnes replied no these will be individual septic systems. He added the septic system goes to CC Wright currently and would be very expensive to move further due to Hwy. 421.

Vice Chairman Greg Minton made a motion to approve the final plat for Holly Mtn. Acres Subdivision, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

**TAX DEPARTMENT – RELEASES** - Alex Hamilton, Tax Administrators asked the Board to approve tax releases in the amount of \$60,120.63. Mr. Hamilton stated the two on the list for the State of NC was a large tract of land donated from a timber company in Washington State to the

State near Beaver Creek and the tax office failed to mark it exempt. He added it was about 3,500 acres.

Commissioner Blevins asked if the County received any "PILT" (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) on any property or what this only federal. Mr. Yates replied the County does receive about \$7,000 on Federal land.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to approve tax releases in the amount of \$60,120.63 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

A detailed listing of tax releases is maintained in the Wilkes County Tax Administrator's office.

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE** – Chairman Eddie Settle recognized Department of Social Services Director John Blevins. Mr. Blevins stated he received a report from the State in Child Support collecting for March, Wilkes collected the 4<sup>th</sup> highest amount in the State. He said it was a lump sum paid toward the arrearage of \$17,882.00. Mr. Blevins added that Bobbi Glass, Medicaid Fraud Collector collected the highest in the State in February with \$2,913.32. He added he is very proud of all these departments and the great job they do.

Mr. Blevins stated a letter was sent to Chairman Settle in regards to the food and nutrition collections from the State and every DSS needs to meet those goals. He said Wilkes County was at 100% for the last week, with no untimeliness in applications or reviews and those folks are working hard and doing a great job. Commissioner Blevins said there was a lengthy discussion at the NCACC Board of Directors meeting on this issue. He added a sheet was passed out with all the counties listed and Wilkes was green with 100% across the form and there were not many in green. Mr. Blevins said they do a great job. Chairman Settle added it was on a big screen and they said during the meeting that Wilkes County was doing a great job. Commissioner Blevins stated if all the counties do not meet the 95% everyone loses. He added during the NACo conference in Washington this was discussed and the Secretary is coming to NC in May to discuss possible flexibility at the federal level with regards to the numbers. Commissioner Gary D. Blevins said if they see the efforts by the counties to meet the goals they may allow some flexibility is what they heard. Mr. Blevins agreed and stated Wayne Black had told them this as well.

Mr. Blevins provided the Commissioners handouts for February. He briefly went over the monthly caseload report, Foster Care financial report, Adoption Services financial report, Child Development and Subsidized Child Care financial report. He also went through the CPS Foster Care monthly reports and the Foster/Adoptive Home Recruitment Plan for February. Mr. Blevins said the child care costs increased in February and they are \$17,000 short, but they will not allow it to run into any County funds. He added in January there was no waiting list for day care and in February there are 77 on the waiting list. He stated the State decided to give a large increase to all day care providers. Mr. Blevins added for a day care center the infant care went up anywhere from \$96 to \$261 depending on the star rating they have. He noted this is a large rate increase for the middle of the year and this is why they now have the waiting list. He added

there were increases for all age groups but the infants cost the most. Mr. Blevins said they contacted the State and they told them to not terminate anyone and there would be funds available at the end of the year to make this up. He stated it did create a waiting list and they hope to receive another reallocation this month to ease this burden. Mr. Blevins added the issue will be next year because the State has allocated a lesser amount than they received this year. The program will contract next year due to this decrease, he added.

Vice Chairman Minton asked if the standards charged or just the allocation. Mr. Blevins replied just the allocation contracted for next year. Commissioner Blevins ask how much it increased. Mr. Blevins replied for a 5-star center for an infant the allocation went from \$674 to \$935, for a 3-5 year old it went from \$554 to \$590, the lower ages had the highest increase. Commissioner Blevins added the youngest kids cost the most because the child to teacher ratio is so much lower. He asked if this will affect the Development Day Care. Mr. John Blevins replied it could cause them a waiting list, but the children that they have now they will receive more money for. He added he wanted to thank the Partnership for Children that gave them some money to help with this.

Chairman Blevins asked if the waiting list was created because the cost went up so they can fund less children. Mr. John Blevins replied yes they had to stop placing kids and hope to not have to terminate ones later. Chairman Settle added the higher pay will help Development Day Care. Mr. Blevins replied yes. Commissioner Blevins said it is unfortunate there is a waiting list that these 77 kids needs day care and will benefit being in a day care center.

Mr. Blevins replied a new billboard went up on Hwy. 421 with a new design for Foster Families and he thinks it is good to move these around to get more attention. He said the recruitment plan continues with church bulletins, meet and greet at DSS, an article in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot and adds on WKBC radio.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins asked if the change in requirements to receive EBT has gone into effect for the folks without kids that must work 19 hours per week. Mr. John Blevins replied it goes into effect in Wilkes July 1, 2016 and they have to go to school, volunteer, or work. He added part of the state has started the rest will come on later. Mr. Blevins said there is over 500 that have been initially identified in Wilkes. Commissioner Blevins asks if this is a federal mandate. Mr. Blevins replied yes and he can give more exact information once it begins in Wilkes.

The Board thanked Mr. Blevins for the good job they do and for his report and update.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Chairman Settle stated the Board needs to discuss the water intake. He added the Town of Wilkesboro passed a Resolution at their meeting last night and the Board has a copy. Chairman Settle said he wanted to recognize Mayor Mike Inscore and Councilmen Russ Ferree and asked them to come forward to discuss this. Chairman Settle stated he and Vice Chairman Minton stopped by the Wilkesboro meeting after their work session and received a copy of this. He and Vice Chairman Minton stated the water intake project is the most important project in the county and thanked them for keeping it going.

Mayor Inscore stated this is a legacy decision one way or the other, however this is an initiative that the Town of Wilkesboro has chosen to put their name on to ensure it moves forward. He added they can do this because they were proactive over the past 8-years in raising the water and sewer rates each year consecutively. Mayor Inscore noted they are very fortunate to have the largest employer in Wilkesboro. They understand the benefits and want to fill their needs and plan for future expansions in Wilkes and provide finished water, he added. He said if Tyson left the loss of revenue to Wilkesboro would be significant to Wilkesboro, but the impact of loss of jobs to Wilkes County would be devastating. Mayor Inscore stated there are many states in the US experiencing draughts today and water will become as valuable as gold in the future. He added communities cannot sustain themselves without an adequate, clean, raw water supply.

Mayor Inscore stated they have the financial where-with-all to tell the Board in the event North Wilkesboro, due to financial constraints, is unable to move forward. He said they are prepared to do this independently without financial support from the County. He added they are willing to build the raw water intake and first two phases of the project. Mayor Inscore noted it would be built to the capacity it has been designed which includes usage for North Wilkesboro. He noted they would not build the transmission lines to them. He said if at any time North Wilkesboro needs raw or finished water Wilkesboro would be prepared to enter into an Agreement with them to have a sustainable amount of raw and/or finished water.

Chairman Settle said they are appreciative to Wilkesboro for being proactive and looking ahead and this is also important to the County. He asked how long has the raw water intake been discussed. Commissioner Blevins added about 11 years, the water study was completed while he served on the Wilkesboro Council and the rate increases began at that time. He added water is still affordable in Wilkesboro especially compared to other commodities, it is a good deal. Commissioner Blevins noted water will become an increasingly valuable asset and can help with economic development. He said this is a project with a 100 year life expectancy and if the cost was amortized over this period, it is a good deal. Commissioner Blevins asked if this will bring the cost down under \$20 million. Mayor Inscore replied if the transmission lines to North Wilkesboro are excluded based on a cost of \$30 million it would reduce to \$22 million for the first two phases. He added this is before the CMAR, Garney scrubs the cost and they anticipate the cost coming down another \$3 to \$5 million.

Mayor Inscore stated they hope to get the support of the County with the resolution and more importantly to get the support of North Wilkesboro because this project will benefit Wilkesboro, North Wilkesboro, and the entire County to include the Water Associations. He added the hope is for all three entities to adopt a similar resolution. They hope to receive the 30-year zero percent financing and worst case scenario a 20-year at zero percent, he noted. Mayor Inscore said the Town at the completion of the project may have to look at one more rate increase, but after that they will be set. He noted this is why they adopted this resolution and they are unified in this decision and they felt it was important. Each Council member signed it and all are passionate that this project move forward, he stated.

Council Member Russ Ferree stated they are always looking for ways to get new jobs and as precious as water is, in the future jobs born of water will be looking for places with water. He added with this intake and the ability to get water downstream where there is good land for industrial development, they could have 2-3 more water using industries the size of Tyson. Mr. Ferree noted in the next 20-years this will be a job creator project. Chairman Settle agreed and added they have had this discussion many times at EDC meetings and getting the water east where land is flatter and closer to Hwy. 77. HE added this is a step in that direction. Mr. Ferree stated an agreement would be needed at some point, this is a look to the future, and it is imperative this gets done. He added this is not a Town it is a Community doing this project, and it is not for Wilkesboro or North Wilkesboro it is for at least 2/3 of Wilkes County. Chairman Settle stated it is time to move on with it. Vice Chairman Minton added it makes sense, when else will they get zero percent financing for 20 to 30 years to build out a project and off- set the cost with existing rates. He added from a business model the Board cannot pass this up. Mayor Inscore noted it is a once in their life-time opportunity.

Commissioner Blevins asked if there is a separate enterprise fund for water and sewer, if so do they have funds in this for the project. Mayor Inscore replied yes they have strategically planned for this day. Commissioner Blevins asked if there would be a property tax increase to pay back this loan. Mayor Inscore replied this is a separate entity and it is a utility fund and this was the purpose of the water and sewer rate increases. The payments must come from this, he added. Commissioner Blevins asked if all rate increases effected everyone including the Water Associations. Mayor Inscore replied yes, they treat all partners, residence, in-town commerce, and water associations the same with the increases, there is uniformity.

Commissioner Blevins asked if moving the intake from the current location to the reservoir allows them to develop that area. Mayor Inscore replied yes and could help the EDC enter into options on land. Commission Blevins asked if the design would need to change to sell water to North Wilkesboro. Mayor Inscore replied they have to be two separate lines one for finished water and another for raw water, and there are lines to exchange finished water for critical needs that both towns have had in the past. He added these lines have some age and would have to be increased and this could be a collaborative effort for the finished water. Commissioner Blevins asked if North Wilkesboro never decides to take advantage of the raw water does Wilkesboro need the capacity built in. Mayor Inscore replied it needs to be built this size because it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to get zero percent financing. Mr. Ferree added they also want the capacity to send the water as needed downstream and to the east.

Commissioner Blevins stated this is a new concept after a long time of discussing this with North Wilkesboro as the lead governmental agency. He does not know where this is going or what action is expected, other than discussions. Mayor Inscore said they are not trying to circumvent North Wilkesboro in any way, they are saying if North Wilkesboro financially cannot move forward independently, Wilkesboro is prepared to move forward. He added they will take on the responsibility for the first two phases without any financial assistance from North Wilkesboro or Wilkes County. Vice Chairman Minton stated time is of the essence. Mayor Inscore said they are financially able and willing to take the burden on their shoulders and move it forward.

Chairman Settle said there is a June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Mayor Inscore added May 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Mr. Ferree added it needs to be under contract. Mr. Yates stated it has to go to the Clean Water Trust first for approval and then to DENR by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Inscore said it has to be there in May to meet the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Commissioner Elmore asked about the contract with the County and the two Towns. Mr. Triplett replied there is a contract in place now for all three parties and if it is re-negotiated the three parties would decide if the existing contract would be superseded by another. He added this decision has not been made, there have been some informal discussions but no decision. Mr. Triplett stated this will have to be addressed and decided what happens with the old contract and what terms, if any will change. Commissioner Elmore asked how North Wilkesboro can break the contract. Mr. Triplett replied there is no provision for an out, it is a three party contract and a contract in-which all three parties decided to go forward, it would take the consent of the parties to change the contract. Commissioner Elmore stated the County gave up its water rights to both Towns and have operated on the pretense a contract is in place and is moving forward.

Mayor Inscore said the resolution states if North Wilkesboro is unable to financially commit to moving this project forward, Wilkesboro is asking for the blessings of Wilkes County Commissioners and North Wilkesboro Town Council to support this initiative to make sure this does not die. He added that possibly a fail-safe agreement could be put in place in order to just pick up where it is. They are only asking for the Boards support, he noted. Mr. Triplett said if it unfolds as the Resolution states there does have to be a new agreement, because the current agreement is a three party agreement. He added the current agreement is not a final agreement it is a memorandum of understanding and it calls for a final agreement called an inter-local agreement by all three parties to fully implement the project. Mr. Triplett said the time is coming this has to happen in one form or fashion and it may be different than first expected. The MOA calls for it to be a three party agreement, he added. Vice Chairman Minton said it was done this way because the numbers had not been worked out. Mr. Triplett agreed and stated the inter-local agreement can take the place of the MOA and could be a two party agreement if the parties chose or it can be a three party agreement.

Vice Chairman Minton stated this has been going on for at least 11 years and now the numbers have to be finalized in in less than 2 months to get the funding. Chairman Settle added there is a Town here today willing to move forward. Commissioner Blevins asked if the 30 year financing was based on North Wilkesboro participating. Mayor Inscore replied it is a hope that Wilkesboro can get the 30 year financing, but if North Wilkesboro does not support the resolution, the 30 years could be off the table. He added more importantly they could be provided finished water with this resolution. Mayor Inscore noted modifications can be made to the Wilkesboro Water Treatment Plant and add 20% capacity to the 10 million gallon limit and increase to 12 million. Commissioner Blevins ask if the 30 year loan is not approved what is the next option and does it have the same deadline. Mayor Inscore replied a 20 year loan with zero interest, same deadline. Commissioner Blevins asked if they are sure they can get this. Vice Chairman Minton asked if they are in negotiations with LGC. Mayor Inscore replied yes they are in negotiations. Commissioner Blevins asked if it is possible for Wilkesboro to get the 20 years with this option and North Wilkesboro get 30 years for the lines. Mayor Inscore replied he

cannot answer that. Commissioner Elmore added Wilkesboro would have to charge for the water to pay for the intake. Mayor Inscore agreed. Mr. Ferree added this is the first and only time ever that 30 year zero financing has ever been offered and the reason for this was that North Wilkesboro expressed a dyer need for something to be done. He added if this is not done by June 30<sup>th</sup> it is off.

Commissioner Blevins asked if it remains affordable if they do not get the zero interest for 20 years, is their another option. Mayor Inscore replied they think they can get 2% financial but a rate recalculation would be needed. Vice Chairman Minton stated zero percent vs. 2%, this is a lot of money. Mayor Inscore stated time is not an ally in this discussion there is a looming deadline pressed to achieve with each passing day. Commissioner Blevins stated this is a deadline for a loan the town is not sure they can get. Mayor Inscore asked what the alternative is. Commissioner Blevins stated time is not an issue if this loan is not an option. He added he would like to know if they can secure the zero interest loan for 20 years. Mayor Inscore replied he cannot answer this.

Mr. Ferree stated the town has the capacity to pay back a loan of \$20 million or under for 20 years at zero percent, or 2% they can do this and commit to this. Commissioner Blevins asked when they would know if they can get this. Mayor Inscore replied they will not know until this is resolved because they cannot talk about financing in hypotheticals. He said they must have an agreement to seek the financing. He added they also would have to know what North Wilkesboro plans to do. Mayor Inscore stated they are bringing a viable option to continue this until they know what North Wilkesboro may decide. He said the intent is to achieve an opportunity to bring a sustainable supply of raw water to Wilkes County.

Chairman Settle said they appreciate the resolution and the language to allow North Wilkesboro to hook on later, buy raw water later, buy finished water later, or whatever they want to do. He noted the options are there for them and to take a part. He added it is great that somebody is keeping this going. Chairman Settle asked how the Board proceeded with this, by resolution, endorsement, or what action is needed. Mr. Triplett replied the Board can take any action they wish to. Mayor Inscore added they would like for the Board to endorse what they are doing. He stated they are not trying to under-mind North Wilkesboro in any way with adopting the Resolution and coming before the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners today. Mayor Inscore added if they decide to move forward it will continue with a three party collaboration. He said in the event financially they cannot move forward they cannot let this die and this is a way to salvage it. Chairman Settle noted it could give them some other options. Mayor Inscore said they are only asking for the Board's consideration.

Commissioner David Gambill asked the next CMAR meeting date. Chairman Settle replied it is Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 2:00.

Commissioner Blevins stated he ask a lot of hard questions not because he is opposed to what they are doing but because there is a lot of unanswered questions. He added it is hard to support something with so many unanswered questions and he's not sure it does a lot of good. Commissioner Blevins added the Board has been in favor of this project from the beginning and

hope the original project can follow through. Mr. Ferree said there are a lot of shadows out there and no-one knows what is around the bend, but they do know at certain times they have to proceed on faith for the people of Wilkes County.

Vice Chairman Greg Minton made a motion that the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners recognize Wilkesboro's efforts as a viable option to continue the ongoing Water Intake Project and with the continued hopes that this will be a three jurisdictional project, however the Board moves to endorse this project and Wilkesboro's move to continue. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

**CLOSED SESSION** – Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to go into Closed Session under Section 143-318.11(a)(3) of the North Carolina General Statutes to consult with the County Attorney in order to protect the attorney-client privilege and to consider and give instructions with respect to one or more potential judicial or administrative actions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Vice Chairman Greg Minton and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn back into regular session. No action was taken in the closed session.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS** – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to approve Budget Amendment No. 24 (General Fund – Mountain View Fire District) in the amount of \$21,022.74 to be taken from the fund balance to pay to Mountain View Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Greg Minton and passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN** – Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore, seconded by Vice Chairman Greg Minton and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 12:47 P. M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: