

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

PUBLIC HEARING - ROAD NAME REQUEST – BEETLE DRIVE, BOOMER TOWNSHIP - Chairman Eddie Settle declared the Public Hearing open regarding the Road Name Request for Basset Hound Lane at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 with the following members present: Chairman Eddie Settle, Vice Chairman Greg Minton, Commissioner Keith Elmore, and Commissioner Gary D. Blevins.

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

Chairman Settle asked if anyone would like to speak regarding the proposed Road Name Request. Hearing no comments on the proposed Road Name Request for Beetle Drive, Chairman Eddie Settle declared the Public Hearing closed at 10:01 A.M.

PUBLIC CONCERNS – None

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 10:01 A.M. with the following members present: Chairman Eddie Settle, Vice Chairman Greg Minton, Commissioner Keith Elmore, and Commissioner Gary D. Blevins.

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 – Chairman Eddie Settle 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 June 21, 2016.

WILKES COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENTS – Chairman Eddie Settle recognized and welcomed Julia Turpin, County Librarian. Ms. Turpin stated first she wanted to thank the Board for taking care of them in the budget approval. She said in their summer reading program they have registered 688 children and this includes 22 kids in Traphill. The free lunch program is going well and they have served 173 different kids so far and this is starting week four, she added.

Ms. Turpin said there is a vacancy on their board created by the completion of Janice Hayes' second term. She added the Library Board of Trustees is recommending Mrs. Rosalind Gilreath. Ms. Turpin stated Mrs. Julie Faw Church is currently completing her first term and they ask that she be reappointed to serve a second term.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to approve the appointment of Mrs. Rosalind Gilreath and reappointment of Mrs. Julie Faw Church to serve on the Wilkes County Library Board for 4-year terms, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN CENTER – COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT PLAN – STRATEGIC PLANNING – Chairman Settle welcomed and recognized Sherry Foreman, Senior Director of Public Affairs. Ms. Foreman stated Smoky Mountain's role in the community is to manage Medicaid, State, and Local funds for individuals that need mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disabilities services. She added they manager these services through their provider network in a 23 County area. Ms. Foreman recognized and thanked Commissioner Keith Elmore for his many years of service on their Board before the General Assembly changed the structure of these Boards a few years ago. She said now they have a County Commissioner Advisory Board and she thanked Commissioner Gary D. Blevins for his service on this Board and his great attendance to the quarterly meetings.

Ms. Foreman stated a copy of the Smoky Mountain 2-year Community and Capital Reinvestment Plan is in the Board packets. She stated they have a comprehensive care center in each of their counties and in Wilkes it is Daymark Behavior Health. She added they provide comprehensive services to include behavioral health for children and adults as well as a mobile crisis management team and do a good job. Ms. Foreman said in FY 14-15 they served almost 3,200 for mental health and substance abuse services, she said 2,100 of these had Medicaid. She said during the first 6-months of this FY they have provided services to 2,353 folks already. Ms. Foreman said one of the benefits from the State deciding to provide a public model to manage Medicaid allows Smoky Mountain to take cost savings from this management program. She added it allows them to reinvest these savings into improving and expanding services. She next went over some of the highlights in their plan. Ms. Foreman stated they are looking to reinvest between \$16 & \$17 million into the community. She added the only caveat to this is the State continues to cut services and funding. They have mandated that Smoky replenish these funds from the fund balance they have which could affect this reinvestment amount, she noted.

Ms. Foreman provided a summary of the plan. She said Smoky Mountain has identified a need for crisis stabilization units in these communities, because many people they serve may not have to go to a hospital and can be served this way. This is one step below in-patient hospital care, she added. Ms. Foreman said Wilkes County has been identified to serve the northern region which includes Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Watauga, and Wilkes and they will be working with Daymark. She added this will be a facility that will be based at Daymark in Wilkes County it is in the early planning stages and they are looking at how to fund this. Commissioner Blevins said the biggest impact of this will be to the emergency room at the hospital because now anyone that has a voluntary or in-voluntary commitment is at the emergency room. He added the Sheriff's

office has to provide a Deputy around the clock the entire time someone is there. Commissioner Blevins said this facility will be comprehensive and they can go in and stay there and the security will be set up for individuals with these issues. The need for the Deputies will diminish, he added. Sherriff Shew added one day several weeks ago they had 22 folks in the emergency room for commitments. Commissioner Blevins said the CEO called because they needed help and he added with the help of Smoky and Daymark there were able to reduce this number significantly. He added Daymark had mentioned the staff needed for this crisis unit would be more than 20. Ms. Foreman agreed and added these will be stable jobs with benefits and will be a very positive impact to economic development. Ms. Foreman said all of their facility based crisis units will have an involuntary commitment drop-off program. She said this will allow the deputies to relinquish custody and they will not have to stay there waiting on placements, as they do now.

Ms. Foreman said they are working with another provider called RHA on developing a comprehensive care center expansion in Buncombe County she said this center will include a crisis unit for children. She added this is very much needed and will benefit their entire service area as there are only a few in the state that can take children. Ms. Foreman said the plan will allocate funds to expand services and help folks with developmental disabilities. She added they have also allocated funds for Naloxone distribution throughout the 23 Counties to reduce side effects or stop an overdose from narcotics which can save lives. Ms. Foreman said they are also investing in transitional housing for folks coming out of treatment for substance abuse to help with their recovery. She stated Smoky is most excited about a program called Life Sets and they are working with every DSS. This is an intensive program to work with kids aging out of foster care, she added. Ms. Foreman said this is for kids ages 16 – 21 to focus on giving them job skills, connections, and resources to be successful in their adulthood. Many kids coming out of foster care end up with behavior health issues and homelessness and face many challenges, she added. Ms. Foreman said Smoky believes that working with DSS and their foster kids they will have a greater chance of success.

Ms. Forman said they are working on a behavioral health jail diversion program, if Wilkes is interested. Chairman Settle asked what a behavioral health issue is. Ms. Foreman replied it includes both mental health and substance abuse. Chairman Settle asked if this would help to keep them out of jail. Mr. Forman said that would be the intent and could help connect them up with needed services when they come out of jail. She added the primary objective is to divert unnecessary detention in local jails of these folks and get them treatment before they get to this point. Vice Chairman Minton asked if this program is provided by Smoky at this time. Ms. Foreman replied no they do not, some counties work with providers to do these programs and they are just starting to look into the jail diversion program with some of the funds they have to invest. She said they hope this will keeps folks from getting into a detention center at all. Vice Chairman Minton said this would take a partnership with the DA and Court system. Ms. Foreman agreed and said as this program progresses and develops they would get back in touch with the Board with more information. She added this will help to direct these folks and connect them with providers to get the treatment and services they need to divert them from jail.

Ms. Foreman briefly went over the rest of the reinvestment plan for the Board and ask for any questions or concerns they have. Chairman Settle stated they have a large fund balance. Ms.

Foreman agreed and said this is from the savings, but much like the County they have to keep a certain amount in fund balance to cover specific things designated by the state. She said some of these funds come from the Medicaid savings and the rest come from State and local funds and they cannot be commingled. The funds for the crisis center are state and local funds and this is their most precious funds because they can use these to serve everyone, she added. Chairman Settle said Wilkes is located very central in the Northwest region and would welcome the crisis center and all the funds Smoky can contribute in this area to meet these needs. Ms. Foreman said this is a process and will take time, it is a collaboration with the Hospital, Daymark, Smoky, and the community and they have begun the process and are hopeful.

Chairman Settle asked how many counties are represented on the Smoky Board from the 23 Counties. Ms. Foreman said the General Assembly changed this and it is no longer county representatives it is by position or area of expertise. She said it could be a position for a hospital administration, experience in managed care, insurance, or home and advisory council which has three seats on the Board. Smoky tries to fill the seats based on geography in the positions so that no one region has an over-abundance for that county, she noted. Ms. Foreman said this plan comes from the gaps identified in services from multiply county groups, community collaboration staff, providers, surveys, and their best assessments for what the needs are. She added this Board has a regional focus based on all 23 counties. This is why Wilkes has been identified as needing the crisis facility, she noted.

Commissioner Blevins said due to legislature from the State and the changes that had to be made on the Smoky Board, they do have a regional outlook. He said before it was all County Commissioners' and they did focus on their own counties' needs and now that is it by position this does not happen. Chairman Settle said who decides on the Board appointments. Ms. Foreman replied it is Smoky and they have always made their own appointments based on area of expertise, it is very diverse and has folks from all across the region. She added there is also the County Commissioner Advisory Board that they can contact as well with needs or questions. Commissioner Blevins asked for a list of Board members. Ms. Foreman replied it is on the website and she will send to them a list that includes the members and their positions or area of expertise. Chairman Settle said the northwest needs to be represented on the Board. Commissioner Blevins agreed that would be a goal. Chairman Settle said in talking to other Commissioners the northwest area feels they have been overlooked. Ms. Foreman replied they had community meetings recently and met in all 23 counties and the community felt very well served, they felt the Smoky staff worked locally with the community groups and as well as Daymark. They thought Daymark had good processes and relationships in place and if they had issues they knew how to address them, she added. Ms. Foreman said she is focusing totally on County relations and this is so the Commissioners and Managers have the same perception and know who to call with questions and concerns. She added Daymark Recovery Services does a great job of being a part of each county and they hire folks locally in the community. Ms. Foreman said these meetings will happen twice per year in each county and this will be expanded and include community partners. She said they also send a county dashboard each quarter and she will make sure this goes to Mr. Yates so it can be shared with the Board.

The Board thanked Ms. Foreman for her update.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

1. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING REQUEST – 1024 ELK SPUR STREET, EDWARDS TOWNSHIP – Planning Director Eddie Barnes said during a regular meeting on Monday, June 27, 2016 the Wilkes Joint Planning Board reviewed a request from Lifeline Pregnancy Help Center, Inc. to rezone 0.45 acre parcel located at 1024 Elk Spur Street, Elkin, NC. This request is to rezone the property from Community Shopping (C-S) to Residential-Agriculture (R-20A), he added. The Wilkes Joint Planning Board approved and recommended this request to the Board to set a public hearing.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 2, 2016, at 9:55 A.M. regarding the Rezoning Request as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Greg Minton and unanimously approved.

2. ROAD NAME REQUEST – BEETLE DRIVE – Planning Director Eddie Barnes stated a Public Hearing was held earlier this evening to receive public input on a proposed Road Name Request for Beetle Drive in Boomer Township, with no opposition. He stated this request meets the requirements of the Wilkes County Road Naming Ordinance and a ten-day notification period has been met. He stated the Planning Department has not received any comments opposing the Road Name Request.

Vice Chairman Greg Minton made a motion to approve the Road Name Request for Beetle Drive as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

3. WILKES JOINT PLANNING BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS – Mr. Barnes stated the Wilkes Joint Planning Board appointment of Mr. Joe Byrd, Mr. Don Love, and Mrs. Peggy Woodruff will expire June 30, 2016. He added each member has expressed their desire to continue to serve on the Board for another 3-year term.

Mr. Barnes said the terms of North Wilkesboro appointment, Mrs. Ramona Curtis, and Wilkesboro appointment, Mr. Steve Steele will also expire on June 30, 2016. He added he has sent letters to each Town Board requesting their appointment by June 30, 2016. Mrs. Terri Stackhouse was recently appointed to take the place of Mrs. Curtis who served for many years as the North Wilkesboro appointment.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins to reappoint Mr. Joe Byrd, Mr. Don Love, and Mrs. Peggy Woodruff to the Wilkes Joint Planning Board as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and passed unanimously.

4. INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT – ADMINISTER FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE FOR TOWN OF RONDA – Mr. Barnes stated the Town of Ronda unanimously adopted a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance on June 13, 2016, and by doing so is now a participating member in the National Flood Insurance Program administered

by FEMA. The Town of Ronda is requesting the Wilkes County Planning Department and Wilkes County Building Inspections Department administer the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance on their behalf, he said. Mr. Barnes added the inter-local agreement and a copy of the ordinance has been forwarded to the Board. He said the Planning Department and Building Inspections Department currently administer other ordinances and building codes for the Town of Ronda.

Chairman Settle recognized Sandra Simmons a Town of Ronda Board Member. Ms. Simmons stated they did not need to be complacent to think that flooding and disasters cannot happen to them. She added it forces no-one to have flood insurance, it is up to that person, but they are in a flood danger zone in part of the Ronda City Limits. Ms. Simmons said for the folks that do want to purchase flood insurance it gives them the opportunity to do so through their own insurance company. She asked for the Boards consideration of this request for the Town of Ronda.

Chairman Settle said he has saw some of the flooding that can happen in Ronda. Commissioner Blevins ask if this would include things like the no-rise certificates and complications that go with FEMA. He added anytime someone builds anything on the river or streams they will go through a difficult permitting process. The Town of North Wilkesboro has had issues with this, he noted. Ms. Simmons said she does not foresee any new building in this area of the City Limits. Commissioner Blevins asked if a Public Hearing was required. County Attorney, Tony Triplett replied no. Mr. Triplett ask if the Ronda Board has already passed the Flood Control Ordinance. Ms. Simmons replied yes. Chairman Settle asked if this has to be approved by the Board. Mr. Barnes replied yes the Inter-local Agreement needs to be approved, for the County to administer the ordinance, Ronda already has the ordinance in place. Mr. Triplett stated the Inter-local Agreement is for the County to administer and enforce the Ronda ordinance for them, they passed their own ordinance. Commissioner Blevins ask what this will involve. Mr. Barnes said when someone comes for a permit they start with the Planning Department, then Environmental Health and last Inspections. He said now the Planning Department will make a determination if they are in a flood area. If they are they would be advised as to what they can do in that area and sometimes there is no construction that can happen and sometimes it can, he added. Mr. Barnes said if they are in a flood zone and can build they would work with the Building Inspectors to make sure it is built to the proper codes.

Commissioner Elmore ask if the purpose of this is so individuals can get flood insurance. Ms. Simmons replied yes, once this is approved she can then buy flood insurance. Mr. Barnes added FEMA will underwrite the flood insurance up to \$250,000 for a single family residence, it brings the rates down for the individual. He said generally the County and Town does not require flood insurance, it is usually a lender requirement, and if they cannot get it or can't afford it, they may not get the loan. Vice Chairman Minton stated the Town of Ronda has already passed the Ordinance so they have to require this if they are building in the flood area. He added the Board is only entering in to the Inter-local to authorize the Planning Department to enforce it.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Greg Minton to approve the Inter-local Agreement to administer Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance for the Town of Ronda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and passed unanimously.

SAFETY AWARDS – Chairman Eddie Settle recognized John Yates who stated that Ralph Broyhill, Safety Officer could not attend and he will be making the presentations for Mr. Broyhill. Mr. Yates presented the following awards:

Gold Award/Second Consecutive Year:

County of Wilkes, Emergency Medical Services/Emergency Management, Airport, Inspections, Recreation, and Planning
(Eric Morrison accepted the award)

Gold Award/Second Consecutive Year:

County of Wilkes, Finance & Taxation Public Building, Animal Control, Elections, Registrar of Deeds, IT, Purchasing, Garage, Soil, Cooperative Extension and Veterans
(Jerry Shepherd accepted the award)

Gold Award/Fifth Consecutive Year:

County of Wilkes, Department of Social Services
(John Blevins accepted the award)

Gold Award/Sixth Consecutive Year:

County of Wilkes, General Government & Commissioners
(Chairman Eddie Settle accepted the award)

Gold Award/Tenth Consecutive Year:

County of Wilkes, Sheriff's Department
(Sheriff Chris Shew accepted the award)

Gold Award Criteria: Rate of days away from work, job transfer or restriction must be at least 50% below the industry average.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – APPLICATION FOR WILKES COUNTY HEALTH CENTER (FQHC) – Chairman Eddie Settle welcomed and recognized Health Director, Ann Absher. Mrs. Absher said Sandy Shepherd is joining her, she is a member of the Board of Health and also the Chair of the new Community Health Center Board (FQHC) if they get the grant. She gave a power point out to the Board and stated she will go over the highlights of what is a Federally Qualified Health Center. Mrs. Absher stated the Wilkes County Health Department operates a primary health care clinic and they can do this because they get a lot of support from the community, and grants from the NC Rural Health Center and Duke Endowment. She added they see lots folks that work service jobs and they do not have health insurance because the employers cannot afford to offer it and the employees cannot afford to purchase it.

Mrs. Absher said the FQHC began in 1965, since then the Health Recourses Services Administration (HRSA) has provided federal funding across the US for these programs. She added if they receive the federal grant it gives up to \$650,000 annually to help operate a Health

Center. They are many federal requirements to meet in order to receive the funds, data collection, provide transportation, and make sure patients have care from cradle to grave, she noted. Mrs. Absher stated that several patients they see and treat have secondary mental health and/or substance abuse issues as well, which they refer to Daymark for additional services.

Mrs. Absher said some other benefits of the FQHC is they can get enhanced reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid and participate in 340B discounted drug pricing. She added Wilkes is in a designated shortage area so any doctors or providers they can recruit can received loan repayment. A separate Board had to be set up that has 51% patient members, a sub-501(c)3 was set up which are requirements under the federal act to apply for the funds as a public entity model, she noted. Mrs. Absher said they will work together with the Health Department through a Co-Applicant Agreement and there are two others in the state currently one in Craven County and the other in the Appalachian District.

Mrs. Absher provided some statics as to why this center is needed for the low income residents in Wilkes County. She said there will also be a sliding fee scale based on income and they use this in the Health Department currently. Mrs. Absher stated in mid-April they found out that based on some changes in the requirements for the grant it appeared that Wilkes may qualify and they began working on this. She added it is very competitive. Mrs. Absher said the Articles of Incorporation are in place, the Board is established with strong members and officers, and now they are in the process of writing the grant. She added the abstract was submitted on June 17, 2016 and the rest of the documents are due July 15, 2016 and this is what they are working on at this time. Mrs. Absher asked the Board to consider signing a letter of support to go with the application.

Chairman Settle ask if they would be hiring addition staff for the FQHC. Mrs. Absher replied they do have to show they are growing and meeting the need. She added they will use as many of the current staff as they can. In year one they would add one mid-level, in year two they would add another mid-level and would also take two mid-levels that work the MESH unit and make them full time and serve more in primary care, she added. Chairman Settle asked could they lose the grant in the future. Mrs. Absher replied every 3-years they have to show the intent to re-apply to receive the money, it could be lost, but they have a team that works with you. She said most of the time when a center closes it is because they cannot find providers, or didn't have a good financial background and Board in place. The centers that she knows in NC have been open and on-going for years and she does not think this would happen, she stated. Mrs. Absher said it is a huge opportunity to received federal monies, with no match required, and they can serve the folks in Wilkes that really need help.

Commissioner Elmore asked if the center will operate out of the Health Department. Mrs. Absher replied yes since WIC moved to the Health Foundation a few weeks ago, they now have some space to add two exam rooms, offices, and expand the pharmacy in that space. She added in year two they are looking to partner with the Health Foundation and move to extra space they have and would write grants to up-fit the location in West Park to expand the services and location.

CONSENSUS – Commissioners agreed for Chairman Settle to sign a letter of support for the FQHC grant application.

TAX DEPARTMENT – TAX RELEASES – Tax Administrator Alex Hamilton asked the Board to approve tax releases in the amount of \$546.11.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve tax releases in the amount of \$546.11 as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Greg Minton and unanimously approved.

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

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:

1. ENERGY PROGRAMS OUTREACH PLAN – APPROVAL – Chairman Eddie Settle recognized and welcomed Department of Social Services Director John Blevins. Mr. Blevins said the Energy Programs Outreach Plan is due in the State by July 31, 2016. He stated as instructed by the General Assembly of North Carolina all LIHEAP Outreach Plans must be approved by the local Board. He added, he is requesting approval of the DSS plan for FY 16-17. Mr. Blevins said this is a standard plan and there have not been any changes since last year.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve Wilkes County Department of Social Services Energy Programs Outreach Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Greg Minton and unanimously approved.

2. UPDATE –Mr. Blevins provided the Commissioners with handouts for May. 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 for May. Mr. Blevins said the next two pages are a graph for CPS Investigation cases and number of Children in Foster care which are both in an upward trend. He added it is a concern that these numbers are going up, it is not out of the ball park yet, but getting close and they are keeping a close watch on this. Mr. Blevins stated if these number stay at this level and do not go back down they will have to make some changes or additions. Commissioner Elmore asked the fact that 76 foster children are placed outside the County impacts the work load or travel for the workers. Mr. Blevins replied yes and want them in Wilkes and it would be much better if they were here. He added it places a burden on the workers because they have to see every child each month and are traveling out of the County to do this. It takes them away from their paperwork and other duties due to the travel time this takes, he noted.

Commissioner Elmore said they only have one family in the MAPP training according to the report. Mr. Blevins agreed and said this is something they are always recruiting for, but it is hard. He added they lose Foster homes when they adopt as several are foster to adopt homes and this is a struggle as well. Commissioner Blevins ask of the number of children outside the county are the majority in individual homes or group homes. Mr. Blevins replied the majority

are in some sort of facility or level care. Commissioner Blevins said Wilkes just does not have this available. Mr. Blevins agreed and added some would be in individual homes if Wilkes had them, and they need more. Commissioner Blevins asked what the barriers are for Wilkes not having these. Mr. Blevins replied Ebenezer does an excellent job for Wilkes County, but they can only take so many and with the numbers this high they just can't take them all. He added all of this does factor into workload stress and he has told his CPS Department Head to let him know if it gets to be too much. Chairman Settle agreed that Ebenezer does a great job and wishes they could expand to take more children.

Chairman Settle stated they have added some personnel in CPS. Mr. Blevins agreed and said they have added a few and they also moved 2 from Workforce to CPS as well. He noted a supervisor was approved in the new budget and this will help a great deal for over-site and solve that issue and in addition if they add more workers they will now be in compliance with the State. Mr. Blevins said the ratio of cases per worker for the state is 1 to 15 and most currently have 18 to 20 cases at this time. He added this number fluctuates and they have lost some workers and added some new ones. They have two currently waiting for training so they can take cases, he stated. Vice Chairman Minton asked if they have any openings at this time in CPS. Mr. Blevins replied they have one and these two waiting will be trained in August. Vice Chairman Minton asked the turn around on the training. Mr. Blevins said they go to Greensboro for two weeks and then train another week in the office before they can take a case and training is not offered every month. Commissioner Blevins stated they need to look at the reasons why these numbers are going up, what needs to happen with Smoky or Law Enforcement to try to figure out the causes and what could be done to prevent this. Mr. Blevins said it is very hard to get a good answer to this problem and it would benefit everyone and especially the children if foster care could be avoided. They must keep them in a safe home environment, he added.

Next Mr. Blevins provided a sample letter that is sent to prospective foster and adoptive families on upcoming training. He added the second page is explaining Fostering Health NC which is a unique approach between medical professionals and DSS to get a medical home for foster children. Mr. Blevins said the next had out is an email from Brooke Jordan with the NC Pediatric Society and they were very pleased and impressed with Wilkes County DSS in implementing the changes and the work they do. He stated the staff worked hard on getting it implemented and he was very pleased to get the positive feedback from the State. Chairman Settle added at their County Commissioner Association meetings Wilkes DSS is bragged on for the great job they do. Mr. Blevins noted it is the workers they have, they do the great work and he is very proud of them.

The Board thanked Mr. Blevins for his update.

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT – SALE OF SURPLUS VEHICLES – County Manager John Yates stated the Wilkes County Purchasing Department is requesting approval from the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners to sell the following surplus vehicles and equipment using electronic auction method:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Make</i>	<i>Model</i>	<i>Mileage</i>	<i>Department</i>
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1984	AM General Mower	M915	35905	Sheriff
?	Jacobson/Kubota	T422D	?	Sheriff
?	Kubota Mower	G1900	?	Sheriff
?	Exel	4500 Hustler		Sheriff
<i>(All mowers listed need minor and major repairs)</i>				
1986	Feree Trailer	CT25S		Sheriff
Parts-Oxygen/Acetylene Torch – Condition is unknown				Garage
	Kleen Tec – Parts Washer	KT9400		Garage
	Large Lot of Nortel Phones			Central Operations

Vice Chairman Greg Minton made a motion to approve the sale of surplus vehicles and equipment using the electronic auction method govdeals.com as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT – REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING – JAG 2016 GRANT AWARD – Chairman Settle recognized Sheriff Chris Shew. Sheriff Shew said the Wilkes County Sheriff’s Office has been awarded the 2016 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) grant which does not require any match by this office. Sheriff Shew said they are proposing to use the JAG grant funds to purchase a pan disrupter. He said it is portable and will allow them to disrupt and/or detonate an explosive device on site that cannot be moved. Sheriff Shew requested a public hearing be held on August 2nd, 2016 which will allow citizens to respond to this proposed use of these funds.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 9:50 A.M. regarding the Grant Award as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Greg Minton and unanimously approved.

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 11:51 A. M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: