

MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 16, 2016

PUBLIC CONCERNS – CAROL BRACEWELL – LACK OF SERVICES – Ms. Bracewell said she would like to bring to attention that there are few to no services in the Southeast corridor, which includes Hwy. 18 and Boomer. She added that due to some medical issues recently she qualified for Meals on Wheels and Home Health, which the doctor said she did not need because she had family close by. Ms. Bracewell said if she had gotten home health services the nurses would have to come from Yadkinville. She added the same thing happens with Hospices care. She stated there is no Meals on Wheels or assistance East of Hwy. 18. Ms. Bracewell added the Meals on Wheels food site is in Austin-Traphill, and the Senior Center is a 34 mile trip for her and others, making them feel very under-served. In closing Ms. Bracewell mentioned she would like to see more services in the Southeast corridor to include Meals on Wheels for the aging population.

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 7:01 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 stated he would like to recognize one of the Board Members, Commissioner Gary D. Blevins who was a co-winner of the 2016 Outstanding County Commissioner of the year. He read a portion of the press release from the NC Association of County Commissioners which stated that Commissioner Blevins was honored for co-chairing the NCACC's Legislative Goals Committee for the past two years. The Legislative Goals Committee oversaw the development of the NCACC's Legislative Agenda. More than 250 legislative proposals impacting counties were submitted for the 2015-16 goals process. Chairman Settle stated Commissioner Gary D. Blevins is the first Commissioner in Wilkes County to ever win this award, and it is well deserved. He added Commissioner Blevins works hard and has been a part of the NCACC for as long as he has been a Commissioner. Chairman Settle said he does a great job and everybody throughout the State and the Commissioners Association know him. He added Commissioner Blevins had told him it was not him, it was the County and this award is well deserved.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins said it was very exciting to receive this award at the conference and for Wilkes County to be recognized. He added he has received lots of positive feedback, the other Commissioners were there, his family was brought in, and it was a big surprise. Commissioner Blevins stated it was good for everyone, Wilkes is a great place to live and they have a great community. There are issues and things they need to work on, but it's a great place, he added. Commissioner Blevins said the biggest thing was recognizing the staff and other

MINUTES

August 16, 2016

Page 2 of 5

Commissioners, because he has been supported 100%. He added as a Commissioner he can go out of the county and go to Raleigh or anywhere needed to make sure the interest of the tax payers are protected. He noted one of the past President's had said if you're not at the table you're on the menu in Raleigh. Commissioner Blevins said he wanted to thank the tax payers, staff, and other elected officials that supported him so that he could be the Outstanding Commissioner of the Year in North Carolina. He stated when 600 of your peers pick you, and they all know how tough it is to be a Commissioner, there are many rewards that go with this honor.

Chairman Settle stated this is an accomplishment and great for Wilkes County. He added there are three Wilkes Commissioners that serves on the NCACC Board and they are the only county in the State that has three.

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.

Chairman Settle stated with the Boards approval he would like to strike item H from the Agenda, there is no one from the State at the meeting to answer the questions they have.

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 August 2, 2016.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Greg Minton to approve Budget Amendment No. 1 (General Fund – Highway 268 E Water Project – This amendment will close out the Highway 268 W. Water Project. This amendment will transfer the remaining funds to the General Funds to cover the indirect costs associated with this project. The expenses for this project were all covered by grants and the NC Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund. No County funds were used to complete this project); Budget Amendment No. 2 (Health Programs – Komen Services & Promotion – The Health Department has received funds from the Susan G. Komen Foundation to provide mammograms and follow-ups for eligible women of Wilkes County. Also received funds from the Health Foundation to provide vouchers for the farmer's market program.) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

WILKES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (WTA) - UPDATE – Chairman Eddie Settle recognized and welcomed Mike Norwood, Executive Director. Mr. Norwood said beginning in September there will be six counties across the State that will pilot the NC Tracks System, which is not a new program, but is new to transit. He added this is how providers bill Medicaid to receive payment for their services. Wilkes County is not one of the counties to pilot this, but it will be used in all counties beginning in January 2017, he noted. Mr. Norwood said he has already sent two of his folks for training, and the system they use currently has an interface for

MINUTES

August 16, 2016

Page 3 of 5

Tracks which is very good. He added he has concerns and that is why he is being proactive and coming before the Board. They do not know what this will look like and transit agencies have never used this billing system, he noted. Mr. Norwood said WTA survives 90% on Medicaid transportation and the concern is, they have heard others say, that once this is entered in and uploaded there has been times it has taken 8 to 10 months before payment is received. He added they cannot survive if this is the case, they would have to do massive layoffs and not sure they could keep the doors open. Mr. Norwood said they want to let the Board know about this now in case this happens, because WTA would need help from the County. He said he has also heard that some medical providers are paid well and don't have delays, but they do not know what it will do to their financing, billing, and staffing at this time.

Chairman Settle stated the Board appreciates WTA letting them know of this concern and possible issue. Mr. Norwood said surprises like this would not be good, this is why they wanted to give them an update on this change. Chairman Settle said at this time they don't know, it could work well and WTA would not have any issues. Mr. Norwood agreed, and added currently they send the bill to Wilkes DSS, it's approved and sent to the County Finance Department, a check is cut, and finance submits a reimbursement through Tracts. He added this will take the County out of the middle. Finance will not be writing a check every two weeks for the billing and submitting for reimbursement, which is good he said.

Commissioner Blevins asked if this would result in a reduction in funding or just a possible cash flow issue due to being paid several months later. Mr. Norwood replied it is cash flow, there is not cuts to the bottom line, no decrease in clients, and no decrease to the mileage rate. Commissioner Blevins said it could just be interim cash flow needs and the payments will follow. Mr. Norwood agreed and added it could work fine and they get paid every two weeks or once a month and in that case WTA would be fine. Commissioner Blevins ask if WTA had a fund balance they can use. Mr. Norwood replied very little due to caps on State grants. He added their ROAP grant is different this year, it will come to the County and will be quarterly. Mr. Norwood said it will require more oversight by the County Manager and Finance Officer, he will have to prepare reports and bring them in for signatures before he can submit them. He added if the report is late the grant funding will be decreased for the next quarter.

Vice Chairman Minton asked if there are training sessions scheduled for this new system. Mr. Norwood replied he sent two in April and he has been told there will be more. Vice Chairman Minton stated it is in pilot phase currently. Mr. Norwood said they were told the pilots will begin September 1, 2016 and then State wide January, 2017. Vice Chairman Minton added this change is concerning. Commissioner Gambill stated the cash flow issue at WTA is getting much better. He noted Mr. Norwood and the Board has worked very hard to put things in place to correct this and it looks better than it has in the past. He added in the next 2-3 years the loan will be paid off and the cash flow will improve a great deal when that happens. Mr. Norwood said the loan has been paid down by about 65% and this will be an extra \$1,000 per month to the cash flow. Commissioner Blevins asked if the balance was about \$25K. Mr. Norwood replied yes \$28K to \$25K. Commissioner Blevins said at this time there is no County funds utilized in WTA's operating budget. Mr. Norwood agreed. He stated the cash flow is tight at times

especially this time of year just before the grants come in, but they keep a close watch on it and cut where and as needed.

Commissioner Blevins asked if they provide services to the entire County. Mr. Norwood replied yes, they can provide transportation to anywhere as long as the trip originates in Wilkes County and they can pay. Chairman Settle added this is a great service for the entire county. Commissioner Elmore ask what amount of money would be needed if the County had to step in and help WTA with cash flow. Mr. Norwood replied Medicaid runs \$35K to \$40K every two weeks, or \$80K per month on average depending on demand. Chairman Settle asked if fuel prices increased substantially does the billing change. Mr. Norwood replied yes, there is a clause in the contract with Medicaid and DSS that they can renegotiate the mileage rates if this happens.

The Board thanked Mr. Norwood for his update and the good job WTA is doing in Wilkes.

WILKES EMS:

1. FRANCHISE APPLICATION – WILKES EMS – SECOND VOTE TO APPROVE – Chairman Settle welcomed and recognized Eric Morrison, EMS Director. Mr. Morrison said he is here as the Wilkes EMS System Director for the second vote on the Wilkes County EMS Franchise Application per the Franchise Ordinance. He added the Ordinance requires two votes at two separate meetings, the first one was approved at the last meeting and this is the second and final vote for the Wilkes EMS Franchise Application Agreement.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to approve the Wilkes County EMS Franchise Application Agreement for the second and final approval, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

2. FRANCHISE AGREEMENT – WILKES COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD – Mr. Morrison stated this is to request the first approval for the Franchise Application for Wilkes County Rescue Squad and ask Shawn Staley to join him. He added this is an EMS system and Wilkes is very fortunate to have several volunteer organizations in the community that participate and come out to help their neighbors. Mr. Morrison said they are appreciative of the partnership with the Rescue Squad, Fire Departments, and for the volunteers that will come out during the day and in the middle of night whenever they are needed. He stated he would like to recommend that the Board approve the first of two votes needed to renew the Franchise Application for the Wilkes County Rescue Squad to continue in the back-up ambulance provider role.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to approve the Wilkes County Rescue Squad Franchise Application Agreement for the first approval, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

The Board thanked Wilkes EMS and Wilkes County Rescue Squad for all they do for the citizens.

CLOSED SESSION – Commissioner Gary D. Blevins 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 to give instructions with respect to one or more potential judicial or administrative actions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

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

ADJOURN – Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 7:57 P. M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: