

MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 15, 2016

PUBLIC CONCERNS – NONE

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7:07 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 to the meeting.

Chairman Settle stated Item I will be removed from the Agenda at the request of Sheriff Chris Shew because he is out of town.

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 Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on November 1, 2016.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Chairman Eddie Settle welcomed and recognized Ann Absher, Health Director. Commissioner Blevins asked if Ebola was still a big health issue and about the Ebola money received. Mrs. Absher replied they want to make sure the County is prepared for any type of emergency event and the funds are split, this is the reason these funds are being received at this time.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore to approve Budget Amendment No. 8 (Health Programs – Infant Mortality Reduction & Health Promotions – The Health Department has received funds from Women’s and Children’s Health Branch for the Infant Mortality Reduction program for the improvement of Long Action Reversible Contraception (LARC) for fiscal Year 2017. The Health Department received funds from The Health Foundation to provide a Stress Management Program to the employees of Wilkes County Government. The Health Department received additions funds from Ebola Preparedness and Response for Zika planning and Zika-

related inquiries, no County funds involved.) The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Greg Minton and unanimously approved.

AIRPORT – AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN UPDATE – WORK AUTHORIZATION NO. 7 – Chairman Settle welcomed and recognized Jimmy Luther, Aviation Program Manager WK Dickson & Co., Inc. Mr. Luther said work authorization no. 7 is in the packets and it is for updating the Airport layout plan, which is a 20-year planning document. He said the Division of Aviation (DOA) and FAA require Airports to keep an updated plan current within 8 years or so. The Wilkes Airport Plan was last updated in 2005, he added. Mr. Luther said back in May the DOA brought this to their attention at a planning meeting that it was a deficient item and needed to be updated. He said that is what is before the Board, it is paid with non-primary entitlement funds received each year, and asked for the Boards consideration.

Commissioner Blevins said this was discussed at the Airport Board meeting last week, it is required and needs to be done. Chairman Settle added everyone is well pleased with the Wilkes Airport. Mr. Luther noted they are very pleased to be working at the Airport and have a good working relationship with everyone. Chairman Settle said Samaritan's Purse seems to be happy and they are a great asset to the County. Mr. Luther agreed. Commissioner Blevins added Wilkes Airport just received notification of another State Aide grant award from DOA. Mr. Luther added this award is for an over-lay on the taxiways. The runway and apron already received a new mat and were paved from a grant received last year. He said once complete there will be all new pavement at the Airport which has not been done since it was built. Commissioner Blevins said it has been 25 to 30 years since this was paved originally and things are going well.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins to approve the Airport Layout Plan Update, Work Authorization No. 7, as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

The Board thanked Mr. Luther. Mr. Luther thanked the Board and wished them a Happy Thanksgiving.

TOWN OF WILKESBORO – HISTORIC DOWN TOWN STREET SCAPE PROJECT UPDATE – Chairman Settle welcomed and recognized Andrew Carlton, Planning and Community Development Director for the Town of Wilkesboro. Mr. Carlton provided a power point presentation to the Board and noted this is a community effort that has been in process for over 20-years for down town revitalization. He stated the packets provided to the Board include the stage construction documents, landscape architecture, site design construction documents, and civil engineering documents. Mr. Carlton said they hope to have a bid package in the next few days for the 2 ½ blocks as shown in the presentation. He added the Town Council and Community worked together to create a unique, creative, down town street scape revitalization and renovation project. This project will stand on its own and is not considered a cookie cutter approach to other communities, he noted. Mr. Carlton said there are 5 goals this project is centered around: Economic Development; quality of life with healthy active lifestyles; tourism; youth retention; walkability and housing which go together.

Mr. Carlton said phase I is made up of the Open Air Market block, Museum block, and Tyson Greenway Trailhead and the right-of-ways in and around the site. He went over each block in detail during the presentation. This will be a multi-year maybe decade long project and contain four phases identified at this time, he added. Phase II will be Main Street, phase III south side of main down to Cub Creek Park, then phase IV will come online as economic development increases, he said. Mr. Carlton stated they want to bring in cluster crowds to attract new business to the down town areas. He said the stage area will be the center of the project and it is designed to be used in different ways for different activities. Mr. Carlton went over the pavers, parking, sidewalk, seating options, trees, and many details about the esthetics for the site area. He also discussed the Greenway Connector to Cub Creek Park, as well as the pedestrian and bike trails leading to Cub Creek to follow. Mr. Carlton went over the signage for the area and the advantages of using the Yadkin Valley pre-approved signage program in all of Wilkes. He went over the four quadrant lawn space that will be in front of the Heritage Museum and what will be on each quad and the many different uses for this area.

Mr. Carlton said the part he wanted to go over most with the Board is the Greenway Trailhead which is still being worked out. They are trying to sit down with the interested parties to make sure the public right-of-way and access to the fields is still achieved through the design, he added. Mr. Carlton explained this is a congested area and there is confusion especially when Bridge Street is closed for events, especially now with the construction going on. He said during concerts and festivals when Bridge Street is closed they want to create a barricade at the trail, but the trail will remain open. Folks will be able to circle through the Greenway Trail Head and back out to North Street without creating a congestion issue. Mr. Carlton said they have been working with Keith Walsh and the Building Inspections Office on a dumpster enclosure for this area that will be worked into the design. He said they hope to have this all worked out in the next month so all equipment, trucks, and everyone will have the access they need for this public right-of-way with no inconvenience. Mr. Carlton said he would like to come back to one of the December meetings after speaking with all the parties to finalize the design and how they plan to meet the access requirement that must stay in place for the right-of-way. He added it is County Property and a public right-of-way and this Boards' approval will be needed.

Chairman Settle stated this access will need to be wide due to the large equipment that will be using it. Mr. Carlton agreed and added they will sit down with the folks affected and see what they need. He said they have three alternatives and they will come up with a design that will allow people and equipment the access they need as well as options for future growth.

Mr. Carlton finished with a quote that included the phrase "while a successful industrial park doesn't make a down town more successful, a successful down town is a great asset to the industrial park". He said his hope is that both down towns will reflect the quality in this community and companies looking to expand or move to Wilkes will look at the down town areas when making a decision.

Commissioner Blevins stated it is important to re-direct the thru truck traffic out of down town and to Oakwoods Road to Hwy 421 and they are working with DOT to accomplish this. He

added he hopes both towns will support the County with the enhancements through DOT to Oakwoods Road to accomplish this. Commissioner Blevins said the route for 268 and 421 both needs to be changed to help with this effort. Mr. Carlton thanked the Board. The Board thanked Mr. Carlton for his presentation and Chairman Settle thanked him for the comments about the two towns working together to enhance both down town areas.

WILKES COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT – APPROVAL OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR NEW LEASE – WILKES COUNTY REMOTE CONTROL CARE CLUB – County Attorney Tony Triplett stated this matter is before the Board to consider a new lease for the Remote Control Car Club. He said Kevin Anderson, Recreation Director and Joey Osborne with the Car Club are also in attendance. Mr. Triplett said they have been working together to re-new this lease which began in 2006 and has been in place for 10-years, but expired 2 months ago. He said it had been in 5-year lease, but this time the club has requested a 3-year renewal. Mr. Triplett said before the Board is a proposal for a 3-year sublease agreement for them to continue to use the space at Lowes Park at Rivers Edge. He added, there is a memo, sublease agreement, notice for the newspaper, and the usual documents in the packet.

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 is 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 if that is the desire. Mr. Triplett stated there is a specific Motion that is needed when the Board is ready.

Commissioner Gambill asked why the term is 3-years instead of 5-years for this renewal. Mr. Osborne replied he has been involved with the track for the past 5 to 6 years and people come and go and the last gentleman that ran the track deserted it a couple years ago. He said he hopes to jump start it during the next 3-years and when it comes back he would like to hand it off at that time to another club member so he can enjoy it more.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made Motion to publish notice, pursuant to G.S. §153A-176 and G.S. §160A-272, of the intent of the Board of Commissioners to enter into a Sublease Agreement between Wilkes County (as sublessor) and Wilkes County Remote Control Car Club (as sublessee) for a portion of Lowe’s Park at River’s Edge as described in the Sublease Agreement presented at tonight’s meeting, with the County Attorney to present a Resolution for final approval of the Sublease Agreement at the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

BOARD OF HEALTH APPOINTMENTS – Chairman Settle welcomed and recognized Ann Absher, Health Director. Mrs. Absher said the Board of Health would like to recommend the re-appointment of Ms. Teana Compeau as public member, Dr. Robert Ricketts, DDS as the Dentist member, and Ms. Sandra Sheppard, RN MHP as the Nurse Member to the Wilkes County Board of Health for consideration.

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Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to re-appoint Ms. Teana Compeau (Public Member), Dr. Robert Ricketts, DDS (Dentist Position) and Mr. Sandra Sheppard, RN MPH (Nurse Position) to serve three year terms commencing January 1, 2017 through January 1, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

WATER IN-TAKE – W. KERR SCOTT DAM – UPDATE – Chairman Settle said the Board would like to expedite the process for the Water In-Take and do what they can to move it forward quickly and with all parties involved. He added there is some drilling and other things that are needed to get this to a better price. The County is in a small drought now and no-one knows when it will end, and there are other states in a severe drought and it could lead to a water crisis in the County, he noted.

Mr. Triplett stated the County has an easement with the Corps of Engineers and built into this easement is a temporary easement for construction purposes which will expire on September 30, 2017. He added it is safe to say construction will not be completed by September 30, 2017 and this is a concrete step that needs to be taken. Mr. Triplett said this will let the Corps know more time is needed and this will also let them know this project and construction will be moving forward and this deadline needs to be extended. He added this is something within this Boards control and he and Mr. Yates are glad to start this process on behalf of the County, North Wilkesboro, and Wilkesboro, which is all parties and will work together on this. This is the background to the motion being read by Commissioner Elmore, he noted.

Mr. Yates said he spoke with Mike Acquesta and Garney Construction this morning and they will be at the December 5, 2016 meeting to provide an update. He added Mr. Acquesta did request that Mr. Ken Noland, Mr. Larry South, and he meet with them the week after next, but they will be here on December 5th to give an update. Chairman Settle asked for an update from Mr. Yates on the trip to Raleigh with Ken Noland on November 7th. Mr. Yates replied that they had a very good meeting on November 7, 2016 with DENR and he and Mr. Noland both made it very clear that they wanted a joint project with both Towns and the County. DENR told them if North Wilkesboro decided not to go forward they could change the application to Wilkes County and it would be a 20-year loan at 0%. Mr. Yates stated DENR said if this happens the Town of North Wilkesboro would have to send a letter that they were voluntarily withdrawing and it could move forward. He said if Wilkesboro decided to go forward alone they would have to start over with the funding. Mr. Yates said he has spoken with Mr. South a few times and he said North Wilkesboro is still paying the bills and they want to move forward.

Chairman Settle said he has met with Councilman Bert Hall and Mayor Robert Johnson and they have also said they are ready to move forward. He stated all indications are that both Towns are ready to move forward together. Chairman Settle stated this action is to let everyone know the County is good to go and ready to move forward. Chairman Settle asked Wilkesboro Town Manager Ken Noland when the Corps may allow moving forward. Mr. Noland replied they expect to receive this approval at any time. He stated the Corps has given approval to survey, but have not given approval to drill and soil samples are needed. They do not want to do one without the other, but this approval is expected anytime, he added. The goal is within the next

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couple of weeks he stated. Chairman Settle said once the core drilling is received if they find out they can go this way then there are no more environmental assessments needed. Mr. Noland replied this is what they are hoping for. Commissioner Blevins added when dealing with many different agencies they never know the exact time line or all the requirements, but have to be hopeful for this.

Commissioner Blevins asked if the City of Winston Salem has any input into the extension of time. Mr. Triplett replied no not in the extension. He added if the redesign of the project is sufficiently substantial they will have to discuss this and it is not clear yet what will emerge after the core drilling, redesign, value engineering are completed or how the project will differ from before. Mr. Triplett said Winston Salem has approved the project as it is now, but they have not seen this, and that will have to be decided once it is all received and reviewed. Their approval is not needed for the action by the Board tonight for the extension of the easement, he added. Chairman Settle stated the Board wants to make sure this project keeps moving and they get the approval from the Corps soon that is needed for the next step so they can proceed with the Water In-Take.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion that they direct the County Attorney and County Manager to contact the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, along with the Towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, to start the process of requesting an extension of time for the construction easement under the September 28, 2012 Easement from the Corps to the County for construction of the water in-take at W. Kerr Scott Dam. The motions was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

CLOSED SESSION – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to go into closed session under Section 143-318.11(a)(3) of the North Carolina General Statute to consult with the Board's attorney to protect the attorney-client privilege, to consult with and give instructions to the Board's attorney with respect to one or more potential judicial or administrative actions; and Under Section 143-318.11 (a)(4) of the North Carolina General Statutes to discuss the location or expansion of business in Wilkes County; and under Section 143-318.11(a)(5) of the North Carolina General Statutes to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee, known as the personnel exception. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore, seconded by Commissioner David Gambill 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 Keith Elmore, seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 9:52 P. M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: