

MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 2, 2018

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 6:04 P.M. with the following members present: Chairman Gary D. Blevins, Vice Chairman Eddie Settle, Commissioner Keith Elmore, Commissioner David Gambill, and Commissioner Greg Minton.

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

Chairman Gary D. Blevins welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION – Commissioner David Gambill led the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Gary D. Blevins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Commissioner Greg Minton, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on December 19, 2017.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to approve Budget Amendment No. 8 (Heath – Programs – Health Promo & Women’s Circle Grant – Wilkes County Health Department received \$3,804.00 from Appalachian District to provide additional education and services for the SHAC Tobacco Prevention program. No County money involved. Wilkes County Health Department received a Women’s Circle Grant from the Health Foundation in the amount of \$1,283.00 to provide 10 additional mammogram screening for uninsured women. No County money involved.) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

WILKES COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH – APPOINTMENTS – Chairman Blevins recognized Ann Absher, Health Director. Mrs. Absher thanked the Board and said they have one re-appointment and one appointment on the Board of Health to request this year. Dr. Miller who is the Veterinarian and has already served two, three-year terms is up for re-appointment. Ms. Absher stated their Registered Pharmacist Don Manus served his three, three-year terms and rotated off the Board. She added Marcia Reynolds has applied to serve on the Board, she has completed her application and has been a registered pharmacist for about 30-years.

Chairman Blevins said they have received recommendations from the Board of Health for the two Board Appointments, Robbins Miller and Marcia Reynolds. Commissioner Gambill stated

this will be the last three-year term for Dr. Miller. Mrs. Absher replied yes. Commissioner Elmore asked after these folks serve three, three-year terms can they return to the Board at a later time. Mrs. Absher replied they are supposed to remain off the Board for one year and then can start a new rotation according to the General Statutes. Chairman Blevins stated these are both required positions on the Board of Health by statute for Veterinarian and Registered Pharmacist. Mrs. Absher replied this is correct.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to re-appoint Robbins Miller, Veterinarian and appoint Marcia Reynolds, Registered Pharmacist to the Wilkes County Board of Health for three year terms, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greg Minton and unanimously approved.

TAX DEPARTMENT:

1. TAX RELEASES – LISTING – Chairman Blevins recognized Alex Hamilton, Tax Administrator. Mr. Hamilton asked the Board to approve tax releases for listing in the amount of \$626.67.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to approve the tax releases for listing as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

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

2. TAX RELEASES – COLLECTIONS – Mr. Hamilton asked the Board to approve tax releases for collections in the amount of \$1,999.90.

Commissioner Elmore asked what the qualifications are to apply for the senior discount. Mr. Hamilton replied the senior discount is income based, it changes each year based on the state income adjustments, they must be 65 or older and the income this year was \$29,600. Commissioner Elmore asked if this was household income. Mr. Hamilton replied yes all sources in the household to include social security. Commissioner Minton asked what the discount is. Mr. Hamilton replied it is \$25K or 50% of the value of their home plus 1 acre of land, whichever is greater. Commissioner Elmore said he thinks there may be several older folks that are not aware of this discount program. Mr. Hamilton replied it is printed on the tax bills, it is included in the ad running in the newspaper about listing your property as well. He added if folks come in and they see they may qualify and are not in it, they walk them through the process. Mr. Hamilton said they also have a discount for anyone that is 100% totally and completely disabled, and this is a flat \$45K. He added there is also a disabled Veteran discount which is also \$45K and they apply for this through the Veterans Office and Ralph Broyhill and the tax office works together on this.

Mr. Hamilton said they help folks to qualify for the program that benefits them the most if they qualify for more than one. He stated the folks have until June 1st to apply for these exemptions and if they will come to Room 202 upstairs they will walk them through the process and see if they qualify. If they fail to meet this deadline it must go before the Board of E & R, the Tax

Administration does not have the authority to grant late applications, he added. Chairman Blevins said the land use applications have the same deadline and if they fail to meet this it will also go to the Board of E & R. He added the regulations and guidelines are tough to understand and they recommend that folks come in and let them help with the land use applications as well. Mr. Hamilton agreed they will be happy to help folks with all of these programs. Chairman Blevins asked if these are local rules or state. Mr. Hamilton replied the county has no say in any of these programs or matters that are state programs. He added the only say the county has is the Board of E & R for the late applications and in that case they have to show just cause or good reason they could not meet the June 1st deadline. Mr. Hamilton stated the late application must be filled in the same year that the taxes are due, for example they cannot file an appeal for a late application for 2017 taxes since it is now 2018, which is a change.

Commissioner Greg Minton made a motion to approve the tax releases for collections 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.

Chairman Blevins thanked Mr. Hamilton.

RESOLUTION – NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS – Chairman Blevins recognized County Manager, John Yates. Mr. Yates stated the county received a letter from Ramie Shaw, Division Planning Engineer, Highway Division Eleven, Project Development Unit, North Carolina Department of Transportation that he needs a resolution of support for two projects. The projects are:

1. SR 2303 (Clingman Rd.) curve realignment with intersection improvements at SR 2350 (Ronda Clingman Sch. Rd.).
2. Construct a roundabout at the intersection of SR 1002 (Traphill Rd.) and SR 1713 (Yellow Banks Rd.)

Mr. Yates said Mr. Shaw wants to apply for funding to the Board of Transportation at its February meeting and needs the Resolution of Support from the Commissioner in Wilkes County to submit this.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the Resolution in support of North Carolina Department of Transportation projects for SR 2303 Clingman Road curve realignment with intersection improvements at SR 2350 Ronda Clingman School Road and Construct Roundabout at intersection of SR 1002 Traphill Road and SR 1713 Yellow Banks Road, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

*RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS FOR
SR 2303 CLINGMAN ROAD CURVE REALIGNMENT
WITH INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT SR 2350
RONDA CLINGMAN SCHOOL ROAD AND
CONSTRUCT ROUNDABOUT AT INTERSECTION OF SR 1002
TRAPHILL ROAD AND SR 1713 YELLOW BANKS ROAD*

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (hereinafter "N.C.D.O.T.") is proposing SR 2303 (Clingman Road) curve realignment with intersection improvements at SR 2350 (Ronda Clingman School Road) and to construct a roundabout at the intersection of SR 1002 (Traphill Road) and SR 1713 (Yellow Banks Road), in Wilkes County, North Carolina (hereinafter referred to as the "Projects"); and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for the Projects funding exceeds \$250,000.00; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §136-11.1, "Local Consultation on Transportation Projects," requires N.C.D.O.T. to notify all municipalities and counties affected by a planned transportation project and to request that they submit a written resolution expressing their views on the same within 45 days; and

WHEREAS, N.C.D.O.T. has notified Wilkes County (hereinafter the "County") of the Project under date of December 15, 2017, and has requested that the County submit a resolution expressing its views on the same; and

WHEREAS, the County, acting through its Board of Commissioners in regular session assembled on the 2nd day of January, 2018 has expressed its support of the Projects and has voted unanimously to adopt this Resolution evidencing the same, all in compliance with the requirements of N.C.G.S. §136-11.1;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners does hereby express its support of the Projects as set forth hereinabove;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners authorizes its Chairman and the Clerk to the Board to sign this Resolution and attach the County seal thereto, and to forward a copy of the same to N.C.D.O.T.

ADOPTED this the 2nd day of January, 2018 by the Wilkes Board of Commissioners.

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gary D. Blevins, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sarah D. Call, Clerk to the Board

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 and to consult with and give instructions to the Board’s attorney with respect to one or more potential judicial or administrative actions and to consult with the Board’s attorney to protect the attorney-client privilege. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greg Minton and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill, seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle 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 David Gambill, seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 7:56 P. M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gary D. Blevins, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: January 16, 2018