

**MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
JANUARY 14, 2021**

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners held a work session on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 4:02 P.M. at the Wilkes County Agricultural Center located at 416 Executive Drive, Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purpose of a Presentation provided by Bladen County. Present for the meeting were the following members: Chairman Eddie Settle, Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton, Commissioner Keith Elmore, and Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson. Commissioner David Gambill attended the meeting remotely audio only through WebEx.

Also present for the meeting were John Yates, County Manager; Tony Triplett, County Attorney, Chris Huffman, Finance Director; and Sarah Call, Clerk to the Board; along with members of the Wilkes County Economic Development Corporation Staff and Board, to include LeeAnn Nixon, Robin Hamby, Terry Bumgarner, Brett Cothren, and Ken Noland.

Chairman Settle welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INTRODUCTON OF BLADEN COUNTY ATTENDEES – Chuck Heustess, Bladen EDC Executive Director, Charles Peterson, Chairman Board of Commissioners, Ray Britt, Past Chairman Board of Commissioners (both Commissioners also serve on Bladen’s Bloomin’ Agri-Industry Board), Greg Martin, County Manager, and Robert Hester, Past President of Bladen’s Bloomin’ Agri-Industrial Board.

PRESENTATION – Mr. Heustess went over the following:

- Why they started Bladen’s Bloomin’ Agri-Industrial, Inc (BBAI)
- Their 20 years of success stories
- Why they chose to be a Private Non-profit
- By Laws, Policies, and Procedures
- How they have been funded
- Past, present, and future of product development
- Bladen County, BBAI and their Tenant Industries are more than happy to host visits

The meeting concluded with a question and answer session by members in attendance and Bladen County attendees via WebEx.

Chairman Settle thanked Bladen County for their time and presentation and sharing their success story with Wilkes County. He thanked everyone for their attendance at the work session.

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The work session of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners ended at 5:46 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

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Approved: February 2, 2021