

**MINUTES  
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
March 9, 2018**

**PUBLIC HEARING – ROAD NAME REQUEST – WHIPPOORWILL DRIVE, BEAVER CREEK TOWNSHIP** – Chairman Gary D. Blevins declared the Public Hearing open regarding the Road Name Request for Whippoorwill Drive at 10:02 A.M. on Friday, March 9, 2018 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 were Tony Triplett, County Attorney; John Yates, County Manager; W. C. Scroggs, Planner; and Sarah Call, Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Blevins asked if anyone would like to speak regarding the proposed Road Name Request. Hearing no comments on the proposed Road Name Request for Whippoorwill Drive, Chairman Blevins declared the Public Hearing closed at 10:03 A.M.

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, March 9, 2018 at 10:03 A.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 Keith Elmore, seconded by Commissioner Greg Minton and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on February 20, 2018.

Chairman Gary D. Blevins stated he would like to recognize a special guest and friend. He asked Dalton Jessup to stand and said he is a senior at North Wilkes High School. Chairman Blevins added Mr. Jessup's project is shadowing a Politian, they have been spending time together, working on some activities and going over the typical schedule for a Commissioner. He said Dalton is a super person and they have had a great time. Chairman Blevins stated when they meet someone like Dalton it is very encouraging and there is a bright future for the County. He added Mr. Jessup will be attending Wilkes Community College next fall. Dalton Jessup is the son of Donnie & Stephanie Jessup and is making a tremendous sacrifice to be here today. Chairman Blevins said his girlfriend, Avery Wood, is on the North Wilkes Girls basketball team that will be leaving at 10:30 AM to go to Chapel Hill to play for the State championship on Saturday at 12 Noon

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in the Dean Dome. He added Mr. Jessup is at the meeting today to fulfill his requirements for his Senior Project and he is very proud of him. It has been nice getting to know him, he is a young man with good values and his parents have done a great job raising him. Chairman Blevins asked everyone to welcome Mr. Jessup and give him a round of applause.

**TAX DEPARTMENT – TAX RELEASES – LISTINGS** – Alex Hamilton, Tax Administrator asked the Board to approve tax releases for listings in the amount of \$16,800.59. He added most of these were properties that were failed to be coded land use in error. Commissioner Elmore asked what can be done to eliminate these errors, or have steps already been taken. Mr. Hamilton replied the land use program is massive and almost deserves a full time position to handle it. He has folks doing this in addition to all their other duties and there is over \$600 million of the tax base in this program. Chairman Blevins stated this is part of the state statute tax code and they have to administer it based on what the state has mandated. Commissioner Minton asked how many parcels are in Wilkes County. Mr. Hamilton replied a little over 50,000.

Vice Chairman Settle asked if this is handled by a billing company in Charlotte. Mr. Hamilton replied no they use a lock box service through First Citizens Bank. Vice Chairman Settle stated he had someone to contact him and say they received a late notice and he paid his taxes. This person said they were collected in Charlotte and the company credited another county with his tax payment, but it is straightened out now. He asked if this something they can keep in Wilkes and provide jobs locally. Mr. Hamilton replied they have a lock box service through First Citizens and the mail goes there, they process the mail and payments for the county and the deposits go directly into their account. Mr. Hamilton stated they receive a data base from them every morning that they process and credit payments. He added in that instance a check was lost, actually a couple of them, but they have been using this service for more than 17 years and have very few issues. Mr. Hamilton said there is no one locally that provides this service. He added the purpose of the lock box was to get the money deposited quicker, which made a big difference when interest was higher. It also eased the pressure in the collections office by not having to process that mail, which took several people half the day to process during the busy months. Mr. Hamilton said the lock box has worked well and served a good purpose. Vice Chairman Settle asked the cost. Mr. Hamilton replied about 32 cents each and less than \$5,000 per year. It is not used near as much now since they no longer have motor vehicles to collect, but is very helpful in the busy months. Chairman Blevins added this makes sense to use for processing and First Citizens is a good local bank and does a good job.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the tax releases for listings 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.

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT – ROAD NAME REQUEST – WHIPPOORWILL DRIVE – BEAVER CREEK TOWNSHIP** – Chairman Blevins welcomed and recognized W.C. Scroggs, Planner. Mr. Scroggs stated a Public Hearing was held earlier this evening to receive public input on a proposed Road Name Request for Whippoorwill Drive in Beaver Creek 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. The Planning Department has not received any comments opposing the Road Name Request. He added it is now for the Boards consideration.

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Commissioner Greg Minton made a motion to approve the Road Name Request for Whippoorwill Drive, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE** – Chairman Blevins welcomed John Blevins, DSS Director. Mr. Blevins briefly went over the monthly caseload report for January. Chairman Blevins asked if the number of cases is an individual or a family. Mr. John Blevins replied currently Wilkes has 15,467 Medicaid recipients and a case can be 1 or several depending the number in the household. He stated the foster care number has dropped just a little since January, but is still very high. He added Commissioner Minton asked last month what was behind the large number of foster care cases and he asked the works to look at a period from September through February. Mr. Blevins stated they had 58 children enter foster care in this period, 72% were due to drugs and/or DV (Domestic Violence); 28% were other factors which could be dependency, lack of housing or different things along these lines.

Mr. Blevins next went through the Foster Care financial report, Adoption Services financial report, Child Development and Subsidized Child Care financial reports for January. He said they are working the waiting list and adding children on. Their spending is 93% and currently there is 190 children on the waiting list. They issued 24 new vouchers in February. Mr. Blevins said they have to constantly track the numbers and compare to budget, because any money expended over the state and federal allocation is county expense. Chairman Blevins asked about the fluctuation in the numbers and is the summer just busier for child care since school is out. Mr. Blevins stated NC Fast caused some of the issues as shown in the actual column for July. They believe some of the funds will come back once the state corrects the errors to NC Fast, but summer care does drive up this cost.

Commissioner Gambill asked if the advertisements for Foster Families is helping, the number seems to be staying at 30 and only one new one was licensed in January. He asked is there anything they can do to help or speed up this process. Mr. Blevins agreed the number has stayed around 30 for about a year. He added they adopted a new plan last month and are trying new things, one of which is placing ads in movie theaters. He said they are working with local churches to get more information out. Mr. Blevins said many times they gain some and then lose some, the ones they lose are normally for a good reason, they adopt children and this is what they want. He said they are working hard on getting more, they want to keep them in our county and school system. Commissioner Gambill asked how long it takes to become a foster parent or how many hours of class. Mr. Blevins said more than 30 hours. He said they can contact Jason Gossett at DSS if interested and they will work with them, assist them anyway they can. They have and will adjust the times of the MAPP classes and anything they can do to work with them.

Mr. Blevins stated they have a revised P4 – children's roll out, Wilkes is now September in group 4 but, this still could change. He added there are many problems with it in the pilot counties and still a work in progress. They are currently training their workers in NC Fast and trying to get use to it and also getting technology in place. Mr. Blevins said this next update he has is H.B. 630. The state is proposing regions for the counties and have given them a tentative map. These regionals are so the state will have a smaller number of counties to supervise and supposed to have more direct contact and supervision of them. He said in both proposed regions they have kept the judicial district in-tacked, one is a region of 5 and the other is a region of 7 counties. Mr. Blevins said they use to have regionals several years ago and it worked well. He added a written contract will be signed and it could start as early as July 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Blevins stated he has heard it will be done, but also heard it is voluntary and didn't understand that. Mr. Blevins replied there are two things, counties can regionalize if they choose to do so, that is the voluntary part. The regionalization

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that he described earlier the state has said they are going to make regional offices that will provide support, oversight, and guidance to regions. Chairman Blevins said the voluntary counties could be different than the state regions, which is very confusing. Mr. John Blevins replied yes.

Commissioner Minton said several DSS advocacy groups are lobbying against this and saying the state is getting the cart before the horse as they don't have the funding mechanism in place. They also have the voluntary regionalization between smaller counties wanting to partner up that may not match the state regions. He added he has concerns about this date. They have no funding in place, yet they are setting up regions across the state to provide guidance and support, but don't have funding. Mr. Blevins agreed and added they are asking him or the Board Chairman to sign a contract stating performance measures and what the county is going to do. They have given them a list, but have not finalized it or told them what they have to meet. If they don't meet it they will go into a corrective action plan. He added if it is not corrected the state comes in and takes it over. Commissioner Minton says if the regionalization occurs who will fund the regional offices, will money be taken away from each county. He added one size does not fit all, metro districts are not the same as the small rural areas. Mr. Blevins added they could take some of their good workers away as well. Chairman Blevins stated they don't need more competition for their workers from the state or private contractors. Mr. John Blevins said he will provide updates to the Board as he receives them.

Commissioner Gambill asked about the Voluntary Placement Agreements (VAP) for the 18 to 21 year olds, and what services are they eligible to receive. Does it cover schooling expenses, work training, etc. Mr. Blevins replied they have to be either in school, working a job, disabled, or something. This can help to pay for them to stay in a dorm and is very open. He added this is not as restrictive, they only have to see them once a quarter whereas with regular foster children it is once per month. They do make contact each month but can be a phone call or email. Mr. Blevins said it allows them to get ahead and live, but they do have to meet certain requirements to receive it. Chairman Blevins asked about the funding for this program. Mr. Blevins replied it is a line item in their budget and is funded 100% through the state. The county has a cost for the staff time. He added this will continue to grow, it is a good program and he hopes the kids will take advantage of it.

Commissioner Elmore asked about staffing at DSS. Mr. Blevins replied they have two openings currently, a Foster Care Supervisor is retiring and they are sad to see her go. The other is an Income Maintenance Caseworker position. He has heard he may be losing another Social Worker to Catawba County this time. They are in much better shape than they have been. Mr. Blevins stated they will do their best to fill the supervisor position from within.

The Board thanked Mr. Blevins for his update and reports. Chairman Blevins said the Wilkes DSS is one of the best in the state and they are very comfortable being overseen by the state and meeting the performance measures they set with the regionalizations due to the great leadership and staff they have.

**FINANCE – UPDATE – JANUARY 2018** – Chairman Blevins recognized Jerry Shepherd, Finance Director. Mr. Shepherd stated this will be his last report he intend to let Mr. Chris Huffman take over the reports after this. He thanked the Board for allowing him to present this report. Chairman Blevins stated Mr. Shepherd and his department is a very important part the of counties operations with taking in the money and keeping track of everything. It is hard for someone that has not been on the Board to understand how important the financial end of running the county is, he added. Chairman Blevins said Mr. Shepherd does a great job and he has made the Board's job easier and it was a comfort for them to know he was back in the

corner office. Mr. Shepherd thanked the Board and stated this report is for the Fiscal Year through January 31, 2018, which is 7 months.

The Financial Report is shown below:

**WILKES COUNTY**  
**Cash and Investments**  
**January 31, 2018**

**CENTRAL DEPOSITORY**

Checking Account.....	\$	693,361.63
Investments.....		<u>45,960,104.31</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ <u>46,653,465.94</u></b>

**CENTRAL DEPSITORY EQUITY BY FUNDS**

General Fund.....	\$	38,774,151.74
Emergency Telephone E-911 System.....		408,810.28
Law Enforcement Restricted Fund.....		5,066.28
Airport Enterprise Fund.....		38,550.85
Landfill Enterprise Fund.....		2,184,644.34
Landfill Capital Reserve Fund.....		4,122,115.46
Tax Collections to be distributed to (4) Towns.....		396,058.53
Tax Collections to be distributed to (25) Fire Districts.....		<u>724,068.46</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ <u>46,653,465.94</u></b>

**CENTRAL DEPOSITORY EQUITY BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTION**

NC Capital Management Trust.....	\$	28,099,207.96
First Citizens Bank.....		8,390,891.65
BB&T.....		2,780,248.73
FiniStar.....		268,723.93
Capital Bank/Community One.....		7,114,285.02
US Bank/LOBs.....		<u>108.65</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ <u>46,653,465.94</u></b>

WILKES COUNTY  
 TAX COLLECTIONS SUMMARY REPORT  
 GENERAL FUND

MONTH	FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016	FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017	CURRENT FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018	MORE/LESS THAN PRIOR YEAR
JULY	\$ 209,398.80	\$ 206,731.62	\$ 320,961.60 *	\$ 114,229.98
AUGUST	12,570,610.87	15,498,159.40	16,059,796.90	561,637.50
SEPTEMBER	5,440,461.02	2,868,918.45	2,648,405.02	(220,513.43)
OCTOBER	1,435,084.78	1,561,547.06	1,329,931.11	(231,615.95)
NOVEMBER	1,535,787.88	1,503,742.91	1,507,199.99	3,457.08
DECEMBER	7,319,463.20	5,411,604.54	5,514,513.13	102,908.59
JANUARY	3,225,289.46	4,472,693.50	4,346,804.50	(125,889.00)
FEBRUARY	1,282,866.47	1,012,268.06		
MARCH	1,482,821.83	1,087,518.35		
APRIL	794,546.60	734,051.03		
MAY	684,634.52	643,146.43		
JUNE	<u>1,188,746.57</u>	<u>1,541,317.80</u>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>37,169,712.00</u>	<u>36,541,699.15</u>	<u>31,727,612.25</u>	<u>204,214.77</u>
<b>BUDGET</b>	<u>36,113,015.00</u>	<u>36,147,096.00</u>	<u>36,815,717.00</u>	
<b>OVER/UNDER</b>	1,056,697.00	394,603.15	(5,088,104.75)	

\* July Vehicle Taxes not collected from the State until August

The above figures represent the following monies collected by  
 Tax Collections (General Fund Only). Does not include Fire Districts and Towns.

- A. Current Year Tax Collections (Real, Personal and Vehicles)
- B. Prior Years (1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>)
- C. Penalties, Interest and Advertising Costs on Past Due Taxes
- D. Less 1.5% Tax Discounts for Early Payments

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**WILKES COUNTY SALES TAX DISTRIBUTION CURRENT FISCAL YEAR COMPARISON TO LAST FISCAL YEAR**

ACTUAL:	COUNTY			Fiscal Year Comparison		Article 46
MONTH STATE	RECEIVED	FY: 2016-2017	FY: 2017-2018	Difference +/-	% More/Less	Additional ¼ cent
COLLECTED*	(15 <sup>TH</sup> of Month)					Effective 10/1/2010
July	September	1,369,021.61	<b>1,317,835.52</b>	(51,186.09)	-3.74%	117,400.29
August	October	1,171,675.90	<b>1,205,563.56</b>	33,887.66	2.89%	99,928.14
September	November	1,253,345.32	<b>1,217,125.44</b>	(36,219.88)	-2.89%	107,600.14
October	December	1,239,557.32	<b>1,364,071.04</b>	124,513.72	10.05%	126,777.86
November	January	1,183,271.33	<b>1,213,166.90</b>	29,895.57	2.53%	111,091.08
December	February	1,311,575.42	<b>1,455,848.44</b>	144,273.02	11.00%	140,866.31
January	March	1,536,281.95				
February	April	1,174,315.00				
March	May	1,218,254.66				
April	June	1,437,060.21				
May	July	1,356,818.49				
June	August	1,324,722.17				
<b>Total Collected:</b>		15,575,899.38	<b>7,773,610.90</b>	245,164.00	3.26%	703,663.82
<b>BUDGET:</b>						
<b>Total Budgeted:</b>		15,575,899.38	<b>15,559,227.00</b>	(16,672.38)	-0.11%	
			÷12			
Monthly Budget			1,296,602.25			
			<u>X 6 months</u>			
			7,779,613.50			
Over/Short of Budget		(0.00)	<b>(6,002.60)</b>	<b>-0.08%</b>	Collections to Date More (Less) than Budget	

NOTE:

\*The month listed is when the NCDOR collects the revenue for sales generated the prior month. Therefore, July collections are for sales in the month of June, etc. and the funds are forwarded to us 2 months following their collections. We receive July collections in September, etc.

Mr. Shepherd stated for the sales tax collections he wanted to mention this is what has been collected through February 2018, which is for collections that the state did in December 2017. The County has actually collected 3% or \$245,164.00 more this year than at this same time last year. The sales tax trend is increasing. Mr. Shepherd stated they are collecting what was budgeted and projected. Chairman Blevins asked how much of an increase was budged for this year. Mr. Shepherd replied they budged a 3% increase and it is on track and what they planned for. He stated in the FY 2007-2008 before the recession they county budgeted \$15,896.00 from sales tax and actually received \$15,811.00. The budget for FY 2017-2018 is \$15,559.00, which means it has taken ten years to get back to the number that was collected in 2007-2008. Commissioner Elmore stated this is with a ¼ cents increase. Mr. Shepherd agreed this is with the ¼ cents increase and if they had not gotten that they still would not be near this amount today. Chairman Blevins said that increase is more than one million per year so actually the county is \$1.5 million less in actual sales tax comparing the exact same numbers. He added this really says in ten years the county is not back to where they were even with some significant cuts, a large tax increase by the prior Board, and several years of very careful spending to build the fund balance back.

**Wilkes County General Fund  
 Other Miscellaneous  
 January 31, 2018**

To be on target with Budget the % used or collected should be: 58%

**Summary of other Revenue & Expense**

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>%</u>
Deed Stamp Excise Tax	145,000	97,877	67.5%
Reg of Deeds Recording Fees	180,000	103,788	57.7%
Building Inspection Fees	170,000	101,246	59.6%
Planning Permits & Fees	40,000	21,875	54.7%
Environmental Health Fees	130,000	74,187	57.1%
EMS Collections	3,400,000	1,520,800	44.7%
<u>Expense</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>(Used) or Added</u>	<u>Available</u>
<b>Contingency Reserve</b>	\$ 20,000	\$	\$ 20,000
	<u>2017-2018 Revised Budget</u>	<u>2017-2018 Actual</u>	
<b>General Fund</b>			
<b>Total General Fund Revenues</b>	\$ 78,823,051	\$ 49,953,223	63.4%
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	\$ 78,823,051	<u>43,385,995</u>	55.0%
	Revenues Over (Under) Expense	6,567,228	

Mr. Shepherd said the EMS collections are behind what was budgeted. When Mr. Morrison left some of the things he has projected and planned to do was not followed through and this will be adjusted for next years budget. He added the revenues are exceeding expenses due to the collection of taxes and these funds is what gets the county through to the end of this fiscal year. Chairman Blevins asked if the difference has to be made up at the end of the year for the shortage in EMS collections. Mr. Shepherd replied the portion that is needed to cover this will come from fund balance. It is still early, but he does foresee using some of the fund balance at year end, he added.

Vice Chairman Settle stated this may be Mr. Shepherd's last presentation, but he has found in traveling to other counties that he is very highly thought of and does a really good job with all the numbers, budget, and working with the Manager. He said it is great to be able to go to his office and get an answer and they appreciate all the good work and many years of service he has provided with both honesty and integrity. Mr. Shepherd thanked the Board for their comments. Chairman Blevins and the Board thanked Mr. Shepherd for his financial update and his years of great service to Wilkes County.

**N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – ROAD PETITION – ANGLE STREET** – County Manager John Yates stated they received a letter from the Department of Transportation that said recently

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they received a petition (form SR-1) requesting consideration of the addition of Angle Street in West High Acres to the State Maintenance system. He added the Commissioners approval is needed before this road can be added to the State Maintenance System.

Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously adopted to approve the N.C. DOT Road Petition for Angle Street to be added to the State Maintenance System as presented and requested.

**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, govdeals.com:

*Kohler Generator by Wisonsin, from Sheriff Department; not in working order*

*Winegard/iDirect mobile satellite from Sheriff Department; was operable when removed from service*

*Libby Generator (Diesel) from Sheriff Department; not in working order*

***All vehicles listed, unless stated (not in working order) are high mileage vehicles that were used on a daily basis.***

*1990 Chevrolet 2500 Pickup; Mileage 140003, Asset # 7725*

*1992 GMC G3500 from Sheriff Department, Not in working order, Mileage 156869, Asset # 7974*

*1996 Jeep Cherokee from Health Department, Mileage 160000, Asset # 4263*

*1996 Jeep Cherokee from Health Department, Mileage 151500, Asset # 4674*

*1997 Ford Ranger from Recreation, New engine needed; Mileage 83499, Asset # 3499*

*1998 Chevrolet Blazer from Planning, Will not start or run; Mileage 185178, Asset # 5178*

*2005 Ford Crown Vic from Sheriff Department, Mileage 180290, Asset # 3076*

*2007 Ford Crown Vic from Sheriff Department, Mileage 195159, Asset # 0206*

*2007 Ford Crown Vic from Sheriff Department, Mileage 197456, Asset # 1796*

*2007 Ford Crown Vic from Sheriff Department, Mileage 179641, Asset # 9641*

*2008 Chevrolet Impala from DSS, Mileage 191124, Asset # 1124*

*2008 Ford Crown Vic from Sheriff Department, Mileage 191115, Asset # 4067*

*2008 Ford Crown Vic from Sheriff Department, Mileage 208225, Asset # 4071*

*2008 Ford Crown Vic from Sheriff Department, Mileage 176372, Asset # 5272*

*2009 Ford Crown Vic from Sheriff Department, Mileage 186291, Asset # 5273*

*2009 Ford Crown Vic from Sheriff Department, Transmission is out, Mileage 177624, Asset # 5274*

*2009 Ford Crown Vic from Sheriff Department, Mileage 197118, Asset # 5275*

*2009 Ford Crown Vic from Sheriff Department, Mileage 192884, Asset # 5277*

Commissioner 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 Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

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**NEW BUSINESS – BLUE RIDGE OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (BROC) – MARCH FOR MEALS PROCLAMATION** – John Yates stated there is new business and Jennifer Cooper, Director BROC Senior Nutrition Services is here to present a Proclamation. Ms. Cooper thanked the Board for their support of the senior nutrition programs in Wilkes. She ask the Board to proclaim this month as March for Meals 2018 and also asking them to become a community champion by lending their time and name to draw attention to senior hunger in Wilkes County. Ms. Cooper stated they are sometimes overwhelmed by the financial bottom line and ask that they consider the faces behind their bottom line. This is the senior that eats one meal a day which is the meal provided by this program and the folks that gather at the meal sites and return to empty homes. She ask the Board to attend the kick off breakfast on March 19<sup>th</sup> and consider delivering a meal, serving at a meal site, or visit a senior. Mr. Cooper asked for the Board to proclaim March for Meals 2018.

Chairman Blevins mention the kick off on March 19<sup>th</sup> will be at the Senior Center beginning at 8:30 AM. Ms. Cooper stated they would love to have them and there and to RSVP as Rose Glenn Village is the sponsor, and it will be great. Vice Chairman Settle stated these meals are important to these folks, he has helped in the past in Austin and these are the only people that some of these seniors see. This is a great program. He added Commissioner Elmore has always been very involved as has all of the Board. Ms. Cooper agreed and added almost all of their routes are covered by volunteers, but at this time they have 160 on the waiting list for meal delivery in the areas they cover. There is 50 more that are outside their service area waiting as well. Chairman Blevins asked how many they serve on an average day. Ms. Cooper replied meals on wheels at the two meal sites that send out food is about 150. They feel empty spots from the waiting list anytime they can.

Commissioner Elmore asked if they need volunteers. Ms. Cooper replied they need one more volunteer driver 3-days per week to cover all the routes. Commissioner Elmore asked if the waiting list is due to funding or volunteers or both. Ms. Cooper said it depends on if the route is full, if there is enough funding and also if they have the volunteers. Commissioner Minton asked if most on the waiting list are shut-ins. Ms. Cooper replied the state requirement is age 60 or over and essentially home bounds. Which is the only time the leave is for a doctors' appointment, attend church, or maybe go to the beauty shop. She added they get a lot that are just not able to stand long enough to cook an actual meal any longer.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the Proclamation to declare March as the “March for Meals” as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

*A PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MARCH 2018 AS THE  
16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH*

*WHEREAS, on March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older; and*

*WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels America established the March for Meals campaign in March 2002 to recognize the historic month, the importance of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs, both congregate and home-delivered, and raise awareness about the escalating problem of senior hunger in America; and*

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*WHEREAS, the 2018 observance of March for Meals celebrates 16 years of providing an opportunity to support Meals on Wheels programs that deliver vital and critical services by donating, volunteering and raising awareness about senior hunger and isolation; and*

*WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs – both congregate and home-delivered, in Wilkes County have served our communities admirably for more than 40 years; and*

*WHEREAS, volunteers for Meals on Wheels programs in Wilkes County are the backbone of the program and they not only deliver nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at significant risk of hunger and isolation, but also caring concern and attention to their welfare; and*

*WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in Wilkes County provide nutritious meals to seniors that help them maintain their health and independence, thereby preventing unnecessary falls, hospitalizations and/or premature institutionalization; and*

*WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in Wilkes County provide a powerful socialization opportunity for millions of seniors to help combat loneliness and isolation; and*

*WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in Wilkes County deserve recognition for the contributions they have made and will continue to make to local communities, our State and our Nation.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I Gary D. Blevins, as Chairman of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim March 2018 as the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Meals Month and urge every citizen to take this month to honor our Meals on Wheels programs, the seniors they serve and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national 2018 March for Meals can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in America.*

*Dated this 9th day of March, 2018.*

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*Gary D. Blevins, Chairman Wilkes County Board of Commissioners*

Commissioner Elmore asked if all the elected officials participate do they receive addition funding. Ms. Cooper replied there used to be a small grant if an event was held, it was called Mayors for Meals, but she has not seen any paperwork to apply this year. The last couple of years they received a grant to purchase branded items, and this is also not available this year, she added. Ms. Cooper stated because of the positions the Board holds, folks listen to them and they have the ear of the community and are respected. When their name and face is behind something it helps a great deal, because they do depend on donations from the community. Vice Chairman Settle suggested working with the Associations to contact local churches that could possibly provide help and additional assistance. Ms. Cooper said she is happy to do that. Commissioner Gambill agreed the churches in the county could help eliminate the 160 on the waiting list if they work together and get involved. Ms. Cooper agreed and added they ran ads in the paper for drivers and received no responses, then she posted on social media and filled all but one.

**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 Commissioner Greg Minton and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn back into regular session. No action was taken in the closed session.

**NEW BUSINESS** – County Attorney Tony Triplett said the county has received a request for refund under N.C.G.S. §105-381 from InterFlex Group, Inc. through their CPA Sharon Lyall. The Tax Administrator and Mr. Triplett has reviewed the basis for the refund request. He added it has been researched and discussed with the Board in closed session and under N.C.G.S. §105-381 he and the Tax Administration is recommending for the Board to deny the request for refund. Mr. Triplett asked the Board to authorize him to write a letter that was presented to them at today’s meeting in response to the request, officially denying it.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to instruct County Attorney Mr. Tony Triplett to send the letter to officially deny the request for refund under N.C.G.S. §105-381, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

**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 12:45 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gary D. Blevins, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: