

MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 15, 2022

PUBLIC CONCERNS – None

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. with the following members present: Chairman Keith Elmore, Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson, Commissioner David Gambill, Commissioner Eddie Settle and Commissioner Brian S. Minton.

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

Chairman Keith Elmore welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at this time.

INVOCATION – Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson led the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Keith Elmore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Commissioner Brian S. Minton, seconded by Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on February 22, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson, seconded Commissioner Brian S. Minton by and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting held on February 23, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill, seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting held on February 24, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill, seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting held on February 25, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill, seconded by Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on March 1, 2022.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to approve Budget Amendment No. 27 (Health Programs – Health Dept. Wilkes Health needs to replace an Environmental Health Car. The current vehicle is a 2006 Escape with 180,000 miles on it, \$29,000 will be moved from salaries to capital for the vehicle). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

WILKES COUNTY SCHOOLS – REQUEST FOR MATCH – NEEDS BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND GRANT APPLICATION – Chairman Elmore welcomed and recognized Mark Byrd, Superintendent, Bergie Speaks, Maintenance Director, and Rudy Holbrook, School Board Chairman. Mr. Byrd said in December 2021 they found out they were eligible to apply for a Needs Based Public School Capital Fund Grant through the Department of Public Instruction. The grants are funded from revenue from the NC Educational Lottery for construction of new school facilities, additions, repairs, and renovations and cannot be used for a Central Office. He added counties that received a grant are required to provide matching local funds from the county, or non-state funds. Mr. Byrd said Wilkes County would be required to provide a 5% local match for any funds requested. The grants are due this week and they will know by mid-April if they received it.

Mr. Byrd said they are here to request support to pursue a grant to renovate Roaring River Elementary School, it is ranked very high on their list of schools needing repairs. It would have been the next target after completing the Mt. Pleasant project to start this summer. This grant will allow them to address it much earlier with only a 5% match. He explained they will replace some buildings and renovate others with a cost estimated at \$11,732,500, and the local match required of \$667,500 from the county. They will enclose the entire campus at this school addressing their biggest concern for student safety at this school. Mr. Byrd asked for their support and commitment of matching funds for Wilkes County Schools to pursue this grant. If they do not receive it this year they can reapply in 2023.

Commissioner Settle sated this is a great deal and they need it. He asked the formula they used for these amounts and match required, is it based on their tier. Mr. Byrd replied, he does not fully understand the formula, but yes it is based on the tier system. Commissioner Gambill asked where would they go next, they have made upgrades to Moravian Falls, and some at Mulberry what is next. Mr. Byrd replied they go to Mt. Pleasant, then Roaring River and next is a list of HVAC's they plan to do with COVID funds they received. Mr. Speaks added they have multiple schools targeted as a next project, but have not narrowed it down to the next one. Commissioner Minton asked the start date for Mt. Pleasant. Mr. Speaks replied bids are due on the 22nd and hope to take it to the Board in April if they get enough firms to bid. Chairman Elmore stated this is a great opportunity. Vice Chairman Johnson thanked the School System for all they do, they appreciate administration, maintenance, and the School Board. He visited Roaring River Elementary earlier and there is definitely a need there. This is exciting for that community.

Commissioner Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the match in the amount of \$667,500 for the 5% local match required from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction for the Needs Based Public School Capital Fund Grant for renovations and updates to Roaring River Elementary School as requested and presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

N.C PARKS AND RECREATION – PART F GRANT AWARD AND CONTRACT – RIVER'S EDGE PARK – Chairman Elmore welcomed and recognized Kelly Coffee, Senior Planner HCCOG and Kevin Anderson Wilkes Parks and Rec. Director. Mr. Anderson said they

are here to present for the Boards consideration the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant. They applied for this and received funding from the State, it is a 50/50 matching grant. The total received is \$191,194 for construction on the Eastern end of Rivers Edge Park to build a 40 x 80 covered picnic shelter along with a 30 x 40 bath house. He added this is near East Coast Mill Works, Greenway Trail Entrance, close to 2 Baseball Fields, and 3 Soccer Fields which is quite a bit closer then they have to go now for restroom facilities.

Mr. Anderson stated there is a contract in their packets that has to be signed within 45 days to move forward. He added 41 counties and municipalities received funding of over \$100 million including land acquisitions. This is very much needed on this end of the park, there are many Greenway walkers that start and stop at this end and it will be a good addition. Mr. Coffee said the contract is a standard Parks and Receptions Trust Fund contract, that is no extraneous requirements like they see with CDBG contracts. It is simple, they build it, submit the invoices and they pay ½.

Commissioner Gambill asked if the bath house include showers. Mr. Anderson replied yes. Mr. Yates added this will also help support MerleFest and the camping at the park that the YMCA leases. Commissioner Gambill asked what else will they be used for . Mr. Anderson replied over the years he has had requests from folks that come and run on the Greenway during their lunch hour that would like to shower before they go back to work. They host some all day Saturday tournaments and umpires that come especially in June and July said this would help them. Chairman Elmore asked if they have travel teams play tournaments there. Mr. Anderson replied yes, 3 weeks ago they hosted their first adult softball tournament at Rivers Edge in Wilkes, they have a youth tournament coming up the weekend of the 26th, and he expects more to follow. They also have the Appalachian State Club Softball Team, and Appalachian State Club Soccer Team both coming to play their home matches against other universities at Rivers Edge. This is bringing folks to Wilkes and it is good for the economy. Mr. Anderson added they want to update the park and keep it revitalized and have brought in \$89,000 in foundation money that has no match. Those funds were used for fencing, lights, and outdoor volley ball.

Commissioner Settle stated he thinks folks would appreciate a rest facility while walking on the track, especially if they took a bottle of water, he sure would. It will also be nice for the runners and it is a 50% match. Vice Chairman Johnson added he is excited. It is a great opportunity especially for the future and attracting more things to Wilkes and more travel ball teams. He has students on travel teams and this is a great opportunity for the young people. Chairman Elmore agreed this is a great addition. He asked about the length of term is 3-years, will it take this long. Mr. Coffee replied this is standard in their agreements and the length of time they give for all projects, some are more complicated. Mr. Yates added they expect to be completed well before 3-years, he has confidence in Mr. Anderson and Mr. Coffee. Commissioner Gambill said he is not against the project, he is against the showers and this is his problem with the bathhouse. Commissioner Minton asked their hours of operation. Mr. Anderson replied 8:30 – 5:00 is their standard hours, but many are there in the evenings and night if programs are going on. He has many employees that have kids that participate and are at the facilities much more than 8:30 – 5:00. He added Wilkesboro does very good patrolling the area. Thankfully the vandalism they had many years ago has cleaned up and they do not see this. Vice Chairman Johnson stated they

visited Blue Ridge Energy and they had restrooms with individual locked doors, could they utilize this at this facility. Mr. Yates stated they will look into this.

Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson made a motion to accept the grant from N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in the amount of \$191,194 and approve the match of the same; and approve the N.C. Parks and Recreations Trust Fund Project Agreement for the project at River's Edge Park as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eddie Settle. Voting on the motion:

Ayes: Chairman Keith Elmore
Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson
Commissioner Eddie Settle
Commissioner Bran S. Minton

Nays: Commissioner David Gambill

W. KERR SCOTT DAN AND RESERVOIR – NO WAKE ZONE – Chairman Elmore welcomed and recognized Dave Funderburk, Deputy Operations Project Manager, W. Kerr Scott. Mr. Funderburk thanked the Board and stated this is his first time attending a Board meeting. He works for the US Army Corp of Engineers at W. Kerr Scott as Assistant Manager and has been with the Corp for 13 years, and in this district 2 year. Mr. Funderburk said he is here tonight about safety on the lake. W. Kerr Scott is getting a lot more visitors than it did in 1989 when the No Wake Zone was put in place. The boat ramps are very crowded on weekend, there are more kayaks, and fishing off the ramps now. The No Wake Zone currently is 50 yards away from the boat ramp. He stated the first page he gave out is information from the NC Wildlife website and explains a No Wake Zone is idle speed so it will not create a wake. Mr. Funderburk said the second page is what Wildlife has on record for the No Wake Zones which is 50 yards and what needs to be changed so NC Wildlife can enforce it. The next page shows the No Wake Zones he is requesting to expand at the Dam Site which is at the visitor's center ramp and includes the entire cove as a No Wake Zone. In this cove they have a boat house where they store their patrol boat, work boat, and NC Wildlife stores their patrol boat. The second area they want to expand is at Smithy's Creek and Fort Hamby and that cove on both sides is a recreational area and includes two boat ramps, handicap fishing pier, and campground. They are asking to expand the No Wake for that entire cove as well.

Mr. Funderburk said he has spoken with NC Wildlife Law Enforcement and they said they will help get them through the process. It has to start with the Board of Commissioners to make the application and apply. He read an incident report from this past summer and said they will need Wildlife Law Enforcement to help with the large craft and the increasing smaller craft in the lake. Mr. Funderburk ask the Board to consider this, Wildlife will help them with the process if and when they are ready to proceed. Chairman Elmore stated this was on the agenda for information and not action. Mr. Triplett added they discussed this earlier the process requires the Corp to come to them as Mr. Funderburk as done to make the request. They would have to send the request to the Wildlife Resources Commission for their approval. He is not sure of their

requirements, he thinks Mr. Funderburk wants to see if the Board is in favor of this. If so he will take it the Wildlife Resources Commissioner for next steps. Mr. Triplett said they may have to pass a Resolution as some point and provide public notice. The Wildlife Commission will need to tell them what is needed. Chairman Elmore said he thinks they all support what he is trying to do, there is a process they need to go through. Commissioner Minton said these two areas would become the same as Skyline Marina and the entire cove would be a No Wake. Mr. Funderburk replied yes, they will install the buoys and maintain them. Commissioner Settle asked could this be done by summer. Mr. Funderburk replied they could, but he is not sure about Wildlife and how long their process is. Mr. Triplett said if the Board wants they can act tonight and approve this and that may be all Wildlife needs, if they need more they will let them know.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brian S. Minton to expand the No Wake Zone to include the entire cove near the Dam Site boat ramp and the entire cove between Smithey's Creek boat ramp and Fort Hamby boat ramp as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

Chairman Elmore and the Board thanked Mr. Funderburk.

WILKES COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – WILKES VOLUNTARY AG. DISTRICT:

1. WILKES VOLUNTARY AG DISTRICT – BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS –

Chairman Elmore welcomed and recognized Claude Shew, Chairman and Rob Baldwin, Director. Mr. Baldwin introduce his staff and supervisors: Supervisors Chair Brian Parker; Board Secretary Claude Shew, Jr. also the Chair of the VAD Board; Dr. Bill Davis; Barry Greer who is not here tonight is a Natural Resources Conservationist, has contracted \$363,151 in 3 years in funds; Natural Resources Grants Administrator Kyla Mounts McCoy helped Wilkes County get awards of \$415,919 and currently has \$976,853 in pending grants; Julia Hardy Environmental Educational Specialist in 3 years has expanded their educational program from 2 to 33 including a \$1,000 scholarship for a high school senior; BJ Cook wrote contracts for \$733,668 in the middle and east prong of the Roaring River; they have applied for \$7.5 million in funds from the state to clear debris from Wilkes County waterways; their current total budget is \$340,000.

Mr. Baldwin stated the Wilkes County Voluntary Agricultural District would like to request the following members be reappointed to the VAD Board: Claude Shew, Jr., Benny S. Alexander, and Jimmy Church. He added all three are members in good standing and will serve a 3-year term to run from date of approval until June 30, 2024.

Mr. Shew stated the acres in VAD project at this time are 7,620 acres, 168 parcels, and 62 farms.

Commissioner Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the reappointments of Claude Shew, Jr., Benny S. Alexander, and Jimmy Church or 3-year terms to the Wilkes County Voluntary Agricultural District Board of as requested and presented a tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

2. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – Mr. Triplett said there is a memo in the file, this is something they do periodically, which is a 4 party MOA with United States Department of Agricultural, Natural Resources Conservation Service, North Carolina Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services – Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Wilkes Soil and Water Conservation District, and Wilkes County. He added this has been going on for years and this is the latest version, the last one was in 2012. It is similar to the one that was in effect. He and Mr. Yates got to meet with Rob Baldwin and make a few changes they wanted to clarify that Soil and Water employees are under Rob Baldwin’s supervision as the Director of Soil and Water. They are subject to Soil and Water personnel policies and not the county personnel policy. This is what they do, but it was not in the wording as he thought it should be. The MOA also includes a provision that either party can terminate this with 60-days’ notice. Mr. Triplett said as far as they know this has been approved by all parties, Mr. Baldwin is circulating for signatures at this time and this Board will be the last to sign.

Commissioner Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Department of Agricultural, Natural Resources Conservation Service, North Carolina Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services – Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Wilkes Soil and Water Conservation District, and Wilkes County as requested and presented at tonight’s meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously approved.

3. VAD-EVAD ORDINANCE – Mr. Shew stated Mr. Triplett has spent a lot of time on this and it should cover everything needed. County Attorney Tony Triplett said this is something they have worked on for 3-years and Mr. Shew gave the report earlier on the Wilkes Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) which they have had since 2008. There is another program that can go on top of the VAD program, called Enhanced Voluntary Ag District (EVAD) which is an additional layer. He added this is for qualified land owners that are willing to place their property under an irrevocable 10-year conservation easement and will get additional benefits. Mr. Triplett said Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Shew can explain the benefits, he has worked on getting the legalities built into the Ordinance. He has spoken with the general counsel at the Department of Agricultural in Raleigh, John Lanier who is over this program and an expert. A lot of counties have this, and this Ordinance matches what others have.

Mr. Triplett stated the EVAD does require an irrevocable 10-year conservation agreement, the VAD also has a 10-year agreement, but can be revoked at any time. The only out with EVAD is if the owner no longer qualifies and is out of compliance. He added they had an Agricultural Advisory Board meeting 2-weeks ago that was very well attended, they had a lot of good decision and went through this ordinance. Mr. Triplett said the VAD Board did vote to recommend it to this Board for approval. He added Commissioner Settle was in attendance and participated in the decision along with Dr. Richard Rike from the State that has been involved in many VAD and EVAD discussions. It is recommended to the Board. In the packets are the updated Ordinance that has in red what changed to go from VAD to EVAD. He added the Board does not have to approve this tonight if they want to take it under advisement. if they do want to vote tonight it will take a 5-0 vote to pass.

Commissioner Settle said the key word is land owner, it is their land. They are not going to tell someone what they can do with their land. The VAD has recommended it, the EDC folks are here tonight and the #1 GDP is agricultural here as well as in the state. Agricultural and farming is keeping this county going. Chairman Elmore asked about the process; it takes 5 acres and can be horticultural, 10 acres farming, 20 acres timber. If someone comes with 10 acres and want it approved as a farm, it has to go the VAD Board for approval. Mr. Shew replied yes. Mr. Baldwin added they must first apply, they take that and find the parcels and then come to the VAD-EVAD Board and ask for admittance. Chairman Elmore asked what do they have to show the Board. Mr. Baldwin replied they have to verify it is a farm. Chairman Elmore asked if a large garden would be approved. Mr. Baldwin replied it would need a 1040F, that can be verified by their tax return that it is a viable farm. Commissioner Settle asked if it can be an Agri-Business. Mr. Baldwin replied yes an Agri-Business can be anything that sells produce, honey, has tours or things such as this. Chairman Elmore said if the VAD-EVAD does not approve them they can come to the Board of Commissioners correct. Mr. Triplett replied yes, the Ordinance will continue the practice they have now with the VAD-EVAD approving the applications and signing the conservations agreements. If they deny someone they can appeal to the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Elmore asked if a couple of Greenhouses will qualify as horticulture. Mr. Baldwin replied yes, horticulture is very intense and requires a monetary investment it does qualify with smaller acreage than row crops. Chairman Elmore stated the added benefits they get are tax benefits and what else. Mr. Baldwin replied they enter into their Ag cost share program they get 90% rather than 75% of best management practices is one of the biggest benefits. Mr. Triplett added in the EVAD up to 25% of sales can be in non-farm products and still qualify which is not the case in VAD. Vice Chairman Johnson asked if many have shown interest in the EVAD. Mr. Shew replied they have interest but cannot do anything until it is passed. Chairman Elmore stated they appreciate all that they do.

Mr. Triplett said Will Lankford, Richard Brown from Mapping, Eddie Barnes, and WC Scroggs were all at that meeting for the purpose to help put adjacent property owners and anyone doing a title search on notice that it is a VAD or EVAD. They will develop a system to create an overlay in the mapping system to show this. Chairman Elmore asked if the Planning Board needs to approve and recommend this. Mr. Baldwin replied the Planning Director, Eddie Barnes and WC Scroggs is on the VAD Board. Commissioner Gambill asked if leased property qualifies. Mr. Shew replied yes if the land owner signs it. Commissioner Gambill added it would also have to be a 10-year lease. Commissioner Minton said he was surprised to find out that a lender will accept without a perk test someone entering into this program and they will qualify for a quick closing. He just saw this with a recent real estate deal he helped with and they closed is just a few days.

Commissioner Brian S. Minton made a motion to approve the Voluntary Agricultural District and Enhance Voluntary Agricultural District as requested and presented a tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

4. FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN – Mr. Baldwin said this has been a lot of work for a lot of people and especially Mr. Triplett. Mr. Shew added they appreciate the county allowing them to use Mr. Triplett to work on this. Mr. Baldwin said in 2019 they got a Grant to write a Farmland Protection Plan, which will give Wilkes County a plan of what they are going to do to protect farm land. He said he contacted a Grad student at Virginia Tech, which was Mallory Vannoy Phillips to write this grant, now she is working in Ashville for ASAP which is a sustainable Ag Group. He added it was ready to bring to the Board back in October, but they wanted to get the VAD-EVAD approved to add to this plan before it was approved. Chairman Elmore stated there is a lot of very good history in this plan and asked if this will be made into a booklet. Mr. Baldwin replied yes if approved by this Board they will bind it and each one will get a copy of it. He added the grant also covered the expense to publish it and they will give it out.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to approve the Farmland Protection Plan as requested and presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

BLUE RIDGE OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, INC. – BUDGET REVISION – ALLOCATION INCREASE – Chairman Elmore welcomed and recognized Dare Stomer, Executive Director and Katelyn Pruitt, SNS Director. Ms. Pruitt thanked the Board for their time and stated she is here to represent Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission, Wilkes Senior Resources and Ruby Pardue Blackburn Adult Daycare. They received a much needed State allocation increase. Ms. Pruitt went over the budget revisions for Senior Nutrition Services; Wilkes Senior Resources; and Ruby Pardue Blackburn Adult Daycare. Commissioner Gambill asked about how do they use their transportation money. Ms. Pruitt replied in Wilkes Senior Resources she is not 100% sure what transportation types they use. General would be grocery store, medical is for doctor visits and they are scheduled by Suzanne through WTA. Chairman Elmore asked the total money received. Ms. Pruitt replied BROCC Senior Nutritional Services received \$21,560, Wilkes Senior Resources received \$15,015, Ruby Pardue Blackburn Adult Daycare received almost \$2,000.

Commissioner Brian S. Minton made a motion to approve the Budget Revisions for The Ruby Pardue Blackburn Adult Day Care, Wilkes Senior Center, and Senior Nutrition Services as requested and presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

1. SPECIAL INTENSITY ALLOCATION – SUN CAP PROPERTY GROUP – Chairman Elmore welcomed and recognized W.C. Scroggs, Planning Director. Mr. Scroggs stated Mr. Adam Essink from Sun Cap is at the meeting tonight. He added on February 28, 2022 the Wilkes Joint Planning Board during their regular meeting approved the 10/70 WS-IV Watershed Special Intensity Allocation (SIA) request from Sun Cap Property Group for property located off Azalea Land, Wilkesboro, N.C. The project consists of 94.7 acres and will allow up

to 62% impervious surface on the project area. The application meets all requirements of the Wilkes County Special Intensity Allocation Ordinance and is before the Board for consideration.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to approve the Special Intensity Allocation (SIA) for Sun Cap Property Group up to 62% of the property as requested and presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

2. SPECIAL INTENSITY ALLOCATION – INDECRO DEVELOPMENT, LLC – Mr. Scroggs said on February 28, 2022 the Wilkes Joint Planning Board during their regular meeting approved the 10/70 WS-IV Watershed Special Intensity Allocation (SIA) request from Indecro Development, LLC for property located at 165 Green Acres Mill Road, Millers Creek, N.C. The project consists of 2.09 acres and will allow up to 65.4% impervious surface on the project area. The application meets all requirements of the Wilke County Special Intensity Allocation Ordinance and is before the Board for consideration.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to approve the Special Intensity Allocation (SIA) for Indecro Development, LLC up to 65.4% of the property as requested and presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

WILKES COUNTY WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE EXTENSION PROJECT – RFQ COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – County Manager John Yates stated the Board of Commissioners held meetings for presentations and interviews and are now ready to make a recommendation. The tally sheet is included in the packets and W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc. received the highest points with 483. Mr. Yates added each firm presented and interviewed in person with a 10-15 minute presentation and then took questions. He added Mr. Triplett stated the Board needs to authorize him to start negotiating with W.K. Dickson to bring a contract to the Board in the near future for this project.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion that W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc., be selected as the engineering and design professional for the Wilkes County Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Extension project, and that the County proceed with negotiations for a contract with W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc., for said project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

JCPC BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS – Mr. Yates stated they received a letter from JCPC that said: *“The Wilkes County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council is submitting the following recommendation for approval of 2-year term appointment to fill the vacancy on their board created by resignation. Brian McManus of Wilkesboro Police Department to fill the vacancy created by Chris Arnder (Chief of Police or designee).”*

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to appoint Brian McManus to the JCPC Board for a 2-year term as requested and presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS – Commissioner Settle asked for an update on the sign. Mr. Yates stated WC Scroggs found a track and they submitted it to NC DOT for approval. They replied and said they thought it looked good, but are requiring an engineer conduct a safety traffic study. He added they are contacting someone now to see if they do this. Mr. Yates said this is located on the DOT Right-of-Way in the center of exit ramp for Clingman Road. Commissioner Gambill added he passed a sign last week in Charleston that had a large welcome sign similar to what they would like to do. It was a double sided sign that covered coming and going and would like to do that if possible.

Chairman Elmore asked if the Board has any liability if someone is looking at the sign and has an accident. Mr. Triplett replied he does not think so.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Yates stated he would like to congratulate the Animal Shelter Staff they had the first ever totally clean Shelter Inspection from the Department of Agricultural last month with no findings. This is the first one ever with no findings that he is aware of since they begin inspections while he has been Manager. This is very exciting and they are very proud of the staff.

ADJOURN – Motion was made by Commissioner Brian S. Minton, seconded by Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 7:19 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk
Chairman

Giddeon Keith Elmore,

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: April 5, 2022