

**MINUTES**  
**WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**April 18, 2023**

**PUBLIC CONCERNS** – None

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. with the following members present: Chairman Keith Elmore, Vice Chairman Stoney Greene, Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson, Commissioner Bill Sexton, 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 Keith Elmore welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at this time.

**INVOCATION** – Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson led the Invocation.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Stoney Greene, seconded by Commissioner Bill Sexton and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on April 4, 2023.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS** – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Stoney Greene to approve Budget Amendment No. 27 (Landfill Enterprise Fund – Monies needed to complete an emergency repair to the Cat 973D Final Drive in the amount of \$56,500); and Budget Amendment No. 28 (General Fund – Social Services – APS Essential Services received additional funds from the State. They received \$65,268.51 in additional revenue from SNAP ARPA funds that is intended to be used to assist the agency in areas needed. DSS request to move \$15,000 to purchase 3 interactive touch monitors for conference and training rooms. Also \$40,000 to purchase a minivan as the primary van has over 125,000 miles. No additional County funds required); and Budget Amendment No. 29 (Sheriff – this request is to add additional funds of \$46,128 to this line item in order to purchase two additional vehicles at the end of the budget year. An opportunity has presented itself where two vehicles were available for sale and the sheriff has funds available at the end of the budget year to help replace older and aging vehicles). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously approved.

Mr. Yates stated the Landfill issued 159 uncovered load fees in January; 131 in February; and 48 in March. Vice Chairman Greene said the citizens are doing better with this. Ms. Byrd agreed.

**PROCLAMATION – RESILIENT & THRIVING COMMUNITIES WEEK 2023** – Chairman Elmore welcomed Jenn Wages and Kirstin Roberts from The Health Foundation. Ms. Wages stated they are here as part of the Wilkes Resilient Collaborative, which is made up of 15 youth and family serving agencies in Wilkes County. She added this proclamation is for the

Resilient and Thriving Communities week, which is April 29 through May 6 and is part of a bigger initiative throughout the state. The Wilkes group came together to buffer the effects of adverse childhood experiences, better known as ACES. Ms. Wages said they found that exposure to ACES such as child abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction increases the risk of having poor physical health and mental health as they age. This group came together to see what they can do to help mitigate ACES and help the community thrive.

Ms. Roberts said all the agencies worked together and they have a couple representatives in attendance tonight. She added they help connect agencies that serve families and children in Wilkes. They do a lot of training on trauma and resilience in the community. Last year they offered “Address the Stress,” a conference that focused on secondary traumatic stress for paramedics, law enforcement, social services, and others that see trauma. They also have a networking event called “Connect Wilkes,” so agencies can get together. Ms. Roberts said they have training for “Reconnect for Resilience” to help folks cope and react to stress and trauma.

Ms. Wages said the Proclamation is to spread awareness around ACES and Resilience. Commissioner Sexton added EMS has a Stress Debriefing after a tough call and this is really helpful. What these ladies are talking about is along the same lines and very helpful, it is a great service. Ms. Roberts and Ms. Wages read the Proclamation at this time.

Commissioner Bill Sexton made a motion to approve the Proclamation for Resilient & Thriving Communities Week 2023 April 29 through May 6, 2023 in Wilkes County as presented at tonight’s meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously approved.

*Resilient & Thriving Communities Week 2023*  
*BY THE WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS*

*A PROCLAMATION*

*WHEREAS, resilient and thriving communities are vital to our community and state's future health, success, and prosperity to ensure a strong foundation for everyone at all ages and stages of life; and*

*WHEREAS, the science is clear that resilience is built, and that communities and systems play a key role in promoting safe, secure, nurturing environments for all; and*

*WHEREAS, adverse childhood and life experiences, adverse community environments, and adverse climate events impact overall quality of life and well-being of an entire community; and*

*WHEREAS, Healthy North Carolina 2030: A Path Toward Health by the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, identifies reduction of adverse childhood experiences by 25% by 2030 as a goal; and*

*WHEREAS, it is our collective responsibility to collaborate in a nonpartisan fashion to promote positive experiences, secure relationships, and supportive environments to buffer stress and adversity, and to support local resilience coalitions, collaboratives, task forces, and initiatives across the state; and*

*WHEREAS, investing in policies, programs, and strategies that address adversity and strengthen community resilience is essential to the health of our community; and*

*WHEREAS, Wilkes County Board of Commissioners encourages all individuals and all sectors, public and private, early childhood through post-secondary education, faith-based organizations, healthcare systems, justice systems, social service systems, businesses, and elected leaders to collaborate to strengthen our communities; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, the Wilkes County Board of County Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 29 through May 6 as Resilient & Thriving Communities Week” in our community, and commend its observance to all citizens.*

*This the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.*

*WILKES COUNTY*

*By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gideon Keith Elmore, Chairman  
Wilkes County Board of Commissioners*

*ATTEST:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Sarah D. Call, Clerk*

**APPALACHIAN REGIONAL LIBRARY – AMENDMENT TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT** – Chairman Elmore stated they have the Chairman of the local Library Board here tonight, Mr. Arnold Lakey. Mr. Triplett said in the packets is a proposed Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for Appalachian Regional Library (ARL). This Agreement was reached last year in 2022, before that they had a 10-year agreement from 2012 that ran its full term with a new one put in place last year. This takes an Interlocal Agreement between all three counties to make this happen. The ARL is comprised of Wilkes, Watauga and Ashe Counties. He added all three local Boards of Commissioners must pass it. Mr. Triplett said Mr. Lakey handed out to the Board a recommendation from the ARL Board to amend the Interlocal Agreement. He added paragraph six at the bottom of page one in summary says the Chairman of each local Library Board has the authority and right, if a member from that county cannot attend an ARL Board meeting, to appoint a substitute. There are several requirements about notification included as well.

Mr. Triplett said he spoke with Commissioner Johnson, their local Library Board Member, and he is good with this. He added Mr. Lakey has led this initiative and attended the ARL meeting to

get their approval. Mr. Lakey said this came about in September of last year when they had the regional meeting in Wilkes. Commissioner Johnson was the ARL member and he could not attend because the Chairman changed the date. A second ARL member from Wilkes also could not attend, but the local bylaws said they could have a substitution to go in their place. The ARL Board, however, said the Interlocal Agreement did not call for that and would not let the representative stay for the closed session. Mr. Lakey said this means that if the ARL member from Wilkes cannot be there, they can now send someone in their place for that particular meeting only. The substitute duty is not assigned ahead of time, but only when or if it comes up.

Mr. Triplett said each local board has bylaws, but the local bylaws cannot override the Interlocal Agreement. He added until all three Boards of Commissioners approve this amendment, it's not legally binding, this is what they are requesting tonight. Commissioner Johnson stated this will be great and they appreciate Mr. Lakey and Mr. Triplett working on this. It will ensure that Wilkes County has four votes at the ARL meetings at all times. Chairman Elmore asked if the other two counties have approved this amendment. Mr. Lakey replied no, the interim Director for the ARL has the information and will present it to the County Commissioners in those two counties in the near future.

Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson made a motion to Approve the Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for the Appalachian Regional Library as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Stoney Greene and unanimously approved.

**WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SCHEDULED MEETINGS – CHANGE OF DATE REGULAR BOARD MEETING** – Chairman Elmore said the Board needs to move the first regular meeting in July because it falls on a holiday.

Vice Chairman Stoney Greene made a motion to move the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners' regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 4, 2023 to Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at 110 North Street, Wilkesboro. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously approved.

**ADJOURN** – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Stoney Greene, seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 5:19 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gideon Keith Elmore, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: May 2, 2023