

MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORK SESSION
May 11, 2021

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:24 P.M. in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Wilkes County Office Building located at 110 North Street, Wilkesboro, N.C. for a Budget Work Session. Present for the meeting were the following members: Chairman Eddie Settle, Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton, Commissioner Keith Elmore, Commissioner David Gambill, and Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson.

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.

Chairman Eddie Settle welcomed everyone and called the work session to order.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – FUND BALANCE POSITION – LONG TERM DEBT – Mr. Huffman presented the Financial Report through March 2021. Next Mr. Huffman presented the fund balance detail General Fund as of June 30, 2021: Restricted \$5,322,472; Committed \$2,066,891; Assigned \$3,781,897; Unassigned \$29,549,046; Total Fund Balance \$40,720,306.

Mr. Huffman presented the statement of long term debt: the total annual debt payment for all debt is \$2,877,201; total outstanding High Schools \$22,673,800; total outstanding Jail-Detention Center \$6,390,397; Grant Total 2021-2022 Outstanding Debt \$29,064,197.

FUNDING REQUEST NOT INCLUDED IN RECOMMENDED BUDGET – Mr. Yates stated there are three request that were not included in the recommended Budget for discussion:

1. Alleghany Partnership for Children, Inc./DANA Services, this is the battered shelter and they were not aware they had an office in Wilkes until their director, Ms. Crystal Nettleton, met with him and stated they did. They serve Wilkes County citizens for Safe Shelter purposes since the shelter in Wilkes closed. DANA Services requested \$46,830.16 this year, the last appropriation to Safe was \$11,866. After a brief discussion the Board requested more information on the citizens served in Wilkes County.

2. Sheriff's Department additional pay request. The Board was provided a handout for an addition 2% and/or 3% above the recommended FY 2021-2022 budget.

CONSENSUS – After a brief discussion the Commissioners agreed to add an additional 2% pay increase for a total of 5% to the Sheriff, Jail, Communications, and Fire to the proposed 2021-2022 Wilkes County Budget for a total additional cost of \$146,623.

3. United Way of Wilkes 2-1-1. Ms. Clara Hickman requested \$2,754. After a brief discussion the Board requested more information on the 2-1-1 system to include

information provided to the citizens of Wilkes County when they call 211, the cost to provide this service, and what these will cover.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

The Board briefly discussed additional budget items and request at this time to include the following: COLA for all full time employees of 3% that was in the recommended budget, in which the Board fully supports; Benefits provided to employees that the County pays such as insurance, that costs the County approximately \$4.6 million; retirement paid for by the County for all full time employees and additional supplemental retirement paid for law enforcement by the County; public hearing for Millers Creek and all Fire Departments that request an increase in their fire tax rate each year with their budget request; facilities covered under public buildings; allocations to the Catherine Barber Homeless Shelter and Hospitality House.

CONSENSUS – After a brief discussion the Commissioners agreed to add an additional \$1,400 allocation to the Catherine Barber Homeless Shelter for a total of \$10,000 as requested and an additional \$2,225 allocations to the Hospitality House for a total of \$6,500 as requested to the proposed 2021-2022 Wilkes County Budget.

ADJOURN – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill, seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the Budget Work Session of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 7:34 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: June 1, 2021