

MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORK SESSION
May 15, 2017

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 3:00 P.M., with the following members present: Chairman Greg Minton, Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins, Commissioner Keith Elmore, Commissioner David Gambill and Commissioner Eddie Settle.

Also present were John Yates, County Manager; Jerry Shepherd, Finance Director; Chris Huffman, Assistant Finance Officer; and Sarah Call, Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Greg Minton welcomed everyone and called the Work Session to order.

BOARD OF EDUCATION – The Board discussed they would like to work through the budget and see if there are some areas in which potential savings could be identified in order to increase the amount proposed for the K-12 School system.

WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE – The Board discussed after reviewing the WCC budget their concerns with the grounds/gardens maintenance cost at WCC being approximately \$272,000. The Board stated they felt that the Endowment should contribute to the grounds/gardens maintenance cost at the college and added the county provides the building maintenance. The Board feels that the Endowment should pay the majority of this item because of the success from 30 years of MerleFest, which continues to grow and is held on the grounds of WCC. After further discussion the Board consensus was to reduce this to \$100,000. This will result in a net cut of approximately \$84,000 to Wilkes Community College current expense. The Board stated it is their intent to add this savings of approximately \$172,000 to the K-12 school system appropriation.

After discussion the Board consensus was to change the ConnectNC Bond match to five years instead of the three years at \$337,000 per year as in the proposed budget. The five year ConnectNC Bond match will be approximately \$202,000. This will result in a savings of approximately \$130,000 that the Board plans to allocate to the K-12 school system appropriation.

GENERAL FUND – GOVERNING BODY – After a brief discussion the Board consensus was to leave this as presented in the proposed budget.

LIBRARY – After discussion the Board consensus was to leave this as presented in the proposed budget. They stated the County has spent in excess of \$90,000 this year on the HVAC system at the Library. The Board did want to also clarify that the North Wilkesboro Branch is a separate line item from the Traphill Branch. Finance Director Jerry Shepherd stated this is correct they are separate.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS & NON-PROFIT AGENCIES – After some discussion the Board consensus was to reduce the Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor appropriation from \$7,500 to \$1,000 and increase Yadkin River Greenway Council and Elkin Valley Trails Association \$3,250 each. This will give an appropriation of \$6,850 to each organization. The Board decided they will review and discuss the other organizations and non-profit agency appropriations in the future.

PAY INCREASE – After discussion the Board consensus was to approve an additional 1% salary increase for all current full-time employees. This will result in a total of a 2% increase for employees. The Board stated they would like to see this savings in each department to help with the cost of this increase. The Board added they feel that collections will come higher than anticipated next year and also expect a little growth.

PERSONNEL – EMS – After some discussion the Board consensus was to leave this as presented in the proposed budget.

PERSONNEL – SHERIFF DEPARTMENT – After some discussion the Board consensus was to add 2 additional full-time positions in the Communications Center. They stated these were added because the Communications Center is very important to Wilkes, they do a great job.

AIRPORT – The Board consensus was to leave this as presented in the proposed budget.

LANDFILL – After a brief discussion the Board consensus was to leave this as presented in the proposed budget.

PARKS & RECREATION – After a short discussion the Board consensus was to leave this as presented in the proposed budget.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS – The Board discussed there is a potential grant that has been mentioned to help with the purchase of new voting equipment and they want to make sure the Elections Department is aware of this and will be applying. Finance Director Jerry Shepherd stated they will be making a grant application and hope to get it. He added if they do not get the grant, it could require a Budget Amendment sometime next year for the first year cost of the new equipment of approximately \$204,000.

WILKES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – After discussion the Board consensus was to leave this as presented in the proposed budget.

MINUTES
May 15, 2017
Page 3 of 3

ADJOURN - Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore, seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the Budget Work Session of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 4:40 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gregory A. Minton, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: