

**MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 19, 2020**

PUBLIC CONCERNS – None

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. at the Wilkes County Agricultural Center located at 416 Executive Drive, Wilkesboro, NC 28697 with the following members present: Vice Chairman David Gambill, Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and Commissioner Brian S. Minton. Chairman Eddie Settle and Commissioner Keith Elmore attended the meeting remotely including audio and video through WebEx.

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

Chairman Eddie Settle called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION – Vice Chairman David Gambill led the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Settle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Commissioner Brian S. Minton, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on May 5, 2020.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore to approve Budget Amendment No. 34 (Health – Programs – Wilkes Health Center received funding in the amount of \$5,400 for preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19 as needs evolve within the community and Wilkes County. No county money involved. Wilkes Health Center received funding in the amount of \$32,000 for preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19 as needs evolve within the community and Wilkes County which includes the purchase of supplies and capital equipment which includes, but is not limited to, vehicles. No county money involved); and Budget Amendment No. 35 (Sheriff – Budget request made for reimbursement of insurance monies paid in the amount of \$17,127.80 on surveillance equipment damaged by weather related issues). The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman David Gambill and unanimously approved.

WILKES COUNTY CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2019

– Chairman Settle welcomed Rachel Willard, Wilkes County Health Director. Ms. Willard introduced Lindsey Roberts, Community Health Service Director, Wilkes County Health Department and Child Fatality Task Force Chair. Ms. Roberts said she is presenting the 2019 Child Fatality Report. Ms. Roberts presented highlights from the report at this time. Ms. Willard stated they also have Chad Shore, Chief Operating Officer, Wilkes County Health Department joining them tonight. Commissioner Elmore asked if they have been able to meet

since the coronavirus. Ms. Roberts replied they had a meeting just before the stay at home order went into place, with the next meeting set for June and it will be a WebEx meeting.

*Wilkes County Child Fatality Prevention Team
Annual Report 2019*

General Statutes mandate Child Fatality Prevention Teams in North Carolina. Article 62 outlines the North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention System and the membership of the team. The primary function of the team is to review the records of Wilkes County's child fatalities to identify any system problems or opportunities for preventive actions that could be implemented in Wilkes. A report shall be provided to the Wilkes County Board of Health and Wilkes County Board of Commissioners.

The Community Health Services Director, Lindsey Roberts, chaired Wilkes County Child Fatality Prevention Team. 2019 Team members included: Rachel Willard, Health Director; John Blevins, DSS Director; Kevin Brown, Hal Wilson, Cindy Coffey or designated DSS Staff Members; Det. Nancy Graybeal, Law Enforcement Office; Shirl Daemer, Child Abuse Prevention Team; Dr. Donna Cotton and/or Anna Lankford, Local School Superintendent; Brian Minton, DSS Board Member; Tamara Lakey, Guardian ad Litem; Dr. Julie Koch and/or Dr. Ila Baugham, Health Care Provider; Tim Pennington, Emergency Medical Services; Rob Macaluso, Mental Health professional; Jason McGuire, District Attorney's office designee; Jason Reavis, County Medical Examiner; Judi Mitchell, Representative of Local Head Start (BROC); Melody Haddad, parent representative; Denise Greene, additional appointed member; vacant position, District Court Judge. The team's charge is to review child fatalities in Wilkes County, other than those that are reviewed by the Community Child Protection Team intensive review. The team works to assess all child deaths through the multidisciplinary system established above. The team has the following goals:

- *Involve diverse agencies and disciplines – orient, inform and involve professionals who serve children.*
- *Collect data – collect uniform, retrievable data for all child deaths.*
- *Share results – link child death patterns and trends with agencies and groups that can create and support strategies to prevent child deaths – identify system problems and make recommendations.*
- *Act to prevent child deaths – launch state and local action to prevent child deaths.*
- *Reduce the number and rate of child deaths.*

In 2019, the team met 4 times and reviewed 6 child fatalities, the number reviewed in 2018 was seven. The deaths are not necessarily reviewed in the year they occur due to time lapse for autopsy or other administrative factors. Four of the six deaths occurred in infants 1 months or less. One of the deaths was due to complications of extreme prematurity, one was undetermined, and two were related to birth defects. One teenage death was related to malignancy. The other death has been placed on hold until 2020 due to still gathering needed information. There were no trends noted in the cases that were reviewed in 2019, nor were there any recommendations for policy or system process changes in Wilkes County. Dr. Ila Baugham and Dr. Julie Koch provided education to members on medical diagnosis, terminology and results.

No systems problems were identified. We have enjoyed improved communication between agencies through team meetings. The death reviews that take place in the team meetings are confidential. The team is looking for trends or opportunities to improve systems to prevent child deaths as a community, thus the

discussions that take place help to break down barriers between agencies that might otherwise limit open discussion.

The Child Fatality Prevention Team has requested that this report be forwarded to the Wilkes County Board of Health and the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners.

This report is respectfully submitted by _____.
Rachel Willard, MSPH
Health Director

PUBLIC MEETINGS

a. FREQUENCY - Each local CFPT will schedule at least two public meetings annually, one presentation to the County Commissioners and one presentation to the board of health, according to state statute (G.S. 7B-1408.1.2 and G.S. 7B-1410.4).

b. AGENDA - The following shall be included in public meeting agenda items: Information about the local CFPT (including purposes, composition, confidentiality guidelines, access to records, statutory basis, frequency of meetings), information about child deaths in the county/state (number, causes, ages), number of deaths reviewed by the CFPT, system problems identified, recommendations, and action taken. No identifying information about individual child deaths may be addressed, including names, addresses, dates, or circumstances.

c. WRITTEN REPORTS - The local CFPT may release written reports including the information named in Procedure 8(b) above. No identifying information about individual child deaths may be released, including names, addresses, dates, or circumstances.

The Board thanked Ms. Willard, Ms. Roberts, and Mr. Shore for the annual report.

RESOLUTION – PURCHASE OF COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY ROCK CREEK TOWNSHIP – County Attorney Tony Triplett said there is a resolution in the package, for the approval of the sale of this property. He added this is located in Rock Creek Township, back in January they had an initial offer and advertised it for sale for \$6,200. Mr. Triplett stated this is a tax foreclosure property from several years ago that was sold for a high bid of about \$6,000, the county has less than that in it. He added they had an unprecedented succession of upset bids that are all included in the Resolution. The high bid is \$13,335.50, which was more than double the original offer during the upset bid process. Mr. Triplett said the 10 days have run out and Mr. Michael Love is the high bidder. If the Board wishes to proceed they need a motion to approve the Resolution which has the effect of approving the sale. Chairman Settle stated the County

Attorney did a good job on this sale and the upset bid process with an original offer of \$6,200 and selling for more than \$13,300.

Vice Chairman David Gambill made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brain S. Minton and unanimously approved.

*RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY*

WHEREAS, the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting of January 7, 2020, authorized advertisement for sale of a tract of land owned by Wilkes County (hereinafter "the County") located in Rock Creek Township, Wilkes County, North Carolina, consisting of one-half (1/2) acre, more or less, the same having been acquired by the County under Commissioner's Deed dated May 16, 2017, and recorded in Book 1246, Page 139, Wilkes County Registry, pursuant to the tax foreclosure sale in that action captioned "Wilkes County vs. Everett Randolph Denzler and wife, Anita Denise Denzler, et al.," File No. 14 CVD 782, Wilkes County Clerk of Superior Court's Office., and being identified on the records of the Wilkes County Tax Mapping office as PIN #3990-59-1786, Parcel ID No. 16-02757;

AND WHEREAS, said sale is by negotiated offer, advertisement, and upset bid pursuant to G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, the County received an initial offer from Wendy Perry of 379 Badger Ridge Lane, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purchase of said tract, in the total amount of \$6,200.00 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs;

AND WHEREAS, said offer was duly advertised in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on January 10, 2020, as required under G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, the County then received a timely upset bid from Michael Love of 1065 Rock Creek Church Road, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purchase of said tract, in the total amount of \$6,560.00 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs;

AND WHEREAS, said offer was duly advertised in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on January 17, 2020, as required under G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, the County then received a timely upset bid from Eva Estep of 159 Dowell Ridge Road, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purchase of said tract, in the total amount of \$7,000.00 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs;

AND WHEREAS, said offer was duly advertised in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on January 24, 2020, as required under G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, the County then received a timely upset bid from Michael Love of 1065 Rock Creek Church Road, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purchase of said tract, in the total amount of \$7,400.00 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs;

AND WHEREAS, said offer was duly advertised in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on January 31, 2020, as required under G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, the County then received a timely upset bid from Marc Cruz of 127 Cattle Crossing Drive, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purchase of said tract, in the total amount of \$7,820.00 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs;

AND WHEREAS, said offer was duly advertised in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on February 7, 2020, as required under G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, the County then received a timely upset bid from Michael Love of 1065 Rock Creek Church Road, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purchase of said tract, in the total amount of \$9,000.00 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs;

AND WHEREAS, said offer was duly advertised in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on February 14, 2020, as required under G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, the County then received a timely upset bid from Marc Cruz of 127 Cattle Crossing Drive, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purchase of said tract, in the total amount of \$9,500.00 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs;

AND WHEREAS, said offer was duly advertised in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on February 21, 2020, as required under G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, the County then received a timely upset bid from Michael Love of 1065 Rock Creek Church Road, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purchase of said tract, in the total amount of \$10,025.00 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs;

AND WHEREAS, said offer was duly advertised in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on February 28, 2020, as required under G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, the County then received a timely upset bid from Marc Cruz of 127 Cattle Crossing Drive, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purchase of said tract, in

the total amount of \$10,600.00 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs;

AND WHEREAS, said offer was duly advertised in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on March 6, 2020, as required under G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, the County then received a timely upset bid from Michael Love of 1065 Rock Creek Church Road, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purchase of said tract, in the total amount of \$12,000.00 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs;

AND WHEREAS, said offer was duly advertised in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on March 13, 2020, as required under G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, the County then received a timely upset bid from Marc Cruz of 127 Cattle Crossing Drive, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purchase of said tract, in the total amount of \$12,650.00 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs;

AND WHEREAS, said offer was duly advertised in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on March 20, 2020, as required under G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, the County then received a timely upset bid from Michael Love of 1065 Rock Creek Church Road, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the purchase of said tract, in the total amount of \$13,332.50 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs;

AND WHEREAS, said offer was duly advertised in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on March 27, 2020, as required under G.S. §160A-269;

AND WHEREAS, no further upset bids have been received, and the time has expired in which an additional upset bid may be submitted;

AND WHEREAS, the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners desires to accept said high bid of \$13,332.50 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs, and desires to authorize sale of the property pursuant to said bid;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to G.S. §160A-269, that the bid of \$13,332.50 plus the cost of publication for the required public notice, Deed preparation, and recording costs received from Michael Love of 1065 Rock Creek Church Road, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, is hereby approved, and upon payment of said purchase price, a Special Warranty Deed shall be executed by the County and conveyed to Michael Love or his assignee for the above referenced property.

This the 19th day of May, 2020.

WILKES COUNTY

By: _____
*Eddie D. Settle, Chairman,
Wilkes County Board of Commissioners*

ATTEST:

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

PLANNING DEPARTMENT – REQUEST TO SET PUBLIC HEARING – ROAD NAME REQUEST – RIDGEWAY DRIVE – Mr. Yates said the Planning Department is asking the Board of Commissioners to set a Public Hearing on a Road Name Request received by petition to the Planning Department. He stated the Road Name Request is for Ridgeway Drive (SR 1391) in Reddies River Township. The request meets the requirements of the Wilkes County Road Naming Ordinance. As required by the Wilkes County Road Naming Ordinance a Public Hearing and a ten day (10) notification period is required.

Commissioner Brian S. Minton made a motion to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. with the meeting to immediately follow regarding the Road Name Request as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS – Motion was made by Vice Chairman David Gambill to approve Budget Amendment No. 36 (General Fund – Social Services – DSS received an additional allocation of \$11,722.37 for LIEAP-Low Income Energy Assistance for a one time supplement to approximately 1,100 Wilkes residents because of the State of Emergency due to COVID-19. No County Funds Required). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS – Commissioner Minton stated this is EMT Week and they would like to recognize them and show their appreciation to all Emergency Management Personnel. Chairman Settle agreed and added they have been very stressed during the COVID-19 pandemic and they do a great job.

ADJOURN – Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 6:17 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: June 2, 2020