

**MINUTES**  
**WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**BUDGET WORK SESSION**  
**May 27, 2021**

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 2:20 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; and Chris Huffman, Finance Director.

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

**INVOCATION** – Commissioner David Gambill led the Invocation.

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

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CLERK** – Chairman Settle stated the Board needs to appoint an acting Clerk.

Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton made a motion to appoint Chris Huffman as acting Clerk as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

**ADDITIONS TO THE PROPOSED 2021-2022 RECOMMENDED BUDGET FROM PREVIOUS WORK SESSION ON 5/11/21** – Chairman Settle stated the following were approved during the last work session:

Sheriff's Department additional 2% pay increase (total of 5%) to the Sheriff, Jail, Communications, and Fire for a total addition to the budget of \$146,623;

Catherine Barber Homeless Shelter additional \$1,400 to the budget (total \$10,000);

Hospitality House additional \$2,225 to the budget (total \$6,500).

**FUNDING REQUEST NOT INCLUDED IN RECOMMENDED BUDGET** – Mr. Yates stated three requests were not included in the recommended Budget are for discussion. The additional information requested was emailed to the Board last week:

1. Alleghany Partnership for Children, Inc./DANA Services – Mr. Yates stated in February 2019 DANA Services was alerted that the Safe Program of Wilkes would be closing.

DANA staff volunteered to take over the SAFE's crisis line. Between February and July 2020, DANA answered 26 crisis calls and had 1 shelter client from Wilkes County.

2. United Way of Wilkes 2-1-1. Mr. Yates stated the request is \$2,754. He added grant funds pay for this service during the day and these additional funds are requested to help ensure they have 24/7/265 operations for 211.

3. Wilkes Rescue Squad, Inc. Mr. Yates stated Chief Cole Wyatt called and requested more funds.

CONSENSUS – After a brief discussion the Commissioners agreed to add an additional \$5,000 to Wilkes Rescue Squad, Inc. to the proposed 2021-2022 Wilkes County Budget. (total \$195,000).

**ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:**

Sheriff's Department – Mr. Huffman stated based on 140 employees to give each \$3,500 would cost \$490,000; 5% would cost \$366,557.

CONSENSUS – After discussion the Commissioners agreed to add an additional 1% pay increase for a total of 6% to the Sheriff, Jail, Communications, and Fire to the proposed 2021-2022 Wilkes County Budget for a total additional cost of \$73,311 with a grand total added to the Sheriff's Department of \$219,935 for pay increases (total \$439,870 which represents 3% in addition to the 3% that was included in the recommended 2021-2022 Wilkes County Budget); and to move the hiring rate up 6%.

**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 2:55 P.M.

Chris Huffman, Acting Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: June 15, 2021