

**MINUTES  
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
June 15, 2021**

**PUBLIC HEARING – ROAD NAME REQUEST – WOODLAND SKY DRIVE, TRAPHILL TOWNSHIP** – Chairman Eddie Settle declared the Public Hearing open regarding the Road Name Request for Woodland Sky Drive at 5:55 P.M. on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 with the following members present: Chairman Eddie Settle, Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton, Commissioner David Gambill and Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson. Commissioner Keith Elmore attended the meeting remotely audio and video through WebEx.

Also present were Tony Triplett, County Attorney; John Yates, County Manager; Eddie Barnes, Planning Director; and Chris Huffman, Finance Director.

Mr. Barnes stated the Wilkes County Planning Department received a petition to name a private drive, Woodland Sky Drive located off Mining Ridge Church Road (SR1913) in the Traphill Township. He added the requests meet all the requirements of the Road Naming Ordinance, has been advertised by General Statute for the 10 day period, and no public comments have been received on this request.

Chairman Settle declared the Public Hearing closed at 5:59 P.M.

**PUBLIC CONCERNS** – None

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. with the following members present: Chairman Eddie Settle, Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton, Commissioner David Gambill, and Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson. Commissioner Keith Elmore attended the meeting remotely including video and audio through WebEx.

Also present for the meeting were Tony Triplett, County Attorney; John Yates, County Manager; and Chris Huffman, Finance Director.

Chairman Eddie Settle welcomed everyone and called the meeting 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 for tonight's meeting.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to appoint Chris Huffman as acting Clerk for tonight's meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion was made by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson, seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting held on May 27, 2021.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton, seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Budget Work Session held on May 27, 2021.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton, seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on June 1, 2021.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS** – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to approve Budget Amendment No.42 (General – Fire Districts – These Fire Departments: Millers Creek \$60,000, Cricket \$10,000, McGrady \$5,000, and Wilkes-Iredell \$5,000 collections were higher than projected in the current budget); and No. 43 (General – The budget request takes unspent budgeted funds and reallocates them to be used in the General Fund in the total amount of \$319,000). The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

**WILKES COUNTY 2021-2022 BUDGET:**

**1. MILLERS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. FIRE TAX RATE INCREASE 2021-2022 BUDGET** – Mr. Yates stated Millers Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. has requested to increase their fire tax rate from 8¢ to 10¢ which is an increase of 2¢ for FY 2021-2022. Chairman Settle stated they have Fire Chief Robbie Bolin and Board Members to include Joe Rankin at the meeting and ask them to come forward at this time. He added last year they were in the middle of a pandemic and they cut the county budget 14% and Millers Creek Fire Department requested a 3¢ fire tax increase. Chairman Settle stated he believes they came to an agreement to cut it to 1¢ last year and they would come back this year to request the additional. He added this will get them to 10¢.

Commissioner Gambill stated the fire department has progressed and their first responder calls are up but, fire calls are probably down a little. They have also taken on the role in Millers Creek of fire rescue and it has worked out great. Commissioner Gambill added their Board, which is made up of community members voted for this. They are also housing an Ambulance for EMS, the Air Truck, and the Rescue Squad has two vehicles there as well. He added volunteers are hard to get, they do have paid staff there around the clock. Commissioner Gambill said Millers Creek was the first to sign the Fire Contracts several years ago. They have a great Board and Fire Department and were essential in getting the Fire and Rescue contracts in place county-wide. Commissioner Gambill said they are at medium rescue and could go to heavy at any time. The equipment they need is expensive and they are required by the state to have this.

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Vice Chairman Minton asked if he understood from the last meeting that they do not have any fund raisers. Chief Bolin replied they use to, but it got to a point that it was so hard to judge what they could sale in BBQ chicken. At times they were losing money and it was not worth it. Commissioner Gambill added fund raising is hard because they have an extra 40 hours of required rescue training to do each year in addition to the 36 hours for fire. This is on top of the calls they answer 24/7. Chairman Settle stated the Commissioner of Insurance was in Wilkes and that questions came up about training and testing and they are working on this. Mr. Rankin added that is one thing they stress in their department in order to make them the most qualified. Training cost and they want to maintain and increase this. Chief Bolin said they were able to reduce their fire rating for parts of their district that was a 9 because of the water shuttle they can do. This allows those folks to receive a 5 rating without a hydrant and saves homeowners a lot of money on insurance. He added they have water points that are approved by the Department of Insurance and this took effect in April.

Commissioner Elmore stated unless folks are willing to go and fight fire they need to be willing to pay the ones who do. He added he appreciates the firemen that do this. Vice Chairman Minton asked will they be back next year asking for 2¢ more. Chief Bolin replied no, he has worked with their Board over the last few years to develop this plan. It has been adjusted and changed, but they have a good plan in place and this increase will get them into a truck replacement cycle. He added in a few years their debt load will decrease and they will be in even better shape. Chief Bolin said this will carry Millers Creek for quite a while. Mr. Rankin added Chief Bolin and the prior chief requested increases in the past and the Board said no. They had to tighten up and made it work. At this point the Board feels they had to approve the increase in order to continue to provide service. Mr. Rankin said he feels this is all they will need. They were at 5¢ from 1973 to 2007, then went to 7¢, last year 8¢, and now 10¢. This was not done lightly, but they were to the point they had to ask for this to continue the service to their community.

Commissioner Johnson stated he spoke with Chief Bolin and they answered all the questions he had, he is very knowledgeable and appreciates the time he took to answer them. Chairman Settle agreed and thanked them for all they do to serve their community and put their life on the line.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to approve the 2¢ Fire Tax Rate Increase for Millers Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to go from 8¢ to 10¢ as requested in the 2021-2022 Budget for Wilkes County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Gambill stated with the information about a pending investigation for BROCC he asked should they withhold the funds from them at this time. He stated they are not aware of everything going on, but do know there is an investigation. Mr. Triplett stated he could do that as long as it is put into the motion and clarified. It can either state the funds for BROCC are being removed from the budget and could be added later with a Budget Amendment, or it is approved to keep it in the budget and direct finance to not disburse it to them. Commission Gambill stated whichever is easier for finance, he just wants to withhold funding until they know more. Commissioner Elmore stated he is a little familiar with this, but he feels that BROCC provides a

valuable service for folks in bad circumstances. He thinks they can fix the problem there without holding their budgeted funds and is not comfortable doing this. Chairman Settle asked Vice Chairman Minton hi thoughts as a member on the BROCC Board. Vice Chairman Minton replied he is on that Board and has been told he should not speak on this matter because there is an investigation going on at this time at BROCC. Mr. Huffman stated the Board can do anything they want and can keep this in the budget and not appropriate the funds to BROCC until this Board instructs him to do so. He added they typically pay non-profits once each quarter and do not send all the funds lump sum up front. Vice Chairman Minton stated they could without the first quarter funds to see how the goes. Mr. Yates added they could and can add the first quarter to the second and pay those together if the Board prefers.

Commissioner Elmore stated he thinks BROCC will work this out and they should not with hold funding them, they help a lot of people. Commissioner Gambill said out of respect to Commissioner Elmore and his past service on their Board he can support this. Commissioner Elmore said they have funded them for 17 years and he does not want to withhold them.

Chairman Settle stated the additions to the proposed budget at this time are as follows:

Schools K-12 Operations	\$400,000
Sheriff's Department, Jail, E-911 & Fire	\$219,935 (3% additional 6 % total overall)
Catherine Barber Homeless Shelter	\$ 1,400 (total \$10,000)
Hospitality House	\$ 2,225 (total \$ 6,500)
Wilkes Rescue Squad	<u>\$ 5,000</u> (total\$195,000)
Total	\$628,560

Additional funds needed to balance the budget after above additions	\$ 628,560
Total used from Fund Balance	<u><u>\$5,389,257</u></u>

**BUDGET – 2021/2022 FISCAL YEAR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore, to approve the five additional items the Board approved to add for Schools K-12, Sheriff's Department, Jail, E-911, & Fire, Catherine Barber Homeless Shelter, Hospitality House, Wilkes Rescue Squad, and 2¢ increased in Fire Tax Rate for the Millers Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved to adopt the 2021/2022 Budget Ordinance in the amount of \$100,275,294 with the tax rate at sixty-six (66) cents per \$100.00 valuation.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, NORTH CAROLINA, IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED – JUNE 15, 2021.

**SECTION I.** The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of Wilkes County Government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, according to the following summary and schedules:

SUMMARY	2021/2022 ADOPTED BUDGET	TRANSFER TO/FROM OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL
General Fund	\$87,278,536	[650,000]	\$86,628,536
E 911 Telephone System	752,272		752,272
Law Enforcement Restricted	5,000		5,000
Fire Dist. Funds	4,515,530		4,515,530
Airport Enterprise	3,219,924	650,000	3,869,924
Landfill Enterprise	4,479,032	[500,000]	3,979,032
Landfill Capital Reserve	25,000	500,000	525,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,275,294</b>		<b>\$100,275,294</b>

**SECTION II.** That for said fiscal year there is hereby appropriated out of the General Fund the following:

<u>GENERAL FUND EXPENSES</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>
Governing Body	\$ 297,835
Administration	493,007
Finance	485,085
Tax Administration	1,432,365
Legal	398,862
Court Facilities	711,409
Elections	406,325
Register of Deeds	446,855
Information Technology	515,922
Central Garage	1,181,801
Public Buildings	1,197,464
Purchasing	74,810
Central Operations	2,555,500
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>\$ 10,197,240</b>
Sheriff	\$ 6,488,900
Jail	4,220,550
Emergency Communications	1,635,131
Emergency Management	104,900
Fire	247,408
Building Inspections	637,386

Medical Examiner/Coroner	122,000
Emergency Medical Services	5,518,467
Animal Control	751,051

**TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENSE** **\$ 19,725,793**

Forestry	\$ 117,662
Other Environmental	170,000

**TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL** **\$ 287,662**

Planning	\$ 310,797
Economic Development	471,300
Other Community Development	172,033
Cooperative Extension	277,282
Extension Local	78,000
Soil & Water Conservation	380,972

**TOTAL ECONOMIC PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT** **\$ 1,690,384**

General Health	\$ 2,310,041
Health Programs – Salaries	2,493,956
Health – Environmental	21,050
Health - Food & Lodging	12,391
Health - Tuberculosis	3,355
HIV & STD Federal	1,305
Health - Communicable Disease	2,293
Comprehensive - B & C Cancer Control	15,300
Adult Health	201,500
Health Promotion	10,000
Women-Infant-Children	55,600
Health-WIC/BPCP	1,700
Maternal Clinic	1,250
Pregnancy Care Management	2,700
Infant Mortality Reduction	22,948
Child Health	35,173
Health - MESH Unit/Schools	90,683
Health – School Nurse Funding	150,000
Health - Family Planning	41,100
Health Care Connection	22,068
Care Coordination for Children	3,600
Health – Immunization Action	500
Wilkes Dental Clinic	1,500,000
Health – Preparedness	1,800
Health – AIM	56,250

Wilkes Community Health Center	495,150
Health – Substance Use Disorder	82,500

**TOTAL HUMAN SERVICE - HEALTH** \$ 7,634,213

VAYA Health/Mental Health	\$ 218,612
Daymark Recovery Services – ABC 5¢ Bottle Tax	17,000
Child Abuse Prevention Team	18,066
Adult Developmental Activity Program	27,864
Vocational Workshop	43,000
Wilkes Developmental Day School	131,717
SAFE Program	10,204

**TOTAL MENTAL HEALTH** \$ 466,463

Administration	\$ 8,231,755
DSS Occupancy Expense	243,778
Work First Employment	70,000
Income Maintenance/Food Stamps	656,892
IM/Medicaid Assistance XIX	703,500
Legal	75,000
Foster Care	4,912,317
Links	34,500
Other Assistance	54,486
Other Contractuals	86,000
Day Care	47,558

**TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES** \$ 15,115,786

**VETERANS SERVICE** \$ 114,637

JCPC/Youth Services	\$ 285,000
Secure Detention/Juvenile Subsidy	68,000

**TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES – YOUTH** \$ 353,000

**JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION** \$ 10,000

Aging Program Exp/To Agencies	650,000	
Appalachian Senior Programs		2,786
Ruby Pardue Blackburn Adult Day Care Center	4,816	
American Red Cross	11,145	
Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission	56,815	
Wilkes Senior Resources	189,234	
National Guard Armory	1,857	

Barium Springs/Children’s Hope Alliance	27,590
Volunteers for Wilkes Literacy	12,074
Crime Stoppers	1,720
Mountain View Ruritan Club/Fly-In	4,128
Wilkes Transportation/ROAP Grant	250,000
Wilkes Transportation Authority Appropriation	43,000
Catherine Barber Shelter	10,000
Hospitality House Crisis Shelter	6,500
Lincoln Heights	1,750

**TOTAL OTHER HUMAN SERVICES** \$ 1,273,685

Public Schools	\$ 18,686,185
Wilkes Community College	4,165,958

**TOTAL EDUCATION** \$ 22,852,143

Appalachian Regional Library	\$ 662,209
Traphill Library	31,316
Parks & Recreation	995,685
Cultural & Museums	29,746

**TOTAL CULTURAL & RECREATION** \$ 1,718,956

**CONTINGENCY RESERVE FUND** \$ 25,000

**TOTAL COUNTY DEBT** \$ 4,277,201

**TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS** \$ 945,000

**TOTAL GF EXPENSES & OTHER USES** \$ 87,278,536

**SECTION III.** It is estimated the following General Fund Revenues will be available during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, to meet the foregoing General Fund Appropriations:

Taxes - Ad Valorem	\$ 39,331,830
Sales Taxes	20,421,284
Other Tax and Licenses	485,000
Unrestricted Intergovernmental	452,000
Health - Restricted State & Federal	4,504,578
DSS – Restricted State & Federal	8,491,294
Other Restricted – State & Federal	2,549,057
Restricted Local - General Fund Other	346,000



Restricted Local - Health	79,940
Restricted Local - DSS	44,204
Permits and Fees	941,300
Health Permits and Fees	135,000
Health Sales & Services	312,000
DSS Sales & Services	33,700
Sales & Services - General Fund Other	3,137,350
Investment Earnings/General Fund	40,200
Miscellaneous/General Fund	584,000
Fund Balance Appropriated	5,389,799

**TOTAL ALL TAXES & GENERAL FUND REVENUE**      \$ **87,278,536**

**SECTION V.**      That for said fiscal year there is hereby appropriated out of the E-911 Telephone System Fund the following:

**E-911 Telephone System Expense**      \$      **752,272**

**SECTION VI.**      It is estimated the following E-911 Telephone System Fund Revenue will be available during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

**E-911 Telephone System Revenues**      \$      **752,272**

**SECTION VII.**      That for said fiscal year there is hereby appropriated out of the Law Enforcement Restricted Fund the following:

Law Enforcement Restricted Fund      \$      5,000

**TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT RESTRICTED FUND EXPENSE**      \$      **5,000**

**SECTION VIII.**      It is estimated the following Law Enforcement Restricted Fund revenues will be available during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 to meet the foregoing Law Enforcement Restricted Fund Appropriations:

Law Enforcement Restricted Fund Revenues      \$      5,000

**TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT RESTRICTED FUND REVENUE**      \$      **5,000**

**SECTION IX.**      That for said fiscal year there is hereby appropriated out of the Fire District Fund the following:

DEPARTMENT	TAX RATE	APPROPRIATED
No. 1 - Broadway	.09	\$ 295,002
No. 2 - Mountain View	.08	\$ 265,410

No. 3 - Moravian Falls	.09	\$ 366,359
No. 4 - Mulberry-Fairplains	.11	\$ 411,988
No. 5 - Pleasant Hill	.12	\$ 179,512
No. 6 - Traphill	.09	\$ 158,478
No. 7 - Boomer	.11	\$ 164,318
No. 8 - Champion	.11	\$ 409,611
No. 9 - Austin	.12	\$ 176,314
No. 10 - Goshen	.10	\$ 160,396
No. 11 - Millers Creek	.10	\$ 434,722
No. 12 - Arlington (Ronda)	.10	\$ 7,170
No. 13 - State Road	.075	\$ 95,625
No. 14 - Ronda	.13	\$ 216,419
No. 15 - Knottville	.12	\$ 104,053
No. 16 - Shepherds Crossroads	.07	\$ 64,270
No. 17 - Roaring River	.06	\$ 179,369
No. 18 - Ferguson	.10	\$ 180,478
No. 19 - Cricket	.10	\$ 179,892
No. 20 - McGrady	.13	\$ 98,211
No. 21 - Brushy Mountain	.08	\$ 59,199
No. 22 - Buck Shoals	.05	\$ 41,169
No. 23 - Little Brushy Mountain	.12	\$ 57,253
No. 24 - Wilkes-Iredell	.12	\$ 73,697
No. 25 - Wilbar	.12	\$ <u>136,615</u>

**TOTAL FIRE DISTRICTS** **\$ 4,515,530**

**SECTION X.** It is estimated that the following Fire District Fund Revenues will be available during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 to meet the foregoing Fire District Fund Appropriations:

**TOTAL FIRE DISTRICT REVENUE** **\$ 4,515,530**

**SECTION XI.** That for said fiscal year there is hereby appropriated out of the Airport Fund the following:

Airport/Capital Projects	650,000
Airport/Operating Expenses	3,219,924

**TOTAL AIRPORT EXPENSES** **\$ 3,869,924**

**SECTION XII.** It is estimated the following Airport Fund Revenue will be available during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 to meet the foregoing Airport Fund Revenue and Appropriations:

Airport – Restricted Intergovernmental	\$ -0-
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Airport – Grants/State & Federal	650,000
Airport – Sales & Service	949,924
Airport – Rents	120,000
Airport – Miscellaneous/Airport	-0-
Airport – Transfers from Other Funds/Airport	2,150,000
<b>TOTAL AIRPORT REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 3,869,924</b>

**SECTION XIII.** That for said fiscal year there is hereby appropriated out of the Landfill Fund the following:

Landfill	\$ 4,979,032
Transfer to Other Funds/Landfill	-0-
<b>TOTAL LANDFILL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 4,979,032</b>

**SECTION XIV.** It is estimated that following Landfill Fund Revenue will be available during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 to meet the foregoing Landfill Fund Revenue and Appropriations:

Landfill – Restricted State & Federal	\$ 136,000
Landfill – Sales & Service	2,710,000
Landfill – Investment Earnings	5,000
Miscellaneous/Landfill	24,000
Fund Balance Appropriation/Landfill	1,604,032
Landfill – Transfer from Other Funds/Landfill	500,000
<b>TOTAL LANDFILL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 4,979,032</b>

**SECTION XV.** That for said fiscal year there is hereby appropriated out of the Landfill Capital Reserve Fund the following:

<b>TOTAL LANDFILL CAPITAL RESERVE EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 525,000</b>
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**SECTION XVI.** It is estimated the following Landfill Capital Reserve Revenue will be available during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 to meet the foregoing Landfill Capital Reserve Fund Revenue Appropriations:

Interest on Investments	\$ 25,000
Fund Balance Appropriation	500,000
Transfer from Landfill Enterprise Fund	-0-
<b>TOTAL LANDFILL CAPITAL RESERVE REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 525,000</b>

There is hereby levied for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 a tax rate of sixty-six (\$0.66) cents on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation of taxable property as listed as of January 1, 2021, for the purpose of raising the revenue from current year's property tax as set forth in the foregoing estimate of revenue, and in order to finance foregoing appropriations.

The tax rate of sixty-six (66) cents per hundred dollars valuation is based on an estimated total appraised value of property for the purpose of taxation of \$6,000,000,879 with estimated collection of 96.39% on real and personal property and 100% on vehicles.

**BUDGET 2021/2022 – ADOPTED – JUNE 15, 2021.**

**ELKIN VALLEY TRAILS ASSOCIATION – MATTERN & CRAIG PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT** – County Attorney Tony Triplett stated the contract is before the Board and they have been working on this since EVTA came before the Board and recommended Mattern & Craig for the design of the Carter Falls Bridge. He added this is the contract for them to preform Engineering Services to design the bridge. Mr. Triplett added he looked over the contract and suggested a few changes which they made and it is now ready for the Boards consideration. This is a lump sum contact for \$124,600 and falls under the grant they have been working on with the State. Mr. Yates added the County will pay this and apply for reimbursement from the grant. Mr. Triplett added the State required the grant to go through the County and not EVTA and the reason for the contract.

Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton made a motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Mattern & Craig for Engineering Services for the Carter Falls Bridge as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and passed unanimously.

**FIRE MARSHAL – 2021 FIREWORKS PERMIT APPLICATIONS – APPROVAL** – Chairman Settle welcomed and recognized Niki Hamby, Fire Marshal. Mr. Hamby stated he is asking for approval of three Firework Displays for Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on June 26, Oakwoods Country Club on July 3, and Memorial Park on July 4, 2021. He added all three applications meets the requirements of the 2010 Pyrotechnics Act and the county requirements. Mr. Hamby said they have the appropriate Certificates of Insurance and everything is in order. By statute the local Board of County Commissioners must approve these events.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to approve the 2021 Fireworks Display Permit of the Applications for Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Oakwoods Country Club, and Memorial Park as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and passed unanimously.

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT:**

**1. FINAL APPROVAL – SHADY REST MOBILE HOME PARK** – Chairman Settle welcomed and recognized Eddie Barnes, Planning Director. Mr. Barnes stated this is

located in the Town of Ronda limits. The County has an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Ronda to regulate some of the planning ordinances within their city limits and why this is before the Commissioners. Commissioner Elmore asked if the Town of Ronda has any approval on this. Mr. Barnes replied no, the interlocal agreement states the county will regulate and enforce the planning ordinances within the Town except for zoning. Mr. Triplett added the Town of Ronda asked the county to do this for them many years ago.

Chairman Settle asked if the Planning Board approved this. Mr. Barnes replied yes on June 2, 2021 the Wilkes Joint Planning Board reviewed and recommended approval for the final plat for Shady Rest Mobile Home Park for owner Twenty-One and Main Real Estate Investment, LLC. The Mobile Home park is located on Elkin Hwy 268 on the Town of Ronda. The mobile home park consists of 6.71 acres with 12 lots. Streets in the mobile home park are to be private and constructed to the Wilkes County Mobile Home Park Ordinance standards. He added the mobile home park will use city sewer and water services from Ronda. Mr. Barnes stated it is before the Board for consideration at this time. He added this is an existing mobile park that has been there for many years with 8 units, the owner wants to expand it to 12 and why the entire park is coming before the Board for approval.

Chairman Settle asked how old these mobile homes can be. Mr. Barnes replied the Town of Ronda nor the County regulates the age of mobile homes. When the State passed the new Planning Ordinances 160D, they no longer allow counties or municipalities to regulate the age of mobile homes. He added these are older mobile homes and has been told the intent of the owner is to upgrade the mobile homes over time and add other units to the north end.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion for the Final Approval of the Plat for Shady Rest Mobile Home Park for owner Twenty-One and Main Real Estate Investment, LLC as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

**2. SPECIAL INTENSITY ALLOCATION – 10/70 – DOLLAR GENERAL MULBERRY** – Planning Director Eddie Barnes said they have a request for a Special Intensity Allocation. The Wilkes Joint Planning Board reviewed and approved a Special Intensity Allocation at their meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> for Teramore Development, LLC for a Dollar General in Mulberry. The project is located at 3215 Hwy 18 N, North Wilkesboro and consist of 3.18 acres to be developed up to 24% of impervious surface on the project area. Mr. Barnes said the Planning Board did unanimously approve this request and it meets all the conditions and requirements of the Wilkes County Watershed Special Intensity Allocation Ordinance. It is before the Board for consideration.

Chairman Settle stated this is beside the school. Mr. Barnes replied yes it will be south of Mulberry School. Commissioner Gambill added there are several in the county, they do well and build in rural communities. He added they have a great marketing plan and folks stop there a lot rather than driving the Wal Mart. Mr. Justin Church, BREC replied there are 14 in Wilkes. This one will be a newer plan with more fresh items. It will be 15,000 sq. ft. larger and have more fresh vegetables and more of a grocery store feel.

Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton made a motion to approve the Special Intensity Allocation for Teramore Development, LLC, for up to 24% of impervious surface on the project area as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously approved.

**3. SPECIAL INTENSITY ALLOCATION – 10/70 – 268 SELF-STORAGE RONDA** – Planning Director Eddie Barnes the Wilkes Joint Planning Board reviewed and approved at their June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting a Special Intensity Allocation from 268 Investments, LLC for 268 Self-Storage located at 12175 Elkin Hwy 268, Ronda. The project consists of 0.76 acres and will allow up to 61% of impervious surface on the project area. Mr. Barnes said the Planning Board did unanimously approve this request and it meets all the conditions of the Wilkes County Watershed Special Intensity Allocation Ordinance. It is before the Board for consideration at this time.

Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton made a motion to approve the Special Intensity Allocation for 268 Investment, LLC, for up to 61% of impervious surface on the project area as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously approved.

**4. WILKES COUNTY PLANNING BOARD MEMBER – REAPPOINTMENTS** – Mr. Barnes stated he would like to request reappointments of the Wilkes Joint Planning Board Members for Mr. Johnny Alexander, Mr. Ed Holland, Mr. Allen Lankford, Mr. Rocky Lyons, and Mr. Micah Sidden. Their terms will expire June 30, 2021 and each member has expressed their desire to continue to serve on the Board for another three year term. An application for each appointee has been submitted to the County Clerk and these appointments are before the Board for consideration at this time.

Chairman Settle asked how many members serve on this Board. Mr. Barnes replied 12 members. It is a Joint Planning Board and has two members each from North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro. Mr. Barnes said the Town of North Wilkesboro appointment, Mr. Charlie Sink, and the Town of Wilkesboro appointment, Mr. Chris Steele will also expire on June 30, 2021 and he has sent a letter to each Town Board requesting their appointments by June 30, 2021. Chairman Settle asked about the Town of Ronda. Mr. Barnes replied they fall under the 8 at large from the County and has several members from Eastern Wilkes that serve the Ronda area.

Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to reappoint Mr. Johnny Alexander, Mr. Ed Holland, Mr. Allen Lankford, Mr. Rocky Lyons, and Mr. Micah Sidden to the Wilkes Joint Planning Board for 3-year terms as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

**DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE TO NACO ANNUAL CONFERENCE** – Chairman Settle stated a voting delegate needs to be assigned for the 2021 NACo's Annual Conference to be held July 9-12, 2021 in Prince George's County, Md. He added Commissioner Elmore is planning to attend the conference. Commissioner Elmore stated he is happy to do this, the conference it also offered virtual if anyone wants to do that as well.

Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to appoint Commissioner Keith Elmore as the designated voting delegate for the 2021 NACo Annual Conference as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

**DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE TO NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE –** Chairman Elmore stated a voting delegate needs to be assigned for the 114<sup>TH</sup> NCACC Annual Conference to be held August 12-14, 2021 in New Hanover County, N.C.

Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to appoint Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton as the designated voting delegate for the 2021 NCACC Annual Conference as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS –** Commissioner Gambill stated he appreciated the School Board and the Staff and all they did to make sure the kids Graduated safely and the backup plan for rain. He added the kids deserved this and appreciates all they did. Mr. Rudy Holbrook replied they appreciate this Board and all they do.

**OLD BUSINESS –** Chairman Settle stated he wanted to recognized Rachel Willard and the good job she did over the past year. She had just had a child and within days they were going to Tony Triplett's office to tackle the Covid issue and he felt very sorry for her. He added she has weathered the storm and did a good job. Ms. Willard thanked the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS –** Commissioner Elmore stated they had a Board of Health meeting last night and he wanted to bring these issues to the attention of the Board. He stated the County Manager needs to get with Ms. Willard to work on these items. The main focus was Environmental Health and permitting and how they can speed up this process. Commissioner Elmore said the Commissioner needs to get involved with the Health Board and find solutions to speed this up and help. He would like them to set up a meeting. Chairman Settle stated he talked with the County Manager about a month ago on this and they have tackled the issue and he thinks it is remedied for now. It may require further work to make sure they get the septic permits out. Chairman Settle added every county in the state is behind on this, one neighboring county is 20 weeks behind and they fired their County manager. He added Wilkes is pretty good at 6 weeks, Mr. Yates has worked on this and got folks working on Saturdays.

Chairman Settle stated in order to stay ahead of the game Commissioner Elmore is right they need to work together with the Health Department to see what they can do to help. The County is growing and building, they want to stay on top of this. He added this takes time, but they are in better shape than many of the other counties. Commissioner Elmore stated the pay was discussed and bonuses other counties are offering and he has not heard this. Mr. Yates added Ms. Willard and Ms. Angie Rhodes have done an excellent job in finding retired people and others to work on Saturday to catch up. Chairman Settle added they will get back together with them and keep working on this.

**CLOSED SESSION** – Commissioner David Gambill a motion to go into Closed Session under Section 143-318.11(a)(3) of the North Carolina General Statutes to consult with the Board’s Attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege and consider and give instructions to the Board’s attorney as to one or more potential judicial or administrative actions; and under Section 143-318.11 (a)(4) of the North Carolina General Statutes to discuss the location or expansion of business in Wilkes County; and under Section 143-318.11 (a)(5) of the North Carolina General Statutes to establish or instruct the staff concerning the price or other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill, seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn back into regular session. No action was taken in the closed session.

**ADJOURN** - Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill, seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 7:51 P.M.

Chris Huffman, Acting Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: July 1, 2021