

**MINUTES**  
**WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**June 20, 2017**

**PUBLIC CONCERNS – None**

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 7:00 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 Tony Triplett, County Attorney; John Yates, County Manager; and Sarah Call, Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Greg Minton welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

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

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

Chairman Greg Minton stated with the consensus of the Board Traphill Fire Department, item F. will be removed from the Agenda. Consensus was given to remove item F. from the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Budget Work Session held on May 23, 2017.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on June 6, 2017.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS** – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to approve Budget Amendment No. 20 (Fire Districts – Making end of year adjustments as needed. Amending budget amounts to reflect actual revenues received and forwarded to Fire Districts); Budget Amendment No. 21 (General Fund – Year End Amendment – This amendment is addressing some necessary end-of-year adjustments. Budgeting funds to cover the additional costs associated with the work at the Courthouse during this fiscal year. Also budgeting additional costs for Inmates medical/prescription expenses as well as contracted food service. Medical Examiner costs are running higher than budgeted this year also. The county also pays 40% of the cost to operate the Forestry Service here in Wilkes, and the actual amount paid this year is more than originally budgeted. The InterFlex – One NC Fund Grant also closed out this fiscal year and the funds passed through the county to InterFlex. Some expenses are hard to estimate from year to year – one year the expenses may be less, and other years the expenses may be more. Fortunately we have additional revenues coming this year that will cover these additional costs); and Budget Amendment No. 22 ( General Fund – Juvenile Crime

Prevention – Budgeting additional funds the State has allocated to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Administration to host a Training/Symposium.) The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

**FIRE MARSHAL – APPROVAL OF PERMITS FOR FIREWORK DISPLAYS –** Chairman Greg Minton welcomed and recognized Fire Marshal Kevin Bounds. Mr. Bounds said there were three applications received and one has withdrawn their application even though they met all the requirements of the 2010 Pyrotechnics Act. He added each have appropriate Certificates of Insurance and by statute the local Board of County Commissioners must approve all events. Mr. Bounds stated the two he is asking to be approved are Crossroads Harley Davidson event on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and Memorial Park by Wilkes Law Enforcement Officers Association, County of Wilkes, Town of North Wilkesboro, Town of Wilkesboro, and Journal Patriot event on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. He said Wilkesboro Raceway Park withdrew their application and he is asking for approval of the remaining two permits.

Commissioner Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the 2017 Fireworks Display Permit Applications for Crossroad Harley Davidson and Memorial Park by Wilkes Law Enforcement Officers Association, County of Wilkes, Town of North Wilkesboro, Town of Wilkesboro, and Journal Patriot, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and passed unanimously.

**TOWN OF NORTH WILKESBORO – PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS ETJ MEMBER APPOINTMENTS –** Chairman Minton recognized John Yates, County Manager. Mr. Yates stated the Town of North Wilkesboro sent a letter requesting reappointed of Mr. Ronald Queen to the North Wilkesboro Planning Board as ETJ member and Ms. Jane Wilborn to the North Wilkesboro Zoning Board as ETJ member. He added they have requested this Board approve them and it is for your consideration.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to appoint Mr. Ronald Queen to the North Wilkesboro Planning Board as ETJ member and Ms. Jane Wilborn to the North Wilkesboro Zoning Board as ETJ member, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

**LANDFILL (OLD) – CANCELLATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT – THE GIVING TABLE, LLC –** Chairman Minton recognized Tony Triplett County Attorney. Mr. Triplett said there is a memo in the packet that gives more detail for the background on the lease. He added it has been in effect since 2012 for The Giving Table, LLC and it was part of a program that resulted from a grant at the old Landfill on the use of methane to generate electricity to power a greenhouse. Mr. Triplett said it did in fact begin, but did not last and the operation has been discontinued for several years. He added it is on the agenda because it has not been in use for several years and The Giving Table actually turned it over to the Community College and they did not continue to operate it. Mr. Triplett stated they spoke with Allen Rice, the Minister at Cross Fire Methodist Church as he was the main one who worked on this and got the grant for the Greenhouse operation. Mr. Rice has verified that it is not in use anymore and they have no objection to terminating the lease, he added.

Mr. Triplett said there will be another matter coming before the Board at a future meeting for consideration of the sale for the Carbon Credits of methane gas at the old Landfill, but will not directly overlap with this lease. He added this lead them to look at this property and realize there was an inactive lease in place. Mr. Triplett said as a legal matter the lease needs to be terminated to get off the public record. In the future when it's ready, the Carbon Credit Contract with Appalachian State University will be presented, he added.

Mr. Settle asked if the Greenhouse is in good shape. Planning Director, Eddie Barnes replied some work is needed to repair the holes in the plastic and covering. He added the irrigation system, tables and things like this are still there and it could be operable again. Commissioner Elmore asked when they stopped paying the lease of \$100 per month or has payment continued. Mr. Barnes replied they have not paid on the lease for about 3-years. Commissioner Elmore asked didn't this terminate the agreement. Mr. Barnes replied they could have terminated the lease for non-payment, but they have not officially done that. Mr. Triplett added non-payment is a breach, but does not automatically terminate the lease without taking action of some kind.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to cancel the Lease Agreement with The Giving Table, LLC, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

**WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTMENT** – County Manager John Yates stated the Board of Commissioners have a Trustee Board appointment that will begin July 1, 2017 and this is a 4-year appointment.

Commissioner Eddie Settle made a motion to appoint Commissioner Keith Elmore to the Wilkes Community College Board of Trustees for a 4-year term, as presented. The motion was seconded by Chairman Greg Minton and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Keith Elmore thanked the Board and said he looks forward to attending and working with the existing Board, staff, and administration. He added the Community College is extremely important to Wilkes County and he will do his best to make the Community College Great again. Vice Chairman Blevins stated the Board has discussed for several years about having an actual voting member rather than an Ex Officio that can't attend closed sessions and does not have a vote on the Board. He added with the amount of money the County invests in the college it is important to have a voting member and Commissioner Elmore will provide great service and do a great job. Commissioner Eddie Settle said the college is a great asset and Wilkes County contributes a lot of money, it will be great for this Board to have the information and a vote.

**COMMISSIONERS' SCHEDULED MEETING – CHANGE OF DATE** – Chairman Greg Minton stated the Board needs to change the date for the July 4, 2017 regular meeting due to this being on a Holiday and asked about July 11<sup>th</sup> as an alternative.

Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins made a motion to move the date for the Wilkes County Commissioners Meeting originally set for Tuesday July 4, 2017 to Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at 110 North Street, Wilkesboro, NC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

**COMMISSIONERS' 2<sup>ND</sup> SCHEDULED MEETING IN JULY – CANCEL JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING** – Chairman Greg Minton stated the Board needs to take formal action on canceling the second meeting in July at this time as well.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to cancel the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners second meeting in July scheduled for July 18, 2017. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

County Attorney Tony Triplett said he would like to note for the Board he will not be at the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and will try to have Danny Johnson from his Firm who has attended before in his place. County Clerk Sarah Call stated she will not be able to attend on July 11<sup>th</sup> and Finance Director Jerry Shepherd has graciously agreed to fill in, as he has done in the past.

**ADJOURN** - Motion was made by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 7:22 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gregory A. Minton, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: