

MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 21, 2018

PUBLIC CONCERNS – CAROL BRACEWELL – PUBLIC SAFETY – Ms. Bracewell said she normally discusses water quality, and things that will help the county. She said she would like to save that discussion for another time. She would like to briefly discuss public safety and the recent drug arrest that were in the newspaper. Ms. Bracewell said she would like to see more resources in her area to deal with the drug activity, because she and other seniors should not be afraid to go home. She added she would like to ask that funds are allocated appropriately and they use good judgement and support law enforcement in these efforts. The Sheriff needs to focus on shutting down drug labs, substance abuse overdoses, and domestic violence. In Closing Ms. Bracewell mentioned she plans to meet with Governor Roy Cooper about funding for safe havens for domestic violence survivors which she is. There are funds available at the state level to help in this areas. Mr. Bracewell thanked the Board. The Chairman and Board thanked Ms. Bracewell for her comments.

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. with the following members present: Chairman Gary D. Blevins, Vice Chairman Eddie Settle, Commissioner Keith Elmore, and Commissioner David Gambill.

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

Chairman Gary D. Blevins welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He said Commissioner Greg Minton cannot attend the meeting tonight, he is in Asheville attending a mandatory training class, which is an excused absence.

INVOCATION – Commissioner David Gambill led the Invocation.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle, seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on August 7, 2018.

WILKES COUNTY SCHOOLS:

1. MULBERRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – PURCHASE OF PROPERTY – Chairman Blevins welcomed and recognized Mark Byrd, Superintendent and Bergie Speaks, Maintenance Director. Vice Chairman Settle recognized Mr. Rudy Holbrook, Chairman and Ms. Sharron Huffman, Vice Chairman of the School Board and thanked them for attending tonight's meeting. Chairman Blevins added this Board values the public school system and the good relationship they have. In the budget this year the County has added at least four more School

MINUTES

August 21, 2018

Page 2 of 11

Resource Officers for safety purposes within the school system. He asked Mr. Byrd to present their items at this time.

Mr. Byrd said the school system appreciates the support of the County Commissioners and they can't thank them enough. They have an opportunity and are asking for permission to purchase approximately 1.87 acres from the Union Lodge also called Odd Fellows Lodge. He added this property joins the north side of Mulberry Elementary School. This is a piece of property they have used for several years for staff and overflow parking. Mr. Byrd said the Lodge has offered to sale the property to them, this purchase will secure their ability to continue to use the property for many years. He added it would give them an opportunity for expansion if needed. Mr. Byrd said what they feel most strongly about is this allows them control over what joins their school property and helps to keep the students safe. He added it is their recommendation for the Board to grant approval to the School System for the purchase of this lot from Odd Fellows.

Mr. Speaks stated this property has been invaluable to the Principal and this property is used a lot by the school currently. He added for years they have has a handshake agreement that the school system would maintain the parking lot if they would allow them to use it. With them deciding to sell the property that agreement would go away. Vice Chairman Settle asked the purchase price. Mr. Byrd replied the final price is \$120,000. Commissioner Gambill added his children went to school at Mulberry and this parking lot is used often. He asked how far behind the building does the land go. Mr. Speaks replied it goes down and over to the drive that goes to the church, it is the entire corner that goes all the way to the flat-top. Vice Chairman Settle asked if the drive way to the church is the right-of-way. Mr. Speaks said when they had their handshake agreement they traded property for them to have a right-of-way to the main road. It touches the main road at the peak, but is not enough room for a drive. He added it would enable the school to use the drive if they ever needed a secondary drive or alternate entrance.

Commissioner Gambill asked the condition of the building. Mr. Speaks replied it would have to be cleaned up and revamped, but from what he has seen it is usable. He added he was told at one time it was used as a Senior Center. Chairman Blevins stated yes it was, his grandparents went there for many years and played lots of checkers. It was a central part of their lives and then it moved to the Senior Center at Fairplains where it remains today. Chairman Blevins asked if they are planning to keep the building. Mr. Byrd replied this is their current plan.

Mr. Triplett said the Statue requires this Board to approve the purchase price of the property and he will read the specific statue in to a motion if that is the wishes of the Board.

Commissioner Elmore asked what is Odd Fellows and is their historic significance to the building. Mr. Speaks replied it is a fraternity very similar to the Masonic Lodge, called the Rural Order of Odd Fellows Lodge. Commissioner Elmore asked if they are still in existence. Mr. Speaks replied yes and added the funds from the sale will go in to a trust account in case they want to ever reopen a lodge in this area.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to approve the purchase price of \$120,000.00 for the Board of Education's purchase of approximately 1.8 acres with improvements adjacent to the

north side of the school's property, the same being owned by the Odd Fellows Lodge and known as Union Lodge, as presented at tonight's meeting, pursuant to N.C.G.S. §115C-426(f). The motion was seconded by Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

2. C.C. WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – EXCHANGE PROPERTY –
Mr. Byrd said this is a golden opportunity that Mr. Speaks came upon. They are requesting permission to swop an equivalent size track to land, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ acre with an adjoining land owner. He added the land owner came to them to see if they were interested, the exchange will benefit both parties. Mr. Byrd said it will give them additional usable land closer to the school and give the land owner access to another section of their property. He added no money will be exchanged and it is their recommendation that the Board grant approval of the land swop at C.C. Wright. Chairman Blevins said he reviewed a map of this property, it is very beneficial to the school system and a good decision.

Mr. Triplett said this is different than a purchase and the first time this Board has had an exchange of property for the Board of Education. He added this is both a conveyance and acquisition. Mr. Triplett said they do not need to approve the acquisition because there is no purchase price. He added the Board does have to approve the conveyance because the Commissioners have the right of first refusal on any property the School Board is preparing to convey. At this time Mr. Triplett showed a map to the Board along with, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Speaks, Mr. Holbrook and Ms. Huffman. Mr. Triplett said the land is owned by Frances Brinegar. Commissioner Elmore asked of the value of both tracks are comparable. Mr. Speaks replied they believe the school will be gaining in value in the exchange, it is a good deal. Mr. Triplett said each have been surveyed and are exactly $\frac{3}{4}$ acre.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the exchange of 0.75 acres owned by the Board of Education at C. C. Wright Elementary School for 0.75 acres of an adjacent tract owned by Frances Brinegar and to waive the County's right of first refusal on the property being conveyed, as presented at tonight's meeting, pursuant to N.C.G.S. §115C-518(a). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

At this time Vice Chairman Eddie Settle said he would like to welcome and recognize Ms. LeeAnn Nixon, the new EDC President. The Board welcomed Ms. Nixon and said they look forward to working with her. Ms. Nixon thanked the Board.

WILKES COUNTY LIBRARY – ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT – Chairman Blevins recognized and welcomed Nicole de Bruijn, Interim County Librarian. Ms. de Bruijn said the trustees of the Wilkes County Library Advisory Board would like to recommend Mrs. Sharon Carter Underwood to fill the vacancy created by the completion of Rick Harvin's second term. She said they are going to miss Mr. Harvin he is a very strong library advocate. Ms. de Bruijn added Mrs. Underwood has completed the county's application, they feel she will be very good. She is from Ferguson which is an under represented section of the county and the reason they sought her out, she also manages Whipporwill. This appointment would be effective on 9/12/18. Chairman Settle asked if Ms. de Bruijn is with the Appalachian Regional system. She replied yes for 25 years. Chairman Blevins added she is serving as the Wilkes County Librarian

MINUTES

August 21, 2018

Page 4 of 11

interim until a new director is found. Mr. de Bruijn replied yes. Chairman Blevins added they lost a great director, but she has moved on to bigger and better, and will be missed in Wilkes.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to appoint Sharon Carter Underwood to the Wilkes County Library Advisory Board for a term effective on 9/12/18, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

SAFETY AWARDS – Chairman Gary D. Blevins welcomed and recognized Ralph Broyhill, Safety Director. Mr. Broyhill thanked the Board and stated each year the state gives out safety awards. He added once again Wilkes County have been very fortunate to receive some of these awards. Mr. Broyhill said this is a team effort from all employees, by doing this it keeps the cost of the Workers Comp Insurance down and is good for everybody. Mr. Broyhill presented the following awards:

Gold Award Criteria: Rate of days away from work, job transfer or restriction must be at least 50% below the industry average.

Gold Award/Fourth Consecutive Year:

County of Wilkes, Finance & Taxation Public Building, Animal Control, Elections, Registrar of Deeds, IT, Purchasing, Garage, Soil, Cooperative Extension and Veterans

(Chris Huffman accepted the award)

Gold Award/Fourth Consecutive Year:

County of Wilkes, Emergency Medical Services/Emergency Management, Airport, Inspections, Recreation, and Planning

(Tim Pennington accepted the award)

Gold Award/Seventh Consecutive Year:

County of Wilkes, Department of Social Services

(John Yates accepted the award)

Gold Award/Eighth Consecutive Year:

County of Wilkes, General Government & Commissioners

(Chairman Gary D. Blevins accepted the award)

Gold Award/Twelfth Consecutive Year:

County of Wilkes, Sheriff's Department

(Sheriff Chris Shew accepted the award)

Mr. Broyhill said it is a great accomplishment for the Sheriff's Department to win this award for the twelve consecutive years in their line of work, the many miles they travel, and the dangers they face daily. The Sheriff and all of his staff should be commended for a job well done.

FIRE MARSHAL – APPROVAL OF PERMIT FOR FIREWORK DISPLAY – Chairman Blevins welcomed and recognized Fire Marshal, Kevin Bounds. Mr. Bounds said he has received a permit request for a display to be held at Sky Retreat Wedding Venue in Purlear on September 1, 2018. Mr. Bounds added they have met all the requirements of the 2010 Pyrotechnics Act and have the appropriate Certificate of Insurance. He added the Board of County Commissioners must approve all firework events.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the Firework Display Permit Application for Sky Retreat, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and passed unanimously.

Chairman Blevins recognized and welcomed Misty Smithey Register of Deeds.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

1. SPECIAL INTENSITY ALLOCATION – YADKIN RIVER WATERSHED
– Planning Director Eddie Barnes said they have a request for a Special Intensity Allocation. He added under the WS-IV Watershed Ordinance anytime a development project exceed 36% they are required to come in and get this in order to go up to 70% of impervious surface. The Wilkes Joint Planning Board reviewed and approved a Special Intensity Allocation (SIA) from Teramore Development, LLC. The project is located in a WS-IV watershed in Boomer Township and located at the intersection of Boomer Road and NC Hwy 18 S. The project consist of 1.8 acres to be developed to a 50% maximum of impervious surface. Mr. Barnes said the Planning Board did unanimously approve this request and it meets all the conditions of the Wilkes County Watershed Ordinance. He added Mr. Derick Goddard with Blue Ridge Environmental Consultants in here tonight and he helped to develop the site plan. The project will be used for a Dollar General.

Chairman Blevins said the impervious surfaces includes the building and parking lot up to 0.9 acre. Mr. Barnes agreed up to 50%. Commissioner Elmore asked if there were any opposition in the Planning Board meeting. Mr. Barnes replied no it was unanimous. Chairman Blevins asked which corner is this on from Wilkesboro going to Lenoir. Mr. Barnes replied it would be on the right and is a high traffic area. Chairman Blevins added it is a logical location with a substantial community there and nothing like this close by. Commissioner Elmore stated he read Dollar General will be hiring 6,000 more employees this year, while Wal-Mart is losing jobs. Vice Chairman Blevins said they build in rural areas. Commissioner Gambill agreed they have a great marketing plan, very smart.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to approve the Special Intensity Allocation (SIA) for Teramore Development, LLC, as requested and presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

2. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION – Planning Director Eddie Barnes said the Planning Department is applying for a Community Development Block Grant for

MINUTES

August 21, 2018

Page 6 of 11

Neighborhood Revitalization. If awarded these funds will be used to assist low income elderly and disabled homeowners in Wilkes County. The High Country council of Governments will assist Wilkes County with the application which requires two public hearings to be held by the County Commissioners. The first hearing was held on July 3, 2018 and the grant requires a ten (10) day advertising period prior to the hearing which is proposed for September 4, 2018. This will meet the second hearing requirement and the grant will be submitted on September 28th.

Commissioner Elmore stated BROCC also has CDBG grants and asked if this is in conjunction with that and does not take money away from them in any way. Mr. Barnes replied it is two separate allocations, they do not compete with each other. This is a competitive grant state wide. They will work in conjunction with BROCC and partner with them on some weatherizing projects to leverage these funds so they will go further. Commissioner Elmore asked if Mr. Barnes would be distributing funds and approving projects. Mr. Barnes said the deadline for applications was July 31, 2018, they will have some urgent repair funds still available if they get the grant. He will be the administrator of the grant, and they should receive some administrative funds in the grant and will hire consultants to help with the write ups and inspections.

Commissioner Elmore asked who will be hiring the contractors to do the work. Mr. Barnes replied his office will. Commissioner Elmore said if a contractor wants to add his name to the list to do the work, how they would do that. Mr. Barnes stated once they get the grant and acknowledgement of the funds they will start advertising and soliciting for bids from contractors. He added they like to have at least three. If the Board knows of any contractors that may be interested in the project please ask them to call their office and submit their information. Mr. Barnes said there will be a formal ad that goes out in the local paper. Commissioner Elmore stated it is open for any contractor and asked if they had to be a licensed contractor to do the work. Mr. Barnes replied for some of the urgent repair work they would not have to be licensed, but to do the modification they would have to be a licensed contractor. He added some of these may be replacement homes. If they currently have a manufactured home they cannot do repairs those would be a total replace and it would be a new modular home placed on the property.

Commissioner Elmore asked the amount of the grant. Mr. Barnes replied they expect the grant to be \$650,000. Chairman Blevins stated they have had a meeting and developed a list of potential projects. Mr. Barnes said they had a selection committee that looked at all 34 applications, they selected 10 primary applicants with the rest being alternates. Chairman Blevins stated Michelle Ball from High Country attended the first public hearing in July for this grant. Mr. Barnes said that is correct they are assisting with writing the grant, unfortunately they cannot assist with administering the grant.

Commissioner Gambill asked do they have to take a certain number of bids for the contractors to be hired. Mr. Barnes replied they like to have three bids, frankly in 2012 when they did the scattered site CDBG program they had difficulty getting three bids. They anticipate this may be difficult as well with the increase in building activity and there are just not as many contractors as there used to be. Some of these projects are small dollar jobs. Mr. Barnes said the project will not be held up if they can show they could only get two bids, but they would like at least three. He added the good part is if they can do some replacement homes those will go much

quicker for folks. Chairman Blevins said they hope to use all the money it is much needed and this is a great project.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 6:50 PM regarding the Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization grant as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

TOWN OF NORTH WILKESBORO – PLANNING BOARD ETJ – BOARD APPOINTMENT – Mr. Yates said a letter was received that stated on August 7, 2018 the North Wilkesboro Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to recommend the appointment of Kenneth Tuner to a 5-year term as an ETJ Member on the North Wilkesboro Planning Board. Mr. Turner’s term will expire in June, 2023. As you are aware, all ETJ appointments are made by the County Board of Commissioners and they are asking for your consideration of this appointment.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to appoint Kenneth Turner as an ETJ Member to the North Wilkesboro Planning Board for a five year term, as presented. The motion was seconded by Chairman Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

WILKES COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC) – BOARD APPOINTMENT – Mr. Yates said we have received a request from the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and they are requesting approval for the renewal of the 2-year term appointment for April Marr for the School Superintendent or designee position on the JPCP Board. Her no change form has been received and it is for the Board’s consideration.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to reappoint April Marr to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council for a two year term, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

WILKES COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – LETTER OF SUPPORT – COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER – Chairman Blevins welcomed and recognized Ann Absher Health Director. Mr. Absher said two years ago she sat before the Board and asked for permission to apply for the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). She said after two years they have to reapply every three years. They are asking for the Boards support with a letter for the application for the next three years. Mrs. Absher provided the Board with a few highlights of what they have accomplished with the FQHC. Most of their patients fall below 200% federal poverty; almost 45% were uninsured; of the uninsured population 83% are below 100% poverty. They serve a lot of the uninsured and poor people at the FQHC. Mrs. Absher said they received additional funding and were able to provide access for behavioral and mental health and substance abuse counseling as well. The counselor works out of their clinic to see their patients, this helps to take away some of the stigma and has served them well. She added they have applied for additional funds this year they hope to receive and they can apply because they are a FQHC. This will provide this service outside of their patients to many others that may need it. Mrs. Absher said she and the FQHC would appreciate the support of the Board in applying for

MINUTES

August 21, 2018

Page 8 of 11

another three year grant. Chairman Blevins asked the dollar amount of the grant. Mrs. Absher replied it is \$650,000 every year, the additional support for mental health service is \$75,000.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to provide a letter of support for section 330 Service Area Competition Grant for the Community Health Center, as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS – Commissioner Elmore said they were in Alleghany County at the Wilkes Community College Board of Trustees meeting. WCC was going to build a welding building on the campus that was budgeted at \$300,000. When the bids were received they came in over \$600,000. He added the price of steel was the reason for the increase. Commissioner Elmore said this was interesting and he wanted to mention in case the county planned to build something in the near future this would need to be taken in to consideration. Chairman Blevins said he does not think it is just the cost of materials, there are other factors. All bids are coming in high because they all have plenty of work to do and that increases the price.

Commissioner Elmore said he has heard the President is bringing back the welfare to work program and as an employer they need to support this, they can't get employees that want to work. Chairman Blevins added every business person he talks with in every industry is having the same issue with employees.

OLD BUSINESS – TACO BELL PROPERTY – Chairman Blevins said he mentioned at the last meeting they were going to discuss the Taco Bell situation and the sinkhole issue. They want to clear the air, there has been a lot of feedback that all of the Board has received about the situation and who is responsible; who needs to step up and take the lead; what needs to be done; what has been done; and the social media aspect of it. Chairman Blevins said Taco Bell and the sinkhole is in the Town of Wilkesboro, it is causing a hazard for a State Highway and neither one of those two things is part of the County's responsibility. Originally as the damage began to occur it was strictly on private property and a matter for the private property owner and the Town of Wilkesboro. When it began to flow across Hwy. 421 they all felt, and now the State and Department of Transportation is beginning to recognize it is also a public safety issue and they are going to have to address it as well. Chairman Blevins said it is his understanding that there are efforts underway to expedite and speed up the planning process for the Super Street so they can begin to work on some of the drainage issues and help relieve the problem. He added he went up this morning and got inside the fence and walked all the way around the Taco Bell. There is not a single crack in the building, no fiscal damage at all. The County and the Building Inspection team cannot legally condemn the building at this point. He added the county is constrained in what they can do on private property, they have all tried. Chairman Blevins said they have had multiple meetings, engaged all parties, and tried to help move the process along while not being in the position of being responsible for actions that are taken to repair the property. Chairman Blevins said it is going to be very expensive to repair the property. He added he spoke with Ken Noland earlier today and there is actually a sinkhole in Hickory right now on Hwy. 70. It was about 10-years ago when that sinkhole opened up and swallowed a corvette and restaurant. There is still construction equipment sitting there 10 years later trying to finish the repairs to that sinkhole. Chairman Blevins said there is no simple fix, it is not a joke,

MINUTES

August 21, 2018

Page 9 of 11

and they take it very seriously. They would like to do anything they can to help the D.O.T. and the Town of Wilkesboro in their efforts to make repairs to eliminate this public safety issue. He added they cannot take the lead on this, there are a lot of legal loop holes to jump through with the property owners and they have tried to jump through all of them. They will continue to do that on a daily basis. Chairman Blevins said it is important that the public be aware they are undertaking a strong effort to find a solution to an extremely difficult problem and they take it very seriously. He added Tony Triplett and John Yates have both been great to work with and have spent lots of time on this issue as well. They are all working hard to try to come up with a solution.

Commissioner Elmore said he can't understand how it can't be falling, he has seen postings of water running in the doors. He said that being said he would like to know if there is any way to track revenue or sales tax revenue in that area. Has it been affected or has the county noticed a drop in sales tax revenue. Chris Huffman Finance Director replied the sales tax is not broken out by certain sections. He added the last sales tax revenue received for the month of June did not show a decrease. Mr. Huffman said it was the largest sales tax they have received this year. Chairman Blevins said that was good news. He added he agrees that this has affected people decisions.

Commissioner Gambill stated it is tough to ride through there and see this, but the county has done everything within their power to address it. Chairman Blevins added if any of the folks on social media have a viable idea besides criticism he is open to meeting with them and listening to everything they have to say. It must be constructive advice, criticism does not solve the problem. Commissioner Elmore added if Wilkesboro continues to build the wall it will be under water and that is a good strategy. Chairman Blevins said he would caution anyone, as he has heard talk of floating on it or something. They will have the Sheriff and Law Enforcement to get involved if needed.

Vice Chairman Settle stated Ms. Nixon the new EDC President is here and she needs to know there has been an attempt to fix this problem. She will be bringing potential businesses and other folks into the county and they go by and see that, it certainly does not help. He added Lowes is across the street driving through the mess, they wish and hope that it doesn't sit there like Hickory. Surely Wilkes County can do a better job than Hickory has and encourage the Town of Wilkesboro to help us out with this problem. Mr. Faw also needs to help as the owner and it needs to be fixed. Chairman Blevins added they wanted to address this and are making every effort they can.

NEW BUSINESS – PURCHASING DEPARTMENT – DONATION OF SURPLUS VEHICLE – Mr. Yates said the Wilkes County Purchasing Department is requesting the Board of Commissioners' approval to donate a 1996 International 4700 LP Truck, Vehicle Identification Number 1HTSLAAMXTH274175. This item is a surplus vehicle from the Wilkes County Sheriff's Office and attached is a letter of requested from the Chief Garris of the Wilkesboro Police Department. With the Board's approval this vehicle will be transferred to the Wilkesboro Police Department and removed from county insurance. Mr. Yates added they would like to use it as a tactical vehicle.

MINUTES

August 21, 2018

Page 10 of 11

Chairman Blevins asked Sheriff Chris Shew if it has his blessing. Sheriff Shew replied yes. Commissioner Elmore said they give a lot of things to the town and he is not sure they should be doing this. It is public property the Town of North Wilkesboro paid for it, the tax payers paid for it and he does not think they should be giving property to an entity. Chairman Blevins asked if they wanted to table this. He added it because Commissioner Minton called and asked him to. He said he thought it had been given to the Sheriff's Department by the Town and they are now just giving it back. Sheriff Chris Shew said no, this is an old ambulance that the Sheriff's Department had gotten and it belongs to the County. He said when he spoke with Chief Garris he said they don't have to have it, but they will use it if the county will give it to them. It will be at their disposal anytime they may need it for anything, he added. Chairman Blevins added Wilkesboro will be paying the insurance. Sheriff Shew replied yes they will be paying for everything and will keep it up.

Commissioner Gambill said he has no problem given it to them, they help the Sheriff's Office with any standoffs they have. They have to have a place to get out of the weather and regroup. He added with it being a former county ambulance they are not losing a lot of money, it can't have much value. Sheriff Shew said the town citizens also pay county taxes. Vice Chairman Settle stated they helped with the incident on Bethel Road as well. Commissioner Elmore said it is a small thing, but should they be giving entities property. Commissioner Gambill said he would agree if this was real property. Commissioner Elmore said it should be made available to everyone, maybe someone else could use the truck for something. He added it probable is not worth discussing, he assumes it has little value, but maybe a fire department could use it. It is not fair for them to be making choices to give county property away. Commissioner Elmore said they did it already with county property and a building. It should be made available to the general public, or both towns, he does have a little problem with this, he added.

Sheriff Shew said the county could place stipulations that when they no longer use it or can get something better, they have to give it back. He stated they will be wanting to do modification to it for their department. Vice Chairman Settle said it can't be worth much. Chairman Blevins said the Town has been very accommodating in going out into the county and helping anytime they are needed. Sheriff Shew stated they already pool all their resources and this will continue, whatever he has they have. Commissioner Elmore said this is for future considerations.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to donate the surplus 1996 International 4700 LP Truck, Vehicle Identification Number 1HTSLAAMXTH274175 to the Wilkesboro Police Department as requested. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle.

Voting on the motion:

Ayes: Chairman Gary D. Blevins
Vice Chairman Eddie Settle
Commissioner David Gambill

Nays: Commissioner Keith Elmore

CLOSED SESSION – Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to go into Closed Session under Section 143-318.11(a)(3) of the North Carolina General Statute to consult with the Board’s attorney to protect the attorney-client privilege, to consult with and give instructions to the Board’s attorney with respect to one or more potential judicial or administrative actions. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill, seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle 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 Keith Elmore, seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 8:50 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gary D. Blevins, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: