

MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 1, 2020

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 6:01 P.M. at the Wilkes County Agricultural Center located 416 Executive Drive, Wilkesboro, NC 28697 with the following members present: Chairman Eddie Settle, Vice Chairman David Gambill, Commissioner Keith Elmore, Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, and Commissioner Brian S. Minton.

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

Chairman Eddie Settle welcomed everyone and 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 August 18, 2020.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore to approve Budget Amendment No. 10 (Health – Programs – Wilkes Health received \$19,305 from the Health Foundation. These funds will be used to provide mental health services for middle and high school students. No County money involved. Wilkes Health received \$5,148 in state funds for the WIC program. These funds will be used to provide nutritional services to underinsured and uninsured Women, Infants, and Children. No County money involved. Wilkes Health received \$164,024 COVID funding from the state. These funds will be used to provide testing, contact tracing, supplies and equipment for COVID-19 patients. No County money involved;) and Departmental Line-Item Transfer Request No. 1 (Sheriff & Jail – This request is to transfer \$6,695 funds from Equipment Office & Other and Maintenance & Repair Equipment to Capital Outlay Vehicles to be used to help purchase a total of four sheriff vehicles and one jail vehicle). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

WILKES COUNTY AIRPORT – AWARD BID – NORTH HANGAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – Chairman Settle welcomed and recognized Jimmy Luther, Aviation Manager W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc. Mr. Luther stated he is asking the Board to consider awarding the contract to James R. Vannoy & Son as low bid for the North Hanger Development. He added this is for a taxi lane to serve the new Samaritan's Purse Hangar at the Airport. They received six bids and this was the low bid at \$1,106,533.20. Mr. Luther said this is 100% state aid money from an Economic Development Grant that will be reimbursed back to the County. He added after this is

awarded they will notify them and get the contract documents completed. Mr. Luther stated they hope to start construction this month as they are already onsite for the construction of the hangar.

Chairman Settle stated the bidders were close. Commissioner Elmore asked if this is 100% reimbursable. Mr. Luther replied yes, the county received a state aid Economic Development Grant of \$1,500,000. Mr. Yates added this is the Economic Development Grant they wrote and were awarded. Commissioner Blevins stated they would like to once again thank the staff and Mr. Luther for all the work on obtaining the grant. He added WK Dickson has been a great partner to the county for many years. Obtaining this grant for the taxiway enabled Samaritan's Purse to go forward with their plans for a new large hangar at the expanding Wilkes County Airport, he said.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to award the Bid for the North Hangar Development Project to James R. Vannoy & Son for the low bid amount of \$1,106,533.20 as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

Mr. Luther thanked the Board.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE – Chairman Settle welcomed John Blevins, DSS Director. Mr. Blevins said he has a few updates before they go over the reports. He stated the first item in the packet is for a COVID-19 related program in which the state has partnered with a non-profit organization to offer additional benefits for fruits and vegetables to current FNS households. He added they will receive an additional \$40 per month for 3 months to purchase these items at Food Lion. They also received 50% of their administration cost reimbursement on this as well. Mr. Blevins said beginning in September the federal government is discontinuing the automated recertification for food and nutrition benefits, so they are getting back to more business as normal. He added any application beginning in September and recerts for FNS, LIEAP and CIP programs can sign over the phone without coming in to the office. Which is a good safety measure for everyone that NCDHHS is allowing.

Mr. Blevins stated the next report is from the state for total collection of child support in last fiscal year. Wilkes County was second in the state for percentage of goal met as set by the state. They collected \$3,786,724 or 111.71% of their goal. Commissioner Elmore stated Wilkes is always near the top for child support collection and it amazes him how they do that. Mr. Blevins stated the staff works very hard and this is very important as it is money for the kids. Commissioner Blevins asked who is the supervisor in this department. Mr. Blevins replied Suzanne Hincer. Commissioner Blevins added they appreciate all that she and her staff does.

Mr. Blevins stated the next page states in September families will begin to pay their parent fees for subsidized child care that has been waived for the past three months. The second is a letter that went to daycare providers that they paid all facilities for April and May whether they were open or closed to help them from going out of business. He added for June, July, and August only the ones that were opened were paid. Mr. Blevins said now that they are in phase 2 more employers are open and they will begin their regular payment structure and things are going back

to normal for subsidized child care. Mr. Blevins said the next pages in the packet are graphs he provides once a year to show trends in Family and Children Medicaid cases, Food and Nutrition cases, and CPS Reports for the past five years, also the Wilkes County DSS number of Children in Foster Care for the past 6 years.

Mr. Blevins briefly went over the monthly caseload reports for July. Next, he went through the Foster Care financial report, Adoption Services financial report, Child Development and Subsidized Child Care financial reports for July. Next he went through the CPS Foster Care Monthly Report. Commissioner Elmore asked since COVID-19 began how many days has DSS had to shut down. Mr. Blevins replied zero. Commissioner Elmore asked if he was aware of any cases with employees, clients, etc. Mr. Blevins replied clients yes, they have also had a few cases in the foster children as well, but none of the employees. Commissioner Elmore said they are obviously doing things right.

Chairman Settle and the Board thanked Mr. Blevins for his update.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT – REQUEST TO SET PUBLIC HEARING – ROAD NAME REQUEST – NICHOLS FARM LANE – Chairman Settle welcomed and recognized W.C. Scroggs, Planner. Mr. Scroggs 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 Nichols Farm Lane located off Shingle Gap Road 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 Keith Elmore made a motion to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 5:55 P.M. with the meeting to immediately follow regarding the Road Name Request as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman David Gambill and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS' SCHEDULED MEETING – CHANGE OF DATE – NOVEMBER 3, 2020 – Chairman Settle said the Board needs to move the November 3rd meeting due to the election. He asked if Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:00 PM would work for everyone.

Vice Chairman David Gambill made a motion to move the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners' regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020 to Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Wilkes County Agricultural Center located at 416 Executive Drive, Wilkesboro pursuant to the Policy for Attendance at Meetings of the Board of Commissioners during the COVID-19 State of Emergency approved April 7, 2020 and Amended August 4, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Minton and unanimously approved.

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ADJOURN - Motion was made by Vice Chairman David Gambill, seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 6:24 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: September 15, 2020