

**MINUTES**  
**WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 5, 2017**

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 10:00 A.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 for the meeting 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 Item I. Duke Power Easements will need to be removed from the agenda. He added County Attorney Tony Triplett has not received these from Duke Power. Consensus from the Board was given.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore, seconded by Eddie Settle and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on August 15, 2017.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS** – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to approve Budget Amendment No. 3 (Heath Programs – WIC; Child Fatality; STD; Diabetes – WCHD WIC Program received additions funds from the state in the amount of \$4,428 to further enhance the ability to continue to provide supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education, and referrals to health care for low-income persons during critical periods of growth and development. No County money involved. WCHD Child Fatality Prevention Team received a grant in the amount of \$673 to assist with identifying the causes of child deaths, identify gaps or deficiencies that may exists in order to improve the delivery of services to children and families; and to make recommendations for changes and carry out changes that could prevent future child fatalities. No County money involved. WCHD STD program received an additional \$592 from the state to assist with identifying, treating, and reporting STD's. No County money involved. WCHD received \$51,250 additional funding from the state for the Diabetes program to expand support for diabetes self-management and support reimbursement to identify and treat people with diabetes and other conditions such as hypertension, persons at high risk for developing diabetes, and expanded use of referral systems for people with diabetes and other conditions to proper self-management programs.) The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

**TAX DEPARTMENT:**

**1. TAX RELEASES – LISTINGS** – Alex Hamilton, Tax Administrator asked the Board to approve tax releases for listing in the amount of \$9,529.50. He added this month they have more releases than normal because bills have gone out and keying mistakes

Commissioner Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the tax releases for listings as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

A detailed listing of tax releases is maintained in the Wilkes County Tax Administrator's office.

**2. TAX RELEASES – COLLECTIONS** – Alex Hamilton, Tax Administrator asked the Board to approve tax releases for collections in the amount of \$97.24 due to a bankruptcy.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to approve the tax releases for collections as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

A detailed listing of tax releases is maintained in the Wilkes County Tax Administrator's office.

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE** – Chairman Minton welcomed John Blevins, DSS Director. Mr. Blevins stated as the Commissioners will notice the report format has changed, they have added the previous month numbers in addition to last year and the most current month end for comparison purposes. He briefly went over the monthly caseload report for July. Chairman Minton asked the caseloads for the CPS Investigators. Mr. Blevins replied they are very close to the state recommendations, but in Foster Care due to job openings they are at 20 cases each, and are supposed to have 15. He added it is not an FTE issue, it is open positions and difficult to get them filled.

Mr. Blevins next went through the Foster Care financial report, Adoption Services financial report, Child Development and Subsidized Child Care financial report. He said the child care subsidy is less that what was received last year. Vice Chairman Blevins asked how much less. Mr. John Blevins replied about \$100K. He stated the Smart Start subsidy should go up to what it was last year throughout the year. Mr. Blevins said the state is also requiring them to hold back another 4% off the top for the special needs population, but they have not received any guidance on how to spend this yet. Chairman Minton added this would be a mandated reversion. Commissioner Settle asked if the cut to child care is due to less children or just a cut form the state. Mr. Blevins replied it is a cut from the state, this is an allocation, the state decides how much it will be, and it is less this year. He added it looks to be across the Board from what he has reviewed for others. They do have a waiting list and will most likely have one throughout the year.

Mr. Blevins went through the CPS Foster Care monthly reports for July. Commissioner Settle stated he has spoken with two foster families that live in Wilkes but they are licensed in Surry

and they would like for them to be licensed through Wilkes. Mr. Blevins agreed, but this is not uncommon for folks that live close to the boarder of another county, it is sometimes more convenient for them. He added they do not have to be licensed in the county they live in. Commissioner Gambill said this is common for folks that live close to Watauga as well. Commissioner Settle stated this would be an out of county placement. Mr. Blevins agreed, but added it does not cause much of a burden because they are still relatively close for the Social Worker to visit. Commissioner Gambill asked if Wilkes has any that live outside the county and are licensed in Wilkes. Mr. Blevins replied yes it goes both ways, but he wishes all were licensed in Wilkes that live in Wilkes to help with the needs of the Foster Children. Commissioner Elmore asked if Wilkes pays more than other counties. Mr. Blevins replied in some cases yes and Wilkes also offers the bonus the Board approved as well.

Mr. Blevins briefly went over a letter from the state about a state wide outreach project that targets seniors 60 and over that have Medicaid, but do not receive food and nutrition services. He does not have the date this will begin in Wilkes, they are starting with 12 counties. The Benefits Data Trust will call these folks, take the application, gather the information, and input it in the system for the local DSS to process. Mr. Blevins said Wilkes has 695 that will be contacted. Commissioner Elmore asked why these folks didn't automatically qualify for both programs. Mr. Blevins replied there are so many Medicaid programs and levels that they do not all qualify for both.

Mr. Blevins stated the next handouts is the NC Fast Project 4 timeline, which is the Children's area. Wilkes is group 4 and it will be about March 2018 for the first release and September 2018 for the second rollout, he added. Mr. Blevins said Wilkes offered to host a Leadership Workshop for more training on this rollout. It will be at the Ag Center on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. It is open to the region and will keep the folks here to train, which is another benefit, he added. Mr. Blevins said the last two pages are what they currently can see (screen shots) when they search in NC Fast due to the counties already in the pilot program. They look for both victims and perpetrators and check both systems at this time, he noted. Mr. Blevins said the state is having an issue with some counties not performing these searches, Wilkes does not have an issue they perform these searches and do well in this area. He added he will continue to provide more updates on this roll out as he receives them.

The Board thanked Mr. Blevins for his update and reports.

**WILKES COUNTY AIRPORT – BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS** – County Attorney Tony Triplett stated there is a memo in the packet that explains this and it was to restore the 3-3-3 rotation back to the Airport Board appointments. He added the terms of Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and Mr. Ed Mulholland were shortened to one year to accomplish this. Mr. Triplett said Mr. Norman Robbins term did not change. He added all three terms will expire September 30, 2017. He added the Airport Board met in August and voted unanimously to recommend to this Board all three for reappointments for 3-year terms. He stated he would like to point out this appointment is different than a lot of the other boards when a Commissioner Member is appointed. In those appointments the member serves at the pleasure of the Chairman or the entire Board and they are made at the beginning of every year, he added. Mr. Triplett said the

Airport Board is different the Commissioner Member serves a term and stays on this Board as long as the term last. He added this is to reappoint Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins to a full 3-year term. Vice Chairman Blevins stated he has served a couple of terms on the Airport Board. He said fortunately Mr. Jim Faw has agreed to remain the Chairman of the Airport Board, he does a great job and they are lucky to have him. He added that he, Jim Faw, and Virgil Gottfried will also be assisting John Yates to select a new Airport Manager when the current manager, David Prevette retires at the end of this year. Commissioner David Gambill said the Airport does a great job, it is a benefit to the County. It was great to see Samaritan's Purse sending all the folks to help with the devastation in Texas and glad they are in Wilkes, he added.

Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to reappoint Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins, Mr. Ed Mulholland, and Mr. Norman Robbins to the Wilkes County Airport Board for a term of 3-years beginning October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2020, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and passed unanimously.

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – WILKES COUNTY NURSING HOME COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – REAPPOINTMENTS** – County Manager John Yates stated we received a letter from Stevie John, Regional Ombudsman, stating the appointment terms for Ms. Susan Bachmeier and Ms. Autumn Johnson to the Wilkes County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee will expire August 5, 2017. He stated Ms. Bachmeier and Ms. Johnson have both indicated their desire to be reappointed for an additional 3-year term and a Board Application has been received.

Chairman Greg Minton stated he would like to commend Ms. Bachmeier and Ms. Johnson for their continued service on this Committee. He added this is a key check and a balance for the County and a very hard committee to serve on, they are providing a great service.

Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins made a motion to reappoint Ms. Susan Bachmeier and Ms. Autumn Johnson to serve on the Wilkes County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee for additional 3-year term as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT – SET PUBLIC HEARING – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT – AUTO SALES IN H-B ZONING – BILLY FERGUSON 6915 NC HWY 268 W** – Planning Director Eddie Barnes said he would like to introduce W.C. Scroggs who has been with the County Planning Department for several months and will be presenting to this Board in the future. He stated on Monday, August 28, 2017 the Wilkes County Planning Department received and approved a request from Billy Ferguson to operate an Auto Sales Lot in a Highway Business (H-B) zoning district. He stated Auto Sales in an H-B district are permitted as a Conditions Use Permit, which required approval from the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Barnes said pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance a Public Hearing and notification period is required. He asked the Board of Commissioners to set a Public Hearing on the conditional use permit. Chairman Minton stated this is located at the old Mom & Pops. Mr. Barnes replied that is correct. Chairman Minton asked if there is a cap on the number of cars he can have on this lot. Mr. Barnes replied the permit allows a cap to be set if the Board wishes, it

does not have one at this time, but Mr. Ferguson indicated this will be a small lot. Chairman Minton added approximately 12 cars is what was mentioned. Mr. Barnes agreed and added the Board can add a cap or other requirements if needed. Chairman Minton said the Board can address that at the time of the Public Hearing if it is needed.

The Board thanked Mr. Barnes and welcomed Mr. Scroggs to the Panning Department.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 6:50 P.M. or immediately following Pubic Concerns, regarding the Conditional Use Permit, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

**ADJOURN** - Motion was made by Commissioner Eddie Settle, seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 10:36 A.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gregory A. Minton, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: