

**MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 19, 2023**

PUBLIC CONCERNS – None

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. with the following members present: Chairman Keith Elmore, Vice Chairman Stoney Greene, Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson, Commissioner Bill Sexton, and Commissioner Greg Minton.

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

Chairman Keith Elmore welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at this time.

INVOCATION – Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson led the vocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Keith Elmore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Elmore said Item F will need to be removed from the Agenda, Mr. Carl Spake is unable to attend tonight. Mr. Triplett added Ms. Spake's mother passed away several days ago, the funeral was Sunday. He asked if he could wait until the October 3rd meeting to address the Board. Chairman Elmore stated they certainly understand. The Board gave their consensus to remove Item F at this time

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Stoney Greene, seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on September 5, 2023.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Stoney Greene to approve Budget Amendment No. 3 (Health Programs – Wilkes Health received \$2,500 from the Health Foundation for the Diabetes program. These funds will be used for supplies for Diabetes to provide care to the underinsured/uninsured residents of Wilkes County. No County money involved. Wilkes Health replaced the HVAC unit for the lab area at a cost of \$12,372. Funds for this capital purchase are from the General Repair to Equipment expense line in the FY2024 budget. Wilkes Health received a donation of \$25,000 from the Health Foundation for the MESH unit. These funds will be utilized to provide mental health/behavior health services for the students of Wilkes County. No County money involved. Wilkes Health received \$7,852 in state funds for the Breast Feeding Peer Counselor program. These funds will be used to advance the benefits of breastfeeding support and to increase breastfeeding participation for the women in the Local HD WIC program. No County money involved); and Budget Amendment No. 4 (Em Mgt – This budget amendment comes at the request to move money in order to purchase an eligible item on a DIPPER 8 grant in the amount of \$30,000. Once the item is purchased, the regional DIPPER 8 administrator then can reimburse the County for the expended funds. DIPPER 8

funding runs through Emergency Management and is utilized for public safety preparedness in this region. Lieutenant Chris Wagoner is the regional representation on the DIPPER 8 Board and has proposed to purchase a new mobile x-ray scanning tool for bombs/suspicious items to replace the outdated device. This type of equipment would be used for everyday suspicious package calls or large-scale events such as the North Wilkesboro Motor Speedway); and Budget Amendment No. 5 (General Fund – DSS received an allocation of federal funds of \$28,079 for Low-Income Household Water Assistance (LIHWAP) program. No County funds required); and Budget Amendment No. 6 (Landfill Enterprise Fund – Funds of \$33,700 are needed to cover the cost of the Cat 336 Hydraulic Excavator). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously approved.

Chairman Elmore asked Logan Kerr to explain DIPPER 8. Mr. Kerr stated with him tonight is Lieutenant Chris Wagoner whom is the DIPPER 8 Regional Representative and the expert on this topic. Lieutenant Wagoner said he is the representative with the N.C. Northwestern Regional Emergency Management group for DIPPER 8 and Law Enforcement is one group they fund. They are the same entity that previously provided funding for items they currently use on the Bomb Squad, such as the robot. They meet annually and take requests for funding. He added their first line of defense for the Bomb Squad is the x-ray equipment. One of their x-ray sources broke and it will cost over \$7K to repair it. Lieutenant Wagoner said DIPPER 8 gave them \$30K to purchase a new portable x-ray system, now they will have two X-ray systems for the Bomb Squad. He explained how and when they use this equipment at this time. The Board thanked Mr. Wagoner for what they do.

RESOLUTION – WILKES COUNTY LITTER COMMITTEE – Chairman Elmore welcomed Anderia Byrd, Solid Waste Director. Ms. Byrd thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak tonight. She said she is here on behalf of the Litter Committee, which consists of Board Members, Clean Up Wilkes and other individuals to include State and Government entities. This committee collaborates regularly and primarily focuses on litter education, enforcement, and clean up actions throughout the County. They have been busy addressing ongoing litter issues and gearing up for the upcoming litter contest. Ms. Byrd stated she is here to present the Wilkes County Litter Committee Resolution. This is an important form of awareness presented as a written document to express the Board's support to encourage Wilkes County Citizens to work together to help preserve the quality and natural beauty of the community. She added the Resolution is in conjunction with the DOT's current statewide fall litter sweep, which runs from September 16-30. Ms. Byrd read the Resolution at this time.

Commissioner Johnson asked if they are hosting the Litter poster contest again this year. Ms. Byrd replied yes, the committee has discussed this and will run it in conjunction with Earth Day again this year. Chairman Elmore said the Board appreciates the work the Litter Committee is doing; Commissioner Sexton is their representative on this Committee and he is passionate about it. Commissioner Sexton added the Committee works well together and really cares about this issue and it is a pleasure to work with them and to have folks so passionate to take up this cause. It is a continuous battle and they do a great job. The Board thanked Ms. Byrd and the Litter Committee.

Commissioner Bill Sexton made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the Wilkes County Litter Committee as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Stoney Greene and unanimously approved.

WILKES COUNTY LITTER COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, litter leaves a stain on the natural beauty of Wilkes County; and

WHEREAS, litter decreases the overall quality of life for Wilkes County residents; and

WHEREAS, litter is harmful to wildlife and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Wilkes County continues to face litter problems and must spend County and Landfill funds to remove litter from roadsides and public areas; and

WHEREAS, litter leaves a negative impression on tourists and visitors; and

WHEREAS, littering is a crime and the presence of litter influences more people to litter; and

WHEREAS, Wilkes County will support enforcement against this crime and raise awareness about this problem to help reduce the overall amount of litter in the County; and

WHEREAS, paying close attention to vehicles hauling unsecured loads, acts of illegal dumping, and motorist or pedestrians improperly tossing out solid waste items will help the County address this issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners, hereby encourages all citizens to work together, stand firm against the act of littering, and to act responsibly throughout the year for a cleaner community that will preserve the natural beauty and improve the quality of life in Wilkes County.

Adopted by Wilkes County on this 19th day of September, 2023.

*Gideon Keith Elmore, Chairman
Wilkes County Board of Commissioners*

Attest:

Sarah D. Call Clerk to the Board

TAX DEPARTMENT – TAX RELEASES – LISTINGS – Chairman Elmore recognized Will Lankford, Tax Administrator. Mr. Lankford asked the Board to approve 93 tax releases for listings in the total amount of \$30,026.96 which covers from July to early-September.

Vice Chairman Stoney Greene made a motion to approve the tax releases for listings in the amount of \$30,026.96 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and was unanimously approved.

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT – SPECIAL INTENSITY ALLOCATION – STATE ROAD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. – Chairman Elmore welcomed and recognized W.C. Scroggs, Planning Director. Mr. Scroggs thanked the Board and said this Special Intensity Allocation is in a Watershed II area which requires a 10/70. He stated on November 28, 2022, the Wilkes Joint Planning Board during regular session approved the 10/70 WS-II Watershed Special Intensity Allocation (SIA) request from State Road Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. The property is identified as tax parcel 1902013, Thurmond, NC 28683. The project consists of 3.39 acres and this SIA will allow up to 70% impervious surface on the project area. Churches, Schools, and Fire Departments are exempt from the points requirements of the Wilkes County Watershed Special Intensity Allocations Ordinance; therefore, it meets all the provisions. He added this is before the Board for consideration.

Chairman Elmore stated he did not realize these organizations are exempt, is this only in Wilkes County or is this statewide. Mr. Triplett replied this is in Wilkes County's Ordinance; over 20 years ago, when they first did the 10/70, it was structured this way. He added they used to only allow 10/70 for Churches, Schools, and Fire Departments and no other development. Later, they amended the Ordinance to allow commercial development to apply for a 10/70, this is also when the points system was put in place. Mr. Triplett said the Watershed Ordinance will have to be revisited along with all the others if the Board wants to take a look at changing or updating this.

Commissioner Bill Sexton made a motion to approve the Special Intensity Allocation (SIA) for State Road Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. up to 70% of the property as requested and presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously approved.

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT – SALE OF SURPLUS INVENTORY – County Manager John Yates stated the Wilkes County Purchasing Department is requesting approval from the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners to declare the following inventory as surplus and sell it using the electronic auction method, govdeals.com:

2011 Chevrolet Impala Vin #21346 Mileage 97,991 – Central Operations

2004 Ford Ranger Vin #86593 Mileage 187,485 – Inspections

2011 Ford Crown Victoria Vin #03075 Mileage 171,552 – Soil & Water

2011 Ford Crown Victoria Vin #49584 Mileage 160,430 - Sheriff

2017 Chevrolet Caprice Vin #02384 Mileage 107,990 – Sheriff

2004 Jeep Liberty Vin #27621 Mileage 184,752—Soil & Water

2009 Chevrolet Suburban 2500 Vin #63470 Mileage 146,171 – Sheriff

2001 Ford Taurus Vin #31377 Mileage 92,683 – DSS

2013 Ford Taurus Vin #19300 Mileage 198,241 – Sheriff
2017 Ford Taurus Vin #40139 Mileage 132,433 – Sheriff
2011 Ford Crown Victoria Vin #03073 Mileage 172,238 – Sheriff
2011 Ford Crown Victoria Vin #49564 Mileage 158,246 – Sheriff
2017 Chevrolet 6.0 Litre engine ID #60LS2 Mileage 107,990 – Sheriff
2012 Dodge Charger Vin #62016 Mileage 86,793 – Sheriff
2006 Chevrolet 1500 Truck Vin#01583 Mileage 236,181 – Central Operations
Pallet of used and obsolete parts ID #015– Garage
Voting booths 36 handicapped & 180 regular ID #BOE01 – Board of Elections

Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson made a motion to approve the sale of surplus inventory using the electronic auction method govdeals.com as requested. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Stoney Greene and unanimously approved.

CLOSED SESSION – Motion was made by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson to go into closed session 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 possible contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property; 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)(3) of the North Carolina General Statutes to consult with the Board’s Attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Stoney Greene and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Stoney Greene seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson 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 Casey Joe Johnson seconded by Vice Chairman Stoney Greene and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 6:29 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Giddeon Keith Elmore, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: October 3, 2023