

**MINUTES  
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OCTOBER 3, 2017**

**PUBLIC HEARING – WILKES COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE 2017 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL ASSISTANCE (JAG) GRANT FUNDING** - Chairman Greg Minton declared the Public Hearing open regarding the 2017 JAG Grant for Wilkes County Sheriff’s Office at 10:01 A.M. on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 with the following members present: Chairman Greg Minton, Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins, Commissioner Keith Elmore, and Commissioner Eddie Settle.

Also present were Tony Triplett, County Attorney; John Yates, County Manager; David Carson, Chief Deputy; Logan Kerr, Wilkes County Sheriff’s Office; and Sarah Call, Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Minton asked if anyone would like to speak regarding the proposed JAG Grant Funding. Hearing no comments on the proposed Grant for the Wilkes County Sheriff’s Office, Chairman Greg Minton declared the Public Hearing closed for the JAG Grant Funding request.

**PUBLIC HEARING – APPLICATION BY WILKES COUNTY FOR FUNDING UNDER THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974, AS AMENDED TO SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR CDBG-I GRANT APPLICATION TO EXTEND PUBLIC SEWER SERVICE TO MULBERRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** – Chairman Greg Minton declared the Public Hearing open for providing an explanation and description of the 2017-18 North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Community Development Block – Infrastructure Grant (CDBG-I), at 10:02 A.M. on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 with the following members present: Chairman Greg Minton, Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins, Commissioner Keith Elmore, and Commissioner Eddie Settle.

Also present were Tony Triplett, County Attorney; John Yates, County Manager; Kelly Coffee, Senior Planner, High Country Council of Governments; and Sarah Call, Clerk to the Board.

Kelly Coffey of High Country Council of Governments was present to discuss the purpose of the public hearing for Wilkes County’s CDBG-I School funding application. He stated that *the purpose of the public hearing was to obtain citizen’s views and to respond to funding proposals and answer any questions posed by citizens. He also stated that the public hearing must cover the County’s community development needs, development of the proposed activities, and a review of program compliance before the submission of the County’s CDBG-I funding application to the state of the North Carolina.*

*The County proposes requesting funding from NCDEQ’S CDBG-I program for the Mulberry School Sewer Line Extension. The purposes of the CDBG-I grant program are:*

- *To improve the quality of life for low to moderate income people by providing a safe, clean environment and clean drinking water through water and sewer infrastructure improvements and extensions of service.*

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- *To benefit an area where at least 51% of the beneficiaries are low to moderate income as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.*
- *To perform eligible activities.*
- *To minimize displacement, and*
- *Provide displacement assistance as necessary.*

*For the fiscal year of 2017 the CDBG-I School funding available is expected to be \$ 4.5 million dollars and the maximum available grant is up to \$1.0 million. Applications for funding are received November 1, 2017. It is a one-time funding cycle.*

*The CDBG program is able to fund a wide variety of community development activities. The State of North Carolina has chosen to fund two activities: water and sewer infrastructure, and economic development projects that lead to job creation or retention. The infrastructure program, or CDBG-I program can fund a range of water and sewer infrastructure and economic development activities, including, but not limited to the following:*

### Water:

- *Projects that resolve water loss in distribution systems.*
- *Projects that extend public water to areas with contaminated wells.*
- *Projects that extend water lines to areas with dry wells.*
- *Projects that assist with low water pressure in public water systems.*
- *Projects that regionalize two or more water systems.*
- *Project that rehabilitate or replace a water treatment plant.*

### Wastewater:

- *Projects that resolve inflow and infiltration to collection systems and surcharges from pumps stations and manholes.*
- *Projects that extend public sewer to areas with failed septic tanks.*
- *Projects that rehabilitate a wastewater treatment plant to allow for greater efficiency/compliance with regulations.*

*The County is seeking an amount in CDBG-I School funds not to exceed \$1.0 million for the Mulberry School Sewer Line Extension Project. The purpose of the County's request is to extend a sewer line from the Town of North Wilkesboro's wastewater disposal system to the school because the school's existing on-site septic system is failing.*

*A total of 100% of the CDBG-I funding will be used to benefit Low to Moderate Income (LMI) people. The project area in Wilkes County has been determined to have an LMI of 63%. The project area includes the Mulberry Elementary School property and the area accessible to the gravity sewer line section of the sewer line extension.*

*The range of activities covered by the CDBG-I funds for the Mulberry School Sewer Line Extension Project includes:*

- *Construction.*
- *Construction Administration and observation.*

- *Legal activities.*
- *Surveying.*

*If Wilkes County is awarded a CDBG-I grant, the County is required to adhere to federal procurement requirements and other federal regulations which include:*

- *American with Disabilities Act/Section 504 Survey*
- *Davis-Bacon & Related Labor Acts*
- *Adoption/Submittal of a Citizen's Participation Plan*
- *Adoption/Submittal of an Equal Opportunity Plan*
- *Adoption/Submittal of a Fair Housing Plan*
- *Adoption/Submittal of a Language Access Plan*
- *Adoption/Submittal of a Relocation Assistance Plan*
- *Adoption/Submittal of a Section 3 Plan*
- *Excess Force Provision*

*The State of North Carolina requires that the if the County receives CDBG grant funding that the County will certify that they will comply with the requirements of the general displacement and relocation policy for CDBG grant funding. This policy assists low to moderate income people with costs associated with relocation or displacement, should such relocation become necessary due to the project activities. CDBG funds can be used for those costs, if necessary. No displacement and relocation will occur as a result of the proposed CDBG grant activity.*

*In the past, the County has applied for and received funding for the following completed CDBG projects:*

- *Water Line Extension to Interflex in 2001, which resulted in the creation of 20 new jobs*
- *Numerous scattered site housing projects*

*The County will submit its CDBG-I School program application for the Mulberry School Sewer Line Extension Project on November 1, 2017. The CDBG-I School program application will be available for review during normal business hours at 110 North Street, Room 101, Wilkesboro. Additional information is available from the County Manager at 336-651-7346. Should you have any complaints or grievances regarding the subject public hearing, they should be addressed to the addressee mentioned above within 10 business days or by October 13, 2017 and a written response to the written complaints and/or grievances will be sent by the County within 10 business days, where practicable. We open to floor for comments and questions about the CDBG program and about the proposed project.*

The Board thanked Mr. Coffee and stated this is an important project.

Chairman Minton asked if anyone would like to speak regarding the CDBG-I school program application for Mulberry School Sewer Line Extension Project. Hearing no comments, Chairman Greg Minton declared the Public Hearing closed for the CDBG-I School program application for the Mulberry School Sewer Line Extension Project.

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 10:10 A.M. with the following members present: Chairman Greg Minton, Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins, Commissioner Keith Elmore, 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 Eddie Settle led the Invocation.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore, seconded by Commissioner Eddie Settle and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on September 19, 2017.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS** – Ann Absher, Wilkes County Health Director said she is pleased to announce they received federal funding for access to increase mental health and substance abuse services which is called AIMS grant funding. She said it is one time funding and on-going funding for opioid abuse and increase mental health access. Mrs. Absher stated they applied for \$150,000 and she is pleased to announce they received \$175,700, of this \$85,200 is on-going funding to provide mental health services and substance abuse at the Health Department, the rest is one-time funding. Commissioner Settle stated they applied for \$150K and received \$175K. Mrs. Absher replied yes, there was a specific amount of funds allowed and not all FQHC's applied, therefore the extra was distributed to the ones that did apply. Commissioner Elmore stated they also received an addition \$11,220 for cancer screening. Mrs. Absher replied yes they received addition federal money for women to receive breast and cervical screenings for cancer control. Vice Chairman Blevins asked if \$682,576 was the original budget for health care in general and the \$175,700 is specifically for opioid and mental health care. Mrs. Absher replied correct, with \$85,200 as on-going funding. Vice Chairman Blevins stated they received this funding because of the FQHC and they are federally qualified. Mrs. Absher replied yes.

Vice Chairman Blevins stated last week the Board hosted a Countywide Forum on opioid abuse and had a lot of guest speakers, it is a huge problem and the federal folks obviously felt like they needed to put more grant funds into it as well.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore to approve Budget Amendment No. 4 (Health Programs – BCCCP – AIMS Grant – Wilkes County Health Department BCCCP Program received an additional \$11,220 in grant funding to provide breast and cervical cancer screening and/or diagnostic services for eligible underserved women. Wilks County Health Department received HRSA Federal AIMS grant in the amount of \$175,000 to provide Mental Health and

Substance Abuse services. No County money involved.) The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION - FUNDING UNDER THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974, AS AMENDED TO SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR CDBG GRANT TO EXTEND PUBLIC SEWER SERVICE TO MULBERRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** – Chairman Greg Minton recognized Kelly Coffee, Senior Planner, High Country Council of Governments. Mr. Coffee said he will be happy to answer any questions. Vice Chairman Blevins asked if the grant is expected to cover the entire cost of the project or will additional funding be needed. Mr. Coffee stated it will not cover any contingencies. Commissioner Elmore asked the cost to the County. John Yates replied he has spoken with Bergie Speaks and the County will have to work with the School System to decide how any contingency along with the COG’s fee of \$20K to administer the grant will be handled. He added there were engineering fees that the School System has already covered. Mr. Yates stated the hope is that the bids will come in close to \$1 million and only the COG fee will need to be covered. Commissioner Elmore asked is the estimated cost to the county 5% or 10%. Chairman Minton stated it will depend on the bids. Mr. Yates added the bids can be declined and not accepted if they are too high. Vice Chairman Blevins said the County is not under any obligation until they know the bids and all the cost to make sure it is affordable. Mr. Coffee replied that is correct the County can turn down the grant.

Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve the Resolution for CDBG Grant Application for School program application for the Mulberry School Sewer Line Extension Project, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

*RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF APPLICANT*

*WHEREAS, Title I of the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, has established the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and has authorized the making of grants to aid eligible units of government in funding the cost of construction, replacement, or rehabilitation of water and wastewater infrastructure, and that the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) was delegated the authority by the state legislature to administer the water and wastewater infrastructure portion of the state grant monies received from the U.S. HUD CDBG program by Session Law 2013-360, Section 15.15(a) as amended by Section 5.3 of Session Law 2013-363, and*

*WHEREAS, Wilkes County has need for and intends to construct a wastewater collection system, project described as the extension of public sewer service from the Town of North Wilkesboro to Mulberry Elementary School, and*

*WHEREAS, Wilkes County intends to request state grant assistance for the project,*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WILKES COUNTY:**

*That John Yates, Wilkes County Manager, the Authorized Official, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the Applicant with the State of North Carolina for a grant to aid in the construction of the project described above.*

*That the Authorized Official, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.*

*That the Applicant has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.*

*Adopted this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2017 at Wilkesboro, North Carolina.*

**WILKES COUNTY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory A. Minton, Chairman,  
Wilkes County Board of Commissioners

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah D. Call, Clerk

**WILKES COUNTY AIRPORT:**

**1. RESOLUTION – GRANT AGREEMENT – PARALLEL TAXIWAY REHABILITATION** – Chairman Minton welcomed and recognized Greg Kershaw, PE. WK Dickson & Co., Inc. Mr. Kershaw said there is a Grant Agreement for the Parallel Taxiway Rehabilitation that needs to be executed and requires a Resolution to do so.

Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve the Resolution for Grant Agreement for the Parallel Taxiway Rehabilitation project, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

**2. WORK AUTHORIZATION NO. 9 – PARALLEL TAXIWAY REHABILITATION** – Mr. Kershaw said the work authorization no. 9 is for the Parallel Taxiway Rehabilitation construction phase services and request the Board make a Motion to award the work authorization. He added the work authorization has been presented to the Airport Board and was approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins to approve Work Authorization No. 9, Parallel Taxiway Rehabilitation, as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

**3. RESOLUTION – BLOCK GRANT AGREEMENT, NON PRIMARY ENTITLEMENT FUNDING – UPDATE AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN** – Mr. Kershaw said this grant agreement also requires approval of a Resolution.

Vice Chairman Blevins stated this should wrap up all the runway, taxiway, and apron rehabilitation projects at the Airport. He added this is the first time they have been refurbished since the Airport was originally constructed, which was badly needed and they received a lot of grant money. Mr. Kershaw agreed. Vice Chairman Blevins asked if this was state or federal funds. Mr. Kershaw replied state funding for the taxiway rehabilitation was received. Vice Chairman Blevins stated WK Dickson has been very helpful in obtaining these funds for the Airport. Commissioner Settle asked the status of the extension of the runway as requested by Samaritan's Purse. Vice Chairman Blevins stated Jimmy Luther gave a presentation to the Airport Board at the last meeting, it is a very complicated process with the FAA to extend it the requested 1,000 feet. He added it will be a multi-year project with many hoops to jump through and environmental studies. The staff and Airport Board along with WK Dickson are working on it. Vice Chairman Blevins said they would like to get to 7200 feet which will place the Airport in a higher category and could help attract more businesses, but it will be a challenge. Mr. Yates agreed and added it will be very expensive.

Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve the Resolution for Block Grant Agreement, Non Primary Entitlement Funding to Update Airport Layout Plan, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

The Board thanked Mr. Kershaw.

**WILKES COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC) – BOARD APPOINTMENTS** – Chairman Minton recognized and welcomed Christyn Grant, Chairman JCPC. Ms. Grant stated the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council is requesting approval for Zachary Shepherd, with VAYA Health for the Mental Health vacancy and Casey Prim-Shields of Wilkes County DSS for the DSS Director or Designee position to be added to the Board for 2-year terms to fill vacancies.

Commissioner Eddie Settle made a motion to appoint Zachary Shepherd and Casey Prim-Shields to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council for two year terms, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

**WILKES COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Chairman Minton welcomed Julia Turpin, County Librarian. Ms. Turpin stated she brought a power point to share with the Board. She added beginning this year she is going to break up her update into two parts one now and another in about 6-months. Ms. Turpin said today she is proving an update on services provided to children and 3 new things at the Library just for children. She next provided a brief PowerPoint and update with the summer reading program and the three new services at the library:

- Imagination Café (summer free lunch and literacy program)
- Student Access (partner with School System for all students/teachers to check out 10 books with the Student ID #, teens can access NC Live, ACT/SAT study prep, learn to use Database searches before College, with no late fees)
- Girls who Code Club (young women 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade can learn basic coding skills one day per week after school to close gender gap on technology)

Commissioner Settle stated the summer meal program and using local produce along with access to NC Live and Database search are all great additions. Vice Chairman Blevins agreed and added the coding club is great and needed as well. Chairman Minton stated he wanted to thank Ms. Turpin and the Library because without the summer meal and back pack program this growing need to help the children would not be met. He added the Wilkes County Cruisers are also involved and very supportive of the back pack program. Commissioner Elmore added they do a great job.

The Board thanked Ms. Turpin for her update.

**RESOLUTION – TO SUPPORT EASEMENT FOR A SCENIC VIEW AT THE OVERLOOK ON US 21** – Commissioner Eddie Settle stated Surry County has already approved this Resolution. Senator Randleman and Representative Stevens secured funds for the right-of-way needed to clear the view from this overlook, he added. Vice Chairman Blevins stated it is in Wilkes but the view includes Surry so they approved it as well. Commissioner Settle stated yes both can be viewed from the overlook. Commissioner Elmore asked if the purpose is to clear the view. Commissioner Settle stated yes. Mr. Yates added it is for DOT to purchase a right-of-way of 15 acres to clear the view and take care of this overlook area.

Commissioner Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the Resolution to Support Easement for a Scenic View at the Overlook on US 21, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

*RESOLUTION  
TO SUPPORT EASEMENT FOR A  
SCENIC VIEW AT THE OVERLOOK ON US 21*

*WHEREAS, the County of Wilkes recognizes the scenic beauty of Surry and Wilkes counties; and*

*WHEREAS, Wilkes County supports the North Carolina Department of Transportation opening and maintaining a Scenic Overlook on US 21 that showcases the Surry and Wilkes viewshed; and*

*WHEREAS, re-opening the site will provide a very desirable view from this overlook for local citizens and tourists; and*

*WHEREAS, Wilkes County seeks to preserve, protect, enhance, and connect the cultural, natural, historical, and scenic assets of Surry and Wilkes counties; and*

*WHEREAS, Wilkes County strives to encourage economic development by fostering the growth of entrepreneurship, tourism, and general business development while improving the quality of life for the region through an increased emphasis on the beauty of Wilkes County, as well as surrounding counties; and*

*WHEREAS, the overlook is physically located in Wilkes County; and*



*WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation will need a right-of-way of approximately fifteen acres with an estimated cost related to this property, including administrative fees, will be approximately \$60,000, which is a perpetual solution to maintain an acceptable panoramic view; and*

*WHEREAS, Senator Shirley Randleman and Representative Sarah Steven have each secured \$30,000 for a total of \$60,000, for acquiring the right-of-way for this project.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners as follows:*

- 1. That the clearing and maintaining of the US 21 Overlook will provide a panoramic view for citizens and tourists to enjoy.*
- 2. That the Board of Commissioners supports Senator Randleman and Representative Stevens for obtaining Contingency Funds for the Overlook Project.*
- 3. That a copy of this resolution be provided to Senator Randleman and Representative Stevens upon passage.*
- 4. That this resolution be effective upon its adoption.*

*ADOPTED by the County of Wilkes this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2017.*

**WILKES COUNTY:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory A. Minton, Chairman  
Wilkes County Board of Commissioners

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah D. Call, Clerk

**WILKES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE:**

**1. 2017 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (JAG) GRANT** – Chairman Greg Minton welcomed Chief Deputy David Carson and Logan Kerr with the Wilkes Sheriff's Department. Mr. Kerr said they are asking for approval of the Edward Byrne Memorial JAG grant of \$10,410 to purchase tactical equipment to aid the SWAT and Bomb Team with no match required. He added this is federal grant money. Commissioner Settle asked if the Sheriff's office has a SWAT team. Mr. Kerr replied yes. Commissioner Settle asked if they have always had one. Chief Deputy Carson replied they went a few years without an organized SWAT team.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore to accept the 2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) Grant in the amount of \$10,410.00 to purchase a tactical equipment, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and passed unanimously.

**2. CONTINUATION OF FUNDING – REVERSE 911 SYSTEM** – Chief Deputy Carson stated he would like to send Sheriff Shew's regards he is participating in a teen driving safety program at North Wilkes High School and unable to attend the meeting. He said many years ago they saw a need for a reverse 911 system at the Communications Center. Chief Deputy Carson said in the event of an emergency this system would allow them to pick a geographic area and send calls to phones in this area and at some points even to cell phones in that area to notify the public quickly. He added they looked at it several years ago and it was very expensive (\$70K per year), through the local emergency planning committee they started devising plans and found that they still have a large need for this system. They also discovered that this could help the Health Department, Sheriff's Office, EMS, and County Government to notify people, he added.

Chief Deputy Carson said VISTA is the company they have met with and this is a web based system that can be accessed from any internet based computer with a log in and password. He added the system allows them to send out information to very specific areas for example is there were a hazmat spill they could look at windage and get the area they need to notify based on wind and weather conditions. This system will also allow an opt in feature for the public to sign up for updates that are non-emergency but more of building, street, bridge closures etc. Deputy Carson said the public would go to the website and opt in and receive text messages that relay this information. He added VISTA is their 911 phone system provider in which this system works with and are integrated with, they are offering a special that with a 5-year contract they get 2 years free. This brings the total over the 5-years to \$19,211 annually, he noted.

Deputy Carson stated they have reviewed their budget and they can cover this year without an increase in their current approved budget. He added with this being a 5-year term they would like to ask for the Board's approval before they proceed. Commissioner Settle stated this is a web based system and if there was an emergency in Traphill they can call those folks including cell phones. Deputy Carson replied yes under limited circumstances with a true active shooter or weather emergency situation. Mr. Kerr added FEMA allows them access to their emergency system in which a cell phone may go off with an Amber or Weather alert with the loud noise just as the TV has had for many years. Commissioner Settle asked if the public had to opt in to get this. Deputy Carson replied no not for the emergency announcements. Mr. Kerr said opt in could be a road or bridge closure or something of this nature that the public could sign up for. Chairman Minton stated most counties have a reverse 911 system in place. Deputy Carson agreed and added 911 funding cannot be used for this, it is not an allowable funding. Chairman Minton noted that has been the problem for many years, which is hard to understand.

Deputy Carson said he has spoken with Health Director Ann Absher, Emergency Management Director, Suzanne Hamby and County Manager, John Yates and the entire county will use it. He

added the Sheriff's office would manage it and allow access to these folks for notification to employees. Also in the event of a pandemic it would be very beneficial to the Health Department as well. Chairman Minton said it is a great way to get key and important information out to the public. Commissioner Elmore asked if his cell phone was purchase in Charlotte and there is an emergency in Roaring River would he get it. Deputy Carson replied yes as long as he is in Roaring River, it comes from the cell towers and land lines in that area. Commissioner Elmore asked if it is voice or text. Deputy Carson said it could be either or both. Mr. Kerr added land lines can be accessed much easier than cellular devices, land lines are registered as a 911 number can be accessed and called if the choice was made to do so. Vice Chairman Blevins asked what the caller ID would show. Deputy Carson replied they would input this to show that it is coming from Wilkes County 911. Vice Chairman Blevins said this would be more universal and faster notification and they have the money in their budget currently without a budget amendment needed. Deputy Carson replied yes.

County Attorney Triplett asked what they are asking the Board to approve. Chief Deputy Carson replied this is a 5-year commitment and they need to make sure funding will not be cut so after this first year they can cover this for the next 4 before a contract is signed. Chairman Minton said it is a great program, the cost has come down a great deal and wished they had this many years ago. Vice Chairman Blevins asked what is the motion and what would they be approving. Deputy Carson replied they do not want to enter into a long term contract without the Commissioners knowing about it and OK with it. Mr. Triplett asked if there is a contract and if so, does it require County approval or just the Sheriff's Department approval. Deputy Carson replied there will be a contract and he thinks it will require county approval and added he will get a copy of the contract for Mr. Triplett to review. Mr. Triplett said he has not seen a contract but he assumes it would require county approval. Vice Chairman Blevins stated the county would be approving the contractual obligation through the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Triplett said it will be up to Board to approve the contract at some point, which he has not received or reviewed. Commissioner Elmore asked what the time line they need this approved by is. Mr. Kerr replied the promotional 2 years for free ends in December, at year end and this is over \$40K in savings. Commissioner Elmore said the Board would like for the Attorney to look over the contract and then submit it for Board approval.

#### **TAX DEPARTMENT:**

**1. TAX RELEASES – LISTING** – Chairman Minton recognized Alex Hamilton, Tax Administrator. Mr. Hamilton asked the Board to approve tax releases for listing in the amount of \$3,022.77.

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

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

**2. TAX RELEASES – COLLECTIONS** – Mr. Hamilton asked the Board to approve tax releases for collections in the amount of \$35.67.

Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve the tax releases for collections 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.

**3. CHARGE TAX ADMINISTRATION WITH COLLECTION OF THE 2017 UTILITIES TAXES** – Mr. Hamilton stated the Board needs to charge the Tax Administrator with collecting the 2017 Utilities Tax as followings:

2017 Utilities	Total Value: \$203,119,996.00
	Total Taxes: \$ 1,571,702.26

Commissioner Keith Elmore asked if Duke Power is the largest tax payer. Mr. Hamilton replied yes he believes they are. He added the total utilities value increased approximately \$7 million and therefore the taxes increased \$59K from last year.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to charge Alex Hamilton, Tax Administrator with collecting the 2017 Utilities Tax, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT:**

**1. SET PUBLIC HEARING – ROAD NAME REQUEST – LAZY BEAR LANE, JOBS CABIN TOWNSHIP** – Planning Director Eddie Barnes asked 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 Lazy Bear Lane, Jobs Cabin Township; the request meets the requirements of the Wilkes County Road Naming Ordinance and as required by the Wilkes County Road Naming Ordinance a Public Hearing and a ten day (10) notification period is required.

Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins made a motion to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. with the regular meeting to follow, regarding the Road Name Request as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

**2. FINAL APPROVAL – REGAL OAKS, SECTION II – SUBDIVISION OWNER, NURSAL CORPORATION** – Mr. Barnes handed out a map to the Board and said the final approval for Regal Oaks, Section II is before the Board. He added it is owned and developed by the Nursal Corporation and on Monday, September 25, 2017 the Wilkes Joint Planning Board reviewed and recommended for approval of the final plat. The proposed subdivision is located on Town and Country Drive off of Country Club Road and will be served

by Regal Oaks Drive in Moravian Falls Township. Mr. Barnes said the subdivision consists of 9.41 acres to be divided into 7 lots with an average lot size of 1.22 acres. The street will be built to NC DOT standards. He added this subdivision is located in an R-20 residential zoned area and is not in a protected watershed. Mr. Barnes stated all documentation, lot size, and setback requirements have been met and the developer is to submit a performance guarantee of \$77,500. Commissioner Elmore asked where Nursal Corporation is located. Mr. Barnes replied they are based in Florida, and have owned property in Wilkes to include another Subdivision they developed in Traphill several years ago. The first section of Regal Oaks was completed about 7 years ago.

Commissioner Eddie Settle made a motion for final approval of Regal Oaks, Section II Subdivision for Owner, Nursal Corporation, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE** – Chairman Greg Minton recognized Department of Social Services Director John Blevins. Mr. Blevins said he wanted to provide an update for the Board for August. He briefly went over the monthly caseload report, Foster Care financial report, Adoption Services financial report, Child Development and Subsidized Child Care financial report. Mr. Blevins said they can now use the 4% child care funds that the state had held originally, but the overall total was cut. He said they can no longer submit overpayments it is tied up in the NC Fast system and other rules have changed with a 90 day notice required for a termination rather than 30 days. They cannot remove anyone from the program due to financial issues which they don't want to do. Mr. Blevins said they think the state will have a reallocation for child care and additional funding as they normally have. He added no one including their Foster Care children are being added to Day Care at this time. This causes a problem as many of the CPS investigators would use day care as a means to avoid foster care as one of the tools in their tool box. Mr. Blevins said it is concerning and could increase the foster care numbers. Chairman Minton asked what the Board can do to advocate for this. Mr. Blevins replied it never hurts to speak to the legislatures, these amount are set, but there are counties that are underspending. The state looks at it as overall and Wilkes is not the only one with this issue, but some are under and some over.

Chairman Minton asked when could they apply or get extra funding. Mr. Blevins replied the state is waiting for summer care to cycle out which should come in the next two weeks. They will look at it and decide around December if money is available and they should start to shift or send more funds. He added they state was not overly concerned about it, but he and Kevin Brown are very concerned, they don't want to send out termination letters at the end of the year. Mr. Blevins said the state has taken a lot of their control of the money away so with this and the rule changes there is not much they can do. Vice Chairman Blevins ask could they shift some funds from another department to this one. Mr. Blevins replied the county can put money into this, but there would be no reimbursement and very few do this. Vice Chairman Blevins said they did not want to take this away from CPS they need this tool. Mr. Blevins agreed and said the budget he submits for this is controlled by the state they tell them how much. The state said no one else can be put on day care, but they also said they want this month to come in and see the totals and will decide if there is extra the state can send to Wilkes. Mr. Blevins said it is a

last resort to take this away and none of them want to. He said they give them \$80K in admin for 100% of the workers time and they can ask to move this, but it takes away the 100% from the state to cover for the admin worker. It will be \$80K coming from the County, but they have this if they need it, he added. Mr. Blevins said they are in constant communication and will keep the Board updated.

Mr. Blevins also went through the CPS Foster Care monthly reports for August. He added the last page in the packet is a shout out from the state for child support collection, Mr. Guy Wyatt made the top 20 in the state for collecting \$8,321.32 in August.

The Board thanked Mr. Blevins for his update.

Chairman Minton ask Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins to please recognize his special guest. Vice Chairman Blevins recognized his sister and her husband Rita and Ron Eckhout, visiting from Michigan and stated he is grateful and honored they were able to come visit and attend the meeting. Mr. Eckhout retired from General Motors and also served as a marine and is a true American. Vice Chairman Blevins thanked Mr. Eckhout for his service. He added they have been married 48 years, have 2 children, 7 grandchildren, and 1 great-grand child.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Chairman Minton recognized Ethan Baker, Assistant Chief with Traphill Voluntary Fire Department regarding a capital outlay purchase. Mr. Baker thanked the Board and stated the Traphill Fire Department Members and the Board of Directors are requesting permission to purchase a used 1995 HME Fire Truck with a purchase price of \$37,000 from Franklinville Fire in New Jersey. He added they have looked at the truck, it meet the specs that they need and are looking for in a truck and are asking permission to make the purchase. Chairman Minton stated the Board would like to thank them for their cost effectiveness and asked the type of truck and what it would have cost new. Mr. Baker replied this is a rescue pumper with a 2,000 gallon per minute pump with a 1,000 gallon tank that can be used for mutual aid and will be their primary truck in the district. He added Franklinville Fire purchase this new for \$350,000 and today it would cost around \$550,000. Mr. Baker said it has 20,000 miles, just over 1,000 hours and this department takes good care of their equipment. Mr. Triplett stated this does not require Board approval, notification is all that is needed before the purchase.

The Board thanked Traphill Fire Department for the good job and all they do for the community.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Chairman Greg Minton stated they received correspondence from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and he asked Commissioner Eddie Settle to please stand. Chairman Minton stated he would like to award a plaque that states “For Exemplary Service on the NCACC Board of Directors Presented to Eddie Settle Wilkes County Agriculture Steering Committee Chair 2017” and thanked him for his service. Commissioner Settle thanked the Board and the NCACC. Vice Chairman Blevins stated he has been active on the Board with Commissioner Settle and he did a great job for Wilkes County and advocated a great deal for agriculture.

**CLOSED SESSION** – Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to go into Closed Session under Section 143-318.11 (a)(4) of the North Carolina General Statutes to discuss the location or expansion of business in Wilkes County. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore, seconded by Commissioner 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 Eddie Settle and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 12:05 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gregory A. Minton, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: