

**MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 16, 2018**

PUBLIC CONCERNS – NONE

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 7:04 P.M. at the Wilkes County Agricultural Center, located at 416 Executive Drive, Wilkesboro, with the following members present: Chairman Gary D. Blevins, Vice Chairman Eddie Settle, Commissioner Keith Elmore, Commissioner David Gambill, and Commissioner Greg Minton.

Also present for the meeting were Tony Triplett, County Attorney; Gary L. Page, Interim County Manager; and Sarah Call, Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Gary D. Blevins welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance and called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION – Commissioner David Gambill led the Invocation.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle, seconded by Commissioner Greg Minton and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on October 2, 2018.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Motion was made by Commissioner Greg Minton to approve Budget Amendment No. 8 (Health – Programs – MESH – Wilkes County Health Department MESH unit received from the Health Foundation an additional \$19,305 to provide Mental Health Counseling to the Middle School Students of Wilkes County through Jodi Province Counseling Services. No County money involved). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

CHAMPION VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. – CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION – ADDENDUM FOR SECONDARY PROVIDER RESCUE SERVICES – County Attorney Tony Triplett stated the Wilkes County Rescue Review Board, chaired by Commissioner Greg Minton met on October 4, 2018 and heard three applications for Rescue Contracts. He added the Rescue Review Board voted unanimously to approve all three. Two of these have met all the requirements and are ready to present to this Board for approval. Mr. Triplett said Champion Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., is the first on the agenda and have representatives present at the meeting. They have met all rescue requirements to serve as a secondary provider of rescue services in Wilkes County. He added this is the next step before they can apply to the State for their membership. Mr. Triplett said this will be the fifth Rescue contract approved by the Board. It is ready for Board approval if this is what the Board would like to do at this time. Commissioner David Gambill asked if Champion will be approved as

medium rescue. Chief Craig Hollar replied yes this is for medium and they will be ready for heavy rescue within the next 8 to 10 months.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to approve the Contract for Fire Protection – Addendum for Secondary Provider Rescue Services with the Champion Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. as presented at tonight’s meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

RONDA COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. – CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION – ADDENDUM FOR SECONDARY PROVIDER RESCUE SERVICES – Mr. Triplett said the Wilkes County Rescue Review Board met on October 4, 2018 and also approved Ronda, they have many representatives present at the meeting tonight as well. He added they have met all the requirements, were approved by the Rescue Review Board, and it is ready for action by this Board. Commissioner Gambill asked what level rescue Ronda will be. A representative from Ronda replied medium rescue at this time. Commissioner Gambill stated they have been providing rescue inside the Town limits for a while. Ronda replied they have been ready for a while and were just waiting on the county approval.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle asked the status of Pleasant Hill and where they are in the approval process. Commissioner Minton replied they have one Ag Rescue Class which they are due to complete on October 20, 2018, purchase a few chains, and then they will have met all inspections conditions. Commissioner Minton said they will be on the November 8, 2018 agenda for approval before this Board. Commissioner Minton stated the Rescue Review Board conditionally approved them on October 4th.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the Contract for Fire Protection – Addendum for Secondary Provider Rescue Services with the Ronda Community Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. as presented at tonight’s meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

Mr. Triplett stated both these Fire Departments were approved and qualify for medium rescue. If they ever want to upgrade to heavy, as Champion mentioned, they are required to come back before the Rescue Review Board. He added they are not required to come back before the Board of Commissioners and will not need another contract. This contract approved tonight allows them to go to heavy rescue.

TOWN OF WILKESBORO – WILKESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT – CONTRACT FOR SECONDARY PROVIDER RESCUE SERVICES – Mr. Triplett stated this is similar to the prior two except Wilkesboro is not a rural volunteer fire department. He added they requested the county consider a contract allowing them to provide rescue services outside the town limits and within the county limits. He said the Rescue Review Board approved this and recommended it, which then had to go to the Wilkesboro Town Council. Mr. Triplett said it took them a little while to approve it, but they have now done that. He added the concern the Town had is they did not want them as primary, just secondary. Chief Jason Smithey replied that is

correct, they just want to help out when they can, if they are needed. Mr. Triplett stated it is now ready for consideration by this Board.

Commissioner Gambill said Wilkesboro has been providing rescue for a long time in the town limits and they are glad to have them. Mr. Smithey stated he and Mr. Triplett talked about this and decided the best way to cover everybody was to have this contract approved. He added things do change when they go outside the town limits to help. Commissioner Gambill agreed. Chairman Blevins stated he was glad to talk with the Town Officials to work with them and get this done. He added Commissioner Minton did a great job to get these worked out and approved for these three departments.

Commissioner Greg Minton made a motion to approve the Contract for Secondary Provider Rescue Services with the Town of Wilkesboro for the Wilkesboro Fire Department as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved

WILKES RESCUE SQUAD – Chairman Blevins recognized and welcomed Bill Myers, Board President. Mr. Myers, Patrick Jackson, and Christopher Minton came forward to present the update. Mr. Myers thanked the Board for the opportunity to give an update on the Rescue Squad. He said he will provide an update from their Board and the others will give updates on call volume and other things. Mr. Myers said they have a Board of Directors that looks after the financial responsibilities of the Squad and the members look after the day to day operations.

Mr. Myers provided a brief history of the Rescue Squad that began in 1955. He added they employ a CPA to pay the bills and provide them monthly financial reports. They hire a CPA firm to file their annual tax return and audit, which they supply to the county. He stated the Board looks after the money. Mr. Myers said the day to day is controlled by the Executive Committee which is the Chief and four Officers. The budget for 2018 is \$215,000, and \$150,000 of this comes from the county, which they appreciate and could not operate without. They may need more, he added. Mr. Myers said the remaining \$65,000 comes from grants and fundraisers.

Mr. Myers stated in the next two years they will have two non-budgeted, non-reoccurring expenses that total \$100,000, which is equipment needed for the ambulances. Two life packs which they have not purchased and 4 doses of TNK (clot buster drugs) which they have purchased for just over \$22,000. He said these make their ambulances compliant with North Carolina's regulations and equivalent to the county ambulances. Mr. Myers said they have applied for grants to cover these, with no guarantees they will be received. He thanked the Board and Citizens in Wilkes for their support in the past and in the future and added without all of this they could not operate.

Mr. Christopher Minton stated he is an EMT Rescue Tech with Wilkes Rescue. He provided a brief summary of their call volume for EMS, Rescue, and motor vehicle entrapments. Mr. Minton stated they have updated their turnout gear, purchased updated rescue tools, and are focusing on training for specialty rescues. They expect water rescue calls to increase, and will soon be certified in both water and high angle. He said they have added several members

recently, most of which are paramedic or ALS level, and soon will have specialty teams throughout the county.

Mr. Patrick Jackson stated he is a Paramedic Rescue Tech and has been on the squad for just a few weeks. He added he is in charge of medical and getting the ambulances back up to par. They are now up to state and county requirements, they are now exactly the same as the county ambulances. Mr. Patrick said their back up calls have increased significantly since January, when the county runs an ambulance they respond with an ambulance at ALS level every time. He stated the 4 doses of TNK (clot buster drug) took a lot of money, it is expensive, but they can replace it when it expires at no charge. Mr. Jackson said they also provide medical standbys for festivals, marathons, and many football ball games from Pee Wee to High School. They are supplied with ALS level staff, if a player or fan either one needs treatment or transport they are there to provide it. If they have to leave they work with the county supervisor to make sure this is covered and the scheduling is working well and much better than in the past. Mr. Patrick said they are also now providing a standby unit at all structure fires for Fireman on scene to provide medical intervention as needed. They are helping to provide access to patients during storms and flooding, when EMS calls they bring their Gator ATV to get to the patient when needed. Mr. Patrick stated they can respond and provide medical capabilities throughout the entire county as Wilkes Rescue Squad. They can assist EMS at any location as well as all Fire Departments in the county.

Vice Chairman Settle stated the Squad helped with water rescues just last week with flooding near Second Street. He said they mentioned the clot busting drug will be replaced for free and asked if this has happened in the past. Mr. Jackson stated the TNK Company gives them 6 months prior and 60 days after the expiration to call them and request a replacement dose. If they do this it is replaced for free, if they do not call within this window they have to purchase the replacement. Mr. Myers said until this year they only had one dose. This year they have added it to all their ambulances which is four at a cost of \$22K. They want to do this and be the exact same as EMS.

Mr. Myers said they provide all the services just mentioned in addition to their rescue services and training, this is where they are a little different from the fire departments. He added they welcome the fire departments and the service they provide, because they can get to the accidents to open a door much quicker than the squad can. Commissioner Elmore asked where they go for training. Mr. Jackson replied they go to local fire departments, Wilkes Community College, and also go out of town around the state. Mr. Minton added Surry Community College offers the entire rescue series and classes needed annually. Commissioner Gambill asked the number of members they have now. Mr. Myers replied 33. He asked how many have they added since January. Mr. Myers replied 8 to 10. Commissioner Gambill asked how many active members are there. Mr. Myers replied 50% active, 25% semi-active and 25% on the roll. Vice Chairman Settle added it seems they have some very good younger members, and he is very impressed with Chief, Cole Wyatt.

Mr. Myers stated they appreciate the county's support and particularly would appreciate consideration on the non-budgeted item for this year that he has spoken with them about. He

added they still have a \$27K truck payment and \$30K in insurance they have to pay. These have been budgeted, but the drugs were not. Chairman Blevins stated it is great to see the new younger guys coming in and taken over these rolls and the great job they did with presenting tonight as well. It feels good to know there are younger folks coming in that care about the community, they need them and appreciate all they do.

The Board thanked the Rescue Squad for all they do.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT – REQUEST TO SET PUBLIC HEARING – ROAD NAME REQUEST – WEST BEND DRIVE – Chairman Blevins recognized W.C. Scroggs, Planner. Mr. Scroggs 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 West Bend Drive off Red Top Road (SR 1148) in Lewis Fork 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.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to set a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. regarding the Road Name Request as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greg Minton and unanimously approved.

TAX DEPARTMENT:

1. TAX RELEASES – LISTING – Chairman Blevins recognized Alex Hamilton, Tax Administrator. Mr. Hamilton asked the Board to approve tax releases for listing in the amount of \$6,711.67.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the tax releases for listing as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greg Minton and unanimously approved.

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

2. CHARGE TAX ADMINISTRATOR WITH COLLECTION OF THE 2018 UTILITIES TAXES – Mr. Hamilton stated the Board needs to charge the Tax Administrator with collecting the 2018 Utilities Tax as followings:

2018 Utilities	Total Value: \$210,361,981.00
	Total Taxes: \$ 1,635,333.27

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to charge Alex Hamilton, Tax Administrator with collecting the 2018 Utilities Tax, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

3. PRESENT SCHEDULE OF VALUES – PRESENT USE SCHEDULE – REQUEST TO SET PUBIC HEARING – Mr. Hamilton stated N.C.G.S. 105-317 requires that the Schedule of Standards and Rules required by 105-317 be reviewed and approved by the

Board of County Commissioners before January 1st of the year they are applied. He would like to present the Schedule of Values and the Present Use Schedule of Values to the Board tonight. Mr. Hamilton said he would also like the Board to consider holding a Public Hearing on November 8, 2018 meeting so that the schedules can be approved at the November 20, 2018 meeting. He added there are rules on when these can be approved. After approved if the Board chooses to do so, there is a 30-day period which tax payers have a right to appeal the Schedules to the Property Tax Commissioner. Mr. Hamilton stated that is why this is required. He added if someone wants to review these the tax department staff will be available to help with questions.

Chairman Blevins asked if the Schedules are available for review by the public. Mr. Hamilton replied they will be in the Appraisal Department for review. He added there are many tables and information included in the schedules. Commissioner Gambill asked how many times someone can come in and change a tax value. Mr. Hamilton stated there is a set period of time that someone can appeal a value, which is until the Board of Equalization and Review adjourns for taking new business. This past year it was late April or early May for the 2018 values. He added someone can appeal right now for next year, they can do this anytime. Mr. Hamilton stated it can only be heard when that Board meets. The new value notices will not be sent until February or March 2019.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to set a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 5:05 P.M. and immediately following Public Hearing, with the meeting to immediately follow, regarding the Schedule of Values and Present Use Schedule as requested and presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

WILKES COUNTY AIRPORT:

1. RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO LEASE AND OPERATIONS AGREEMENT – AARON AEROSPACE, INC. – County Attorney Tony Triplett said this was heard at the last meeting when the Board authorized him to advertise this, which he did. It is now before the Board for approval, if they wish to do so. He added the Resolution in the package is for an Amendment to Mr. Aarons lease at the Airport for the Community Hangar.

Commissioner Elmore stated the rental is \$1,300 per month and asked how much is Mr. Arron past due. Mr. Triplett replied he is currently past due \$800.00. Chairman Blevins said this seems reasonable, the rental for a single aircraft space is \$250 and there is no waiting list for hangars. He added the Governor flew into the Airport last Friday to tour the Western area of the State and parts of Wilkes County that flooded in Roaring River and North Wilkesboro. He added he would like to commend the folks at the Airport and the new runway, aprons, taxiways, lights, everything looked great.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing Amendment to Lease and Operations Agreement with Aaron Aerospace, Inc., at Wilkes County Airport as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

*RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
AMENDMENT TO LEASE AND OPERATIONS AGREEMENT
WITH AARON AEROSPACE, INC., AT WILKES COUNTY AIRPORT*

*WHEREAS, the County of Wilkes (hereinafter the "County") is the owner and operator of the Wilkes County Airport in Rock Creek Township, Wilkes County, North Carolina, and is further the owner of a hangar and office space which is approximately 12,648 square feet in size, the same having been purchased by the County from U*S Aviation, LLC, in 2005, and being known as the "community hangar"; and*

WHEREAS, the County duly approved and entered into a Lease and Operations Agreement with Aaron Aerospace, Inc. (hereinafter "Aaron Aerospace"), under date of December 1, 2017, for the lease of the community hangar, said Lease and Operations Agreement having been recorded in Book 1260, Page 276, Wilkes County Registry (hereinafter the "Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the parties have agreed to enter into an Amendment to the Agreement as is more fully set forth below; and

WHEREAS, the Wilkes County Airport Board at its regular meeting of August 16, 2018, approved the Amendment and recommended that it further be approved by the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners (hereinafter the "Board of Commissioners"); and

WHEREAS, the Amendment would modify the Agreement in the following manner and respects:

- 1. PURPOSE AND USE OF LEASED PREMISES: Under the Amendment, Aaron Aerospace would no longer lease the entire community hangar from the County but would instead lease one space in the aircraft storage area of the same for aircraft storage by Aaron Aerospace, together with the office space (first floor and second floor) in the community hangar. All other areas in the aircraft storage area of the hangar would revert to the County for its lease of spaces for aircraft owned by other parties.*
- 2. RENTAL: Aaron Aerospace's rental obligations under the Agreement would be set at \$1,300.00 per month for the remainder of the term of the Agreement, from September 1, 2018 through November 30, 2019, reflecting rent for the aircraft storage space and office space together with prorated monthly payments in satisfaction of Aaron Aerospace's current rental arrearage under the Agreement.*

3. *MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS: Miscellaneous provisions of the Agreement would be amended to make the Agreement consistent in all respects with the foregoing.*

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, upon review of the Amendment, desires to accept the recommendation of the Wilkes County Airport Board and approve said Amendment, and to authorize the execution thereof; and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Intent describing the terms of the Amendment has been duly published at least ten (10) days prior to said meeting, as required by G.S. §160A-272;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to G.S. §§153A-176, 160A-272, and 63-53(3), that the Amendment with Aaron Aerospace as presented at the September 18, 2018 meeting of the Board of Commissioners, and as set forth in the Notice of Intent, is hereby approved, the same to have an effective date of September 1, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman and Clerk of the Board of Commissioners are authorized to execute the Amendment on behalf of the County.

This the 16th day of October, 2018.

WILKES COUNTY

By: _____

Gary D. Blevins, Chairman

Wilkes County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

*_____
Sarah D. Call, Clerk*

2. BOARD APPOINTMENT – Mr. Triplett said as the Board will recall, the Airport Board did vote at its meeting on August 16, 2018, to recommend Mr. Bud Crouse to fill the remaining term of Airport Board member Ed Mulholland who died unexpectedly in March of this year. Mr. Crouse will serve the remainder of Mr. Mulholland’s term, which runs through September 30, 2020. He added Mr. Crouse is a pilot with Vannoy & Sons Construction, has indicated he is willing to serve and completed the Board Application.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to appoint Mr. Bud Crouse to the Wilkes County Airport Board to fill the remaining term of Mr. Ed Mulholland effective through September 30, 2020, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greg Minton and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS – Commissioner Greg Minton made a motion to reimburse the Wilkes Rescue Squad the cost of the anti-clotting drugs on their Ambulances. Chairman Blevins asked if this is for the three new ones or for all four of them. Commissioner Minton replied their out of pocket cost of just over \$22,000.00. Chairman Blevins stated there is a Motion on the floor to create a Budget Amendment and asked if this would need to come back before the Board to be approved as an amendment to the budget. Finance Officer Chris Huffman stated if the Board determines

they are going to appropriate this at this time no second approval Budget Amendment will be required. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore.

Commissioner Gambill stated he does not have a problem with this, but would have liked to known about this prior. Chairman Blevins said it is a little unusual, they do not normally do business this way and would not typically make a decision like this. Vice Chairman Eddie Settle asked about the drugs expiration. Mr. Myers replied they have a 2-year shelf life. Vice Chairman Settle stated if they had let the company know within the 6 month time frame, they replace it free of charge. Mr. Myers stated there is a time frame before the 2-years is up they can turn them in and get a new one. Vice Chairman Settle asked if this had been done in the past or did it run out. Mr. Jackson replied it ran out by the previous administration at the Rescue Squad. Vice Chairman Settle stated they let it expire. Mr. Myers stated yes just the one.

Commissioner Gambill asked how many do they have on the Squad that can administer this drug. Mr. Jackson replied it takes a special certification to administer this and they have two paramedics that can do this. Commissioner Gambill said they have two paramedics that may or may not be there that can use this. Mr. Myers said the county ambulances can administer it. Vice Chairman Settle stated the county ambulances have this drug on their units, already, correct. Mr. Jackson replied yes they do, if an EMS Supervisor runs the call as well they can administer the drug. They can take it off the squad ambulance and administer it. Vice Chairman Settle asked Mr. Jackson if he feels confident that there will be someone there at all times to administer this drug. He replied no sir, if they need an EMS supervisor, it is possible they would come, but there is no guarantee. Commissioner Elmore asked do they need the drug or not. Mr. Myers replied yes sir, it saves lives. It is required by the State, Dr. McGinnis their Medical Director, whom they share with the county as an ALS service, requires it under his protocols, as well. Vice Chairman Settle stated the reason he asks questions is the tax payers want to know and he needs to know so he can answer the questions they get. Commissioner Gambill stated he is also frustrated that the drug ran out and could have been replaced for free and it was not. Mr. Jackson agreed it is frustrating, but it was the previous administration. He added the new administration has made progress and things are getting better. Commissioner Elmore stated this will be a one-time expense. Chairman Blevins said next time this needs to go through administration as a Budget Amendment, this is not the way they like to do things.

Commissioner Greg Minton made a motion to reimburse the Wilkes Rescue Squad the cost of the anti-clotting drugs on their Ambulances, in the amount of \$22,000.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

Mr. Gary Page, Interim County Manager stated he would like to take this opportunity to say thank you Chairman and Board for the opportunity to come back as Interim County Manager for 6 weeks. He added he thought during his 12 years they did a lot of good things. When he comes back and he sees the new jail, Ag Center, and the Sheriff's Office the Board didn't stop and just kept moving forward. Mr. Page said he has been very impressed with the staff, some he knows and some are new and he is enjoying getting to know. They have great staff members. He added he wants to say thank you, sometimes when you sit in the mountains and 6 months go by, you go

stale and these interim jobs help to keep his hands in it and up to date. He appreciates the Board's confidence. Chairman Blevins said they appreciate having Mr. Page to fill this role.

ADJOURN - Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore, seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 7:57 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gary D. Blevins, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: