

**MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 1, 2022**

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Wilkes County Agricultural Center located at 416 Executive Drive, Wilkesboro, N.C. 28697 with the following members present: Chairman Keith Elmore, Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson, Commissioner David Gambill, Commissioner Eddie Settle and Commissioner Brian S. Minton.

Also present for the meeting were Tony Triplett, County Attorney; Chris Huffman, Finance Director; and Sarah Call, Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Keith Elmore welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at this time. He welcomed and recognized Holly Minton, the new North Wilkesboro Town Manager. Chairman Elmore said County Manager John Yates is unable to attend the meeting tonight.

INVOCATION – Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson led the Invocation.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Commissioner Brian S. Minton, seconded by Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on October 18, 2022.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to approve Budget Amendment No. 11 (Health – Programs – Wilkes Health received \$4,315 in CDC Covid Vaccination funds. These funds will be utilized to provide Covid testing and vaccinations with an emphasis on reaching high-risk and underserved populations. No county money involved. Wilkes Health received \$7,844 from the state for the Infant Mortality Reduction program. These funds will be utilized to purchase additional portable cribs and/or car seats for underinsured/uninsured clients in Wilkes County. No county money involved. Wilkes Health received \$350 from Project Lazarus. These funds will be used to provide substance abuse services for residents of Wilkes County. No county money involved. Wilkes Health is requesting to move \$19,000 from Covid Advertisement funds to Capital Outlay/Other to repaint the interior offices, hallways, and clinic areas, as well as floors of the Health Department. Wilkes Health is requesting to move \$20,000 from Covid Contract Services to Capital Outlay/Other to repair the sewer system at the Health Center. No county money involved). The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously approved.

MOTORSPORTS RELIEF FUND – CHOATE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY – FIRST GMP AMENDMENT TO DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACT – Chairman Elmore welcomed Jon Jacek, Choate Construction and thanked him for attending. Mr. Jacek stated before the Board is the proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Design-Build Contract for the North Wilkesboro Speedway renovations project. This first amendment is for the SAFER Barrier Walls, these are

not currently installed at the track and is a requirement for Nascar and the upcoming race in May. He added it also includes upgrading track lighting, which is another requirement from Nascar for the All-Star Race in May. The amendment also includes design fees and civil engineering fees for the renovation work to take place. Renovations will include suites, race operation, media centers, bathrooms, concessions, and other ancillary structures will be upgraded. Mr. Jacek stated the packages have been reviewed by Speedway Motor Sports. The first page is the amendment page of what is included in the package with a grand total of \$3,883,546.00, second page is the GMP reconciliation sheet. It shows the GMP of \$14 million for this project, next column shows the \$3,883,546 and includes their fees for general contractor which is allocated for this amendment and comes out of the \$14 million.

Mr. Jacek said the next page is the bid tabulation for the SAFER Barrier, which they did receive 3 bids with the low bid from Smith Safety Systems for \$1,095,417. They are recommending to award this bid to Smith Safety Systems as the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of \$1,095,417. Next, is the Track Lighting, they received 2 bids, re-bid it and received 2 bids again. He added they have identified Musco Lighting as the lowest qualified bidder. They are recommending to award this bid to Musco Lighting as the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of \$1,950,000. Mr. Triplett said the amended contract is 98 pages, tonight they are going over an abridged version for the meeting. He added Choate has done a great job and worked closely with the County Staff and it has been a good working relationship. Mr. Triplett stated the contract the Board approved at the last meeting was for the umbrella or overview of all the work. They knew that Choate would be coming back with amendments for different stages of the work and this is the first contract amendment.

Commissioner Eddie Settle made a motion to approve Contract Amendment No. 1 to the September 23, 2022 Design-Build Contract between Wilkes County and Choate Construction Company for the Motorsports Relief Fund Project, establishing a Guaranteed Maximum Price in the amount of \$3,883,546.00 for SAFER Barrier and Track Lighting work, as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

FIRE MARSHAL – FIREWORKS PERMIT APPLICATION – Chairman Elmore welcomed Jeff Anderson, Fire Marshal. Mr. Anderson stated he is asking for approval of a Firework Display for Josh Blake at Blake Farms for a Wedding event show on November 19, 2022. He added the application meets the requirements of the 2010 Pyrotechnics Act and the County requirements. Mr. Anderson said they have the appropriate Certificates of Insurance and everything is in order, by statute the local Board of County Commissioners must approve these events, which he is recommending.

Commissioner Brian Minton made a motion to approve the Fireworks Display Permit Applications for Blake Farms Wedding Event Show for November 19, 2022 as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson and passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE – Chairman Elmore welcomed and recognized John Blevins, DSS Director. Mr. Blevins said first he would like to provide updates on a few things. November is Adoption Awareness Month and Sunday, November 20th is National Adoption Day and they have a real need for adoptions of teenagers. Currently in Wilkes County there are 49 kids cleared for adoption, 29 are in an adoptive home at this time. The remaining 20 do not have an adoptive home at this time: 4 of these are ages 6-13; 16 are ages 13-18 all cleared for adoption without a home. This month they are taking their adoptive parents to the Smokehouse and also giving them tickets to the Festival of Lights in Tanglewood to show their appreciation.

Mr. Blevins said Medicaid expansion, probably will not happen for a while, if at all. If they do approve it Wilkes will have 6,745 more individuals approved for Medicaid. They have 21,685 on Medicaid currently, this will be a 31% increase. He added if this happens they will need more staff at DSS, and thinks they will need 6 Income Maintenance Workers. The good news is this will be under the 75-25 reimbursement. Since Adult Services moved to the Curtis Bridge Road location they have 6 open offices at the main DSS office if needed. This could affect the budget next year, if it passes and why he wanted to let the Board know.

Mr. Blevins said the children staying in their office for lack of placement is getting worse. In 2019 had 10 nights; 2020 had 60 nights; 2021 went down to 19; and so far in 2022 they have had 89 to include one tonight. It is taxing the staff, but he is currently contracting with retired Social Workers to come and help sit with them. They have one staff and one contracted person to stay as they are required to have two at all times. Most are older teenagers that have disrupted their placement and the facility refused to keep them. This one should have placement tomorrow, but this is an issue all over the State, it is not a Wilkes County problem. He added they have more violent and aggressive behaviors. Commissioner Gambill stated there is nothing they can do about it, they raised the age to 18, they can't charge them and their hands are tied.

Mr. Blevins went over the monthly caseload reports for September at this time. Next, he went through the Foster Care financial report, Adoption Services financial report, Child Development and Subsidized Child Care financial reports for September. Mr. Blevins went over the CPS Foster Care monthly report for September at this time.

Chairman Elmore and the Board thanked Mr. Blevins for the update.

FINANCE – UPDATE – Chairman Elmore recognized Chris Huffman, Finance Director. Mr. Huffman thanked the Board and stated they are in the process of finishing the yearly audit with Martin and Starnes. It should be completed in the next few weeks, and at this time everything looks good, they had a good year. Next, he presented the September 30, 2022 Financial Report.

The Financial Report is shown on the next pages:

WILKES COUNTY
 Cash and Investments
 September 30, 2022

CENTRAL DEPOSITORY

Checking Account.....	\$ 940,909.33
Investments.....	<u>88,855,788.20</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 89,796,697.53</u>

CENTRAL DEPOSITORY EQUITY BY FUNDS

General Fund.....	\$ 58,447,274.76
Emergency Telephone E-911 System.....	101,988.38
Law Enforcement Restricted Fund.....	8,687.82
SCIF Grant.....	362,500.00
EMS Capital Project Fund.....	7,665,311.34
American Rescue Act.....	11,864,396.21
Opioid Settlement.....	1,053,217.44
Airport Enterprise Fund.....	1,049,966.31
Landfill Enterprise Fund.....	2,316,980.33
Landfill Capital Reserve Fund.....	5,409,955.89
Tax Collections to be distributed to (4) Towns.....	385,214.18
Tax Collections to be distributed to (25) Fire Districts.....	<u>1,131,204.87</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 89,796,697.53</u>

CENTRAL DEPOSITORY EQUITY BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

NC Capital Management Trust.....	\$ 38,161,744.83
First Citizens Bank.....	31,777,461.78
Truist.....	2,854,374.05
First National Bank.....	2,066,837.79
Horizon Bank.....	5,221,386.46
US Bank/LOBs.....	2,250.62
EMS/Chase Project Fund.....	<u>9,712,642.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 89,796,697.53</u>

Mr. Huffman stated typically the county does not have this much money. These funds include the Opioid Settlement; American Rescue Act; and EMS Base Loan Funds. The first payment on the loan was made today and he would like to point out that a lot of these funds will draw down quickly.

WILKES COUNTY
 TAX COLLECTIONS SUMMARY REPORT
 GENERAL FUND

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>FISCAL YEAR</u> <u>2020-2021</u>	<u>FISCAL YEAR</u> <u>2021-2022</u>	<u>CURRENT</u> <u>FISCAL YEAR</u> <u>2022-2023</u>	<u>MORE/LESS</u> <u>THAN</u> <u>PRIOR YEAR</u>
JULY	\$ 264,583.62	\$ 301,109.96	\$ 257,664.21 *	\$ (43,445.75)
AUGUST	17,386,755.43	18,727,430.43	18,759,302.35	31,871.92
SEPTEMBER	3,806,637.08	3,325,958.57	3,458,146.53	132,187.96
OCTOBER	1,345,112.91	1,384,640.08		
NOVEMBER	1,631,511.58	1,368,169.35		
DECEMBER	5,055,546.20	4,652,499.10		
JANUARY	4,722,857.13	4,851,201.76		
FEBRUARY	1,287,674.44	1,400,373.50		
MARCH	1,482,290.60	1,335,562.56		
APRIL	934,173.59	777,789.51		
MAY	763,204.08	860,726.95		
JUNE	<u>621,575.37</u>	<u>435,420.68</u>		
TOTAL	<u>39,301,922.03</u>	<u>39,420,882.45</u>	<u>22,475,113.09</u>	
BUDGET	<u>38,421,558.00</u>	<u>39,331,830.00</u>	<u>40,495,630.00</u>	
OVER/UNDER	880,364.03	89,052.45	(18,020,516.91)	

* July Vehicle Taxes not collected from the State until August

The above figures represent the following monies collected by
 Tax Collections (General Fund Only). Does not include Fire Districts and Towns.

- A. Current Year Tax Collections (Real, Personal and Vehicles)
- B. Prior Years (1st through 10th)
- C. Penalties, Interest and Advertising Costs on Past Due Taxes
- D. Less 1.5% Tax Discounts for Early Payments

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WILKES COUNTY SALES TAX DISTRIBUTION CURRENT FISCAL YEAR COMPARISON TO LAST FISCAL YEAR

ACTUAL:	COUNTY			Fiscal Year Comparison		Article 46
MONTH STATE	RECEIVED	FY: 2021-2022	FY: 2022-2023	Difference +/-	% More/Less	Additional ¼ cent
COLLECTED*	(15 TH of Month)					Effective 10/1/2010
July	September	1,952,285.33	2,481,413.98	529,128.65	27.10%	186,062.28
August	October	2,006,981.68				
September	November	1,697,485.52				
October	December	1,973,273.80				
November	January	2,045,893.37				
December	February	2,289,743.47				
January	March	2,510,540.12				
February	April	1,906,910.65				
March	May	1,741,944.01				
April	June	2,341,908.72				
May	July	2,212,379.76				
June	August	<u>2,199,208.45</u>				
Total Collected:		<u>24,878,554.88</u>	2,481,413.98	529,128.65	27.10%	186,062.28
BUDGET:						
Total Budgeted:		<u>22,421,284.00</u>	23,033,918.00	612,634.00	2.73%	
			<u>÷12</u>			
Monthly Budget			1,919,493.17			
			<u>X 1 month</u>			
			1,919,493.17			
Over/Short of Budget		2,457,270.88	561,920.81	29.27% Collections to Date More (Less) than Budget		

NOTE:

*The month listed is when the NCDOR collects the revenue for sales generated the prior month. Therefore, July collections are for sales in the month of June, etc. and the funds are forwarded to us 2 months following their collections. We receive July collections in September, etc.

**Wilkes County General Fund
 Other Miscellaneous
 September 30, 2022**

To be on target with Budget the % used or collected should be: 25%

Summary of other Revenue & Expense

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>%</u>
Deed Stamp Excise Tax	230,000	122,011	53.0%
Reg of Deeds Recording Fees	215,000	50,038	23.3%
Building Inspection Fees	170,000	65,195	38.3%
Planning Permits & Fees	40,000	9,210	23.0%
Environmental Health Fees	185,000	44,805	24.2%
EMS Collections	2,740,000	1,091,966	39.9%

<u>Expense</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>(Used) or Added</u>	<u>Available</u>
Contingency Reserve	\$ 25,000	\$	\$ 25,000

	<u>2022-2023 Revised Budget</u>	<u>2022-2023 Actual</u>	
General Fund			
Total General Fund Revenues	\$ 94,661,341	\$ 31,933,782	33.7%
Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 94,661,341	<u>19,856,517</u>	21.0%
	Revenues Over (Under) Expense	12,077,266	

ADJOURN – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill, seconded by Vice Chairman Casey Joe Johnson and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 6:45 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gideon Keith Elmore, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: November 15, 2022