

**MINUTES**  
**WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**November 5, 2019**

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. with the following members present: Chairman Gideon Keith Elmore, Vice Chairman Eddie Settle, Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, Commissioner David Gambill, and Commissioner Brian S. Minton.

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

Chairman Elmore welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION** – Commissioner David Gambill led the Invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chairman Elmore lead the Pledge of Allegiance at this time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion was made by Commissioner Brian S. Minton, seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on October 15, 2019.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS** – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to approve Budget Amendment No. 13 (Sheriff – Request come from GovDeals sale of previously owned sheriff's office equipment in the amount of \$11,368. This money will be used to replace older equipment; and Budget Amendment No. 14 Health – Programs – Health Dept. Programs – Wilkes County Health Department received additional funds from The Health Foundation in the amount of \$2,200 to provide additional services in Health Promotions for the citizens of Wilkes County. No County money involved. Wilkes County Health Department received additional Federal funds from HRSA in the amount of \$110,000 to be utilized for the Wilkes Community Health Center programs. No County money involved. Wilkes County Health Department received \$15,953 additional funds from the state to provide additional services for Family Planning patients. No County money involved. Wilkes County Environmental Health received \$1,010 funds from the state for travel expenses for EH employee training. No County money involved); and Budget Amendment No. 15 (Sheriff – The request for this funding to be transferred is needed to pay for a new camera system at the Wilkes County Jail. The funds are available for the camera system in the 2019-2020 budget, however the project is billed as a whole and would need to come from capital outlay in the amount of \$130,145). The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

**BROADWAY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT – NOTIFICATION OF RESCUE TRUCK OFFER TO PURCHASE** – Chairman Elmore welcomed and recognized Tracy Brooks, Fire Chief for Broadway Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Brooks said as the Board

knows they are providing rescue services and cannot fit the extra equipment on their current trucks. He stated the Broadway Fire Department Members and the Board of Directors made an offer to purchase a used 1990 GMC Topkick rescue truck currently for sale by the North Iredell Rescue Squad. Mr. Brooks said the price was \$20,000, they made an offer of \$15,000. The Broadway Volunteer Fire Department would like to purchase the rescue truck at a price of \$15,000 which has been approved by the Board of Directors of the North Iredell Rescue Squad. He added they would like to change their budget to make this purchase and have the funds in the bank to cover this. Mr. Triplett stated this does not require Board approval, notification is all that is needed for the purchase. Commissioner Gambill asked their level of rescue. Mr. Brooks replied they are medium rescue at this time.

The Board thanked Chief Brooks and Broadway Fire Department for the good job and all they do for the community.

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE** – Chairman Elmore welcomed and recognized John Blevins, DSS Director. Mr. Blevins provided an update on the Medicaid Transformation timeline as found in the packet. At this time managed care will become effective February 1, 2020 and beneficiaries can begin to scheduled trips on January 1<sup>st</sup> for February 1<sup>st</sup> start date. He added if the state budget is not passed by mid-November this date will have to be delayed. It was suggested to move this back to July 1, 2020. Mr. Blevins said they do have someone stationed in their office from the state to help folks with questions and assistance, it is not impacting the employees at this time, but it will be a big change for the recipients. Chairman Elmore asked if this takes place in February 1, 2020 what is the impact to DSS. Mr. Blevins replied it is not a lot of impact to the staff, of the individuals they have at this time that receive Medicaid over 6,000 will be placed in the managed care standard plan, it is not adding new. Chairman Elmore asked if it will take work off his staff. Mr. Blevins replied no it has actually been busier due to the calls and questions. They will still determine eligibility.

Mr. Blevins stated they have 2 months left in the 10 month Medicaid audit. At this time there have been zero pay backs and the state has told them they are doing an excellent job and the best of the 30 counties included in this first round. The good news is they will not have this again for 2 years. He added they will have another audit for adult cases after this one. Mr. Blevins stated anytime there is a Medicaid audit there is always potential for paybacks. He added fortunately they have very good workers that do a great job. Chairman Elmore stated Medicaid adds \$150 million into the economy every year. Mr. Blevins agreed, and said when they add in food and nutrition it helps to keep the grocery stores open and people fed.

Mr. Blevins stated the state has just passed S.B. 537 which could affect P4 which is the NC Fast for Child Welfare. There have pilot counties testing all of the program and other counties only working with intake and assessment as they do for this program. He said this bill changes the deployment function for P4 in NC Fast for the case management function of child welfare and aging services. It cannot be rolled out to everyone any earlier than July 1, 2020, they have to work on it and fix it. Mr. Blevins said they can opt out, which they have not done up to this point. He added they wanted to stay in it as long as the state was eventually going to deploy it, but they are requesting information from other groups to see if they have a better program. Mr.

Blevins said they like the mobile app with the iPad, it works well, but if the state says they are no longer going to deploy this they will opt out at that time. They are keeping a close watch on this and as long as it is not a burden on the staff they plan to leave it as is. Mr. Blevins provided an update on the LIEAP and CIP program assistance as well.

Mr. Blevins went over the monthly caseload report for September. Next, he went through the Foster Care financial report. Mr. Blevins went through the Adoption Services financial report, Child Development and Subsidized Child Care financial reports for September. He said the state had a hold on working the waiting list for child care and they could not add anyone. Those numbers went up, but now they are allowing them to add work first clients and provide day care assistance. Mr. Blevins said if they are under 100% after these are taken care of they can now add new ones. He said the packet contains the number of foster homes in the surrounding counties that were requested last month. Mr. Blevins stated Mr. Wilson checked with Ebenezer and they have 18 Foster Homes located in addition to the 33 DSS Foster Homes in the county, and Wilkes is very fortunate to have them. They are going to focus on getting this number up for DSS as discussed last month, he added.

The Board thanked Mr. Blevins for the update and information.

**WILKES COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT – RESOLUTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF WILKES COUNTY REMOTE CONTROL CAR CLUB LEASE –**

County Attorney Tony Triplett stated on October 1<sup>st</sup> the Board heard a proposal for the renewal of the Sublease Agreement for Wilkes County Remote Control Car Club. It was authorized to proceed with advertisement for the required 30-days. He said there is a Resolution in the packets before the Board that will approve the renewal of the sublease if that is their wish. Mr. Triplett stated this is for 3 more years with the same terms and conditions, this had been leased since 2006 with the remote control car club. He added this is very popular and draws folks to the County from surrounding counties and other states.

Commissioner Brian S. Minton made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Sublease Agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

*RESOLUTION  
APPROVING  
SUBLEASE AGREEMENT*

*WHEREAS, Wilkes County (“the County”) leased a certain tract or parcel of real property from ECMD, Inc., f/k/a/ East Coast Millwork Distributors, Inc. consisting of 89.885 acres located in the Town of Wilkesboro, Wilkesboro Township, Wilkes County, North Carolina, under a Lease Agreement dated December 1, 1994, and recorded at Book 737, Page 870, Wilkes County Registry, said Lease Agreement having been subsequently modified by that Amendment to Lease Agreement dated April 1, 2003, as recorded at Book 913, Page 056, Wilkes County Registry, and by that Amendment to Lease Agreement dated December 23, 2003, as recorded at Book 936, Page 422, Wilkes County Registry; and*

*WHEREAS, the above described property was leased by the County for recreational purposes and is now operated by the County as a park and recreational facility under the name "Lowe's Park at River's Edge; and*

*WHEREAS, the County has received an offer from Wilkes County Remote Control Car Club to sublease certain real property for the operation and racing of remote control cars, said real property consisting of that portion of Lowe's Park at River's Edge as is shown and described on Exhibit "A" attached to the proposed Sublease Agreement in this matter and being further described as follows: Bounded on the south by the former runway for the old Wilkes County Airport, on the west by the eastern edge of the existing tree line between the subleased premises and the new Wilkes YMCA, on the north by a curving boundary as shown on said Exhibit "A" which at its closest point is thirty (30) feet from the Yadkin River Greenway trail, and on the east by a ditch line and that line as shown on said Exhibit "A;" and*

*WHEREAS, the proposed Sublease Agreement provides for a term of three (3) years, commencing as of September 1, 2019, and expiring on August 31, 2022, with no rent to be paid but with certain obligations to be met by Wilkes County Remote Control Car Club concerning its operations on the subleased premises, including but not limited to the requirement that the same be used exclusively for the operation and racing of remote control cars; and*

*WHEREAS, the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners (hereinafter the "Board of Commissioners") desires to accept said offer and to enter into a Sublease Agreement evidencing the terms of the same, as presented to the Board of Commissioners together with this Resolution at the regular meeting of the same held on November 5, 2019; and*

*WHEREAS, notice describing the terms of said Sublease Agreement has been duly published at least thirty (30) days prior to said meeting, as required by G.S. §160A-272(a1);*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to G.S. §§153A-176 and 160A-272, that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Sublease Agreement as described herein and further authorizes its Chairman and Clerk to execute the same.*

*This the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2019.*

ATTEST:

WILKES COUNTY:

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Sarah Call, Clerk

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Gideon Keith Elmore, Chairman  
Wilkes County Board of Commissioners

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – BOARD APPOINTMENT – WILKES COUNTY NURSING HOME COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR LONG TERM CARE** – County Manager John Yates said they received a letter from Ms. Stevie John requesting Ms. Glenda Pierce be appointed for a one-year term to the Wilkes County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care. He added there are currently five vacancies on the committee and she ask to please submit Ms. Pierce’s name to the Board for approval. Mr. Yates stated she has completed the required Board application. Chairman Elmore asked if these vacancies are for Wilkes County. Mr. Yates replied yes. Chairman Elmore said Ms. Pierce is on the Senior Center Board and is a fine lady and will do a great job. He added the Board needs to see what they can do to help fill the vacancies on this Committee.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Glenda Pierce to serve on the Wilkes County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care for a 1-year term as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

**JCPC – BOARD APPOINTMENT** – County Manager John Yates said they received a letter from Ms. Christyn Grant, Chair of the JCPC requesting appointment of Mr. Jared Belk for the appointment of a 2-year term as the Health Director or designee position on the JCPC Board. Mr. Belk is a health educator supervisor at the Wilkes County Health Department. He has completed the required Board Application. Chairman Elmore asked if they received a letter that JCPC has received additional funding. Mr. Huffman replied yes it increased this fiscal year and will go up next fiscal year as well. Chairman Elmore asked if that was state funded. Mr. Yates replied yes.

Commissioner Brian S. Minton made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Jared Belk to the JCPC Board as the Health Director Designee position for a 2-year term, as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

**N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – ROAD MAINTENACE APPROVALS:**

**1. LEXI DRIVE, MILLERS CREEK** – County Manager John Yates stated they received a letter from David Poindexter, District Engineer with the Department of Transportation. It said they received a petition (form SR-1) requesting consideration of the addition of Lexi Drive to the State Maintenance System. This is in the Millers Crossing Subdivision in Millers Creek. He added Commissioner approval is needed before DOT will consider adding this street to the State Maintenance System.

Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill, seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously adopted to approve the N.C. DOT Road Petition for Lexi Drive to be added to the State Maintenance System as presented and requested.

**2. MILLERS CROSSING DRIVE, MILLERS CREEK** – County Manager John Yates stated they received a letter from David Poindexter, District Engineer with the Department

of Transportation. It said they received a petition (form SR-1) requesting consideration of the addition of Millers Crossing Drive to the State Maintenance System. This is also in the Millers Crossing Subdivision in Millers Creek. He added Commissioner approval is needed before DOT will consider adding this street to the State Maintenance System.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle, seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously adopted to approve the N.C. DOT Road Petition for Millers Crossing Drive to be added to the State Maintenance System as presented and requested.

**WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 3, 2019 – CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME** – County Manager John Yates stated Vice Chairman Settle and Commissioner Blevins will be out of Town on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Board needs to change the date of their regular meeting. He said the new date of Monday, December 2, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. has been mentioned. Chairman Elmore asked the pleasure of the Board.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to move the date and time of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting scheduled on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. to Monday, December 2, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at 110 North Street, Wilkesboro, NC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

**CLOSED SESSION** – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to go into closed session under Section 143-318.11(a)(3) of the North Carolina General Statute and to consult with and give instructions to the Board's attorney with respect to a pending lawsuit titled Wilkes County vs. numerous Pharmaceutical Manufactures and Distributors also known as the Opioid Lawsuit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill, seconded by Vice Chairman 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 David Gambill, seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 7:58 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gideon Keith Elmore, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: November 19, 2019