

**WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**POLICY FOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS  
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**(As Amended on August 4, 2020)**

WHEREAS, Eddie D. Settle, Chairman of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners (hereinafter “the Board of Commissioners”) did, under date of March 13, 2020, pursuant to the authority of Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes, N.C.G.S. §166A-19.22, and the Wilkes County State of Emergency Ordinance adopted effective January 1, 1988, issue a Declaration of State of Emergency with regard to COVID-19, to be applicable within Wilkes County and the Towns of Wilkesboro, North Wilkesboro, and Ronda, the same being hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Declaration”; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration has been amended subsequently by Wilkes County and the Towns of Wilkesboro, North Wilkesboro, and Ronda, in various forms, and was most recently amended by that Continuation of Wilkes County, Wilkesboro, North Wilkesboro, and Ronda Declared COVID-19 State of Emergency issued on May 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the foregoing, the Declaration remains in effect at this time; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of North Carolina has, by various Executive Orders issued commencing on March 10, 2020, and continuing through the present time (hereinafter “the Executive Orders”), declared a state of emergency in North Carolina to coordinate response to and take protective actions with regard to preventing the spread of COVID-19 within the state; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Declaration and the Executive Orders, the Board of Commissioners adopted a Policy for Attendance at Meetings of the Board of Commissioners During the COVID-19 State of Emergency under date of April 7, 2020 (hereinafter “the Policy”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners now desires to amend the Policy and to restate the same in its entirety, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the same is hereinafter referred to as “the Amended Policy”; and

WHEREAS, in this Amended Policy the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners is referred to as “the Chairman” and Wilkes County is referred to as “the County”;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt this Amended Policy, the terms of which are as follows:

**Section 1.** The Board of Commissioners will hold all of its regularly scheduled, special called, and emergency meetings at the Wilkes County Agricultural Center, 416 Executive

Drive, Wilkesboro, North Carolina. During such meetings, the only persons allowed to be physically present will include the members of the Board of Commissioners, staff to the Board of Commissioners, such persons as may be necessary in the discretion of the Chairman to participate in presentations to the Board of Commissioners or assist the Board of Commissioners in conducting its business under the various items on its agenda, and such IT persons as may be designated by the County to assist with the meetings. Social distancing as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (“NCDHHS”) shall be observed at all times by those in attendance.

**Section 2.** There will be no public attendance at meetings of the Board of Commissioners other than as set forth in Section 1 above. However, the County will take such reasonable steps to ensure public and media access to all Board of Commissioner meetings held pursuant to this Policy (except for duly called closed sessions) as may be technically and financially feasible, in order that the public and media may hear and/or see said meetings in real time. In the event such steps include arranging separate rooms or locations for attendance by the public and media in order to hear and/or view Board of Commissioner meetings, the County will seek to maintain social distancing by those in attendance at such rooms or locations in compliance with recommendations or orders by CDC and NCDHHS. The County will also continue to arrange for delayed broadcast televising of Board of Commissioner meetings and will, for all such meetings as may be held while this Policy is in effect, provide video copies of said meetings to the public upon request, at no cost.

**Section 3.** All public hearings will be scheduled for meetings occurring after the termination of this Policy unless otherwise required by law or made necessary by the state of emergency on which this Policy is based, in which event the Board of Commissioners will adopt adequate and reasonable provisions for the timely submission and receipt of public comments and will advertise said provisions in the public notice for such hearing.

**Section 4.** There will be no in-person public comment period. Public comment will be taken electronically at the second regular meeting of each month with the following guidelines: (1) any public comment must be submitted by email to [wcmanger@wilkescounty.net](mailto:wcmanger@wilkescounty.net) by 5:00 p.m. the day before said meeting; (2) the public comment must comply with the Wilkes County Public Comment Policy adopted by the Board of Commissioners under date of October 6, 2015, a copy of which will be furnished to any person at no cost upon request; (3) the public comment must be no more than 350 words in length; and (4) the Wilkes County Manager will read all public comments, along with the name and address of the person submitting the same, at the meeting of the Board of Commissioners for which said comments are timely submitted.

**Section 5.** This Policy, insofar as it varies from the terms and provisions of the Resolution for Establishing Schedule of Regular Meetings for the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners duly adopted under date of December 2, 2019, and the Wilkes County Public Comment Policy duly adopted under date of October 6, 2015, constitutes a temporary modification of the same and is adopted solely due to the COVID-19 state of emergency currently in effect in Wilkes County and the State of North Carolina.

**Section 6.** This Amended Policy shall take effect beginning with the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on the 18th day of August, 2020, and, unless modified or terminated sooner by the Board of Commissioners, shall automatically terminate upon the rescission or termination of the Declaration.

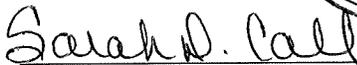
**ADOPTED** this the 4th day of August, 2020.



By: 

Eddie D. Settle, Chairman  
Wilkes County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
Sarah D. Call, Clerk