

MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 15, 2019

PUBLIC CONCERNS – BRIAN HAYES – RIVERS EDGE SKATE PARK – Chairman Elmore recognized Brian Hayes who signed up to speak on behalf of the group. Mr. Hayes stated he has been skate boarding since he was 8 years old and he began at Rivers Edge. He added this is the place he first went to, to begin and progress as a skate boarder. Over the years it has been neglected, the ramps and upkeep of the park. Mr. Hayes said it is cracked, bubbled which caused pot holes making it difficult for them to skate around safely. He stated he has met many folks at the skate park, it is a pit stop on Skate Board Adventures, but over the years it has declined. They go very seldom now, it is hazardous to their health as skate boarders. Mr. Hayes said it was a great place at one point, there were other things taking place that did not revolve around skate boarding. That is why the building was torn down, which they understand. He added for them it is all about skate boarding not drugs, alcohol, or destroying property, it is a pure form of enjoyment.

Mr. Hayes stated there are soccer, baseball, and football fields, and basketball courts, but they do not have a working skate park in the Wilkesboro area. He said due to this they are forced to skate board in the streets, which results in tickets or others things and they cannot skate board down town. If they had a place in Wilkesboro to skate that would be great for everyone. Mr. Hayes said at one point it was the best skate park on this side of the state, but now the concrete is treacherous and the lights no longer work. In closing Mr. Hayes stated they want a safe place to skate board. He added they would like to either fix it themselves by patching the holes, or for it to be fixed by the county, either or, but it needs to happen.

Chairman Elmore said the Board generally does not respond during Public Comment. They admire them for coming and speaking with a solution to fix it, not just a problem. Chairman Elmore asked them to get with County Manager John Yates to discuss this further. Vice Chairman Settle asked if Skate Board Adventures is an app or website. Mr. Hayes replied it is something that skate boarders across the nation use. There is a website called Skate Board Disciples which list all skate parks. Vice Chairman Settle asked if they are rated and ranked. Mr. Hayes replied yes.

The Board thanked Mr. Hayes and the other skaters for attending the meeting and speaking.

County Attorney Tony Triplett stated Item G. on the agenda for Champion Fire Department will need to be removed, the Board President was unable to attend. He stated the Fire Chief, Craig Hollars did come, but the agreement cannot be approved without their signatures first as has been the process for all approvals. Mr. Triplett stated they will attend the February 5th meeting to sign and approve the amended agreement.

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:55 P.M. with the following members present: Chairman Keith Elmore, Vice Chairman Eddie Settle, Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, and Commissioner David Gambill.

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

Chairman Keith Elmore welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION – Commissioner David Gambill led the Invocation.

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

Chairman Elmore stated Commissioner Brain Minton cannot attend the meeting tonight due to a prior obligation he is unable to be here.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion was made by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle, seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on January 3, 2019.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins to approve Budget Amendment No. 16 (Sheriff – Budgeting for insurance reimbursement in the amount of \$9,625 for damaged vehicle. Hopes to replace vehicle for jail transportation needs; and Budget Amendment No. 17 (Sheriff – The Wilkes County Board of Education has been awarded a 2018-2019 School Safety Equipment Grant in the amount of \$38,800. The Wilkes County BOE wishes to purchase the Wilkes County Sheriff's Office VIPER radios and gun safes for the School Resource Officers throughout the county. This request is being made so that the Wilkes County BOE can forward these grant monies to the Wilkes County Sheriff's Office for the purchase of the equipment for the officers). The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved. Sheriff Chris Shew thanked the Board and added the grant is fully funded and will be used for equipment for the SRO's.

BLUE RIDGE OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (BROC) – COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) – EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE – FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY – BUDGET FOR FY 2019-2020 – Chairman Elmore welcomed and recognized Dare Stromer, Executive Director and Stacey Howell, Community Services Block Grant Program Assistant. Mrs. Stromer and Ms. Howell thanked the Commissioners for all they do for BROC and all they do for the people of Wilkes County. Ms. Howell stated they are presenting the requirements for the CSBG grant proposal. They are not asking for any money, just laying out what they will do with the grant for the service areas. Ms. Howell went over the Emergency Assistance Project form 210 and the highlights that included the cause of poverty in the three county area. Those are due to downsizing, family disruption, domestic violence, and potential substance abuse. BROC has seen a steady increase in emergency request, she added. Ms. Howell said they do use other resources in addition to CDBG to offset the cost of these

services and went over the list at this time. The objective of the Emergency Assistance Program is to adequately respond to 3,701 emergency assistance requests by June 30, 2022 and they will continue to partner with other local Human Service agencies to accomplish this. Ms. Howell briefly went over OEM form 212 and said the CSBG funds for the project is \$192,642. She also went over the one-year work program and said the target number of participant families served is 1,075.

Commissioner Blevins asked if these have to be approved individually or all at one time. Mrs. Stromer said they can be approved at one time. Commissioner Blevins asked if they were going to explain each one and then the budget for the Board to approve at one time. Ms. Howell replied yes, it is all one grant and one budget.

Ms. Howell next went over the Family Self-Sufficiency Program and said rather than emergency assistance this is for long term help for folks that have goals to rise out of poverty. Most are attending school to get a better job and move out of the poverty line. She also mentioned other community resources other than CDBG grant funds that help support this program. Ms. Howell said their objective is to provide support and comprehensive services for 19 program participants through education and employment support with the ultimate goal of helping five participants become self-sustaining citizens in the community and rise about the poverty level by June 30, 2020. She also went over the strategies they use to reach these goals. Ms. Howell briefly went over the OEM form 212 for the Board.

Ms. Howell went over the Blue Ridge Opportunity Commissioner, Inc. Budget for 07/01/19 to 06/30/20 for the CSBG funds with a total budget of \$198,874. Chairman Elmore asked if this is all federal funds. Ms. Howell replied yes. Chairman Elmore asked if they anticipate any cuts. Mrs. Stromer replied the funds are the same as they received last year, they did not receive a cut this year, but did not receive an increase either. Commissioner Blevins asked how long the self-sufficiency program has been in place. Mrs. Stromer replied about 10-years. Commissioner Blevins stated they would like to hear from some of the folks that have gone through the program to hear what worked for them and what made it successful. When they approve this and the budget it is good to hear how it is working first hand. He added they have the utmost confidence in them and Mrs. Stromer as the Executive Director and they very much appreciate what they do to help the citizens that really need it. Mrs. Stromer replied she is glad their agency is there to make a difference for these folks.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve the Application for Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission Community Services Block Grant for FY 2019-2020 for Emergency Assistance, Family Self-Sufficiency Project and the Budget, as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

The Board thanked Mrs. Stromer and Ms. Howell for their service to the community and all they do at BROCC.

HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – WILKES COUNTY NURSING HOME COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR LONG TERM CARE - REAPPOINTMENT – County Manager John Yates said we received a letter from Stevie John, Regional Ombudsman that said Ms. Mazie Mahaffey has indicated her willingness to be reappointed for a three-year term to the Wilkes County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care. Currently, three vacancies exist on the committee. He added Ms. Mahaffey's is before the Board for consideration, her nomination form and board application are included in the packet.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve the reappointment of Ms. Mazie Mahaffey to serve a three year term on the Wilkes County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care as requested. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT – SALE OF SURPLUS INVENTORY – County Manager John Yates stated the Wilkes County Purchasing Department is requesting approval from the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners to sell the following surplus inventory using electronic auction method, govdeals.com:

All vehicles listed, unless stated (not in working order) are high mileage vehicles that were used on a daily basis.

1996 Oldsmobile Ciera CL Mileage 148271 Vin. #98838 Department-DSS (Transmission Needs Repair)
1997 Ford Ranger Mileage 170459 Vin. #54704 Department-Landfill
1999 Dodge Ram 2500 Mileage 138186 Vin. #56965 Department-Garage (Needs Repairs)
2001 Chevrolet Suburban Mileage 163600 Vin. #98894 Department-Sheriff
2005 Jeep Liberty Mileage 155311 Vin. #18742 Department-Health (New Transmission Needed)
2005 Husqvarna Mower Parts Only #23292 Department-Fire Marshall
Clark Trailer 30 Feet Long-Parts Only-No Title #01956 Department-Sheriff
FBT Trailer 30 Feet Long-Parts Only-No Title #FBT Department-Sheriff

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to approve the sale of surplus inventory using the electronic auction method govdeals.com as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS – Commissioner Blevins stated he is glad that the Town of Wilkesboro Council finally filed suit against JC Faw.

NEW BUSINESS – Commissioner Gambill stated the skate boarders that spoke earlier had some really good points and he would like to see if Mr. Yates has any information on this. Mr. Yates said they can get some estimates, the concrete is in really bad condition and it would take a lot of work to fix it. Commissioner Blevins stated he is the Parks and Rec liaison for the Board

and he has spoken with Kevin Anderson. He said the last discussion on this around one year ago was around eliminating that section of the park due to lack of participation and removing the lights. Commissioner Blevins stated nothing has happened during this time and Mr. Anderson may have a master plan for that area. They need to talk with him about it. He stated it is like anything else, if something not being used enough, there are people interested in that space, it could be used for some other purpose. They do need to get to the bottom of it, and it is good they came in to reignite the conversation. He and Mr. Yates will met with the Recreation Director and find out exactly what is going on and come up with a solution, he added. Chairman Elmore stated he went by earlier today and talked with Mr. Anderson and this would need to be discussed in the upcoming budget. He said Mr. Anderson did offer several suggestions and other needs for that area as well.

Vice Chairman Settle asked where the skate park ranked with skaters. Mr. Hayes replied negative three currently, it is very scary. Commissioner Gambill stated he is very impressed with these gentlemen coming to the meeting ad speaking. He added this was a great approach, even if they were advised to come, or came on their own. They respect this a great deal and it is good to see younger folks in the audience at a meeting, he said.

CLOSED SESSION – Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to go into Closed Session under Section 143-318.11(a)(3) of the North Carolina General Statute to consult with the Board’s attorney to protect the attorney-client privilege; and 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 Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Commissioner David Gambill 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 Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 8:00 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gideon Keith Elmore, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: