

**MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 7, 2019**

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 7:33 P.M. with the following members present: Chairman Keith Elmore, Vice Chairman Eddie Settle, Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, and Commissioner Brian Minton.

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 – Vice Chairman Eddie Settle led the Invocation.

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

Chairman Elmore stated Commissioner David Gambill could not attend the meeting tonight which was a change to the original meeting date. He is chaperoning a trip for the West Wilkes High School HOSA Club competition in Charlotte.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Commissioner Brian Minton and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on February 19, 2019.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle to approve Budget Amendment No. 21 (Health – Programs – BCCCP – Wilkes County Health Department received additional funds from the state in the amount of \$3,825 to provide mammograms for 15 additional uninsured or under insured women. No County money involved.) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Minton and unanimously approved.

BLUE RIDGE OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION – BROCC:

1. NORTH CAROLINA SENIOR TAR HEEL LEGISLATURE – REAPPOINTMENTS – Chairman Elmore recognized Jennifer Cooper, Director BROCC Senior Nutrition Services. Ms. Cooper thanked the Board and stated they would like to request approval for the reappointments of Kenneth Foster as delegate to the NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature and Ormond Loomis as alternate. She added a Board Application has been submitted for both and ask for the Board’s consideration at this time.

Commissioner Blevins asked what they actually do. Ms. Cooper replied they attend several meetings and conferenced that deal with senior political affairs. They represent seniors and their

interest. Ms. Cooper added Mr. Foster also speaks at the Senior Center to let them know what is going on and the importance of staying up to date on what is going on politically and things that affect them. Commissioner Blevins ask who determines the delegates. Ms. Cooper replied the Area Agency on Aging handles the appointments. Commissioner Blevins stated they make the appointments but this Board has to approve it. Ms. Cooper replied yes. Chairman Elmore asked if this Board has ever made this appointment in the past. Ms. Cooper replied this was new to her, she does not recall them requesting the appointment last year. She added these gentleman were new last year, the prior two, one was Betty Knight and she retired and the second passed away. Commissioner Blevins stated that is correct and he recalls the Board making these appointments in the past.

Chairman Elmore stated Ms. Cooper and Ms. Stromer are recommending these for approval. He asked if the Board would like to approve these or submit different names and asked the pleasure of the Board. Ms. Cooper stated she received an email from Diane Tilson with the Area Agency on Aging that requested these reappointments. She added she is not sure of their process. Mr. Foster was appointed to a very prestigious committee for the Senior Tar Heel league, she said. Chairman Elmore stated they have a request, Board Applications, and had time to review, and asked the pleasure of the Board. Vice Chairman Settle stated this is a recommendation from their Board, both appear to be qualified. He knows Mr. Foster and he will do a great job, he does not know Mr. Loomis. Ms. Cooper said both will serve on the Aging Advisory Committee once that request is presented to the Board for approval. Ms. Cooper stated she does not recall receiving this last year for the initial appointments, but was asked to submit the reappointments. She will get more information from the Agency on Aging and send to the Board.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to table the reappointment of Kenneth Foster as delegate and Ormond Loomis as alternate for the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature until the next meeting for further research and information from Ms. Cooper on their role. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

2. MARCH FOR MEALS PROCLAMATION – Ms. Cooper stated this will be the 17th annual March for Meals campaign celebrating over 40 years of senior nutrition. At this time they are requesting the Board to proclaim March 2019 March of Meals month and join BROCC as they bring national awareness and local support to the programs that bring vital nutrition and services to the Seniors of Wilkes County. She added they hope all have received an invitation to the Community Champions Dinner on Monday, March 18th and they appreciate their support of the programs. This is when they say thank you to this Board and all the people that support them and draw attention to the needs of the seniors, she said.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve the Proclamation to declare March as the “March for Meals” month as requested and presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Minton and unanimously approved.

A PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MARCH 2019 AS THE
17th ANNUAL MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH

WHEREAS, on March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels America established the March for Meals campaign in March 2002 to recognize the historic month, the importance of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs, both congregate and home-delivered, and raise awareness about the escalating problem of senior hunger in America; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 observance of March for Meals celebrates 17 years of providing an opportunity to support Meals on Wheels programs that deliver vital and critical services by donating, volunteering and raising awareness about senior hunger and isolation; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs – both congregate and home-delivered, in Wilkes County have served our communities admirably for more than 40 years; and

WHEREAS, volunteers for Meals on Wheels programs in Wilkes County are the backbone of the program and they not only deliver nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at significant risk of hunger and isolation, but also caring concern and attention to their welfare; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in Wilkes County provide nutritious meals to seniors throughout the county that help them maintain their health and independence, thereby preventing unnecessary falls, hospitalizations and/or premature institutionalization; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in Wilkes County provide a powerful socialization opportunity for millions of seniors to help combat loneliness and isolation; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in Wilkes County deserve recognition for the contributions they have made and will continue to make to local communities, our State and our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Gideon Keith Elmore, as Chairman of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim March 2019 as the 17th Annual March for Meals Month and urge every citizen to take this month to honor our Meals on Wheels programs, the seniors they serve and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national 2019 March for Meals can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in America.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2019

Gideon Keith Elmore Chairman, Wilkes County Board of Commissioners

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE – Chairman Elmore welcomed John Blevins, DSS Director. Mr. Blevins stated first he would like to provide an update on the General Assembly Social Services Consortium Legislative Priorities in the packet. He said this is in regards to the audit he mentioned last month, under number 2 they plan to amend the statute. They will implement a claims process prior to reimbursement, apply a cap of 5% or \$5K, and add a waiver process for county's with financial hardships. This is very good, he added. Mr. Blevins stated they had a visit from the State QI this week about the audits that have begun. The state will contract with Temp Solutions and hire 18 FTE's to do the reviews, which have not been hired yet. He added the 4 QI's will start reviewing them. Mr. Blevins said they received an email with the first list of 20 cases. They have 5 business days to go through and add anything that is missing prior to the review. They can only have a 3% error rate for all 200 cases, which would only be 6. The State QI told them they expect most all County's to be under a Corrective Action Plan. The Plan will be based on the errors. It will be a 3 months; 6 months; or a 3 year corrective action plan. Mr. Blevins said there is no money involved, they would receive a corrective action plan of what they found and what they need to do.

The forth recommendation is a request for the State to re-examine NC Fast, because the next part is very complicated and difficult. The last item is a copy of the letter from the NC Association of County Directors of DSS to the members of the General Assembly. It states basically the same thing, the collective concern of the counties is that NC Fast is cumbersome, inaccurate, and unreliable. They are dealing with children and lives and they don't want to mess up, he added. Mr. Blevins said they have heard no response from the state about changing the time line and expects they will roll out in May. He added the billing for Foster Care and reimbursements is one of the issues and a worry, which is very important to their bottom line. Mr. Blevins said he will keep the Board updated.

Mr. Blevins stated the next update is not included in the packets. They have received a Plan for Regional Supervision, from the two work groups that came from Ryan's Law. He added this report (which he will forward the Board by email), is from DHHS to the State. There will be 7 regions in the regional supervision model. Wilkes is in region 2 at this time, it includes 12 counties and looks like it may be based in Iredell County, he said. Mr. Blevins said this supervision will not include Medicaid it will be separate, but most everything else is included. It will have best practice information, monitoring, data coordinating, and function almost like Raleigh does now. He added the time line is March 2021 for the brick and mortar and folks to be working out of the new regional location. Mr. Blevins said one other change will be in FY 20-21, which is DSS as the public Guardian for Mental Health through the Clerk of Court. When that started originally the State paid for it, which they still do. Mr. Blevins said the new legislation will transfer it from the state back to the county. If this happens, they will need to fund another worker. He just wanted to Board to be aware of this for the future.

Mr. Blevins said the last update he has which will be completed in March 2020. The State is supposed to have a feasibility and cost study for social workers and DSS staffing. This will establish caseload range guidelines, pay scales, funding equity formula, and a salary pool for county child welfare and social services staff. Vice Chairman Settle stated this would be an improvement, it is needed and will help level the field. Commissioner Blevins added they have

advocated for this and it should also stop the computation between counties and some of the turn over issues they had.

Mr. Blevins briefly went over the monthly caseload report for January. He also went over the Foster Care financial report. He next went through the Adoption Services financial report, Child Development and Subsidized Child Care financial reports for January. Chairman Elmore asked if they have any update on Medicaid Transportation. Mr. Blevins said they had a call recently and was told to make sure their local transportation companies had the contact information. They said these providers' need to reach out and contact them. He forwarded the information to the WTA Director. The state said these entities will be very interested in contracting with someone like WTA because they are local and can provide the service. Commissioner Blevins replied they have contacted them. They received an email today that United Health Care is using National Med Trans and Blue Cross is using LegistiCare. WTA has reached out to both and are working on contracts currently, he added. Mr. Blevins said that is good they want WTA to stay in business and be successful. He said they also leaned they will take over the gas vouchers that DSS does now, which will help. Mr. Blevins said as they get more information on this he will share with the Board.

The Board thanked Mr. Blevins for his update.

HIGH COUNTRY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – BOARD APPOINTMENT – County Manager John Yates stated Keith Deveraux, Director of High County Workforce Development Board sent a memorandum to request the Board appoint Lynette Bang, Human Resources Manager Tyson Foods to the High Country Workforce Development Board private sector seat. Mr. Deveraux's letter stated she will fill the unexpired term of Nate Griffin that will end June 30, 2019. Mr. Yates stated they are also requesting that she be appointed to a full term on the High Country Workforce Development Board beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2021.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle to appoint Ms. Lynette Bang to the High County Workforce Development Board as the private sector seat to fill the unexpired term of Nate Griffin that end June 30, 2019 and appoint Ms. Lynette Bang to a full term on the High Country Workforce Development Board beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2021 as requested. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Brain Minton and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS – County Attorney Tony Triplett stated he would like to ask the Board to considering rescinding a Resolution that was passed at the last meeting. He added this was on the Synergy Lease in which the Board approved a new one year lease. This was before they got into the process with Vaya, Daymark, and Synergy on how they will proceed with a facility based crisis center. Mr. Triplett said now that this facility is in that conversation it seems that it would not be a good idea to lock them into anything at this time. He added he spoke with Carl Spake and his Attorney that is helping him on the FBC matters, Bruce Kaplan out of Boone. Mr. Triplett said both are in agreement that it would be best to not proceed with that lease, they consented and agreed to this. He ask the Board to consider rescinding the Resolution that was

passed at the February 19th meeting with respect to the one year lease for Synergy. Mr. Triplett added Mr. Spake will still be leasing the building, the current lease expired December 31, 2018 and it will remain month-to-month with the same rent as it is currently.

Commissioner Brian Minton made a motion to rescind the Resolution Approving the Lease Agreement with Option to Purchase with Synergy Recovery, Inc. as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN – Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 8:14 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gideon Keith Elmore, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: