

MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 7, 2019

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 7:05 P.M. with the following members present: Chairman Keith Elmore, Vice Chairman Eddie Settle, Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, Commissioner David Gambill, 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.

Chairman Elmore stated there have been some tragic events in the county recently and they would like to ask for a moment of silence to remember sisters, Cassandra “Cassie” Elizabeth Gilbert, age 16, who was a Junior at West Wilkes High School and Madison “Maddie” Grace Gilbert, age 12, who was in the 6th Grade at West Wilkes Middle School that were tragically killed in a traffic accident on May 2nd. Chairman Elmore asked to also remember former Commissioner Zach Henderson whom he served with and his family, with the passing of his Son, Thomas Blain Henderson last Friday.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Keith Elmore recognized Boy Scouts with Troop 301 from Wilkesboro Methodist Church, who are attending the meeting tonight. Chairman Elmore asked Scout Leader Brain Huffman to introduce and bring forward the Boy Scouts. Mr. Huffman thanked the Board for having them tonight and stated they are working on their Citizenship in the Community and Second-Class badges. Mr. Huffman introduced the Boy Scouts and asked them to step forward: Cody Hendren & Blake Royal who are in the 5th grade at Miller Creek Elementary; Aidyn Harkless, Brandon Pennington, & Donovan Vanvite who are in the 5th grade at Wilkesboro Elementary; Seth Marley & Tyler Royal who are in the 6th grade at Millers Creek Middle; Austin Hendren, Seth Huffman, & Jonah Stamper who are in the 7th grade at Millers Creek Middle; and Landen Carrigan who is in the 8th grade at East Alexander Jr. High. He asked Senior Patrol Leader, Seth Huffman to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at this time. Chairman Elmore and the Board thanked the Scouts for their attendance at the meeting tonight. They were given applause by everyone at this time.

INVOCATION – Commissioner David Gambill led the Invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins, seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting Work Session held on April 11, 2019.

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 April 16, 2019.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Mr. Yates said Budget Amendment 29 is for the Health Department with no county money involved. He stated Budget Amendment 30 is for Parks and Recreation, Kevin Anderson could not attend tonight, but Commissioner Blevins was very involved and can answer any questions. Mr. Yates added all 4 score boards have been installed and the donations covered all cost. Parks and Recreation also purchased new speakers and a new batting cage. Window World is advertised on all 4 fields and East Coast Mill Works only wanted signs on 2 fields. In addition, Parks and Rec. have painted the bleaches and put new wood on them and have also installed new signs on the fields. Mr. Yates added all of this is at the Memorial Park Ball Fields. Commissioner Blevins stated the Town of North Wilkesboro plans to re-do the parking lot and seal it. He said someone from East Coast is going to design new parking to maximum the space.

Commissioner Blevins stated he would like to thank ECMD and Window World for getting involved and donated the funds and also the Town of North Wilkesboro for putting in their budget funds to fix the parking lot. He added the County maintains the facility, but it is owned by North Wilkesboro. There are a lot of folks that play ball and many come from outside the county to play on those fields. Commissioner Blevins stated the score boards were very much needed and they appreciate the efforts from these private companies, the County, and North Wilkesboro working together to improve the park. He added they want to thank them for doing this.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins to approve Budget Amendment No. 29 (Health – Programs – Wilkes County Health Department received \$1,122 from Project Lazarus as reimbursement for assisting with Project Lazarus Community Member Assistance program for Opioids. These funds will be utilized in Health Promotions contractual services; and Budget Amendment No. 30 General – Park & Recreations – Wilkes County Park and Recreation has received \$6,076 from Window World, Inc. and \$5,000 from ECMD to be used to replace baseball score board at Memorial Park. No county dollars involved.) The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT – CDBG COMPLIANCE STANDARDS – NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM #17-C-3026 – Chairman Elmore recognized and welcomed Michelle Ball, Regional Planner High Country Council of Governments and Eddie Barnes, Planning Director. Mr. Barnes thanked the Board and said Wilkes County has been approved for a Neighborhood Rehabilitation Grant through the Community Development Block Grant. He added as part of this grant they are working with the High Country Council of Governments and Ms. Michelle Ball. They appreciate all the work she is doing for the county on this project. Part of this grant requires several policies to be adopted by the county to secure the \$635,000 funding that will be used to rehabilitate housing for low income residents in Wilkes County, he said. Ms. Ball stated there is nothing included that is not required to be there. She said there is usually no match for CDBG projects such as this, the payment the county makes is having to do all the compliance and extra work. Ms. Ball stated there is a Grievance procedure for 505 ADA (American's With Disability Act); Grievance procedure for anyone wanting to make a compliant; Section Three Plan for Local Economic Benefit for low and very low persons plan, for jobs that may be available during this project, but

their probably won't be; Procurement Policy, how the county will procure contractors doing work on the home; Code of Conduct, insuring that no member of the elected body or in the discussion making process will not personally or financially gain from the project; Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan, outlining if for some reason the work on this project permanently displaces someone there is a plan to try to find them other housing at a cost; Optional Coverage Relocation and Assistance Plan, if relocating someone this is the plan to look at for that; Citizen Participation Plan, provides procedure to make sure the public has access to what is going on, they will have at least 3 Public Hearings during the life of the grant, 2 at the beginning and 1 at the end and if drastic changes are made another would be needed; Project Ordinance, that goes to the State and the County Finance Officer; Equal Opportunity in Employment and Procurement Plan; Complaint Procedure, who to complain to if anyone has any problems; Language Access Plan, procedures if they get any limited English proficiency people that want to participate or need information; and Fair Housing Plan, a Complaint Procedure, and an Analysis of Impediments with the plan there are activities each quarter that she will be working on and providing information on Fair Housing throughout the county. Ms. Ball said these are the required documents that need to be adopted tonight.

Mr. Barnes stated in addition they also need to approve a contract with the High Country Council of Governments to administer the program for the County. There will be no county funds involved it comes out of the grant administration funds, which is 10% of the grant. He added they have \$63,500 to appropriate. Mr. Barnes stated the contract with the High Country Council of Governments will be \$23,500 and take them through the duration of the grant cycle. Chairman Elmore stated the \$23,500 is out of the grant funds. Mr. Barnes replied yes, a certain part of the grant is set aside for administration that can't be used on housing. Chairman Elmore asked when was the last time a grant such as this was approved. Ms. Ball replied the county approved almost the same documents for the Mulberry School Project just a few months ago. That funding comes from The Department of Environmental Quality, these funds come from Commerce. If they had been from the same agency they could have used the same approvals, but Commerce would not allow that. Commissioner Blevins stated it is federal money that comes through the state. Ms. Ball replied yes. Mr. Barnes stated the last housing specific grant was finished in 2013. Ms. Ball added it would have begun in 2011.

Commissioner Blevins asked the number of residences impacted through this grant. Mr. Barnes replied 7 were identified in the first round that will get assistance with several being replacement homes. There are alternates they will look out once these are completed and see how much money is left. They are hoping for 14, he added. Ms. Ball added there are also funds set aside for emergency repairs under \$5K, like a new roof, porch and these homes have not been identified yet. Chairman Elmore asked if all the funds have to be spent in the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Ball replied no, it is over two and half years. Commissioner Gambill added the goal is to spend all of the funds and asked will someone be monitoring this to make sure the funds are all being used in this time frame so none goes back. Mr. Barnes stated they have certain protocols they have to meet, there are qualifications of applicants, in the past some have dropped out at the last minute that resulted in funds being returned. He added they try to allot for all of the money they can spend providing something does not happen outside their control. With the number of applications, they have, they should be able to spend it all. Mr. Barnes stated with a

strong economy, which is great, it does limit them on getting bids and contractors. They are nervous about this but think over the 2 ½ years it will work out. Commissioner Blevins asked if that was the time frame in the past. Mr. Barnes replied they are on 3-year cycles and they try to not go up the deadline of the 3rd year and get the funds allocated and spent before that. Commissioner Blevins stated they have the upmost confidence in High Country and all their folks, he has spent many years on their Board, they do a great job.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve and adopt the Plan, Policies, and Ordinance for the CDBG Compliance Standards for the Neighborhood Revitalization Program #17-C-3026 as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Gary D. Blevins made a motion to approve and Agreement between High Country Council of Governments and Wilkes County for the provision of Grant Administration Assistance CDBG – Neighborhood Revitalization Program #17-C-3026 as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Minton and unanimously approved.

BLUE RIDGE OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (BROC):

1. OLDER AMERICANS MONTH – PROCLAMATION – Chairman Elmore welcomed and recognized Jennifer Cooper, Director BROC Senior Nutrition Services. Ms. Cooper said the first request is to sign a proclamation declaring May 2019 as Older Americans month as recognition for the contribution that older Americans make to their daily lives. The theme this year is Connect, Create, and Contribution, recognizing the importance of participating in activities that can enrich physical, mental, and emotional well-being no matter the age. Chairman Elmore stated they all certainly support this proclamation. There is a lot of wisdom from the older generation, he said. Chairman Elmore asked how many years have they recognized Older Americans Month. Commissioner Blevins replied at a meeting in April 1963 between President John F. Kennedy and the National Council of Senior Citizens lead to designating May as Senior Citizens month, a prelude to Older Americans Month. Chairman Elmore read the proclamation at this time.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the Proclamation to declare May “Older Americans Month 2019” as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

Older Americans Month 2019 A PROCLAMATION

*Whereas, Wilkes County includes a growing number of older Americans who enrich our community through their diverse life experiences; and
Whereas, Wilkes County is committed to strengthening our community by connecting with and supporting older adults, their families, and caregivers and acknowledging their many valuable contributions to society; and*

Whereas, Wilkes County recognizes the importance of bringing together all generations and engaging in activities that promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being for the benefit of all; and

Whereas, Wilkes County can enhance the lives of older Americans in our community by:

- promoting home- and community-based services that support independent living;*
- involving older adults in community events and other activities; and*
- providing opportunities for older adults to work, volunteer, learn, lead, and mentor.*

Now, therefore, we, the duly elected Commissioners of Wilkes County, NC do hereby proclaim May 2019 to be Older Americans Month. We urge every resident to take time during this month to recognize older adults and the people who serve them as essential and valuable members of our community.

Dated this seventh day of May, 2019

*Giddeon Keith Elmore
Chairman, Wilkes County Board of Commissioners*

2. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS OF WILKES AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Ms. Cooper stated this is appointments for the Aging Advisory Committee which meets one time per year to review the Home and Community Care Block grant funding that is divided between the three agencies on aging in the county. These include BROCC Senior Nutrition Program, Wilkes Senior Resource (Senior Center), and Ruby Pardue Blackburn Adult Daycare. She added they meet and approve the division of funds and also look at needs and gap services in the county for older residence. Commissioner Blevins asked when they meet. Mr. Cooper replied they meet tomorrow at 2 PM. Vice Chairman Settle replied he cannot attend he will be out of town and asked Commissioner Blevins to attend in his place. Commissioner Blevins replied he would be happy to. Ms. Cooper said they would love for him to attend the meeting. Chairman Elmore added the appointments have been approved by the BROCC Board. Ms. Cooper replied yes.

Below is the list of the FY 2019-2020 Wilkes County Aging Advisory Committee Members presented to the Commissioners for consideration:

Mr. Jennifer Cooper, Lead Agency Director
Ms. Nicole Hiegl, Director Area Agency on Aging, HCCOG
Ms. Suzanne Hanlin, Director, Wilkes Senior Resources
Ms. Jennifer Snider, Director, RPB Adult Day Care Center
Mr. Kenneth Foster, Wilkes Senior Tar Heel Legislature Delegate
Mr. Ormond Loomis, Wilkes Senior Tar Heel Legislature Alternate
Ms. Karen Hallman, Community Alternative Program
Mr. Eddie Settle, Wilkes County Board of Commissioners
Mr. Dave Snyder, Volunteer, Meals on Wheels of Wilkes
Mr. Mary Edna Faw

Ms. Gayle Benton
Ms. Tina Nuger, Community Service Representative, Home Instead Senior Care
Ms. Allison T. Brown, Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care
Mr. Matthey Reece, Executive Director, Rose Glen Village
Ms. Jerri Mayberry, Dietitian, Wilkes County Health Department
Ms. Deborah Strickland, Volunteer, Meals on Wheels of Wilkes
Ms. Debbie Wellborn, Director, Appalachian Senior Programs

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to approve the Annual Appointments of the Wilkes Aging Advisory Committee for FY 2019-2020, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Minton and unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE – Chairman Keith Elmore welcomed and recognized Department of Social Services Director John Blevins. Mr. Blevins said he wanted to mention that at the June meeting he will have the MOU that will have to be approved and signed again just as it was last year. He added it is no different there are no targets they have to meet, but more growth, which is good. Last year there were many discussions about signing it due to all the concerns. The State has said if a county attached anything to it as a few did last year they will remove it upon receipt. Chairman Elmore asked if all counties signed it last year. Mr. Blevins replied yes, there were a couple that did not at the beginning, but by the end all finally signed it. He added in the current year they are in, there are no penalties. The difference next year is the restrictions and penalties will be included if the growth measures are not met. Commissioner Blevins asked how are they doing this year. Mr. Blevins replied they are doing very well and he thinks they would meet all of them this time. He added if you look at the reports now it would say not met because the year is not finished, but they are on track to meet them.

Mr. Blevins stated on the Medicaid Audit they are currently undergoing, which is a 10-month audit and if they find errors bills will be sent to the county. Two months have been completed and they had no eligibility errors for either month, they have eight months to go, he added. Mr. Blevins said they lost their best Medicaid Supervisor; the State took her. Commissioner Blevins said they let her go down and present at a State Medicaid event and she did a fantastic job, then they made her an offer and took her. He added if she can do better down there that is great, but the state did not need to rob the best in the county. Mr. Blevins agreed and said the bad part is they called their other Supervisor and tried to get her as well because they had two openings. Vice Chairman Settle stated they were in Raleigh about this time last year and the News and Record in Raleigh listed Wilkes above 90% and one of the best there was and they recognized that and took the best employee. Mr. Blevins said it will hurt them, experience matters, they have a replacement, but it will affect them.

Mr. Blevins said they are getting ready to go through the single compliance audit with the county that will have more teeth than in the past. The letter received May 2, 2019 stated if there are errors they will send a bill to the County for payback. He added it is now a targeted effort to find errors and make county's pay back the money. They will do their best to keep this from happening and limit it as best they can.

Mr. Blevins provided the Commissioners handouts for March. He briefly went over the monthly caseload report. Commissioner Gambill asked if the higher collections in child support was due to tax refund intercepts. Mr. Blevins replied yes that is one way they collected more funds. Commissioner Blevins asked if that is State or Federal Income Taxes. Mr. Blevins replied Federal. He next went through the Foster Care financial report, Adoption Services financial report, Child Development and Subsidized Child Care financial report. He said the waiting list is frozen they cannot add anyone other than a foster child to daycare. The State has taken some of the Smart Start money away, but they will make the funds even at the end of the year. He added their hands are tied the State is doing this. Mr. Blevins next went over the Foster Care monthly report. Commissioner Gambill stated it is good to see 30 Foster Homes. Mr. Blevins agreed, they still have more out of the county than in, but they continue to work on this. Commissioner Blevins added that is a struggle across the state. He asked about the staffing at DSS. Mr. Blevins replied they are fully staffed or will be when the newest hire comes, that has a Master Degree in Social Work and will come in fully trained which is great. He thanked the Board again for their help to get the pay up to a level that they can hopefully keep them all filled.

The Board thanked Mr. Blevins for his update.

TO: Wilkes County Board of Commissioners
FROM: John C. Yates, County Manager
SUBJECT: Recommended Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Annual Budget
DATE: May 7, 2019

The recommended budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 is respectfully submitted with a proposed tax rate of 66 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. This rate is a 1¢ decrease due to the revaluation and making the new rate at revenue neutral. The total recommended budget including all funds: General, 911, Grants, Airport, Landfill, and Volunteer Fire Districts is \$98,931,236.

GENERAL FUND

The recommended General Fund budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 is \$83,763,569. This is a 3.3% increase from the 2018-2019 amended budget of \$80,927,637.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

This year's recommended appropriation for the Wilkes County School System is \$17,544,614. This appropriation includes \$13,817,773 for current expense/operations and \$650,000 for capital outlay/improvements. This appropriation reflects a 4% increase in the operation funding of \$531,453. The total appropriation also includes lottery and sales tax funds forwarded to the school system.

WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

This year's recommended appropriation for the Wilkes Community College is \$4,165,958. The recommended budget for current expense is \$3,447,958; \$150,000 for capital outlay, \$366,000 for salary supplements, and a match of \$202,000 for the ConnectNC Bond (3rd year). It is also recommended a match of \$202,000 per year for the next two years (5-years total) for the match of the ConnectNC Bond funds. This year's appropriation reflects a 4% increase in operation funding of \$132,613.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL LIBRARY

This year's recommended appropriation for the Wilkes County Appalachian Regional Library is \$668,575. This year's appropriation reflects a 4% increase in funding of \$31,836. Plus, an additional \$31,316 for the Traphill Branch.

PERSONNEL

In the proposed budget for 2019-2020, we have the following new full-time positions:

4 – EMS positions. By adding the 4 additional staff in EMS we can provide a Mt. View EMS Base with 24-hour coverage and increase the Millers Creek EMS base from 12 hour to 24-hour coverage.

PAY INCREASES

A 2% salary increase has been recommended for all full-time employees. This pay raise is an increase of \$373,000.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEES

Our self-insured Blue Cross Blue Shield employee health insurance costs increased by 4% in the County's portion for 2019-2020.

HUMAN SERVICES

The Social Services General Administrative budget is recommended at \$7,662,876 or a \$313,773 increase from the prior year. The total Department of Social Services budget is \$15,168,434. The County portion of the total Department of Social Services budget is \$6,513,584 or 42.94%.

The General Health budget is recommended at \$2,267,473. The total Health budget is \$6,973,384. The County's portion of the total Health Department budget is \$1,903,114 or 27.29%.

The VAYA Health budget is recommended an appropriation of \$254,200 which is the same as last year's budget.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Sheriff's Department recommended appropriation is \$6,042,593. The Jail recommended appropriation is \$4,111,107.

The Emergency Communications recommended budget is \$1,483,002.

The Emergency Medical Services budget is recommended \$5,519,987.

SPECIAL PROJECTS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This year \$255,000 has been appropriated for the Wilkes Economic Development Corporation. This will enable them to continue to work on job growth and existing business retention in Wilkes County.

REVENUES

Ad valorem taxes for the recommended budget are estimated at \$38,519,123. This includes a 3% growth in real property tax values due to the revaluation.

Sales Tax revenue is budgeted at \$17,628,578 which reflects a 10% increase over last year's budgeted amounts. This increase is included because of the growth in the amount received for the past couple of years.

General Fund Balance appropriation of \$4,727,432 is required to balance this year's recommended budget. These include purchase of EMS Ambulances, Courthouse Roof, DSS Curtis Bridge Building Improvements, Airport Grant Matching Funds, and the ConnectNC Bond match. In the County's most recent audit, the total available fund balance which includes assigned and unassigned as of June 30, 2018 was \$36,346,081 or 45.15%. If we use the total of \$4,727,432 our unassigned fund balance would be estimated at \$25,000,000.

AIRPORT FUND

The Airport operating budget is recommended at \$4,182,962. This includes an estimated \$3,000,000 taxiway paving capital project that requires a 10% match. The Airport continues to be an important economic development tool.

LANDFILL FUND

The Landfill operating budget is recommended at \$4,541,815. This includes the construction of phase 5 with an estimated cost of \$1,750,000.

\$4.3 million is available in the closure fund for the closure and post-closure of cells #1, #2, #3 and #4. Over the next 2-years we need to close cells 1 – 4 with an estimated cost of over \$4 million. We want to request the transfer of \$500,000 from the general fund to a capital reserves fund for phase 5 construction.

FIRE DISTRICTS FUND

Moravian Falls has requested a 4 cents increase.

CONCLUSION

The budget is the single most important document approved by the Board of Commissioners each year. It is the County's basic plan of action for FY 2019-2020. We will continue to strive to keep the Fund Balance at appropriate levels, however the rising cost of providing important services with the amount of limited growth of revenues continues to be a challenge. Wilkes County is very fortunate that we are able to budget a small amount of growth for 2019-2020. All counties in North Carolina continue to be very dependent on property tax and sales tax, both of which are dependent on the economy. The rural counties continue to have very slow growth as compared to urban counties. As in the past, this is the Manager's recommendation based on requests from Department Heads. This is now presented to the Board for your consideration. The staff and I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Commissioner Blevins said it cost the county almost \$30K per inmate at the Jail, someone could put a kid through college for that. He added that is what the Board faces, things such as this with a huge costs and limited revenue. Commissioner Blevins stated the County Jail is 100% funded by the Taxpayers with no supplemental money. Mr. Yates replied this is correct. Chairman Elmore asked what percentage is the \$25 million of the fund balance. Mr. Yates said they have to look at the assigned and assigned, the unassigned is approximately \$10 million, this would make the total fund balance about \$35 million. Finance Officer Chris Huffman stated he would get that to them. Vice Chairman Settle asked if it was \$10 million assigned. Mr. Yates replied yes, \$10 million is assigned and has to be spent a specific way. Vice Chairman Settle said \$25 million is unassigned. Mr. Yates replied yes. Commissioner Blevins added the total budget is \$98 million this would be about \$25%. Vice Chairman Settle said the total assigned and unassigned would be about 35%, and it is 45% now. Mr. Yates replied yes with the assigned and unassigned both included.

Mr. Huffman stated the complicated thing about pin pointing the assigned and unassigned is the State changes the requirements for the assigned each year. For example, what they place on DSS for regulations this year may change next year. This number can fluctuate, even though there may be the same amount of money in the fund balance the State may look at it a different way, he added. Mr. Huffman said that is why they say on June 30, 2018 there was 45%. He stated he will be glad to run these numbers and get an estimate for the Board. Chairman Elmore stated the percentage is what they have operated off of and would like to have that to brag or use in their statement. Chairman Elmore stated this is all new and they are just seeing the budget for the first time tonight, they need time to review it.

2. SET PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGET – Chairman Elmore stated next, they need to set the Public Hearing on the proposed budget.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to set a Public Hearing on the proposed 2019-2020 Wilkes County Budget for Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. with the Commissioners' regularly scheduling meeting to immediately follow in the Commissioners' Meeting Room located at 110 North Street, Wilkesboro, NC. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

3. SET BUDGET WORK SESSION – Chairman Elmore stated it would be better to have the Public Hearing and then set a Work Session.

Commissioner David Gambill made a motion to set a Budget Work Session on the proposed 2019-2020 Wilkes County Budget for Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 5:30 P.M. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room located at 110 North Street, Wilkesboro, NC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and unanimously approved.

The work session is open to the public.

4. SET PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL BILL FIRE TAX DISTRICTS – County Attorney Tony Triplett stated this item needs to be removed from the Agenda.

5. SET PUBLIC HEARING – FIRE DEPARTMENTS REQUESTING INCREASE IN FIRE TAX RATE – Mr. Triplett stated the Board needs to set a Public Hearing for the Fire Department that has requested an increase in the fire tax rate for their fire districts in the proposed 2019-2020 budget. He added Moravian Falls has requested an increase. He added this will be set to immediately follow the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget.

Vice Chairman Eddie Settle made a motion to set a public hearing for residents and/or owners of taxable property in the Moravian Falls Fire Tax District for a proposed increase in the fire tax rate in that district for the 2019-2020 Wilkes County Budget, for Tuesday, May 21, 2019, immediately following the public hearing on the 2019-2020 Wilkes County Budget set to begin at 6:30 P.M., with the Commissioners' meeting to follow in the Commissioners' Meeting Room located in the County Office Building at 110 North Street, Wilkesboro, NC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Minton and unanimously approved.

PURCHASE OF COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY – MULBERRY TOWNSHIP – County Attorney Tony Triplett stated he wanted to provide the Board an update. This is the Wyatt tax foreclosure property on Elledge Mill Road. Mr. Triplett said they have received an upset bid again from Tim Wagoner, he made the original offer to buy the property for \$7,000. The current bid is up to \$9,920 and will expire on May 13th. He added there is a good chance it may be upset again from what they have been hearing. Commissioner Gambill asked if the upset bids have reached the point of being at least 5%. Mr. Triplett replied the Statute is worded a little strange on this, it must be 10% of the first \$1,000 plus 5% of everything over.

CLOSED SESSION – Motion was made by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins to go into closed session to hear a grievance by an employee in the form of consideration of the appeal of Mitchell B. Curry from his dismissal from employment with the Wilkes County Tax Office, pursuant to the personnel exception under G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6); and 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. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Gambill and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Eddie Settle, seconded by Commissioner Gary D. Blevins and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn back into regular session. No action was taken in the closed session.

TAX DEPARTMENT – APPEAL OF DISMISSAL – Motion was made by Commissioner David Gambill to uphold the decision of the County Manager to dismiss Mitchell B. Curry from his employment with the Wilkes County Tax Office and to deny Mr. Curry’s appeal, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 8, and Article IX, Section 3.C., of the Wilkes County Personnel Resolution Manual. The motion was seconded by Vice Charmian Eddie Settle and unanimously approved.

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 8:32 P. M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Gideon Keith Elmore, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: