

**MINUTES
WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 1, 2021**

PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST BY MILLERS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. FOR FIRE TAX RATE INCREASE IN FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET – Chairman Eddie Settle declared the Public Hearing open concerning the request by Millers Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. for fire tax rate increase in fiscal year 2021-2022 Wilkes County Budget at 5:34 P.M. on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 with the following members present: Chairman Eddie Settle, Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton, Commissioner Keith Elmore, and Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson. Commissioner David Gambill attended the meeting remotely including video and audio through WebEx.

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

Public Notice for the Public Hearing was published in the Wilkes-Journal Patriot on May 12, 2021 and May 26, 2021, posted on the County bulletin board outside the meeting location and on the County website. The Public Notice is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Chairman Settle recognized Millers Creek Chief Robbie Bolin and Board President Mike Cardwell. Mr. Cardwell said they are back again to justify why they are here. He added the Chief sent in the request and justification and if they have any questions please let them know. Mr. Caldwell went over changes since last year, to include replacement of a 1985 tanker truck and new garage doors they had to replace. He went over the other needs they have in the Millers Creek district to facilities. Mr. Cardwell stated they have been working from grants and the volunteer fire department as they know it is changing. He added more than 1 cent of their total tax rate goes to call pay and their part-time program, which he explained at this time.

Chief Bolin stated Millers Creek Fire Department has been around since 1956 and did not have a fire tax until around 1972. They did fundraisers until the early 2000; have the largest First District out in the county; and the highest call volume excluding the two towns. He went over call information at this time, explained the part-time program and their long term goals. Chief Bolin went over their 2 - 4 year plans that was turned in with their budget request. He added Millers Creek is going to continue to grow and have one of the largest commercial districts in the county which requires more members and equipment.

Chairman Settle stated they have 9 to 11 on the part-time roll and asked when they have a fire call how many show up. Chief Bolin says a minimum of 2 is scheduled, it depends on the time of day and who is working. It could be 8 to 10 or only 4. Chairman Settle stated they have a large commercial district and it is growing and they get 8¢ from all those commercial buildings, this is not something that Austin has. These are the questions he gets, they are at 8 ¢ and want to go to 10¢. He stated there is a challenge for all fire departments 15¢, is the limit for fire tax, in the County there is no limit, but they will get fired if they raise taxes. Chairman Settle stated

they are at 10¢ when they get to 15¢ what will happen. Chief Bolin replied Millers Creek will be fine for a while at 10¢, but in his opinion the county will have to step in and supplement volunteer fire departments at some point and this will be a cost. Chairman Settle stated the county tax rate is 66¢, they are at 10¢ can go to 15¢ if the county adds 10¢ that is 1/3 of the tax rate and they still have to fund EMS and all the other departments. Chief Bolin said if they went to 15¢ today it would not fund the people needed to run a shift full time. Chairman Settle stated they do a good job in Millers Creek and then thank them for all they do.

Commissioner Elmore asked if their Board voted on this, and was it unanimous. Mr. Cardwell replied they voted on this and it was a 4 to 2 vote. Commissioner Elmore asked why did two vote against it. Mr. Cardwell replied he assumed they did not want a tax increase, but cannot answer for them. He added last year they were asked about their Board; their Board is a community board of 50 people on a list. These 50 folks are invited to a meeting and 7 are lucky enough to be voted on to the board. This is how their board is elected and they serve 3 year terms. Mr. Cardwell said they have 4 community members and 3 fire department members that govern the Board. He added they try to be very transparent and everyone gets a chance to be elected to the Board.

The Board thanked Mike Cardwell and Robbie Bolin.

Chairman Settle asked if anyone else would like to speak, hearing no comments he declared the Public Hearing closed at 5:55 P.M. on the proposed fire tax rate increase for Millers Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2021-2022 PROPOSED WILKES COUNTY BUDGET – Chairman Eddie Settle declared the Public Hearing open concerning the 2021-2022 proposed Wilkes County Budget at 5:56 P.M. on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 with the following members present: Chairman Eddie Settle, Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton, Commissioner Keith Elmore, and Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson. Commissioner David Gambill attended the meeting remotely including video and audio through WebEx.

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

Public Notice for the Public Hearing was published in the Wilkes-Journal Patriot on May 12, 2021 and May 26, 2021, posted on the County bulletin board outside the meeting location and on the County website. The Public Notice is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Chairman Settle recognized Chief Cole Wyatt and Tony Lyall from Wilkes Rescue Squad. Chief Wyatt said Covid hit everyone hard and they took a \$28K lose to their budget. They are here to ask for these funds back plus an additional \$20K for a total of \$48,000 to support and continue their operations. He stated they support and helped EMS a lot last year and housed them in their facility for 6 months to help keep workers separated. They worked the Covid clinics to help keep EMS clear to run other calls. Chief Wyatt stated they added a pat-time program to their operations in order to get people and for coverage 7 days a week during peak times. He

explained how this has helped the Rescue Squad and all the Fire Departments and they have responded to many more calls to help the community. They hope to expand the part-time if they can work this out with their budget and find the personnel, which is an issue everyone is having. They have 10 part-time and have covered all but one shift since March 1st. Chief Wyatt explained how things have changed in the last 4 years and all they accomplished. He mentioned that they will need a new facility and updated equipment in the near future.

Chairman Settle stated they appreciate all they do and the improvements they have made. He added the County has funded them the following: 2018 \$135,000; 2019 \$150,000 plus \$22,000 more for a clot busing drug that went bad that could have been avoided. Chief Wyatt replied it could have been avoided and explained what happen and how this has been corrected going forward. Chairman Settle added in 2020 \$172,000 plus an addition \$28,000 to match a Health Foundation Grant; 2021 they cut 14% due to the pandemic and they still received \$172,000; 2022 the recommendation was \$190,000 and the Board approved \$5,000 more at their Work Session for a total of \$195,000. He added it has gone up significantly in the last 4 years. Chief Wyatt agreed and added they were not operating up to their capacity four years ago and have had to update a lot of equipment as well.

Chairman Settle asked what other funding they receive. Chief Wyatt replied they have one fundraiser. Mr. Lyall added last year it was \$68K. Chairman Settle asked if the Rescue Squad folds where does the equipment go since most of their funding is from the County. Chief Wyatt replied their Board would have to decide that, but thinks it would go where it is needed in the county. Mr. Lyall agreed. Chief Wyatt stated their disillusion clause said it will be sold to the highest bidder, but their Board currently does not feel that way. Chairman Settle said the tax payors are paying the majority of this and they certainly hope it would return to them. Mr. Lyall agreed. Chief Wyatt added they want to work well with everyone and do not intend to take the equipment away from the people that paid for and need it. Chairman Settle stated this needs to be worked out in the near future with their attorney. Mr. Lyall stated they would be agreeable to do this. Commissioner Johnson added they appreciate all they do and he has heard really good things about the Rescue Squad.

The Board thanked Chief Wyatt and Mr. Lyall for all the Rescue Squad does for the Citizens.

Chairman Settle asked if anyone else would like to speak, hearing no comments he declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:12 P. M. on the proposed 2021-2022 Wilkes County Budget.

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 6:18 P.M. with the following members present: Chairman Eddie Settle, Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton, Commissioner Keith Elmore, and Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson. Commissioner David Gambill attended the meeting remotely including video and audio through WebEx.

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

Chairman Eddie Settle welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION – Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson led the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Settle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Work Session held on May 11, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore, seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Budget Work Session held on May 11, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting held on May 13, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously adopted to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on May 18, 2021.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS – Motion was made by Commissioner Keith Elmore to approve Budget Amendment No. 39 (General – Social Services – Received an additional allocation of \$69,373.02 for LIEAP-Low Income Energy Assistance for a one time supplement to approximately 1,300 Wilkes residents because of State of Emergency due to COVID-19. No County Funds Required); and Budget Amendment No. 40 (Health Programs – Wilkes Community Health Center received \$2,568.55 from Project Lazarus. These funds will be used to prevent substance abuse for Wilkes County residents. No County money involved. Wilkes Community Health Center received \$26,749.28 from Yadkin County for Medicaid Case Management. These funds will be used to pay for supplies and materials for OBCM services. No County money involved); and Budget Amendment No. 41 (General – This budget request is due to GASB Statement 84, which now requires that these funds in the amount of \$280,000 be budgeted yearly). The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

FOUNDATION FORWARD CHARTERS OF FREEDOM – PRESENTATION – Chairman Settle welcomed Ron Lewis and David Streater. Mr. Streater thanked the Board and stated they are an education organization and a non-profit. He added one of the first items is settings vs monument. When he first went to work for Foundation Forward they were not sure what to call what they do, the Charters of Freedom. Which is The Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, and The Bill of Rights. Mr. Streater stated a monument is to pay homage to a person or event or things no longer with them. These three documents give folks many things they enjoy every day, liberties and freedom, from traffic court to the Supreme Court. Therefore, the Charters of Freedom are not dead, a monument does not fit the definition

and how they came up with a setting. Mr. Streater added these documents serve everyone, every day, they are with everyone, and the reason they are here tonight.

Mr. Lewis stated they are excited to be in Wilkes County and look forward to working with them to build the Charters of Freedom in this beautiful county. He added Mooresville and Charlotte may think they are the home of Nascar but they know where the home of Nascar is. In the home of Nascar they want to add the Charters of Freedom, which are the documents that created this great Country. Mr. Lewis went through the below slide show presentation at this time:

FOUNDATION FORWARD
BUILDING
YOUR CHARTERS OF FREEDOM
SETTINGS

Declaration of Independence – U.S. Constitution – Bill of Rights

SETTING v. MONUMENT
WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN THE CAROLINAS ?

RON B. LEWIS, MA
DAVID W. STREATER, Ph.D.

--FOUNDATION FORWARD--
501 (c)(3) NON-PROFIT

Apolitical and Areligious

WORKS OVER WORDS
What is happening in the Carolinas?

AN EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION

-ACCESS-
-EDUCATION-
-COMMUNITY-

WHAT IS FOUNDATION FORWARD?

Foundation Forward is a **non-profit education project**. It is an organization that builds **Your Charters of Freedom Settings** in communities across the country.

Our Passion is to provide easy and open Access for all to visit these founding documents:
Declaration of Independence
United States Constitution
Bill of Rights.

Our Vision is to provide this **Access and Education** in all communities across the United States of America.

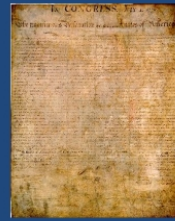
Our Goal is to educate people and preserve American history.

The National Archives building in Washington, DC, is shown from a low angle, highlighting its grand neoclassical architecture with many columns. A banner hangs from the entrance that reads "MEET THE REAL BEN." Several cars are parked in front of the building.

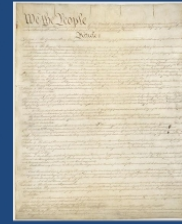
The National Archives; Washington, DC



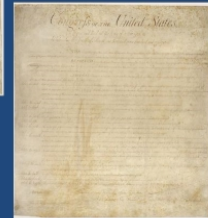
The Rotunda for The Charters of Freedom



Declaration of Independence



United States Constitution (First Page)



Bill of Rights

FOUNDING FATHERS ON EDUCATION

• **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**
Author, Musician, Printer, Political Theorist, Politician, Postmaster, Scientist, Inventor, Sage.



• **THOMAS JEFFERSON**
Third United States President, Author of The Declaration of Independence, Farmer, Inventor, Business Person, Manufacturer.



BEN FRANKLIN AND THOMAS JEFFERSON THEIR IDEAS FOR EDUCATION

PRIMARY LEVEL: Teach our youth how to function in life.

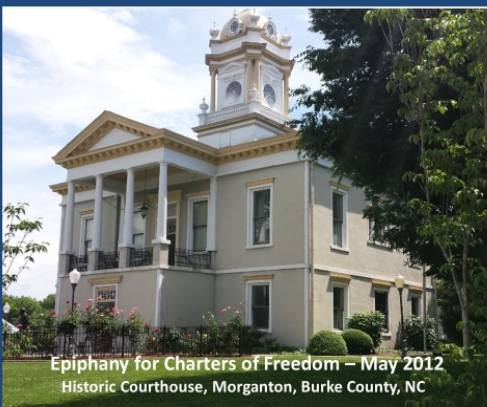
- Reading
- Writing
- Math

SECONDARY LEVEL: Teach our youth how to survive in the world.

- Accounting
- Living Languages
- Geography
- **History - Civics and Government**
- Vocations and Trades

THIRD LEVEL: Advanced education.

- Sciences
- Arts
- Professions (Law, Medicine, etc.)
- Culture of Virtue – Knowledge, Mores, and Ethics



Epiphany for Charters of Freedom – May 2012
Historic Courthouse, Morganton, Burke County, NC

FOUNDATION FORWARD ESTABLISHED AS AN EDUCATIONAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

PROVIDING CHARTERS OF FREEDOM SETTINGS WITH
ACCOMPANYING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

SCOPE OF PROJECT

Design and build replicas of the Charters of Freedom display as exhibited in the National Archives Rotunda, Washington, D.C. in communities.

The display *must* be central and open to the community 24/7, with high visibility, voluminous foot traffic, and easy access for school children, veterans, and all others.

When BUILDING SETTINGS --
Three documents in order--as displayed in The National Archives.

Declaration of Independence on the left;
United States Constitution in the center;
Bill of Rights on the right.



Construction Process



Both side displays
measure 4'x 4' - Solid
Concrete



Middle Display
4'x16' - Solid
Concrete



Document Tray Being Placed and Secured

DOCUMENT TRAY BEING PLACED ON TOP OF
FOUNDATION SUPER-STRUCTURE



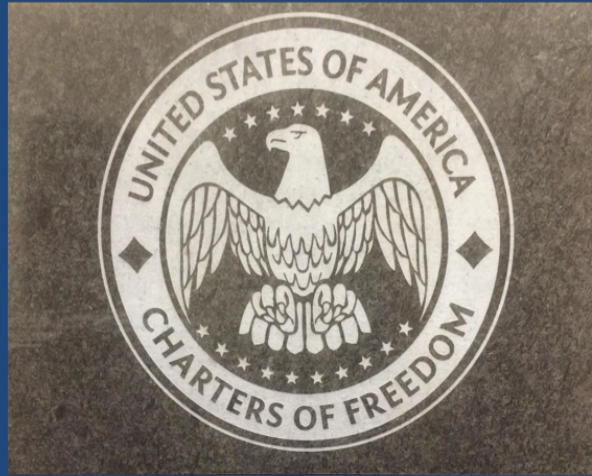
The six documents will be original size on 1/4" etched bronze. Each document weighs over 60 pounds, and is covered by a sheet of engineered industrial viewing glass.



United States Constitution

The Declaration of Independence

The Bill of Rights



TIME CAPSULE – SAFE & PLAQUE



Back side of the setting wall is a vault with a *Time Capsule* sealed inside. To be opened Constitution Day, Sept. 17, 2087.

TRANSFORMATION OF SITE



BEFORE
Burke County
Courthouse,
Morganton, North
Carolina



July, 2014
Burke County Courthouse,
Morganton, North
Carolina

Example of Brick Setting



Burnsville, Yancey County, North Carolina

EXAMPLE of GRANITE SETTING ASHEVILLE, NC





Setting with two Front Donor Plaques,
and Larger Field of Honor, for Engraved
Legacy Pavers



Artist
Rendition of
Teacher and
Students

Experiential Learning



Students with Dr. Ben
Franklin & Dr. Streater,
Franklin, NC



Another example
of teacher and
students



FOUNDATION FORWARD IS ABOUT

EDUCATION

ACCESS

COMMUNITY

Uses: Field Trips for students, Constitution Day events, Guard and Reserves Deployments, Holiday events such as 4th of July, Veterans' Day, Labor Day, family and individual pictures, awards ceremonies for public and private entities, weddings, public announcements, news announcement events, military promotions, Girl and Boy Scouting events, service awards such as American Legion, Marine Corps League, VFW, Lions Club, Civitan, Rotary Club, church events, etc.

Use your imagination!

PROJECT SEQUENCE

- Presentation to Local Government/Community
- Acceptance of Project with Site Approval
- Letter of Intent / Memo of Understanding Signed
- Project Champion Named
- Steering Committee Assembled & Community Support Implemented
- Building/Construction of Charters of Freedom Setting
- Dedication Date established upon ~50 - 75% Construction Completed
- Recognition Plaques & Time Capsule Sealed ~ Six Months after Dedication

EDUCATION MINDED

OPEN & COMMUNITY ORIENTED 24/7

EASY TO ACCESS FOR STUDENTS, VETERANS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC
AVAILABLE PARKING FOR FIELD TRIPS

THANK YOU!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?
HELP ME TO SPREAD THE NEWS!

NETWORKING TO PRESENT THIS PROGRAM TO OTHER SCHOOL, CIVIC, MILITARY,
CHURCH, GROUPS, ETC.

FOUNDATION FORWARD

--AN EDUCATIONAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION--

--Mr. Ron Lewis

--Dr. David W. Streater

*Contributions and In-Kind Services
and Materials are Accepted*

The End

Chairman Settle thanked them for the presentation and asked what they need from the Board. Commissioner Elmore asked the cost. Mr. Lewis replied once complete the value would be about \$75,000. They provide the expertise and do not charge for their time and labor. There will

be a project manager that will come to Wilkes. Commissioner Elmore asked if they have a location. Mr. Lewis replied that is up to the Board, they are happy to add input. He added Carl White and his group have several in mind, they do not tell them where to put it, but they have seen many possibilities.

Commissioner Johnson stated he teaches school and thought the Heritage Museum would be a great site. They take field trips there currently and this would be a great way to teach kids about the Country and respect for the Country. Chairman Settle stated it would be great for all kids countywide to see this. Commissioner Johnson added they do this in the Over Mountain Victory Trail currently and do a lot from the Revolutionary period. Chairman Settle stated this is being missed in the schools, the Bill of Rights, Constitution and the local history. The Over Mountain Victory Trail came through Wilkes and they sent Wilkes County men to Kings Mountain to see about the matter, which they did. Mr. Lewis said this turned the tide for the Revolution.

Chairman Settle asked what they needed from the Board. Mr. Lewis replied they would like them to place this on a future agenda and pass a Resolution that they would like to receive the Charters of Freedom. They will then draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will be signed by the County and Foundation Forward. He added they will send this and then look at the construction timeline. Chairman Settle asked them to send it to Mr. Yates and it will be placed on the agenda July 1st if they can have it ready by this date. Mr. Lewis said they it will take them a few weeks but they are very excited to get back to their business plan to get these in all 100 counties in NC and all over the United States.

Mr. Streater thanked the Board, and would like to take them up on their offer to help. He added two have been taken care of tonight one is to work with Commissioner Johnson to help them get in to see the School Superintendent, Principals, and Teachers. They have several education materials they have developed and they are free and provided at no cost. The problem has been getting in to see these folks and he would appreciate help with that. Mr. Streater said the media is second, he met Heather here tonight. He writes short articles monthly for local newspapers about the founding fathers and related people and would like to find connections to get these to the newspaper everywhere they have settings. The third is the radio and if anyone can help get them in touch with the general manager of the local station that would be great. He takes the articles and condenses them down to about 1 minute for public service announcements and ask they play these on air anytime the can. Mr. Streater said this is why they asked to come and make the presentation because they have so much to offer. Mr. Lewis thanked the Board.

Chairman Settle thanked them and stated they are glad to help in any way. He and the Board thanked them for their service and all that they are doing for the Charters of Freedom.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE – Chairman Settle welcomed and recognized John Blevins, DSS Director. Mr. Blevins said first he would like to provide a couple updates. He stated the waivers for food and nutrition and certification have been extended through December 31st or until the Governor lifts the emergency declaration. Next is the summer pandemic P-EBT for free and reduced lunch eligible kids. They will receive a benefit for June, July, and August. There is no application and it is automatically set up through the

school system and state. Mr. Blevins said they will receive \$375 one time per family with a first issuance at the end of July and second around September. The \$335 payment from last fall for virtual school and child care expenses was extended by the Governor to July 1st for any family that has not received this. The non-emergency Medicaid transportation beginning today will call the brokers for appointments to being on July 1st. Social Services will take care of appointments prior to July 1st. Mr. Blevins said if they get any calls after July 1st they will refer those to the enrollment brokers.

Mr. Blevins went over the monthly caseload report for April. Next he went through the Adoption Services financial report, Child Development and Subsidized Child Care financial reports for April. Mr. Blevins went through the CPS Foster Care monthly report for April.

The Board thanked Mr. Blevins for the update.

TAX DEPARTMENT:

1. TAX RELEASES – LISTINGS – UNCOLLECTABLE – Chairman Eddie Settle welcomed and recognized Alex Hamilton, Tax Administrator. Mr. Hamilton stated he is requesting the Board to approve tax releases for listings that are uncollectable in the amount of \$530.70.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to approve the tax releases for listings that are uncollectable as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

A detailed listing of tax releases is maintained in the Wilkes County Tax Administrator's office.

2. TAX RELEASES – LISTINGS – Mr. Hamilton asked the Board to approve tax releases for listings in the amount of \$5,578.64.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to approve the tax releases for listings as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

A detailed listing of tax releases is maintained in the Wilkes County Tax Administrator's office.

3. TAX RELEASES – COLLECTIONS – Mr. Hamilton asked the Board to approve tax releases for collections in the amount of \$1,348.32.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to approve the tax releases for collections as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

A detailed listing of tax releases is maintained in the Wilkes County Tax Administrator's office.

Chairman Settle and the Board thanked Mr. Hamilton and stated he will be missed and they appreciate his time and service to Wilkes County as Tax Administrator. Mr. Hamilton stated he appreciated his 22 years as Tax Administrator and has always worked well with the Board and appreciates the Board allowing him to do what is needed without interfering. This made things a lot easier, and he has a wonderful working relationship with Tony Triplett, John Yates, and Gary Page before Mr. Yates. Mr. Hamilton stated it has been a good time, but it is time for him to find something else to do. Chairman Settle thanked him for the good job and all he has done, he has had many people to speak very highly of Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton replied it is a hard job and they cannot always make people happy. Chairman Settle added he found solutions for a lot of people and helped them. Mr. Hamilton said he has a good group of people that work for him and he appreciates the Board and will be around until the end of the month.

Mr. Triplett said he has worked with Mr. Hamilton for 22 years, they have had a special relationship, and he does an outstanding job. They have worked together on countless issues and his knowledge on how things work and what they need to do has been encyclopedic. Mr. Triplett said he has enjoyed working together and it has been a pleasure to know and work with Mr. Hamilton. He wished Mr. Hamilton good luck in his retirement. Mr. Hamilton thanked everyone.

WILKES COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES – ANIMAL CONTROL COMMITTEE ALTERNATE – BOARD APPOINTMENT – Chairman Settle recognized Steve Rhoades, Animal Services Director. Mr. Rhoades stated it is often difficult to arrange for committee members to be present at meetings, as a result he is requesting the addition of Diane Bauguess as an alternate on the Appeals Committee. He added Ms. Bauguess served on the committee for 8 years and is very familiar with the procedures and a great addition. She has completed the required application and he is requesting approval from the Board for this appointment.

Commissioner Elmore asked if the appeals committee also act as the Animal Control Board. Mr. Rhoades said they do. Commissioner Elmore stated back when they changed the Ordinance this Board met and worked a lot on that. Mr. Triplett added this would be an appointment to the Animal Control Committee and one of their functions is to hear the appeals per the ordinance and to also make recommendations to this Board. Commissioner Elmore stated they originally approved the Animal Control Ordinance. Mr. Triplett replied yes, and was also very involved in the 2015 amendments to the ordinance and a very active committee. He added Commissioner Gambill has been a member for several years and they do a lot of good work. Commissioner Gambill said they have a great Board and Ms. Bauguess will compliment and help them as she served on this before and did a great job. He added at times it is hard to get enough members for a meeting. Mr. Rhoades agreed an alternate will help a great deal.

Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson made a motion to Approve the Appointment of Diane Bauguess as an Alternate on the Animal Control Committee as requested and presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

WILKES COUNTY AIRPORT – RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT SAMARITAN'S PURSE – Mr. Triplett said this

is a follow up from two meetings ago when the Board authorized advertisement of the amendment to the ground space lease for Samaritan's Purse. They needed additional space for their aircraft. The advertisement ran per the statute that governs leases and it is before the Board for consideration. All that is needed would be a motion to approve the Resolution as presented at tonight's meeting which approves the Amendment to the Lease Agreement.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Amendment to Lease Agreement with Samaritan's Purse Hangar at the Wilkes County Airport as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton and unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT
WITH SAMARITAN'S PURSE AT WILKES COUNTY AIRPORT**

WHEREAS, the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting of May 4, 2021, authorized advertisement for an Amendment to Lease Agreement (hereinafter the "Amendment") by negotiated offer, advertisement, and upset bid, with respect to certain ground space located at the Wilkes County Airport previously leased to Samaritan's Purse by Lease Agreement dated August 1, 2020, recorded in Book 1313, Page 090, and re-recorded in Book 1313, Page 296, Wilkes County Registry (hereinafter the "Agreement"), on which is located a new aircraft hangar currently under construction by Samaritan's Purse; and

WHEREAS, said advertisement was completed as required under the provisions of G.S. §160A-269, in the form of a Notice of Intent to Approve Amendment to Lease Agreement (hereinafter the "Notice of Intent") which was published in the Wilkes Journal-Patriot on May 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Amendment would modify the Agreement in the following manner and respects:

- 1. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY TO BE LEASED: The Amendment would modify the description of the ground space being leased to Samaritan's Purse and would substitute a new plat and metes and bounds description for the current plat and metes and bounds description under the Agreement. Currently the ground space being leased by Samaritan's Purse consists of 2.331 acres or 101,538 square feet. Under the new plat and description, the ground space being leased by Samaritan's Purse will consist of 2.537 acres or 110,512 square feet. In addition, the boundaries and configuration of the same would change as shown by the new plat and metes and bounds description to be attached, respectively, as Exhibits "A" and "B" to the Amendment.*
- 2. AMOUNT AND TERMS OF OFFER: The Amendment would further modify the amount of ground space rental to be paid by Samaritan's Purse during the initial lease term of twenty (20) years and during the three (3)*

optional renewal terms of five (5) years each under the Agreement. Under the Amendment, rental to be paid by Samaritan's Purse would increase from \$423.07 per month to \$460.47 per month for remainder of the first five (5) years of the initial twenty (20) year term, from \$490.45 per month to \$534.02 per month for the next five (5) years of the initial twenty (20) year term, from \$568.57 per month to \$619.07 per month for the next five (5) years of the initial twenty (20) year term, from \$659.13 per month to \$717.67 per month for the next five (5) years of the initial twenty (20) year term, from \$764.11 per month to \$831.98 per month for the first renewal term, from \$885.81 per month to \$964.49 per month for the second renewal term, and from \$1,026.90 per month to \$1,118.11 per month for the third renewal term.

3. *COMMENCEMENT DATE: The commencement date of the Amendment would be June 1, 2021.*

WHEREAS, the Wilkes County Airport Board at its regular meeting of March 18, 2021, approved the Amendment and recommended that it further be approved by the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners (hereinafter the "Board of Commissioners"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, upon review of the Amendment, desires to accept the recommendation of the Wilkes County Airport Board and approve said Amendment, and to authorize the execution thereof; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to G.S. §§153A-176, 160A-272, and 63-53(3), that the Amendment with Samaritan's Purse as presented at the May 4, 2021 meeting of the Board of Commissioners, and as set forth in the Notice of Intent, is hereby approved, the same to have an effective date of June 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman and Clerk of the Board of Commissioners are authorized to execute the Amendment on behalf of the County.

This the 1st day of June, 2021.

WILKES COUNTY

By: _____
Eddie D. Settle, Chairman
Wilkes County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

N.C DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – ROADWAY ABANDONMENT REQUEST – APPROVAL – County Manager John Yates stated the County has received a letter from North Carolina Department of Transportation that stated: *"This office has received a petition (Form SR-3) requesting the consideration of the 0.42 mile abandonment of Gold Medal*

Orchard Road (SR 2471) from the State Maintenance System. This abandonment will cover the last 0.42 mile in length. It is required that County Commissioners demonstrate approval of this process. After the approval is sent back to our District Office, property information research, along with road investigation will follow.” Mr. Yates said this will start this process. He added this goes in the middle of the property which is owned all the way around by Brian & Julie Whittington. Mr. Yates stated there is an old house on the top that is on their property all the other houses are at the beginning of the road and nothing past where they own. Commissioner Elmore asked if he is comfortable with this. Mr. Yates replied yes, this is a dead end road and not a through road.

Commissioner Keith Elmore made a motion to approve the Roadway Abandonment request for the last 0.42 mile of Gold Medal Orchard Road as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Casey Joe Johnson and unanimously approved.

SET SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – TAX ADMINISTRATOR INTERVIEWS – Chairman Settle stated they need to set another Special Called meeting to conduct more Tax Administrator job interviews.

Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton made a motion to set a Special Called meeting for Tax Administrator Interviews for Monday, June 21, 2021 at 1:00 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and unanimously approved.

The special called meeting is open to the public.

ADJOURN – Motion was made by Vice Chairman Brian S. Minton, seconded by Commissioner Keith Elmore and by unanimous vote adopted to adjourn the meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners at 7:20 P.M.

Sarah D. Call, Clerk

Eddie Settle, Chairman

WILKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved: June 15, 2021