

Unsealed by Board of Commissioners 04/13/2015.

**SEALED MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 24, 2014 – CLOSED SESSION**

Per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business, closed session was entered into at 8:05 p.m. Present were Chairman Hawkins and Commissioners Chapman and Hogsed, County Manager Artie Wilson, County Attorney Tony Dalton, Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

The Manager and Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows updated Commissioners on a potential economic development project and other economic development items.

Project Ink

Sigma Plastics Group has purchased Excelsior Packaging. They have submitted a request for proposal for incentive grants related to new investment and the creation of 80 new jobs (in addition to the current level of 57). In order for the NC Department of Commerce to offer an incentive for new job creation, there has to be an equal match by the local government. The request to the NC Department of Commerce is for \$1,000 per job.

The County's objective is to ensure the company remains in Transylvania County and grows. The alternative is that the company relocates to one of its plants in another state. The company also intends to make new investment of over \$12 million over a three-year period.

Mr. Burrows noted that the incentive grant is performance-based. The company must create 90% of the new jobs or they must pay back what they do not create. There are other potential incentives the County can assist with depending upon the investment made. The company would have to accept the offer and money is given when jobs are created over the three-year period.

Commissioners were in agreement to offer the performance-based incentive to the company in order to match the One NC Fund. Staff will report this to the State and proceed with the next steps. If accepted, Commissioners will have to go through the public hearing and formal approval process.

Other

The Manager and Mr. Burrows updated Commissioners on some other projects as well. The Manager reported that Glen Cannon has been sold to its holding company. There is a 10-day upset bid process. The Manager, Chairman Hawkins and others met with representatives to discuss the possibility of purchasing the property for recreation purposes; however, this would be a huge investment by the County and therefore the County is not interested.

Gaia Herbs is working with an architect to up-fit the building they purchased in Mills River.

There is still interest in the Davidson River Village site.

The County is working with Oskar Blues to find solutions to the wastewater issues at their site. There may be grant opportunities available. An engineering study is being done to determine possible solutions. The County has a meeting with the City of Brevard and officials with the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources next week to discuss further.

Mr. Burrows reported that he continues to work with the State on closing out the Small Business Entrepreneurial Assistance grant. The Manager has instructed him to have the grant closed out by September 1, 2014.

Chairman Hawkins moved to leave closed session, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously carried.

Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board