

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 27, 2008 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, October 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Transylvania County Courthouse.

Commissioners present were Lynn Bullock, Chairman Jason Chappell, David Guice, Daryle Hogsed and Vice-Chairman Kelvin Phillips. Also present were County Manager Artie Wilson, County Attorney David Neumann and Clerk to the Board Trisha McLeod.

Media: *Hendersonville Times News* – Leigh Kelley
Transylvania Times – Mark Todd

There were approximately 35 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason Chappell presiding called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

WELCOME

Chairman Chappell welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the members of the audience for participating in their County government.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no Agenda modifications.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve the Agenda as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Bullock moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The Minutes of the September 27, 2008 Special Meeting and sealed Closed Session, the Minutes of the October 1, 2008 Special Joint Meeting with Blue Ridge Community College Board of Trustees, and the Minutes of the October 13, 2008 Regular Meeting were approved.

FACILITIES USE REQUESTS

The use of the parking lot on South Broad/Varsity Street by the Transylvania Tailgate Market on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. from November 1, 2008 through December 21, 2008 was approved.

The use of the Courthouse Lawn and Gazebo by Transylvania Regional Hospital for a United Way Fundraiser on November 15, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. was approved.

The use of the Transylvania County Recreation Center by Frank Pearsall for a Railroad Convention on October 9, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and October 10, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. was approved.

DISCOVERY AND RELEASE REPORT

The Discovery and Release Report for September 2008 was approved.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONRESOLUTION 38-08 IN RECOGNITION OF TRUDI WALEND FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE TO TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

Representative Trudi Walend has announced her plans to retire from the North Carolina General Assembly at the end of her term in 2008. Ms. Walend has served in the North Carolina House of Representatives since 1998 and served as a Transylvania County Commissioner from 1996 to 1998. In recognition of her years of service to Transylvania County, Commissioners presented her with Resolution 38-08, In Recognition of Trudi Walend for Her Years of Service to Transylvania County, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.

Commissioner Guice moved to approve Resolution 38-08 In Recognition of Trudi Walend for Her Years of Service to Transylvania County, seconded by Commissioner Bullock and unanimously approved.

Each Commissioner personally thanked Ms. Walend for her years of service to Transylvania County and the 113th District. Ms. Walend thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve them.

RECOGNITION OF BUSINESSES IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

One of the goals of the Transylvania County Economic Strategic Plan is to recognize businesses in the County. Commissioners asked staff to implement that goal in 2008. On September 4, 2008, the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Advisory

Board hosted a Business Appreciation Luncheon at Glen Cannon Country Club. They presented four awards to the following:

- *Retailer of the Year*: White Squirrel Shoppe – Donna Stout
- *Entrepreneur of the Year*: SylvanSport – Tom Dempsey
- *Manufacturer of the Year*: Genie Products, Inc. – Janet & Dick Grey
- *Chairman's Choice*: WSQL White Squirrel Radio – John Taylor and owners

Commissioners recognized these local businesses with resolutions, which are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Phillips read Resolution 39-08, In Recognition of Donna Stout and the White Squirrel Shoppe as Retailer of the Year.

Commissioner Guice moved to approve Resolution 39-08 In Recognition of Donna Stout and the White Squirrel Shoppe as Retailer of the Year, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

Ms. Stout thanked Commissioners and said Transylvania County is a great place and has so much to offer to retirees, tourists and business owners.

Commissioner Guice read Resolution 40-08, In Recognition of Tom Dempsey, President of SylvanSport, as Entrepreneur of the Year.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve Resolution 40-08 In Recognition of Tom Dempsey, President of SylvanSport, as Entrepreneur of the Year, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

Mr. Dempsey thanked Commissioners and Transylvania County citizens for creating a wonderful climate for business.

Commissioner Hogsed read Resolution 41-08, In Recognition of Janet and Dick Grey, Co-owners of Genie Products, Inc. as Manufacturer of the Year.

Commissioner Guice moved to approve Resolution 41-08 In Recognition of Janet and Dick Grey, Co-owners of Genie Products, Inc. as Manufacturer of the Year, seconded by Commissioner Bullock and unanimously approved.

Mr. Grey thanked Commissioners for the recognition and said he appreciates all the County does for him. He also expressed his appreciation to the Senior Resource Network for the consulting services they provide.

Commissioner Bullock read Resolution 42-08, In Recognition of John Taylor and the Owners of WSQL White Squirrel Radio as Recipients of the Chairman's Choice Award. Ms. Donna Stout, one of the 16 owners of WSQL White Squirrel Radio, and Program Director Steve Banks accepted the Resolution on behalf of all the owners. Mr. Banks

commented that WSQL White Squirrel Radio is a success because of the dedication of the owners.

Commissioner Guice moved to approve Resolution 42-08 In Recognition of John Taylor and the Owners of WSQL White Squirrel Radio as Recipients of the Chairman's Choice Award, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

Commissioners publicly thanked all the award recipients for their investment in Transylvania County. The Manager noted that Staff will be displaying plaques in County Administration showing the winners of these awards each year.

APPOINTMENTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Commissioner Guice nominated and moved to appoint Richard "Dick" Grey to fill the unexpired term of Larry Van Antwerp, seconded by Chairman Chappell and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

WORK FIRST PLAN

Social Services Director Carson Griffin asked the Board to approve the Work First Plan. It has been made available to the public for comment and has been approved by the Social Services Board. Upon Commissioners' approval it will be submitted to the State. Commissioners thanked all those who volunteered to serve on the Work First Committee and for providing an in-depth and thorough plan.

Commissioner Phillips moved to approve the Work First Plan for 2010 to 2011 as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

POTENTIAL BUDGET IMPACT FROM ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

As a result of the global economic crisis, the Manager has asked Staff to revisit the FY 2009 Budget to see where the County is at risk of not meeting revenue projections. Department heads were asked to review their revenue projections in the budget and provide their best estimate as to any gain or shortfall. The Manager noted that Commissioners used approximately \$800,000 from the Fund Balance to balance the FY 2009 Budget.

The major risk areas identified were: 1) Fees associated with the building industry and real estate market, 2) a reduction in the collection rate of ad valorem taxes, and 3) sales taxes and interest income. The Manager estimates that the County has a potential revenue shortfall of approximately \$850,000. The Manager explained the risk areas further.

The major risk area is the impact of the downturn in the real estate and building industry.

Staff estimates a shortage of fees associated with that industry to amount to approximately \$477,000. The shortfall is spread across the Register of Deeds, Building Permitting, Environmental Health Fees and Solid Waste Fees.

For the last two years the Tax Department has focused on the collection of delinquent taxes. During this time the tax collection rate increased to 99.45%. With the focus shifting to revaluation efforts coupled with the downturn in the economy, Staff believes the County is at risk of achieving the 99.27% collection rate included in the budget. Staff estimates a 1% reduction in the collection of ad valorem taxes resulting in a loss of revenue of approximately \$223,000. The Manager noted that the County's goal is to still achieve the collection rate of 99.27%.

Another area of concern is the sales tax. The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners anticipates the sales taxes to be at best flat, with a more realistic projection of a decline for this year. Staff now estimates a 3% decline in sales tax over the previous fiscal year. A 1.9% reduction was included in the FY 2009 Budget. Staff estimates an additional 1.1% decline, or approximately \$92,000.

Staff also estimates a potential reduction in interest income of approximately \$40,000. The interest rates are lower than the original conservative estimates.

The subtotal of the potential shortfall is approximately \$900,000. Some departments had some offsetting costs that bring the total revenue risk potential to approximately \$840,000. The Manager again noted that the Board used approximately \$800,000 from the Fund Balance to balance the FY 2009 Budget, leaving the undesignated Fund Balance at approximately 12%. Heading into FY 2009-2010 the County could see a potential shortfall of \$1.6 million. Without cutting services, department heads were able to cut 2% of their budgets, which included capital and salaries. Staff did not ask the Board of Education or outside agencies to reduce their budgets. The Manager pointed out that the Board can not affect revenues, but it can control spending and costs.

The Manager reviewed the areas that were reduced. He pointed out that the FY 2009 departmental budgets were the same as FY 2008 in most areas which was an actual reduction in those budgets when factoring in a 3% inflation rate. Department heads identified approximately \$560,000 in potential reductions without reducing services. Approximately 40% of the departmental reductions will come from lapsed salaries and a delay in hiring the Sheriff's new personnel and other small reductions. Other departmental reductions come from travel and supplies, as well delaying the purchase of one vehicle in the Health Department. The remainder of the reductions comes from fuel, debt service, contingency fund, and fees remitted to the State. The Sheriff has indicated that the hiring delay will not interfere with the timing of the opening of the new Public Safety Facility and will still allow for adequate training of the new personnel.

Staff was also able to reduce the debt service for the Public Safety Facility by approximately \$34,000 based upon the contract with RBC Bank. Also, because the General Assembly did not pass the courthouse telephone system bill, Staff was able to

reduce the Budget by an additional \$18,000. Offsetting fees from the Register of Deeds and Solid Waste Departments also helped to lower the Budget. The Manager pointed out that fuel prices have declined, saving the County approximately \$70,000. The Contingency line item was also reduced by \$72,000, leaving \$75,000. The Manager reduced the \$30,000 allocated for repairs at Silvermont, noting that any repair costs can come from the Silvermont Fund Balance. In total, Staff was able to reduce the Budget by \$886,394, leaving a net impact of approximately \$45,000.

Some departments were unable to cut their individual budgets by 2% but others were able to offer more without cutting services. The Manager again noted that the Board of Commissioners can control expenditures, but not revenues. Given the uncertainties the County is facing, the Manager recommended that the Board authorize the reductions as presented. Also, being the budget will be extremely tight, he asked for the authority to use any excess funds in areas that may need additional funding. If any funds are used, he will report those transactions to the Board each month.

Chairman Chappell thanked the department heads for being proactive during these tough economic times.

Commissioner Phillips asked if there was any indication that State or federal funds will be frozen. The Manager responded that there was no indication that State funds will be withheld; however the Governor is asking departments to reduce their budgets by 2% or 3%, except for the Department of Public Instruction and entitlement programs.

Commissioner Guice commented that the General Assembly left many items unresolved at the end of their session. He commended department heads for taking the initiative to begin the process to help Commissioners understand what the County is facing and a process that allows them to participate in defining where cuts can occur. Commissioner Guice said it is important that Commissioners move forward.

Commissioner Guice made a motion to authorize the reduction in expense budgets and give the County Manager the authority to use the excess funds in areas that are needed with the understanding that this will be reported to the Board of Commissioners each month, seconded by Chairman Chappell and unanimously approved.

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY HERITAGE COALITION, INC. FUNDING REQUEST

Chairman Chappell stated that the Board of Commissioners appropriated \$10,000 to the Transylvania Heritage Museum for startup funds last year. They have requested additional funding for ongoing operating expenses.

Ms. Pat Childers, President of the Transylvania Heritage Coalition, addressed the Board. She explained that the Coalition has already used the original startup funds from the County. Additional funds are needed for ongoing operating expenses, including rent. Their intent is to preserve and honor the heritage of Transylvania County.

Chairman Chappell said he was very supportive of the funding that was allocated to the Coalition earlier in the year; however he is concerned about supporting their request at this time due to the downturn in the economy and because departmental budgets were just significantly reduced.

Commissioner Guice commented that many agencies are facing budget challenges and cuts in services. Ms. Childress noted there are no grants available for day-to-day operating expenses. Commissioner Guice added that the Heritage Museum's budget does not seem out of line and he hopes the County can find a way to help them.

Commissioner Hogsed thanked Ms. Childress and her staff for the work they do, noting that many people have invested a lot of time to get to this point. He urged Commissioners to find a way to help preserve the history of Transylvania County.

Commissioner Bullock noted that Commissioners just recently rejected a funding request from the Arts Council. He is also concerned about the County's budget.

Commissioner Phillips also expressed concern about the County's budget. He challenged Commissioners to become members of the Heritage Coalition which will help with funding. He recognized the difficult situation many agencies are facing.

Chairman Chappell again stressed his concern about the County's budget and potential unknowns it is facing. He said he can not support the request at this time but would be willing to consider their request later in the budget year.

Commissioner Guice said Commissioners should return to the process of considering funding requests during the budget session so all items can be discussed and planned for. He noted that he is a supporter of the Heritage Coalition and owns a piece of historical property.

Commissioner Bullock made a motion to deny their request at this time and to assist with seeking funding, seconded by Chairman Chappell. Commissioner Hogsed challenged each Commissioner to explore ways to help the Heritage Coalition. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Hogsed voting against.

RESOLUTION FOR INSTALLMENT FINANCING CONTRACT

The Manager explained that in order to proceed with an Installment Financing Contract with RBC Bank (USA) for \$2,900,000 for the construction of the Public Safety Facility and Maintenance Facility, Commissioners must pass a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of the contract and related instruments. The Minutes must read as follows:

The governing body for the County of Transylvania, North Carolina, held a regular meeting at the Courthouse, the regular place of meeting, on October 27, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Jason Chappell, Vice-Chairman Kelvin Phillips, Commissioners Lynn Bullock, David Guice and Daryle Hogsed

Absent: None

Also Present: County Manager Arthur C. Wilson, Jr., Finance Director Gay Poor, and Clerk to the Board Trisha McLeod.

Chairman Jason Chappell introduced the following resolution which was read:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,900,000 WITH RBC BANK (USA) TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN APPROXIMATELY 59,000 SQUARE FOOT PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY, WHICH WILL BE USED TO HOUSE A 114 BED DETENTION CENTER, SHERIFF'S OFFICES, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND AN E911 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AND AN APPROXIMATELY 6,000 SQUARE FOOT MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP AND STORAGE AREA ADJACENT TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF RELATED INSTRUMENTS, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body for the County of Transylvania, North Carolina (the "County"):

Section 1. The governing body of the County does hereby find and determine:

- (a) The County proposes the construction of (i) an approximately 59,000 square foot public safety facility, which will be used to house a 114 bed detention center, Sheriff's office, emergency services and an E911 Communications Center and (ii) an approximately 6,000 square foot maintenance workshop and storage area adjacent to the public safety facility, as more fully described in the hereinafter mentioned Contract (collectively, the "Project");
- (b) After consideration, the governing body of the County has determined that the most advantageous manner of financing thereof is by an installment contract pursuant to Section 160A-20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, as amended;

- (c) Pursuant to Section 160A-20, the County is authorized to finance the construction of the Project, by entering into an installment contract and a deed of trust or other security instrument that creates a security interest in the property financed to secure repayment of the financing;
- (d) As required by Section 160A-20, on September 8, 2008 the County held a public hearing with respect to the financing of the Project through the Contract, after notice of such hearing was published at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing; and
- (e) RBC Bank (USA) (“RBC Bank”) has proposed that RBC Bank enter into an Installment Financing Contract with the County to finance the Project pursuant to which RBC Bank will lend the County the amount of \$2,900,000 (the “Contract”) and a related Escrow Agreement between the County and RBC Bank (the “Escrow Agreement”), to be secured by a Deed of Trust and Security Agreement with respect to the Project for the benefit of RBC Bank (the “Deed of Trust”).

Section 2. The governing body hereby authorizes and directs the Transylvania County Manager and Finance Director and to execute, acknowledge and deliver the Contract, the Deed of Trust and the Escrow Agreement on behalf of the County in such form and substance as the person executing and delivering such instruments on behalf of the County shall find acceptable. The Clerk is hereby authorized to affix the official seal of the County of Transylvania, North Carolina to the Contract, the Deed of Trust and the Escrow Agreement and attest the same.

Section 3. The proper officers of the County are authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all papers, instruments, opinions, certificates, affidavits and other documents and to do or cause to be done any and all other acts and things necessary or proper for carrying out this Resolution, the Contract, the Deed of Trust and the Escrow Agreement.

Section 4. Notwithstanding any provision of the Contract, the Deed of Trust or the Escrow Agreement, no deficiency judgment may be rendered against the County in any action for breach of a contractual obligation under the Contract, the Deed of Trust or the Escrow Agreement and the taxing power of the County is not and may not be pledged directly or indirectly to secure any moneys due under the Contract, the security provided under the Contract and the Deed of Trust being the sole security for RBC Bank in such instance.

Section 5. The County covenants that, to the extent permitted by the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, it will comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) as required so that interest on the County’s obligations under the Contract will not be included in the gross income of RBC Bank.

Section 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Upon motion of Commissioner Kelvin Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Lynn Bullock, members of the governing body, the foregoing resolution entitled **“RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,900,000 WITH RBC BANK (USA) TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN APPROXIMATELY 59,000 SQUARE FOOT PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY, WHICH WILL BE USED TO HOUSE A 114 BED DETENTION CENTER, SHERIFF’S OFFICES, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND AN E911 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AND AN APPROXIMATELY 6,000 SQUARE FOOT MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP AND STORAGE AREA ADJACENT TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF RELATED INSTRUMENTS, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH”** was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Chairman Jason Chappell, Vice-Chairman Kelvin Phillips, Commissioners Lynn Bullock, David Guice and Daryle Hogsed

Nays: None

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of October, 2008.

PROPOSAL TO RECLASSIFY BOYLSTON CREEK

The Manager reported that the State has proposed to reclassify a section of Boylston Creek from Class C Waters to Class C Trout Waters that could substantially affect homeowners and business owners along NC 280 and in Henderson County. One major change increases the undisturbed buffer zone to 25 feet on either side of the creek. Also, the standards for certain elements are also much stricter for the Class C Trout Water designation. Any businesses adjacent to the water would be grandfathered in but any new expansion would have to adhere to the restrictions of the new classification. From an individual perspective the reclassification will place additional regulations upon the property owner. The State is concerned about the quality of the water. Their intent is, with more restrictions, to improve the quality of the water. The Manager noted that many of the property owners have argued that the quality of the water is good and for the most part meets the Class C Trout Water designation because there is trout in those waters. The Manager noted that the Mayor of Mills River, Roger Snyder, shared with the County a resolution they passed in opposition to the reclassification.

At a recent public hearing, 20 plus people spoke in opposition to the reclassification and two spoke in favor. Written comments can be submitted until November 14, 2008. At that point, NCDENR will assimilate the data and make a recommendation to the Environmental Management Commission, which is slated to meet in March 2009. If they approve the reclassification it would become effective May 1, 2009.

The Manager noted that he received two phone calls from citizens since the last Commissioners’ meeting and both were opposed to the reclassification. Commissioners also received a copy of a letter from Mr. Don Surette, a citizen from the affected area, who is opposed to the reclassification. The Manager expressed concern over the State’s

process of informing the public. Chairman Chappell noted another flaw in their process is that the public hearing was held during the day when most people are working.

Commissioner Guice moved that the Manager prepare a resolution in opposition to the Boylston Creek Trout Stream designation and authorize the Chairman to sign the resolution. He further moved that any concerns that any individual Commissioners have be forwarded to the Manager where he will prepare a packet concerning this matter and the State's flawed process and forward to the State, as well as to the County's representatives. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed. Commissioner Phillips requested that the letter included a statement about the timing of the public hearing because it excludes people from participating. Commissioner Hogsed encouraged each Commissioner to draft a letter in opposition to the reclassification. After further comments, **the motion passed unanimously.**

CONTRACT WITH CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS FOR A 100 MEG METRO ETHERNET

In order to have communications with the new Public Safety Facility, Citizens Communications Systems is offering the County a five year contract to provide fiber connections from the new facility to the Social Services Building. The County will make no payments until service is accepted and usage begins. The monthly payment would be \$1,350.60 or \$16,207.20 annually. The Manager noted that Information Technology Director Dean Landreth, recommends that the County enter into this agreement. He also noted that the contract can be modified if improved technology becomes available.

Commissioner Guice moved that the County approve and authorize the Manager to sign the contract with Citizens Communication Systems, seconded by Chairman Chappell. After comments, **the motion was passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 36-08 OPPOSITION TO SHIFTING TRANSPORTATION COSTS TO COUNTIES

The Manager reported that recent legislation allows counties to voluntarily participate in the costs of transportation projects. There has also been discussion about eliminating the State's Secondary Roads Program which would force counties to maintain and pave secondary roads which could be devastating to counties' budgets and place an undue burden on the taxpayers. The Manager asked Commissioners to pass Resolution 36-08 Opposition to Shifting Transportation Costs to Counties, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.

After comments, **Commissioner Guice moved to approve Resolution 36-08 Opposition to Shifting Transportation Costs to Counties, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.**

RESOLUTION 37-08 COMMEMORATING VETERANS DAY ON NOVEMBER 11, 2008

Commissioner Hogsed announced that the Board of Commissioners requests that citizens remember and pay tribute to the veterans who have served and are serving our Country to

preserve the principles of justice, freedom and democracy around the world. Last year Commissioners held a ceremony in front of the Courthouse on Veterans Day. Commissioner Hogsed asked everyone to remember the young lady from Brevard who recently lost her husband from injuries received in Iraq. He further asked for volunteers to help with a small ceremony in front of the Courthouse on Veterans Day.

Commissioner Hogsed read Resolution 37-08 Commemorating Veterans Day on Tuesday, November 11, 2008, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to approve Resolution 37-08 Commemorating Veterans Day on November 11, 2008, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- Water damage occurred on all floors of the Social Services Building over the weekend due to a faulty sink on the third floor. Staff has been meeting with folks to resolve the issue.
- The Board of Education has requested to use some of the excess dirt from the Public Safety Facility for their new parking area. He requested permission to move forward with an agreement with the Board of Education. The Board agreed.
- Staff will bring a proposal back to the Board regarding the Connestee Falls project in January.
- Judge Powell heard the preliminary injunction case today and is expected to make a ruling in a few days.
- There is a Public Officials Meeting on Tuesday regarding NC 215. There is a Public Meeting at the Balsam Grove Community Center from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday also.
- The Bookmobile arrived today.
- Chairman Chappell read a letter recently sent to the Friends of the Library along with a donation of \$100. The donor made the contribution in appreciation of the excellent services he received from the Library and Library staff.
- The Manager stated that Commissioners should be proud of department heads for being proactive in addressing the potential budget shortfall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Don Surette thanked Commissioners for their support on the Boylston Creek reclassification issue. He discussed some of the impacts the reclassification will have on homeowners.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Phillips suggested that the Manager draft a letter to each department head thanking them for their work on the budget reductions and their dedication to the County. Commissioner Guice asked that all Commissioners personally sign each letter. Commissioner Bullock recognized the burden placed upon department heads and thanked for them their hard work.

The Manager reminded Commissioners of the United Way Luncheon on Friday at noon.

Chairman Chappell thanked Board of Elections staff for their hard work during this election.

Human Resources Director Sheila Cozart asked Commissioners to remember Jeff Parker and his family. His young daughter is ill.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bullock and unanimously carried.**

Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha D. McLeod
Clerk to the Board