

**MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 12, 2009 – REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, October 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Transylvania County Courthouse.

Commissioners present were Lynn Bullock, Chairman Jason Chappell, Mike Hawkins, and Daryle Hogsed. Commissioner Kelvin Phillips was absent. Also present were County Manager Artie Wilson, County Attorney Curtis Potter, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

Media: *Transylvania Times*: Mark Todd

There were approximately 25 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason Chappell presiding called the meeting to order at 7:03 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

Lisa Landis: Ms. Landis commented about several complaints that have been made about a gun range off Wilson Road. She asked that someone address these issues.

The Manager recognized Joe Moore, the new City Manager for the City of Brevard, and asked that the City address Ms. Landis' concerns.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

The Manager reported on the Agenda modifications. He requested to add Item IV-A Facilities Use Request under Consent Agenda, Item VIII-B Resolution Requesting the NC General Assembly to Exclude the Appalachian Development Highway System Funding from the NCDOT Equity Formula under New Business, and to move the Manager's Report to Item VIII-C.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were approved:

FACILITIES USE REQUESTS

The use of the Courthouse Gazebo by Salon Allure on October 17, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis was approved.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

LINKING LANDS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE LAND OF SKY REGION

Jim Stokoe, Senior Planner and former Assistant Director of the Land-of-Sky Regional Council gave a presentation about the Linking Lands and Communities in the Land-of-Sky Region project. He discussed how this project will benefit Transylvania County and the rest of the region.

Almost 50 organizations partnered with the Land-of-Sky on this project. County Extension Director Eric Caldwell and Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows participated on the leadership group for the project.

The project involved taking a look at the regional landscape and its natural resources and determining how they are interconnected and predicting where future development might be located with the goal of being able to assist counties in achieving a balance of conservation and development. The Land-of-Sky believes conservation and development can be mutually enhancing.

Project Premises and Assumptions:

- Nature provides valuable services to communities;
- Natural systems support many sectors of the economy and help attract new businesses and residents;
- Nature provides many invisible services and it is important to protect natural resources as regions develop;
- Nature enhances development; and
- Development enhances nature

Expected Outputs:

- Completion of several science based maps of natural resources on a regional scale;
- Creation of a science based conservation network along with future development scenarios to determine where there might be agreement or conflict; and
- Implementation strategies for local governments, developers, land owners, etc.

Mr. Stokoe said the Land-of-Sky plans to offer training to GIS and Planning Departments. Throughout each step in the project, they will be holding public workshops and open houses in each County. The Land-of-Sky hopes the project outputs will reflect the values that the citizens of each county place on natural resources and economic development in the region.

PRESENTATION BY THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Tourism Development Authority (TDA) has been working on the design of their new website and a promotional strategy to increase the economic impact of tourism in the community. Karen Tessier and Brad Campbell of Market Connections gave a presentation which included a view of the new website and their promotional materials. The TDA hired Market Connections to develop a new website and marketing strategies.

Market Connections conducted research and many interviews from a cross section of stakeholders and consumers, as well as an informal survey with 32 businesses and accommodations. During their research they were able to determine the percentage of visitors coming to Transylvania County during each of its seasons, as well as the types of people, age groups, and from where they are coming. Some key observations in their research include:

- Transylvania County is not just the Land of Waterfalls, but the Land of Opportunity. Transylvania County is featured in many national magazines as one of the top destinations in North America for biking. The County is an attraction for outdoor adventure audiences.
- Arts and culture are very vital to the area. Promoting this aspect of Transylvania County will help increase the length of visitors stays.
- Transylvania County has an abundance of summer camps. Market Connections found that many young campers return to visit Transylvania County as adults. This creates a much more stable tourism market.
- Transylvania County is the geographic center of a fishing tourism industry.

Market Connections' marketing strategy is to focus on all the important facets of the County that speak to different target markets. They have also built a bank of marketing resources, created a new website, created a newsletter and new advertising with the goal of directing visitors to the new website. Their marketing is targeted to consumer profiles and specific geographic locations. Market Connections is working very closely with community networks to build partnerships.

Mr. Campbell described some of their advertising, website features and newsletter in further detail. He also noted that because of the relationships they are building with the State and other organizations, they are able to bring high value opportunities to Transylvania County.

OLD BUSINESS

PROPOSED REVISION TO THE ROGOW ROOM POLICY

Library Director Anna Yount announced that the Transylvania County Library Board of Trustees recommended the following changes to the Rogow Room Policy:

1. Allow nonprofit organizations to charge registration fees or collect donations for cost recovery; and
2. Prohibit use of Rogow Room by individuals, businesses, and organizations for purely social events or for fundraising; and
3. Groups may not tape, pin, or otherwise attach signs, banners, or any other materials to any wall or other surface.

Ms. Yount noted there are no changes to the fee schedule.

After clarification on some of the changes, **Commissioner Bullock moved to approve the proposed revisions to the Rogow Room policy, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.**

RESOLUTION TO AMEND SYLVAN VALLEY 2 FIRE DISTRICT MAP

Staff recently learned of errors in the Sylvan Valley 2 Fire District Map which impacted properties in the Williamson Creek and Glen Cannon communities. County Operations Director David McNeill explained that the error was brought to his attention by a resident who thought his

property was mapped incorrectly. As a result, staff reviewed the entire district map and discovered other properties that were mapped incorrectly. These properties will now be classified with a 9S rating rather than a 9E rating, which is unprotected.

In response to questions from Commissioners, Mr. McNeill said that each property owner will be notified of this change and encouraged to contact their insurance company so they can benefit from the new rating. He also noted that the Office of the State Fire Marshal has already reviewed and approved the maps. Once the resolution is approved, the State will officially change the maps.

Commissioner Bullock moved to approve Resolution 49-09 To Amend Sylvan Valley 2 Fire District. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsd and unanimously approved.

(Resolution 49-09 To Amend Sylvan Valley 2 Fire District is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST QUARTER FY 2009-10 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Finance Director Gay Poor presented the Budget Transfers and Amendments for the First Quarter of FY 2009-10 and highlighted the following:

During the First Quarter of FY 2009-10, the General Fund budget increased by \$977,283. The majority of this increase, \$695,000, represents funds rolled forward from the prior year for purposes or purchases initiated in FY 09 but not completed by year's end. This amount includes \$580,000 for the updated E911 System, \$36,000 in unspent Health Department grants, \$18,000 in unused Special Child Adoption funds, \$16,000 remaining on a supplemental Emergency Management grant, and \$12,000 that was donated to the Sheriff's Office for specific programs.

Transfers from the General Capital Fund accounted for another \$244,000 of the increase, as funds set aside for IT Projects were moved to the General Fund: \$15,000 to pay for the first year's internet connection between the Public Safety Facility and the IT Center and \$229,000 to acquire the Electronic Record Management Software Document Imaging System for Social Services. Approximately 34% of the cost of the new system will be reimbursed by the State.

New State and federal funding added \$37,000 to the budget which included \$27,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for Social Services' administration of food stamp programs and \$10,000 for the Library from an LSTA Strengthening Public Library Collection Grant.

Also increasing the budget were two appropriations from the General Fund balance. These were \$27,000 from the Soil and Water Reserve for removal of debris from the French Broad River and \$15,000 from the Museum Reserve for the Transylvania Heritage Coalition.

There were two reductions to the budget, both attributable to State budget cuts. DJJDP funding was reduced by 5%, resulting in a decrease of \$5,000. Much more significant was the loss of \$35,000 in revenues budgeted to be received from the NC Department of Corrections for housing inmates locally.

These changes brought the General Fund budget to \$40,290,000 at the end of the quarter.

Commissioner Hawkins moved to approve the First Quarter FY 2010 Budget Amendments, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EXCLUDE THE APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT HIGHWAY SYSTEM FUNDING FROM THE NCDOT EQUITY FORMULA

The Manager said it was brought to his attention at a recent Rural Planning Organization meeting that currently the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Equity Formula takes into consideration funding that is received from the Appalachian Regional Commission when funds are distributed throughout the State. Under the current funding policies, Division 14's allocation of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) funds count towards its allotment through the equity formula and as a result, decreases the availability of funds to the western region of the State.

He submitted a resolution to Commissioners for their consideration asking the NC General Assembly to exclude the ADHS funding from the NCDOT equity formula in order to fund and complete the remaining corridors which will benefit the people of Southern Appalachia and southwestern NC. The resolution also requests that the United States Congress exclude the ADHS funding from the minimum return of transportation funding to the State of North Carolina.

After some discussion, **Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve Resolution 50-09 Requesting the NC General Assembly to Exclude the Appalachian Development Highway System Funding from the NCDOT Equity Formula. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bullock and unanimously approved.**

(Resolution 50-09 Requesting the NC General Assembly to Exclude the Appalachian Development Highway System Funding from the NCDOT Equity Formula is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- The dedication for the Public Safety Facility is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. The dedication ceremony should last approximately one hour. Tours of the facility will follow the dedication. Staff will also give public tours on Thursday evening beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- The new Public Safety Facility will open on Monday, November 9, 2009. The Sheriff's Office and Communications Department will be fully operational at that time. The new E911 system will go live on Wednesday of this week. Inmates will be moved at a later undisclosed date.
- Staff has contacted the Rosman Board of Aldermen regarding a joint meeting. They will provide staff with some possible dates as soon as possible.
- At a previous meeting, Commissioners asked staff to explore potential costs of a new courthouse facility. The Manager met with two contractors and he plans to have some information for the Board at a meeting in the near future.
- The Manager has contacted a realtor to look for other properties for an animal shelter.
- The Complete Count Committee (Census 2010) met last week. The Committee will begin focusing on their efforts in January, February, and March 2010.
- Last week staff met with representatives from the North Carolina Department of Transportation at the Pisgah Forest Convenience Center to discuss a possible utility

easement. The easement will not interfere with operations at the Convenience Center. Staff should have information for the Board's approval at the next meeting.

- Last week, the Manager and Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows met with delegation from Romania. Delegates are here exploring how they might extend trading opportunities between Romania and the United States. The delegates were from Transylvania County in Romania.
- Habitat for Humanity has invited Commissioners to a celebration recognizing the start of the 50th house. The celebration is on October 24, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
- On Sunday, October 4, 2009, the Health Department administered over 700 flu shots.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Chappell reported that Blue Ridge Community College will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Saturday. He also announced that former Representative Trudi Walend was recently awarded the Robert G. Parrish Award by the Land of Sky Regional Council.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan
Clerk to the Board