

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING – December 7, 2009

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County held a special meeting on December 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Transylvania County Courthouse for the purpose of soliciting public input on the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2009 Building Reuse Grant Application.

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

Media: N/A

There were 3 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason Chappell presiding called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

WELCOME

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

PUBLIC HEARING

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR GAIA HERBS

Planning and Economic Development Mark Burrows presented the information for the Public Hearing, which is the second required Public Hearing for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) being offered through the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The first Public Hearing was held July 13, 2009 for the purposes of informing the public of the availability of CDBG funds for economic development needs in the community.

Gaia Herbs has requested to pursue a Building Reuse Program grant. They plan to up-fit a building off of Railroad Avenue consisting of 17,000 square feet, which has been vacant for more than 30 days, in which to receive bulk products from their main facility for shipping purposes. The Building Reuse Program grant totals \$100,000. The cost to up-fit the building could cost up to \$200,000. Gaia Herbs will provide the additional matching funds and will be responsible for the contractual relationship with the Land of Sky Regional Council for administration of the grant. Gaia Herbs will create one job per \$20,000 used from the grant funds, potentially creating up to five jobs. Transylvania County will be the recipient of the grant funds and Gaia Herbs will borrow the funds from the County. The loan would be secured through the real property on the site and the loan amount would be forgiven annually by 20% for a period of five years.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if the loan would be made in increments or if the full amount would be loaned up front. Mr. Burrows said the full amount would be loaned up front to Gaia Herbs.

Chairman Chappell declared the Public Hearing open at 7:06 p.m.

Lisa Landis: Ms. Landis announced she is trying to start a new business in Transylvania County. While she supports the grant opportunity for Gaia Herbs, she urged the County to find ways to help those lower income persons who are interested in starting new businesses in Transylvania County.

There were no other comments.

Chairman Chappell instructed to staff to add this item to the next agenda for action by the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Chappell declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:10 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Landis: Ms. Landis distributed her business flyer and asked Commissioners to consider a small investment in her business venture.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

There were no comments from Commissioners.

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 M. Hogan
Clerk to the Board