

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 12, 2012 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, March 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Transylvania County Courthouse.

Commissioners present were Vice-Chairman Larry Chapman, Jason Chappell, Chairman Mike Hawkins, Daryle Hogsed, and Kelvin Phillips. Also present were County Manager Artie Wilson, County Attorney Curtis Potter, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Mark Todd

There were approximately 30 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Hawkins presiding called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

WELCOME

Chairman Hawkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the members of the audience for participating in their County government. Chairman Hawkins introduced the members of the Board of Commissioners and staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Franklin: Mr. Franklin commented about a garbage problem at a residence on Ecusta Road across from Davidson River School and he asked if the County intends to address the matter with the property owner. The Manager informed him that the County is aware of the problem and is working to address it. He noted that the property was cleaned up a few years ago with the assistance of the Community Appearance Initiative but the property owner failed to honor the agreement to keep the property cleaned up. Chairman Hawkins asked Mr. Franklin to provide his contact information so the Manager could update him on the status of the property clean up.

David Adams: Mr. Adams believes the County should consider the possibility of charging non-county residents for using Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as a way to increase revenues without overburdening taxpayers. He believes local residents should not be responsible for paying for EMS for tourists and temporary visitors to the County.

Gerry Hunsicker: Mr. Hunsicker thanked the Board and staff for submitting the resolution regarding water quality issues to the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. He also commented about how the City of Brevard's UDO continues to hinder new and existing businesses. Commissioner Chapman informed Mr. Hunsicker that the County received a letter from the Secretary of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources recognizing receipt of the resolution. He instructed staff to provide Mr. Hunsicker with a copy of the letter.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 27, 2012 regular meeting were approved.

FACILITIES USE REQUESTS

The use of the South Broad Parking Lot at the New Adventure Learning Center by the City of Brevard for a bike rodeo and special event to promote health and wellness in elementary age children on Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. was approved.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

SESQUICENTENNIAL LOGO CONTEST

One of the Sesquicentennial Committee's objectives for the year 2011 was to create a new County flag. A subcommittee worked on this project and solicited design entries from the public. There were seven entries and a committee of County employees narrowed the field to three entries, one of which is the current County seal. The other two entries were submitted by Maria Sentelle and Imagewerks Productions. The three entries were posted on the County's website for voting by the public. The voting period lasted approximately three months. The number of votes cast was 337 and are broken down as follows: 1) Entry by Maria Sentelle: 155 votes; 2) Entry by Imagewerks Productions: 70 votes; and 3) Current County Seal: 112 votes. The winner of the logo contest was Maria Sentelle and the Board of Commissioners presented her with a framed copy of the logo design she submitted.

Ms. Sentelle explained the inspiration behind the design elements in her logo. She placed the County Courthouse in the center of the design because it represents all Transylvanians. Most Transylvanians' names are behind those doors in some form or another, whether it be on a birth certificate, marriage license, property tax record, etc. Also, courthouses are generally thought of as gathering places in communities and the stairs leading into the Transylvania County Courthouse represents a place where people could gather. Behind the Courthouse is a row of pine trees. The pine tree is the State Tree and Transylvania County is mostly forested land. Transylvania County is home to national and State forest lands and is home to the Cradle of Forestry, the first school of forestry. Also, the name "Transylvania" itself means "across the woods". Behind the row of pine trees is a row of mountains and depicts the mountain view from the parking lot of one of the County buildings near the Library. The design also includes a waterfall which represents the over 250 waterfalls located in Transylvania County. Ms. Sentelle chose to use Looking Glass Falls because it is very well known and widely photographed. The waterfall spills over the edges of the design to represent all the streams and rivers in the County. Also, Transylvania County is home to the headwaters of the third oldest river in the world and the second oldest river in North America, that being the French Broad River. Transylvania County has a rich music heritage, from mountain music to classical, so Ms. Sentelle included a fiddle/violin in the design which captures both genres of music. Also in the design is the unofficial mascot of Brevard, the white squirrel. The gray squirrel happens to be the State Mammal. In the border of the design are two cardinals. The cardinal is the State Bird. There are also dogwood flowers in the border which is the State Flower. The year Transylvania County became a county, 1861, is located in the border as well. One of the

requirements of the contest was to create a modern logo. To accomplish that, Ms. Sentelle extended three of the elements. First, she extended the top of the Courthouse to represent the people and the historic buildings. Next, she extended the water to represent recreation and nature. Lastly, the squirrel on top of the fiddle represents the culture and heritage. It was her intention to include elements in the logo that show how Transylvania County is unique.

Although the purpose of the new image was to specifically create a County flag, it could be used for a variety of other purposes as well. It could be used as stationery, signage or other areas of County identification.

The contest guidelines give Transylvania County the right to modify the winning design. Many people who voted offered some very positive comments about the entries but also suggested some minor modifications to brighten up the logo and make it stand out more. For the winning logo, some of those comments/suggestions included:

1. Colors should be more vivid and bold,
2. Reduce size of white squirrel,
3. Add color to the cardinals and the dogwood flowers in the border, and
4. Move the "18" and "61" together as one number and relocate to bottom of the logo in the border.

Staff requested the opportunity to modify the winning logo using these suggestions with monies that are still available in the Sesquicentennial Budget and to bring back a final recommendation to the Board in approximately three months. At that time, staff will ask Commissioners to determine the use of the logo as a new County flag or logo, new County seal, both or neither.

Chairman Hawkins moved to allow staff to use funds in the Sesquicentennial Budget to modify the winning design using suggested changes as mentioned and bring back a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners in three months as to its potential use. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman. Commissioner Chapman asked Ms. Sentelle to submit a formal document explaining the elements of her logo design for historical purposes. Chairman Hawkins thanked the members of the Sesquicentennial Committee for their work on this project. **The motion passed unanimously.**

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

Emergency Management Director David McNeill gave an overview of the Emergency Management Department's activities in 2011, including Emergency Medical Services (EMS), 911 Communications, and the Fire Marshal's Office, and highlighted the following:

Emergency Management

- Responded to 68 calls for service
- Reviewed, updated and submitted for approval the Hazard Mitigation Plan; must be updated every 5 years otherwise the County would be ineligible for any funding assistance should a disaster occur; requires ongoing maintenance
- Annual Emergency Operations Plan Review and Update in June
- Resource Typing Project , a DPR 9 Regional Project
- Conducted shelter training for County staff
- Held Public Officials Conference

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- Call volume increased 5.4% from 2010
- Call volume has increased 42.8% over 10 years

- Total transports increased 6.5% from 2010
- Responded to a call every 1.9 hours on average
- All on-duty EMS trucks busy on 544 occasions
- Peak times 9am-9pm with busiest hours being 1pm-3pm

Chairman Hawkins asked Mr. McNeill to speculate on why the call volume has increased so much. Mr. McNeill said Transylvania County's population is an aging population and retirement age communities have higher emergency call volumes because this population typically has more medical related issues.

- Response by call location: 71% of the calls occur in Brevard (includes Brevard and the Sylvan Valley 2 Fire District); Connestee Falls is the next highest response area because of the concentration of people in such a small area
- Transport destinations: most transports end up at Transylvania Regional Hospital; on occasion there are transports to Mission Hospital in Asheville, Pardee Hospital in Hendersonville, landing zones, home and some to specialized facilities such as burn centers
- Presently EMS is staffed with a full-time 24/7 truck at the station in Quebec and a 24/7 truck in Brevard, as well as a 12-hour shift daytime truck

911 Emergency Communications

Addressing Division

- Processed 851 requests for new addresses
- Processed 162 road sign installations for new and missing signs
- Processed 27,704 changes in phone numbers from Comporium
- Processed 8,245 phone calls from the public
- Tracking 18,759 wire lines in the ALI database through Comporium
- Replacing road signs as needed to meet the new federal size guidelines

911/Communications Division

- The 911 Center processed 61,992 total phone calls while being staffed with 2 employees per shift working 24/7
- Processed 6 calls for people who were hearing impaired
- Of the total phone calls, 47,920 calls were through the administrative lines (32,877 incoming; 15,043 outgoing)
- Of the total phone calls, 14,059 calls were through the 911 lines (4,990 wire line calls; 9,069 wireless calls)

Mr. McNeill noted that the use of cell phones for emergencies is a huge change from how emergencies were handled in the past. Fortunately, Transylvania County has the capability of identifying the location of those wireless devices. When someone uses a cell phone, the signal traditionally hits two towers, so tele-communicators can use that information to pinpoint the location of the call. He cited some specific examples of how tele-communicators successfully located lost persons.

- Average answer time: of the 911 calls, 99.7% were answered within 15 seconds (National Fire Protection Association [NFPA] 1221 recommends 95% of emergency calls be answered within 15 seconds); of the Administrative calls, 99.6% were answered within 15 seconds
- Average phone call duration: 911 calls=110.25 seconds; administrative incoming=70.16 seconds; administrative outgoing=72.66 seconds
- NFPA recommends that 90% of emergency calls shall be processed and dispatched within 60 seconds and 99% of calls shall be processed and dispatched within 90 seconds; in 2011, the

average length of a 911 call was 110 seconds. (Staff has been working with the Chief's Association to determine what information they would like the tele-communicators to gather prior to dispatching. There are some methods to decrease the call length time and staff is working through the process to make improvements. Mr. McNeill said it is important to take into consideration how much information tele-communicators should gather before making a safe dispatch because no one wants to send anyone into an unsafe situation.)

- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System calls by call type: Fire=6%; EMS-Rescue=12%; Law Enforcement=28%; Miscellaneous=54%
- Fire Calls (3,081 calls)-coincides with EMS calls and the largest volume comes from Brevard Fire District; Rosman is the second highest
- Medical Calls (6,191)-Transylvania County EMS receives the largest amount of calls, followed by Brevard Rescue and Medical Helicopters
- Law Enforcement Call (15,011)-Transylvania County Sheriff's Office makes up the overwhelming majority of the calls; processed 296 calls for the Brevard Police Department (has their own dispatch); also processed calls for the SBI, State Highway Patrol, Probation & Parole, and Lake Toxaway Security
- Miscellaneous Calls-these calls include calls to handle issues regarding Animal Control, Social Services, Dupont State Forest, alarm tests, etc.

Commissioner Chapman inquired about the status of the draft false alarm ordinance. Mr. McNeill noted that false alarms are more of an issue for local fire departments than the 911 Center. He reported that he reviewed the draft false alarm ordinance with a Rosman Alderman who had addressed concerns about it. The Alderman disagreed with including law enforcement in the ordinance. Mr. McNeill spoke with the Sheriff about this concern and the Sheriff was agreeable. The fire departments are still in support of the ordinance because it helps to reduce the number of responses they have to make that are unwarranted. The City of Brevard already has its own ordinance that addresses false alarms and instead of adopting one the same as the County's they plan to update their current ordinance. The final draft is still being reviewed by staff and affected agencies.

Fire Marshal's Office

- Key job elements – works with all fire departments on their inspections and reports; inspects a variety of facilities; provides fire prevention education; serves as the County liaison to fire departments on a variety of issues that may include fire taxes, district lines, insurance ratings, etc; conducts fire investigations
- Office Administration – fire department inquiries such as fire service district boundaries, insurance protection ratings, protection capabilities and other related matters; maintains Report of Fire Conditions and works with each department on the NC Firemen's Relief Fund
- Office Administration – assists in maintaining accurate fire department insurance district maps and descriptions; liaison to insurance companies regarding claims and investigations; responds to citizens' requests concerning safety issues
- Office Administration – maintains Level III Inspector capabilities which requires annual training and education; conducts plan reviews on all commercial permit applications (conducted 40 in 2011)
- Inspections/Reports – periodic inspections are mandated by NCGS 153A-364 and NCGS 160A-424 (Public Schools=once every 6 months; Hazardous, Institutional, High-Rise, Large Assembly, and Residential [Multi-Family Occupancies]=once every year; Industrial and Education [except public school]=once every two years; other types of inspections are conducted once every three years)
- Inspections/Reports – currently the Fire Marshal's Office has 900 occupancies listed in its database and this number is ever-changing; unattended/vacant structures are not included on the

list; required annual inspection schedule of 473 occupancies and currently accomplishing only 70-75% of annual inspection schedule due to limited part-time funds

- Fire Prevention Education to 7 public school and 10 daycares; fire extinguisher training to all County departments; inspects fireworks tents and issues fireworks aerial display permits
- Conduct origin/cause of fire investigations – collects, analyzes, and evaluates evidence; works with the insurance company and homeowner; provides technical support for law enforcement if an arson case
- Conduct origin/cause of fire investigations – conducted 14 investigations in 2011

Commissioners thanked Mr. McNeill and his staff for the work they do and for providing emergency services to citizens.

Mr. McNeill addressed the comments made during the public comment period regarding charging separate rates for non-residents for using emergency services. He said the County does its own billing for EMS and the County charges everyone that uses EMS services. This is consistent with most counties in the State.

Chairman Hawkins inquired about billing for rescue services. Mr. McNeill said Burke County explored this option but he does not know the outcome of their decision. He believes if Burke County decided against charging for rescue services, it would have been because there was no real benefit to doing so. Mr. McNeill noted that rescues are normally performed by volunteer departments which raises the question, for one, about how the services would be billed.

APPOINTMENTS

BREVARD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEAL – ALTERNATE

There is a vacancy on the Brevard Board of Adjustment and Appeal for an alternate position and one eligible application on file. The applicant must live in the City's Extra-territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) to be eligible.

Commissioner Chappell moved to appoint Jeanne Haigis-Pedler to fill the alternate position on the Brevard Board of Adjustment and Appeal, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

TRANSYLVANIA NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

There are two vacancies on the Transylvania Natural Resources Council and three applications on file. One applicant, Dawn Jiles McCall, expressed an interest in serving on this council since she is the Director of the Rosman Historical Society. County Cooperative Extension Director Eric Caldwell recommends the appointment of Dwayne Kevin Merrill to fill one of the vacancies.

Commissioner Chappell moved to appoint Dawn Jiles McCall to fill one of the vacancies, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

No motion was made to fill the other vacancy.

SENIOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

LeeAnne Tucker with the Land-of-Sky Regional Council has been recruiting members from the four-county region to serve on the Senior Volunteer Services Advisory Council and she requested that the Board of Commissioners officially appoint the Transylvania County members who are currently serving. They are Kathe Harris and Robert Anderson. Diana Mashburn does not wish to be reappointed.

Commissioner Hogsd moved to reappoint Kathe Harris and Robert Anderson to the Senior Volunteer Services Advisory Council, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

The Manager reported that the Transylvania Partnership sent a letter to Chairman Hawkins indicating they support Commissioners' economic development efforts in the County. The Transylvania Partnership, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) economic development organization formed in 1994 to help promote economic development in Transylvania County. The Manager asked Dick Grey, who serves as past chairman of the Transylvania Partnership, and Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows to talk about the Partnership and some of the things they are doing.

Mr. Grey reported that the Partnership has been involved in many projects over the years but it has been especially active over the last couple of years. The Partnership has been seeking funding and property that could potentially be developed as an industrial site. The last three years they have funded a business plan competition. The number of entries for this competition continues to grow. This year fifteen entries were submitted and the winner and two second place winners were announced at a reception earlier this evening. The winner received \$10,000 to expand her business. The second place prize money was donated by a member of the Partnership. Mr. Grey feels this competition helps to home-grow businesses in the County which creates overall economic development benefits. They plan to hold another business plan competition next year.

The Partnership also created a grant program two years ago for businesses that wanted to move into the County that needed some financial help in order to get started. This effort helped create two new companies and in total employs 15-17 people. The Partnership's most recent efforts focused on bringing a fairly large company to the County. The Partnership is still working diligently on this project in conjunction with the Economic Development Advisory Board.

Mr. Grey reported that the Partnership proposed three specific ways to promote Transylvania County's economic development growth. They are: 1) County-wide Economic Visioning; 2) Business Plan Competitions (continuation), and; 3) Performance Based Business Grants.

Mr. Burrows added that holding business plan competitions meets one of the goals in the Economic Development Strategic Plan and that is to support existing businesses and attract new businesses. It also fits nicely with Transylvania County being a Certified Entrepreneurial Community and helping to grow entrepreneurship. Mr. Burrows said it is the intent of the Partnership to assist Commissioners in their economic development visioning for the future.

Commissioner Chappell expressed appreciation to the Partnership with regards to how the business plan competition was judged because they looked specifically at job creation. He hopes Commissioners will take time to discuss the Partnership's proposal to assist and support the County. Mr. Burrows said the Partnership is also working to help those who participated in the business plan competition that were not winners.

For the benefit of the audience, Mr. Burrows reported that the Partnership was successful in building the Brevard Commerce Center on Railroad Avenue and assisting with the development of the Jennings Industrial site off Old US 64. Both projects met the requirements of AdvantageWest to be approved as "Certified Industrial Sites". The Partnership also assisted Dick Jennings with the creation of the first private Certified Industrial Park in North Carolina through the AdvantageWest program. The Partnership

has applied for a variety of different grants to support existing businesses and the County's economic development efforts.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Grey and Mr. Burrows for providing this information and said they look forward to working with the County's economic development allies to help shape the future of Transylvania County.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- The Manager approved filling one vacant position since the last report; a position in Housekeeping became open due to a medical retirement
- Had discussions with the architect about making minor changes to the plans and specifications for the new animal shelter; planning to go out for bids on the project in April
- Work is progressing on the renovation of the old Sheriff's Building
- The backstop and fencing at the Community Park in Rosman is nearly complete; Rosman Middle School is now playing on the fields; the entryway to the Community Park is now complete; work continues on the dugouts; seating has been provided for fans
- After further review of the wall project at Rosman High School, the Building Permitting Director and school officials have reached an agreement to modify the original plans
- Subcontractors are repairing broken bunks in the Detention Center at no cost to the County
- The NC Association of County Commissioners has announced plans for District Meetings. The District Meeting in the Western Region is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at the Doubletree Biltmore in Asheville from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and there is no cost to attend the meeting; Commissioners should inform the Clerk if they plan to attend so she can register them online
- The Solid Waste Department is now accepting more plastics at the recycling centers; plastics no longer have to be separated
- There was another potential stream reclassification issue with Tucker Creek but the issue has since been resolved; will continue to follow this matter
- Staff continues to work on the budget and an update will be provided to Commissioners at the next meeting
- The NC Association of County Commissioners plans to send each County a "Meeting in a Box" that will provide information about holding meetings with local legislators prior to the short session

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Surrette: Mr. Surrette suggested at a previous meeting that the Solid Waste Department begin crushing its plastics to increase the load size for transports and he asked if the County had followed through with his suggestions. The Manager said that staff is using a compactor now which has consequently reduced the number of transports needed to haul the material.

David Adams: Mr. Adams said he hopes Transylvania County does not drop the issue of charging for rescue services simply because Burke County may have decided against it. Mr. Adams also cautioned people from using the term "volunteer" as it relates to volunteer fire departments, because although the firefighters and first responders are not paid, the services they provide and equipment they use are paid for by taxpayer dollars.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Chapman encouraged Commissioners to visit one of the convenience centers to see the new recycling practices. He believes there will be some savings to the County and that it is good for the environment by not increasing the trash levels at the landfill.

Commissioner Chapman reported that he visited the old Sheriff's building today to see the renovations being done there. He said the contractors are doing a phenomenal job and the building is going to be a place that citizens can be proud of. He hopes that in the future there will be improvements to make the outside of the building look better.

Commissioner Chappell informed Commissioners that he placed an update from the Land-of-Sky Regional Council in their boxes. He serves as the County's representative to this board. He also noted there are many opportunities to volunteer with this organization and he encouraged everyone to do so because it is important that Transylvania County has a voice. Chairman Hawkins thanked Commissioner Chappell for his service on the Land-of-Sky Regional Council. Commissioner Chappell serves as chairman of this board.

Commissioner Chapman announced that there is an upcoming meeting about the rails-to-trails effort on March 28 at West Henderson High School. Henderson County is in support of the efforts, but Transylvania County wishes to keep it open and viable for potential economic development purposes. Norfolk Southern Railway has no intention of abandoning the railroad in the near future which is good for Transylvania County. He encouraged everyone to attend the meeting and support leaving the rail line open.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board