

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 14, 2012 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, May 14, 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 David Neumann, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

Media: *Hendersonville Times News* – Nathaniel Axtell

There were approximately 30 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Hawkins presiding called the meeting to order at 7:03 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

Lee McMinn: Mr. McMinn represents the group Coalition Supporting Public Education in Transylvania County that recently hosted an education forum at Brevard High School. A petition was circulated at the forum and other places around the County which received 191 signatures in support of public education in Transylvania County. The petition states its support for fully funding public education in grades K-12 and acknowledges the need to augment federal and State support with an increase in the tax base. Mr. McMinn delivered the petition to the Board of Commissioners.

Bob Hunter: Mr. Hunter proposed that the County form a new committee, one which he is willing to serve on, with no authority except the right to question the budgets and overhead of County departments and the School System. He proposed two others to serve on the committee which will report directly to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Hunter also commented that Transylvania County has the best water in the State and it is important that citizens and others take better care of the rivers and waterways in the County. Commissioner Chapman announced that a citizens committee has been formed that is studying this very issue. The members are contacting property owners along the river to get their input.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 23, 2012 regular meeting were approved.

FACILITIES USE REQUESTS

The use of the front courtyard at the Silvermont Mansion by the Transylvania Humane Society on July 4, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon for their annual pet show was approved. This is conjunction with the July 4th Festival organized by the Heart of Brevard and is an annual request. There is no fee.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

ARMY STRONG COMMUNITY CENTER

David Carr, Contract Customer Support Coordinator for the Army Strong Community Center, gave a presentation on what the Center does to help veterans throughout Western North Carolina. The Army Strong Community Center supports military members and military families. The center in Transylvania County is the second in the country. The concept came about because reservists are normally geographically dislocated from military installations. Active duty members usually serve on a military base. Therefore, in rural areas like Transylvania County, military members and their families might not be able to get the services they need. The Army Strong Community Center helps to make connections to other services and offers support to military members and their families. Mr. Carr asked Commissioners and members of the audience to pay attention to the needs of the veterans in the community and let others know about the Center so they may have access to resources and other services. The Army Strong Community Center offers these services at no cost to military members or veterans.

RESOLUTIONS RECOGNIZING THE QUEBEC COMMUNITY CENTER, CITY OF BREVARD AND TOWN OF ROSMAN FOR PARTICIPATION IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Last year Transylvania County celebrated its 150th anniversary as a county. This was a yearlong celebration and various communities held celebrations in their respective communities. Every community is to be congratulated on the great job they did bringing the families of their communities together for fellowship and to learn about their founding families and create a vision for the future. At the last meeting a representative from each community received a resolution of appreciation and a banner; however at the time staff was unaware that the Quebec joined with Lake Toxaway and Sapphire to hold its community event. Also both the City of Brevard and Town of Rosman played an instrumental role in helping making the County's 150th Celebration a great success. The City of Brevard was very gracious to provide manpower to display the street banners and they sponsored the Edwin McCain Concert on the evening of the big celebration held on September 3, 2011. The Town of Rosman was also very gracious to display a street banner. In addition the County's 150th Celebration was incorporated into the Town of Rosman's Heritage Day held this past fall. As a show of appreciation, resolutions were presented to the Quebec community, the City of Brevard and the Town of Rosman along with a street banner.

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the resolutions and thanked the Quebec Community, the City of Brevard and the Town of Rosman for their participation in the County's 150th Celebration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

(Resolutions 31-12 through 33-12 are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

CLOSE OUT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (CJPP)

The Criminal Justice Partnership Program (CJPP) will conclude as of June 30, 2012. CJPP Coordinator Judith West gave an overview of the program and how it has been successful in Transylvania County. Ms. West has served as the coordinator for eight years. The CJP Program has existed in Transylvania County since 1995. In 1994-1995 with the advent of structured sentencing, the State allocated monies to each County to use toward programs that would serve offenders under supervision. With those funds, approximately \$55,000 annually, a local board was appointed to oversee the program and to make recommendations to the County as to the best use of the funds. Over the past 17 years Transylvania County has been an example of good stewardship of these funds by removing barriers to services for offenders. Between 30 and 40 offenders a year received substance abuse and mental health services, and more recently domestic violence services, transportation and employment services.

Beginning in 2004, Ms. West started keeping outcome data. Over those years approximately 40% of the clients completed the recommended programs. Of those who completed successfully, after one year, 50% were still clean and sober and had not been in trouble with the law.

Ms. West thanked the members of the CJPP Board, especially those that served on the original board and are still serving, and all the County staff and local and State agencies that have worked to provide excellent services to clients.

Now that the program is ending, the last clients will be served at the end of the month. Monies will now be put into another program with a different type of focus. Offenders will now have to use substance abuse and mental health services that are available in the community through insurance reimbursement or through State funded services which are limited. Employment services may be available if they meet certain criteria. Transportation services will no longer be provided by these funds.

A request for proposal for the new program was posted. Ms. West said it was an extremely complicated process and the response was such that the State canceled it with plans to repost it. There was no proposal for Transylvania County. The suggested proposal will provide substance abuse services for three people per year and cognitive behavioral intervention (CBI) for approximately 30 people. CBI teaches decision-making skills to offenders. Access to services will be more limited. Ms. West said the CJP Program in Transylvania County has been a phenomenal program and has been possible because of generous and dedicated County staff. Commissioner thanked Ms. West for ensuring that the program accomplished what it was intended to.

PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY'S CENTENARIANS

Next Wednesday there will be a ceremony at Kingsbridge House recognizing all centenarians in Transylvania County. The Manager asked the Board of Commissioners to pass a proclamation recognizing the centenarians who live in Transylvania County and congratulate them on reaching this milestone.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve Proclamation 29-12 In Honor of Transylvania County's Centenarians, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

(Proclamation 29-12 In Honor of Transylvania County's Centenarians is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

PROCLAMATION – EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) WEEK

In 1974 President Gerald Ford signed into law the Emergency Medical Services Systems Act of 1973. The third full week of May ever since has been designated as EMS Week. The purpose of EMS week is to honor the dedication of the EMS personnel who provide day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's front line. Transylvania County is very proud of the paid and volunteer EMS staff that provides this critical lifesaving service to the citizens of Transylvania County. Commissioners presented the resolution to EMS Director Bobby Cooper. Mr. Cooper thanked Commissioners for this recognition.

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve Proclamation 28-12 EMS Week. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed. Commissioner Chappell thanked all those individual that sacrifice so much of their time for serving others. Commissioner Chapman recognized EMS personnel for their quick action in response to an accident that occurred in front of this home recently. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

(Proclamation 28-12 EMS Week is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

2010-2012 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows and Economic Development Advisory Board Chairman Bill Towler provided an update on the 2010-2012 Economic Development Strategic Plan and discussed how the goals are being met and other accomplishments achieved despite the slow economy and limited staffing.

Mr. Towler stated that on March 16 he reported on the actions and activities that have taken place over the past year with the Economic Development Advisory Board's charge of what it will be doing over the coming year. He reported there have been a number of success stories. He turned the presentation over to Mr. Burrows to provide the details of those successes.

Mr. Burrows reported that a number of people have been involved with economic development over the past year and that Mr. Towler has been a very active chairman for the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB). Also very much involved were the Transylvania Partnership, Blue Ridge Community College, Heart of Brevard, City of Brevard, and many other economic allies.

The EDAB is comprised of 15 members representing businesses, education, and many other backgrounds and entities. The mission statement of the 2010-2012 Economic Development Strategic Plan is to actively support a diverse mixture of existing and new businesses in order to retain and create new jobs, increase the tax base, and promote an attractive community that is responsive, caring and sustainable. The current plan has five goals. Mr. Burrows discussed each goal and how each was accomplished.

Goal 1: Support Existing Businesses

- Assisted 71 businesses
- Senior Resource Network facilitated the preparation of comprehensive business plans for 13 existing businesses
- Working with economic development allies, held eight business seminars

Goal 2: Attract and Support New Businesses

- Followed up on business leads from economic allies which averaged 2.4 per month
- Continue to provide assistance to Renova Partners on the Davidson River Village property
- Along with the Senior Resource Network consultants, provided assistance to 47 new or prospective businesses (business types included craft brewery, outdoor equipment, health services, etc.)

- Hosted the Southern Mountain Bike Summit (SORBA) in March 2011

Goal 3: Inform Elected officials, Other Community Leaders and the Public about Economic Development Actions and Opportunities

- Hosted a visit by USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan and EPA Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe
- Initiated work with Market Connections to advertise in *Bike Magazine*
- Published articles covering success stories and resources available to businesses in 12 issues of the Economic Development monthly e-Newsletter

Goal 4: Enhance Transylvania County's Exceptional Quality of Life

- Held more than 20 community meetings and distributed an electronic 150th Community Survey; a total of 1,323 individuals completed the survey
- The County's Community Appearance Initiative Committee continued to make significant progress in removing abandoned mobile homes and trash along the major corridors (in 2011: 4 mobile homes, 8 vehicles, 14 junk tires, 36 tons of solid waste, 4,000 lbs. scrap metal)
- The Henry House on West Probart Street was designated as a historical landmark

Goal 5: Promote Education and Workforce Development Opportunities

- Promoted and supported entrepreneurship education and financial literacy programs at Brevard and Rosman high schools and middle schools; a total of 19 classes were held impacting more than 260 students
- Promoted and supported Blue Ridge Community College's Small Business Center and incubator programs
- Linked businesses and manufacturers with different resources/job seekers throughout the year

Mr. Burrows briefly showed some slides that reported on the actual trends in construction, unemployment rates, and occupancy tax. He encouraged people to visit the website for more detailed information about the report.

Commissioner Chapman asked Mr. Burrows to review the functions of his office that could be moved to another department so that more focus can be made towards economic development efforts. Mr. Burrows noted that the scope of work has not changed in the last 15 years; however the resources have diminished dramatically over the same period of time. There may be resources in other areas that can focus on programs like Joint Historic Preservation and Community Appearance, but those programs and duties must be prioritized and staff has to ensure that it can be done.

Mr. Towler reminded everyone of the economic development visioning meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Library on Thursday evening.

Chairman Hawkins commented that economic development is a very complicated undertaking and it is important that Commissioners assist Mr. Burrows in terms of resource allocation and best use of time.

APPOINTMENTS

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The terms of Mark Lemel and Mike Shelley expire at the end of July and neither is eligible for reappointment. There are six eligible applications on file. It is the recommendation of the Library Board of Trustees to appoint David Watkins and John Welch to replace the two outgoing members. Both their terms would begin at the July 19, 2012 meeting.

Commissioner Chapman moved to appoint David Watkins and John Welch to replace the two outgoing members. The motion was seconded by Chairman Hawkins. Commissioner Chapman instructed staff to send thank-you letters to the outgoing members. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The terms of Jeff McDaris and Mark Emory expire at the end of May. Jeff McDaris represents the area of Education on the Workforce Development Board and has served for more than two terms. Director of the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board, Phil Monk, would very much like for Dr. McDaris to continue serving in this role. Mark Emory is eligible for reappointment and willing to serve another term.

Commissioner Chappell moved to waive the term limits and reappoint Dr. Jeff McDaris and to reappoint Mark Emory. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

PARKS COMMISSION

There are several vacancies on the Parks Commission for various reasons. The Clerk has advertised for the vacancies a few times and so far has one eligible and interested applicant, Nicholas Bearden. Mr. Bearden attended a recent Parks Commission meeting and would like to be appointed to serve on this committee. The Clerk will continue to work on recruiting members. Also, the term of Sammy Kicklighter expires at the end of June and he is eligible and willing to serve another term. It is also the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners to appoint the chairman annually.

Commissioner Chappell moved to appoint Nicholas Bearden to fill one of the vacancies, to reappoint Sammy Kicklighter to another term, and to reappoint Edward Marchini to serve another term as chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY

The Personnel Board met recently to discuss the Family Medical Leave and Sick Policy to specifically address some areas that were unclear. The proposed policy ensures that employees receive required benefits without compromising the ability of departments to meet their staffing and workload demands. The Personnel Board also reviewed policies from other organizations in the County and other counties as well. The Personnel Board unanimously recommends the proposed changes to the Transylvania County Personnel Policy as follows:

1. Begin FMLA leave at the point an eligible employee has taken 10 working days of accrued, paid sick leave for any FMLA purpose.
2. In the event that an employee has used 12 weeks of leave for FMLA purposes and is unable to return to work, a determination regarding the employee's continued employment will be made.
3. All leave, including leave covered under Worker's Compensation, which is used for an FMLA purpose shall be counted as FMLA leave.
4. If FMLA leave is granted for the birth of a child and both parents are eligible Transylvania County employees, each parent may be granted one 12-week period of leave for the birth and postpartum care of the child.
5. A permanent employee may be granted a leave of absence without pay for a period of up to 90 days in one year for compelling personal reasons.

At the request of Commissioners at the last meeting, the County Attorney reviewed the changes and found no problems with the proposed changes.

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the proposed changes to the Family Medical Leave and Sick Policy, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

The County's employee health insurance plan is self funded. FY 2012 has been a bad year for claims and staff is projecting to be over budget by \$212,000. The increases result from a few large claims and several claims in the \$30,000 to \$60,000 range. The latest estimated figures for the renewal of the current plan reflect a 23% increase over FY 2012's Budget, which is an increase of \$660,000. Staff met several times with Insurance Broker Mark Browder to explore options to reduce the percentage of increase. After reviewing several options, the Manager instructed Human Resources Director Sheila Cozart to work with the County's employee insurance advisory committee to offer a recommendation that would reduce the increase to single digits. The proposed modifications keep the increase over last year's budget to 8%. While the insurance advisory committee was concerned about making a change to the plan in light of not having had a pay increase in four years, they reviewed the option which Mr. Browder presented and came up with another option which would achieve the same goal. The proposed plan change will give employees an option between two plans.

Plan 1 (original plan offered by the insurance broker)

- Modified co-pay; Primary Care co-pay of \$25
- Rx co-pays remain the same as the current plan
- All other medical services apply to the \$1,000 deductible and 80/20 co-insurance up to a maximum of \$2,000.

Plan 2

- Co-pay plan similar to the current plan
- Co-pays would increase for Primary Care from \$25 to \$40; Specialists from \$50 to \$80; Urgent Care from \$50 to \$80
- Rx co-pays remain the same
- Deductible from \$750 to \$1,500
- All medical services except office visits including ER would apply to the deductible and 80/20 co-insurance up to a maximum of \$2,000.

The Manager recommended an investment of \$100,000 to initiate wellness initiatives above and beyond the current level to help reduce future increase in costs.

In response to a question by Commissioner Phillips, Ms. Cozart reported that the County allocates \$7,655 per position per year. This is the budgeted amount for the current fiscal year; however this year expenditures are running much higher.

Chairman Hawkins inquired about the long term effects of the proposed changes and wondered if these plan changes were a long term solution. Ms. Cozart responded that these fixes are not long term solutions; however this is not unique to Transylvania County, other counties are facing the type of increases. She said what typically happens is that counties make plan changes which are good for one year because it shifts the cost for that period, but other increases occur in the second year. The goal is to reduce the percentage increases to the 5-6% range as opposed to the 10%+ range. She noted that

Henderson County opened an employee health clinic a few years ago and as a result has experienced less significant increases in healthcare costs.

In response to a question by Chairman Hawkins, Ms. Cozart explained that the committee came up with the idea of a dual option for employees whereby employees could choose between two plans that were better suited for them. Employees have the option of having higher co-pays and knowing what their expenses would be for primary and specialist services or having a modified co-pay plan where only primary care requires a co-pay and anything more than that is applied to the deductible. She said this is the trend that is being experienced statewide and as a result counties are looking at changing their philosophy of how they offer health insurance coverage.

Chairman Hawkins asked how the County's plan compares to other organizations and local governments. Ms. Cozart said the answer would depend on who the County wants to compare itself to. Both Henderson and Buncombe Counties charge their employees for their individual coverage and Transylvania County does not. However, the co-pay structure is higher in Transylvania County than those two counties.

Commissioner Chapman wondered, with the current budget deficit the County is facing, if the Board was willing to increase taxes. He expressed concern about investing \$100,000 in wellness initiatives without any evidence that it will decrease costs in the long term. He commented that wellness programs only work if employees are willing to participate. Commissioner Chapman said there are citizens in this community without healthcare or are paying an outrageous amount for it. So he felt it is important for the County to determine how best to hold the costs down and said at some point people are going to have to start accepting more responsibility for their healthcare expenses.

Commissioner Chappell clarified that the recommendation for this meeting is to vote on changing the health insurance plan, not to decide on adding funds for wellness initiatives. The Manager said the request for wellness funds will be included in the budget discussions. Immediate Board approval is needed if the plan is to be effective July 1 and for staff to hold employee meetings explaining the proposed changes and the options available.

Commissioner Chappell thanked the committee for exploring other options and keeping in mind how the options would affect employees. He said insurance is a benefit to employees and that is how it should be looked at. Ms. Cozart said the committee kept employees' needs at the forefront of their discussions while trying to reach the financial goal of reducing the costs to the current level. She also said wellness initiatives are a way to help eliminate some of these increases in the future. At this time, she does not know what the wellness initiative piece will look like but it is an option encouraged by the insurance broker.

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the modification to the County's Employee Health Insurance Plan which offers each employee a choice of coverage. The motion was seconded by Chairman Hawkins. Commissioner Hogsed thanked the committee for bringing forth these options. However he is concerned that it is becoming less and less attractive to be an employee of Transylvania County. He thinks Commissioners should find ways to keep the insurance plan as it now in light of the fact that employees have had no salary increase since 2008 and insurance deductibles were increased in the recent past. He said the County cannot continue to go to employees to balance the budget instead of looking at other areas. Commissioner Chappell agreed but noted that the fact is that health insurance is changing in every organization. He noted that it may get worse based on legislative requirements. **The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 2, with Commissioners Chapman and Hogsed voting against.**

INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH HENDERSON COUNTY REFERENCE SHORT TERM ATTORNEY FOR DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Recently the Department of Social Services suffered the unexpected death of the attorney who handled child protective service cases. The backup attorney has covered the bulk of the remaining cases on an interim basis but there exists at least one case in which the backup attorney has a conflict of interest. Article 20 of Chapter 160A of North Carolina General Statutes allows two counties to agree together for the performance of certain duties, and for payment of the same, as between any two parties. The Office of the County Attorney in Henderson County has agreed to provide services for a limited period to the Transylvania County Department of Social Services in cases where the backup attorney has conflicts of interest. Transylvania County will reimburse Henderson County at the rate of \$100 per hour for services rendered, plus actual expenses incurred. The financial impact to the County will depend on the amount used but funds are included in the FY 2012 budget.

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the Inter-Local Agreement with Henderson County to provide legal services by its Office of the County Attorney. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed. Commissioner Chapman asked if this is an area that would cost more to have someone on staff to handle these cases. The Manager said this issue was discussed during last year's budget sessions. If an attorney is hired on staff, it is likely the attorney would also need to hire support staff and provide space which costs the County even more. He said staff continues to explore other possibilities. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

SOFTWARE UPGRADE – BUILDING & PERMITTING DEPARTMENT

The current software being used by the Building and Permitting Department has been giving them problems for a number of years. The software is nine years old and will not support new programs. The software vendor is no longer in business and the department has been using a local company to keep the software working, but the time has come where it needs to be replaced. Information Technology Director Dean Landreth looked at either purchasing software or using the local vendor who has been maintaining the software and concluded the best and most cost effective solution is to go with the local vendor. The new software will be user-friendly to both staff and customers. The cost of developing and maintaining the required software is \$9,900 with no yearly maintenance costs and includes a one-year warranty. Other vendors charge annual maintenance fees. Funds to purchase the software would come from the contingency line item.

Commissioner Chapman moved to approve the purchase of \$9,900 for software for the Building and Permitting Department with funds to come from the contingency line item, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN AMENDMENT TO TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (CTP)

The owners of Davidson River Village have indicated that the Connector Road from US 276/64 to US 64 East is a critical component to the success of the project. The North Carolina Department of Transportation recently completed a draft feasibility study of the project. In order for this project to be added to the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) the project must become part of the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). The City of Brevard has already passed a similar resolution requesting the project to be added to the CTP. If approved, the resolution will be submitted tomorrow to the Land-of-Sky Rural Planning Organization and they would recommend changing the County's Plan and adding it to the State plan. A public meeting was held on April 19 to receive public comment on this action. The public comment period is open until 11:00 a.m. on May 16.

Chairman Hawkins moved to approve Resolution 34-12 Amending the Transylvania County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

(Resolution 34-12 Amending the Transylvania County Comprehensive Transportation Plan is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ACROSS LITTLE RIVER IN DUPONT STATE FOREST

DuPont State Forest continues to experience increased visitation. With the recent filming of *The Hunger Games* it is estimated that visitation will exceed 250,000 this year. This is more than double the number in 2002 and a 33% increase from last year. With the increased volume, pedestrian safety has become an issue. Senator Apodaca and Senator Davis have been working to obtain funding to construct a pedestrian bridge across Little River in order to move pedestrian traffic off the highway bridge, provide additional parking improvements and safety measures (which could include traffic calming devices such as signage, speed bumps, and flashing lights to mitigate speed through the congested areas). The estimated cost of the project is \$600,000. The North Carolina Department of Transportation is willing to commit \$200,000 if the Pro Tem and Speaker will commit \$200,000 each to the project. The exact location of the pedestrian bridge has yet to be determined. Senator Apodaca and Senator Davis requested that the Board of Commissioners approve a resolution requesting the funding for this project.

Commissioner Phillips believes there should be other viable options available that would cost significantly less. Even though the funds are not coming from the County's coffers, the funds are still taxpayer dollars and should be spent wisely.

Commissioner Chapman moved to approve Resolution 30-12 In Support of Pedestrian Bridge Across Little River in Dupont State Forest. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Commissioner Phillips voting against.

(Resolution 30-12 In Support of Pedestrian Bridge Across Little River in Dupont State Forest is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO CONDUCT AERIAL FIREWORKS DISPLAYS

The 2010 Pyrotechnics Act requires the Board of Commissioners to approve all permits to conduct aerial fireworks displays in each county. Fire Marshal Gerald Grose has received the following permit applications:

1. East Coast Pyrotechnics in South Carolina. They are doing the fireworks show for Lake Toxaway on July 4.
2. Camp Illahee for fireworks show on camp property on July 4.
3. Jacquelyn Rogow for fireworks show on her private property on July 4.

All have submitted the necessary paperwork and have completed the required training, etc. for this permit.

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

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

The Finance Director has received three budget amendments for additional funds received and one budget amendment for the transfer of funds from contingency to the Board of Elections for the second Primary. The budget amendments are as follows:

1. #60 - transfers \$15,393 from contingency to Elections for costs expected to be incurred in FY 2012 in preparation for the second Primary that will likely be held in early FY 2013.
2. #61- to record the receipt of \$1,107 donated to the New Adventure Learning Center for operating supplies.
3. #62- to record the receipt of \$3,201 in unbudgeted proceeds from the Soil and Water tree sale and appropriation of these funds for educational programs and expenditures related to the sale.
4. #63- to record additional funding of \$4,908 from Western Highlands Network for Med Drive Transportation, \$13,908 from ROAP for General Public Transportation, and \$14, 908 from EDTAP to reduce County support required for Senior Citizen Transportation.

Budget amendments #61-63 will increase the General Fund Budget by \$23,156 and bring the total amended budget to \$40,407,308.

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the budget amendments as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

1. New Animal Shelter-received the revised plans on May 7 and will advertise the project next week; the plans can be picked up beginning Monday, May 21 and bidders will have 30 days to submit bids
2. Work is 100% complete on the renovation of the old Sheriff's Building and is on target with the budget for the project; plans are in place to move the Register of Deeds and Tax Administration on Friday, May 18
3. Budget-Work is almost complete on the proposed budget and the budget books will be ready for Commissioners before the holiday; the budget will focus on the key issues
4. Baxley Case-parts of two days were spent in court on the Baxley trial; the Judge ruled in favor of the County
5. The County has been directed by the State to provide a contract for an appropriate facility for the examination and storage of bodies under Medical Examiner jurisdiction. Staff is in the process of negotiating a contract with Transylvania Regional Hospital.
6. Mental Health-The Manager continues to monitor transition to the Medicaid 1915 (b) (c) Waiver. Contracts with Mission Hospital have been approved and efforts are centered on making sure the providers are being paid. Western Highlands Network CEO Arthur Carder will provide an update on the Medicaid 1915 (b) (c) Waiver at the next meeting.
7. Work continues on the Oskar Blues project; hopefully some of the other projects being worked on for some time will also materialize
8. Reminded Commissioners of the meeting on economic development visioning on Thursday evening
9. Reminded Commissioners that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29 since Monday is a holiday; the Manager will present a general overview of the budget; budget workshops will begin on June 7

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike West: Mr. West asked the Board to consider a resolution at a future meeting involving an initiative by the Land-of-Sky called GroWNC. He said the funding streams, language, and goals and objectives of their initiative are similar to the United Nation's Agenda 21 objectives of 1992. Agenda 21 attempts to gain control of people's property through implementation of environmental regulations, sustainable development, and educational programs that promote the concept of community rights as opposed to individual rights. Mr. West said it is important that the County's involvement in the regional

coordination program be made public and that the people of this County deserve to hear and interact with their elected officials on matters involving zoning concerns and property rights. Mr. West concluded by saying he hopes the economic visioning process will be guided by what the people want, not what the government wants.

Don Surrette: Mr. Surrette commented on the health insurance agenda item. He said while he understands the Board needs to make tough decisions, he and others are paying more for their health insurance coverage. Mr. Surrette also commented that the Supreme Court decision about the President's healthcare program is critical to everyone.

Edwin Jones: Mr. Jones commented about the economic development strategic plan update and said he would have liked to have seen data relative to the payroll in Transylvania County during that year and the overall tax impact to the County, as compared to previous years. Mr. Jones also reported that Caterpillar has been relocating their plants to the Southeast. He believes the County should pursue getting them to locate in Transylvania County which would provide a huge economic impact for the County.

Mark Burrows: Mr. Burrows responded to Mike West's comments about the Land-of-Sky Regional Council. Mr. Burrows serves on this Board which is working on an initiative called GroWNC. He reported that the primary focus has been on trying to find job creation and bring economic impact that is sustainable to the area. This has been the focus of all their discussions, including how to tie in healthcare, recreation, and land care issues. Mr. Burrows said the meeting on Thursday on an economic visioning process was initiated by Transylvania County and not related to the Land-of-Sky Regional Council.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Chappell thanked the Board of Elections staff and volunteers for their work during the Primary. He also thanked the Maintenance Department staff for all the work they do for the County.

Commissioner Phillips reminded Commissioners that a few years ago he brought up the option of flexible spending accounts. He believes this option will save employees money.

Commissioner Chapman commented about an article in the *Hendersonville Times News* that reported that this Board may not be publicly open or transparent in its discussions. He said he takes personal offense to those comments. He assured the public that any comments or issues that come before this Board are and will be public and transparent. Chairman Hawkins agreed and said he believes this Board follows the rules and works hard to be transparent.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board