

**MINUTES**  
**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**May 29, 2012 – REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Tuesday, May 29, 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: *Hendersonville Times News* – Nathaniel Axtell  
*The Transylvania Times* – Eric Crews

There were approximately 60 people in the audience.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mike Hawkins presiding called the meeting to order at 7:05 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**

Gerry Hunsicker: Mr. Hunsicker expressed concern that Commissioners do not consider or respect the research and knowledge of citizens that try to keep them informed. He urged Commissioners to review and consider information brought before them by the public before taking action or making any commitments. Mr. Hunsicker informed Commissioners that their votes will affect their political future.

Bruce Watson: Mr. Watson believes Transylvania County is on the cusp of making a decision that will affect all citizens in the County. The changes under consideration will ultimately eradicate national sovereignty and redistribute wealth from this nation to underdeveloped countries. The areas of environmental protection and equity as sustainable development will be continued to be promoted. Mr. Watson said one promoter, the Land-of-Sky Regional Council/GroWNC, will present their product packaged under the headings of transportation, health, land use planning, economic development, housing, energy and natural and cultural resources, and attempt to sell the product that began as an initiative by the United Nations called Agenda 21. He made it known that people are informed with the necessary information sufficient to convince the County to opt out of participating in GroWNC.

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

There were no agenda modifications.

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

### MINUTES

The minutes of the May 14, 2012 regular meeting were approved.

### FACILITIES USE REQUESTS

The use of the Silvermont Mansion on June 29, 2012 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. by The Haven for a donor appreciation get-together was approved. The normal usage fees will be applied.

The use of the Courthouse gazebo on June 16, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. by Charlotte's Fibers for international knit and crochet public day was approved. There is no fee.

### DISCOVERY AND RELEASE REPORT

The Discovery and Release Report for April 2012 was approved. Total tax dollars released was \$2,186.79 and refunds totaled \$1,064.13

### UNSEALING OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Commissioners approved unsealing closed session minutes from January 11, 2010, April 26, 2010, and November 28, 2011 relating to the lawsuit Transylvania County versus Michael Baxley.

## **PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

### RECOGNITION OF JEFF PRESSLEY, EMS PARAMEDIC

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has a recognition program whereby local Chapters nominate teachers, paramedics, law enforcement officers, etc. for their outstanding achievements. This year Jeff Pressley was nominated by local EMS personnel for the 'Outstanding Paramedic in the State' Award. Mr. Pressley won the local and District awards. Charles Holden of the VFW recognized Mr. Pressley as the local and District winner and presented him with a certificate. Commissioners and the Manager congratulated Mr. Pressley for his work and dedication to serving others.

### WESTERN HIGHLANDS NETWORK PRESENTATION ON 1915 (b) (c) MEDICAID WAIVER

Transylvania County is one of eight counties comprising the Western Highlands Network for mental health. In January 2012 Western Highlands Network (WHN) became the second Local Management Entity (LME) to implement the 1915 (b) (c) Medicaid Waiver. The NC Legislature has mandated that all LME's like WHN implement the 1915 (b) (c) Medicaid Waiver over the next few years. Arthur Carder, Western Highlands Network's Executive Director, gave an update on WHN LME and on how the implementation of the Medicaid Waiver is going.

Mr. Carder reported that currently WHN processes claims both electronically and by paper, depending on the capabilities of the providers. Reports and payments are then submitted as such back to the providers. Mr. Carder said he supported the Medicaid Waiver primarily because it seemed to be the only way to help people who needed services to get what they need in an underfunded system. It is the responsibility of WHN to find effective ways to use the funds to best meet the needs of consumers. Mr. Carder believes the Medicaid Waiver affords WHN the opportunity to do just that. WHN continues to strive to make a difference in people's lives and then build upon its successes.

Mr. Carder provided data on the population served by WHN. There are 4,659 eligible Medicaid consumers. The number of Medicaid consumers served in March of this year in Transylvania County was

slightly more than 300, which is a 6.6% penetration rate. Approximately 90 others served in March were not Medicaid consumers. There are 23 providers that exclusively serve Transylvania County. There are also a number of providers in other counties that serve consumers from multiple counties. Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding, monies from Transylvania County to WHN that help support agencies in this community above and beyond Medicaid dollars, and State and federal funds, total approximately \$99,000.

WHN's total budget this past year was \$116.4 million. Next year's projections are estimated to be \$172.7 million. The increase is attributed to the fact that this year only half of the Medicaid dollars were allocated. Next year WHN will receive the full allocation of Medicaid dollars.

Mr. Carder distributed handouts of comparison data, comparing Transylvania County to the other counties in the catchment area which is mostly rural, as well as a list of providers and board members, and a consumer handbook.

#### WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA LIVABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

Recently a few citizens have expressed concerns about the County's participation in the Livable Communities Initiative being supported by the Land-of-Sky Regional Council (LOSRC). On October 24, 2011, the Board of Commissioners voted to participate in the three year initiative. The agreement stated that any member may, at any time provide written notice to the LOSRC of their intent to leave the consortium which will result in the termination of any benefits due to the membership in the consortium unless the parties agree to the contrary under mutually acceptable terms. Joe McKinney, Executive Director of the LOSRC, gave an overview of the project and talked about how LOSRC has benefited Transylvania County over a number of years.

Mr. McKinney reported that GroWNC is a regional planning process to help local governments address a variety of areas, particularly transportation, housing, health and wellness, land use, and how these relate to job creation and economic competitiveness. He stated that GroWNC has been linked to Agenda 21. He assured everyone that the LOSRC had never heard of this initiative when they got the funding for this project. Mr. McKinney spoke to the County's Planning Board last week and heard from a number of people who had questions and concerns and who were opposed to this project. Mr. McKinney said he listened to the concerns and tried his best to answer any questions. He informed Commissioners that the LOSRC Board just passed a resolution opposing Agenda 21 as it relates to this project. The LOSRC is made up of elected officials representing local government entities.

Mr. McKinney said the Board of Commissioners is not required to participate in this project if it feels this project is not a fit for Transylvania County. Furthermore, he does not want this particular project, or any one project, to define what it is the LOSRC does. The LOSRC has been in business for 26 years and was created by local governments. The organization uses membership dues to help promote what is important to the region and individual counties. For Transylvania County, the LOSRC helped pushed the NC Department of Transportation to move forward with a new NC 215 route and the Davidson River Village Connector Road project. The LOSRC also helped local businesses and government buildings with energy usage to help them save in energy costs, provided volunteers at no cost to help many nonprofit agencies, helped Gaia Herbs secure funding to add jobs to their business, and a number of other job and grant funding opportunities. Mr. McKinney asked Commissioners not to confuse the GroWNC project with what the LOSRC does for Transylvania County and other counties on a daily basis. Although, if Commissioners do not feel this project is good for Transylvania County, then he urged them not to participate in it. There will be a community meeting on Wednesday, May 30, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the Transylvania County Library to get feedback from citizens about the GroWNC project.

Commissioner Chappell expressed concern that this project may define LOSRC and may hide the good the organization has done for counties. Those concerns may cause this Board of Commissioners to take

another look at the consortium agreement. He was thankful the LOSRC Board passed a resolution in opposition to Agenda 21. For the benefit of Commissioners and the audience, Commissioner Chappell read the resolution. Commissioner Hogsed inquired if the vote was unanimous to pass this resolution. Commissioner Chappell said the vote was unanimous of the members in attendance and there was a quorum present.

Commissioner Chapman stated this project is an issue for many citizens. Although he is not prepared to vote at this meeting, he asked the Board to consider the County's participation in this project in the very near future. He thanked citizens for providing information to their elected officials. He encouraged citizens to educate people about Agenda 21 and to keep their discussions civil.

Chairman Hawkins agreed that the Board of Commissioners needs to make a decision. He said the real concern he has heard from many people involves language used in the project description. Mr. McKinney said LOSRC is open to changing the message to make it better understandable to people. He added that the outcome goals are for the project to become a toolkit for solutions to problems with housing, transportation, etc., but no entity is bound by the report. Not everything in the report will fit each county or city perfectly, but the goal would be that local governments could use the tools for possible solutions.

Commissioner Chapman said most of the comments have grown out of a basic distrust of government, especially at the State and federal levels. He asked what involvement or association the federal government has with an initiative such as GroWNC that would lend itself to influences from Agenda 21. Mr. McKinney reported that the monies come from federal tax dollars. The LOSRC is required to produce a document that addresses the areas that the project focuses on. The LOSRC is not required to address the areas in a particular manner. The State has three members on the Steering Committee but they serve in ex officio status. The State provided matching dollars for the grant. The intent of the funding is to get to the point of implementation. Future funding would be available to implement identified projects.

Commissioner Phillips said the agreement indicates that the framework is aligned with the principles of the federal partnership for sustainable communities which are a direct derivative from the United Nations. He stated that it is clear to him that the local government level will be affected by this to some degree at some point in time.

Commissioner Chappell asked staff to put this item on an agenda in July for a formal decision by the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Hawkins allowed time for the public to ask questions and express concerns about this initiative.

Gerry Hunsicker: Mr. Hunsicker said he understands the funding level for the GroWNC was at \$2.3 million and he asked how those funds would be used. Mr. McKinney responded that \$1.6 million in federal tax dollars came from HUD. The \$2.3 million total includes time and commitment and in-kind services that the agencies have pledged to support. The actual dollar amount is \$1.6 million.

Mr. Hunsicker believes the presentation of the USDA Report at the Brevard College Porter Center served as a foundation for what is occurring here which he believes is all tied to Agenda 21. He feels Commissioner Chappell should recuse himself from voting on whether or not to participate in the GroWNC consortium because of his relationship with the LOSRC.

Sandy Briggs: Ms. Briggs asked if the officials serving on the LOSRC are elected by the people or appointed. Mr. McKinney said the Steering Committee is made up of elected officials or appointees representing economic development. From the audience, Mike West clarified that six of the fourteen

people on the Steering Committee are elected. The other eight are appointed and four of them are elected by the LOSRC. There is no clear majority of elected officials serving on the Steering Committee. Mr. McKinney confirmed his comments and said the LOSRC Board has to approve any recommendation from the Steering Committee.

Commissioners reminded the audience of the public meeting at the Library tomorrow and encouraged them to attend.

#### FRENCH BROAD LANDOWNERS SURVEY

As a result of the large log jam in Penrose a group of citizens came together and started looking at the importance of the French Broad River on the local economy and to develop a method to keep the river free of debris. Sid Cullipher and Susan Brown gave an overview of the results of a survey completed by property owners whose land borders the French Broad River.

Mr. Cullipher stated that a big reason why this process started was because of the log jam. A group of citizens concerned about it and the future of the river met. They organized a public meeting during which a great deal of discussion centered on the log jam and how it was going to be removed. There were also some longer term discussions about the river itself and how it is used as an economic resource. A smaller but representative group met which was made up of landowners, officials from Soil and Water Conservation and NC Cooperative Extension, as well as personal users of the river such as himself as the owner of Headwaters Outfitters, and representatives from camps. This group decided that in order to get a foundation for any type of action that should occur in the future beyond the log jam it was important to get the opinion of those who own land along the river. They drafted a letter and a survey for each of the landowners. Mr. Cullipher reported that they received a great response rate.

Ms. Brown discussed the results of the survey. The comments and questions in the survey were drawn from the public meetings. The group sent out 217 surveys to landowners and received 90 responses (4 were returned as undeliverable), which is a 42.2% response rate. The age range of those completing the surveys ranged from 31-97 years old. Of the respondents, 71.1% were male; however 4 surveys were filled out by 2 family members. Ms. Brown reviewed the results of the survey as follows:

- 65.2% of respondents live on the property
- 66.7% use the property for some type of agriculture production
- The estimated average amount of riverfront property the landowners had was just over 1,500 feet; the responses ranged from 30 feet to 12,000 feet; over 23 miles of river frontage was represented in the survey; there is a total of 70 miles of river in the County
- 29% of respondents have lived on the land 1-10 years; 21% for 10-20 years; 27% for more than 20 years; and 23% indicated the land was passed down through their family
- 48% of respondents use the property for residential purposes; 9% for timber; 4% for nursery; 2% for sod; 32% for livestock grazing; 52% for hay and crops
- The survey indicated that these uses are very or somewhat important: wildlife (hunting, bird watching), being able to paddle and float, good fishing sites and habitat, and scenic beauty
- The survey indicated that the economic value of the river was very or somewhat important to agriculture, tourism and recreation-based business, and for manufacturing
- Included in the survey were several questions respondents could either agree or disagree with about attitudes and opinions about the river: 94.4% of respondents agreed that money and soil could be saved by dealing with falling or fallen trees before logs and debris become a problem; 40% indicated they have cleared trees and debris jams on their property; 31% believed landowners should have the sole responsibility for deciding when and how to clear logs and debris from the river and 12.6% believed landowners should pay the full cost of clearing the logs

or debris on their property; 83.7% agreed that county and city governments should share the cost of clearing logs and debris jams with landowners; 80.5% believed camps and recreation businesses should share the cost and labor of keeping the river open and safe; 67.1% believe a recreation fee for visitors who come here to use the river would be a good way to help pay for river management and cleanup

Mr. Cullipher said the French Broad River provides an incredible opportunity. One of the things everyone should keep in mind is that Transylvania County truly has the headwaters of the French Broad River. Dealing with log jams is a big challenge and people understand how important it is to deal with it for agriculture purposes, as well as the recreational and aesthetic aspect. The group is committed to the French Broad River but the group is informal at this time and there is no specific structure. Mr. Cullipher noted there is a river clean up that occurs twice a year which shows the level of commitment from people.

Commissioner Chapman asked if there is a potential crisis that needs action at this time or if the river is in good shape since the log jam has been cleared. Mr. Cullipher said any rain event in Transylvania County could bring down trees and debris and cause problems. An assessment of the river throughout the County needs to occur. The group is looking at methods by which people can report downed trees, debris, and log jams, and then devising a plan to resolve the issue. He noted that the first 20 miles are clear for people to paddle through. District Conservationist Bob Twomey reported that there are several potential sites that could get worse over time depending on the flooding that could occur during the summer and the delicacy of the soil along the river bank. Any one of these small sites could progress into a larger problem.

Mr. Cullipher said moving forward there needs to be a plan to deal with log jams noting that his group is available for assistance. He asked for input from Commissioners during this process to come up with a long-term solution.

#### PRESENTATION BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Tom Wehrle, Network Administrator with the Information Technology Department, gave an update on the department's activities and accomplishments over the past year.

##### *Responsibilities*

- Supports and maintains over 350 work stations
- Oversees the installation of all software and hardware on the County Network
- Provides security updates, virus protection and firewall protection
- Maintains the availability and integrity of all systems and data
- Preserves data by backup and restoring data in the event of a failure

##### *Past Year Highlights*

- Virtualization – ability to take a copy of a physical server and run it in a window on another server
- Major software upgrades – Tax Administration, Finance Department
- Relocation – Moved Tax Administration and Register of Deeds to new facilities
- Routine updates – Library, Board of Elections, Social Services
- Help Desk – Logged 1,500 requests
- Animal Shelter – Created upload capability for images of animals available for adoption
- 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Website – Maintained and updated

##### *Networking Functionality*

- Firewalls – Blocks outside interference and unauthorized access

- Web and Content Filtering – Able to block users from accessing sites that are deemed inappropriate or unnecessary for daily work
- Logging – Connections to and from the internet are recorded in a database; provides the capability to determine where an attack against the network may be coming from; can also aid in troubleshooting connection problems
- VPN – Provides access for remote sites in the County systems over public internet with private encrypted connection, as if they are sitting inside the County network; Parks and Recreation, EMS Brevard, EMS Quebec and Solid Waste
- SPAM Protection – County emails go through an external SPAM Filter checking them for viruses and legitimacy before they reach the County network; in addition, all email is filtered a second time internally to catch emails that might slip through; approximately 2,000 pieces of SPAM or unwanted emails are blocked daily
- Workstation updates – Critical security updates are pushed out to workstations as they are released by the software manufacturer; aid in protecting against viruses and exploits
- Data Backup/Disaster Recovery – Use disk-disk to tape method; data is backed up nightly

#### *Upcoming Projects*

- NCFAST in Social Services
- Completion of Tax software which will result in \$7,000 savings
- Scanning personnel records
- Scanning adoption records

Mr. Wehrle concluded by saying the County's systems perform very well. They are stable and the equipment is good.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Wehrle for his presentation and thanked the Information Technology Department for the work they do.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### JOINT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Edith Darity's term expires at the end of May and she is no longer eligible to serve another term. Henning Meyn's term expires at the end of May and he does not wish to be reappointed. The terms of Roger Eades and Jeff Carter expire at the end of May and both are eligible and willing to serve another term. Jennifer Cantrell was appointed in October 2011 and has attended no meetings since then so she has been removed from this Council. It is also the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners to appoint a chairman annually.

Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows has indicated that the Council sometimes has trouble reaching a quorum at their monthly meetings. Therefore it is the recommendation of the Council and Mr. Burrows to change the bylaws and reduce the number of members from nine to seven. Reducing the number of members from nine to seven leaves one vacancy remaining on the Council.

Commissioners were not in favor of changing the bylaws at this time.

**Commissioner Hogsed moved to waive the term limits for Edith Darity and reappoint her to another term, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.**

**Commissioner Chappell moved to reappoint Roger Eades and Jeff Carter and to appoint Jeanne Pedler, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.**

**Commissioner Hogsed moved to appoint Paul Heidmann as chairman, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.**

#### TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

There is one old vacancy on the Transportation Committee. Tyler Scott Galloway's term expires at the end of May and he is no longer eligible to serve another term. The terms of David Carter and Daniel Cobb (City of Brevard's representative) also expire at the end of May and both are eligible and willing to serve another term. There are three applications on file to fill the two openings.

**Commissioner Chappell moved to reappoint David Carter and Daniel Cobb, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.**

**Commissioner Chapman nominated and moved to appoint Craig Burghardt and Timothy Garner to fill the two vacant positions, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO CONDUCT 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. Camp High Rocks for fireworks show on camp property on July 4.
2. Heart of Brevard for fireworks show at Brevard College on July 4.
3. Burlingame Country Club for fireworks show on July 1, with the rain date scheduled for July 7.
4. Camp Carolina for a fireworks show on camp property on July 4.
5. Rockbrook Camp for Girls for a fireworks show on camp 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.**

#### WESTERN HIGHLANDS NETWORK'S FISCAL MONITORING REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF FY 2012

The Manager presented the Third Quarter Fiscal Monitoring Report from Western Highlands Network as required by NC General Statute 122C-117 (c). Western Highlands reported revenues of \$64.3 million and expenditures of \$66.4 million. This equates to a \$2.1 million deficit. Western Highlands will draw down its fund balance to make up the deficit, which is what the State wants it to do.

**Commissioner Phillips moved to accept the Third Quarter Financial Report for Western Highlands Network, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.**

#### PROPOSED FY 2013 BUDGET FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

The Manager presented the proposed FY 2013 Budget to Commissioners. He reviewed the assumptions used to prepare the proposal as follows:

##### Revenues

1. Ad Valorem Taxes – Tax base is expected to increase by \$30 million making the base \$6 billion; collection rate of 99.5%



2. Sales Taxes – Estimating 2% increase
3. Medicaid Hold Harmless Funds – Estimated to receive approximately \$350,000
4. Interest on Investments – No improvements forecasted
5. Fees – No increase in fees for Environmental Health, Public Health, or Building Permitting
6. Public Health & Social Services Programs – State and federal funding still subject to change
7. Fund Balance Appropriation – Use of fund balance to bridge gap between revenues and expenditures

#### Expenditures

1. Personnel (Compensation & Benefits) – 3% cost of living increase effective July 2, 2012 at a cost of \$425,000; 3.3% decrease in the State retirement rate, from 6.97% to 6.74%; increases in employee health insurance co-pays and deductibles; estimated increase of \$230,357 in health insurance over FY 2012 level of funding; included \$100,000 for Wellness Initiative Program
2. Personnel (Headcount) – Net addition of 4 employees, additional hours and reclassifications at a cost of \$176,043
3. Education – Increase of 5.2% in total appropriation, with an increase of \$234,278 in Current Spending, as requested by the Board of Education, and an increase of \$253,037 in Capital Outlay
4. Capital – Increase of \$191,266 over FY 2012, with \$169,950 to be paid by grants, donations, or other funds
5. Debt Service – Reduction of \$108,277
6. Fuel costs – Projected same as current year at \$3.14/gallon for gasoline and \$3.50/gallon for diesel

The proposed revenues for FY 2013 are estimated at \$39.1 million. Proposed expenditures total \$41.1 million. This leaves a budget deficit of \$2 million. The Manager is recommending a draw down in the fund balance to make up for the deficit. This would leave a total fund balance as of June 30, 2012 of \$18.7 million, with \$8 million in available fund balance, or 19.5% of expenditures.

The increase in the budget comes from several areas. The Manager reviewed each and asked Commissioners to focus on these key items during the budget workshop process:

#### Significant Changes

• 3% cost of living adjustment/salary increase	\$425,000
• Net addition of 4 employees, reclassifications & additional hours	\$176,043
• Increase in appropriation for schools	\$559,815
• Increase in capital	\$199,266
• Economic Visioning	\$ 50,000
• Health Insurance increase	\$250,357
• Wellness Initiative	\$100,000
• Debt Service	- \$108,227
• Miscellaneous	- \$ 67,835

**Total** **\$1,626,419**

The FY 2013 Budget is a mirror of the FY 2012 Budget except for these key items. Budget workshops are scheduled for June 7, June 11, June 12, and June 14. A public hearing will be held on June 18, with the Board voting on the budget at a regular meeting on June 25.

Commissioner Chappell requested staff to provide some additional figures on the proposed salary increase. He requested to know the budget impact of a 1% increase, a 2% increase, and a lump sum

bonus increase. He also requested to know how much the County spends per citizen on law enforcement and education as compared to like counties.

Commissioner Chapman said the County still continues to spend more than revenues coming in. The items staff proposes to add to the budget are not one-time items, but ongoing. He asked Commissioners to keep this in mind as they go through the budget process.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

1. New Animal Shelter: Staff received the revised plans on May 7 and advertised the project. Seven contractors have picked up plans and two more have inquired.
2. The move of the Register of Deeds and Tax Administration offices was successful. Staff will be meeting shortly to finalize plans on the minor renovations in the Courthouse.
3. Personnel: There are currently three positions vacant and the Manager has given permission to move forward with recruitment. They are Developmental Day Teacher, Income Maintenance Caseworker II, and Nurse Position PHN II.
4. Work continues on the Oskar Blues project. The County is excited they have chosen to locate here. Hopefully some of the other projects being worked on for some time will also materialize.
5. PARTF Grant: The County was not awarded the grant for the next phase of the community park in Rosman. Another award will be made in July. Only two projects west of Charlotte were funded.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Wayne Hennie: Mr. Hennie spoke about Agenda 21. He showed maps indicating what the world would look like if Agenda 21 is fully implemented. In the 1990's, the President instituted this environmental agenda into every branch of the government and since then, environmental laws have been trickling down to the local level. Based on the maps, he said citizens have every right and duty to ask questions.

Mr. Hennie also thanked Commissioners for opening in prayer before the beginning of each meeting.

Mr. Hennie inquired as to what the Land-of-Sky Regional has done economically for the County. He asked the same about the Transylvania County Economic Development Department. He asked because he continues to see jobs leave the County and they have not been replaced. He also inquired as to the intentions of the monies designated for economic visioning. He concluded by saying no one loves Transylvania County more than the people who live here.

Mike West: Mr. West said no one is opposed to jobs, profitable private transportation systems, world class medical care, or a clean environment. But with government money, comes strings attached. He also said no one is against the Land-of-Sky Regional Council. The contention is with GroWNC. Mr. West also commented about the language in this initiative that mirrors Agenda 21, which he believes is no coincidence. He said it is important to follow the money and what happens if the County decides to participate. The agreement indicates that if the County participates, the County must commit to certain conditions. Mr. West asked Commissioners to consider voting to leave the consortium as soon as possible.

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Chappell asked everyone to keep their thoughts and prayers with Norris Barger who has some health issues.

Commissioner Chappell said in the past he has recused himself from voting on matters when there has been a conflict of interest. He said he is more than capable of determining when a conflict of interest arises. Commissioner Chappell serves as the chairman of the Land-of-Sky Regional Council. He pointed out that this is a position that he neither asked for nor campaigned for; but rather was asked by the Executive Director to serve when the intended chairman had to withdraw. He said it is his intention to make sure Transylvania County has a voice on this Council.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Mike Hawkins, Chair  
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board