

**MINUTES**  
**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**August 13, 2012 – REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, August 13, 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  
*The Transylvania Times* – Eric Crews

There were approximately 70 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 HEARING**

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE**

Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows stated that over the last several months the Planning Board has worked on making minor changes to the Transylvania County Subdivision Ordinance. The purpose of the change is to address their concern within the Ordinance about the way the roadwork is conducted and paid for over a period of time. The current Subdivision Ordinance, adopted in 1992, allows for developers to record a new subdivision if they have a bond or secure a letter of credit for construction of a road(s) in the subdivision that meet the ordinance's minimum standards or if they deposit or place in escrow a certified check or cash in an amount equal to 125% of the cost to complete the work as determined by a professional engineer. As lots are sold, the developer would take the proceeds and complete the remaining road work. However, given the sluggish economy, many developers relying on either bonding or a letter of credit failed to complete the necessary subdivision improvements. In many cases local governments have been left trying to enforce the bond or a letter of credit, or in the worst case scenario, actually paying to ensure the improvements were installed. The County has encountered one instance where the bond had to be called and the Planning Board is recommending the bond and letter of credit option be removed from the Ordinance. The Planning Board believes the proposed change will protect citizens from shouldering the burden and having to pay for the cost of the roads within subdivisions. The proposed change does not change to family subdivisions. A public hearing is required if any changes are to be made to County ordinances.

**Chairman Hawkins declared the public hearing open at 7:12 p.m.**

Gerry Hunsicker: Mr. Hunsicker expressed concern that the proposed changes could discourage developers from building subdivisions in this County and therefore negatively affect the growth of the

County. He said surety bonds should cover the cost of building roads. Mr. Burrows responded saying that through his own experience, particularly in this economy, surety bonds sometimes do not cover the cost of constructing the roads. There are cases where the surety bond companies have defaulted. The proposed change does make it more difficult for developers, but it subscribes to a pay-as-you-go philosophy.

There were no further comments. **Chairman Hawkins declared the public hearing closed at 7:15 p.m.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Mockridge: Mr. Mockridge commented that a small number of citizens have expressed concern that GroWNC is an extension of the United Nations Initiative called Agenda 21. He believes these citizens have come to this conclusion based on the use of the term “sustainable” in the GroWNC plan. Their concern is also based on the potential loss of property rights. Mr. Mockridge said he does want the United Nations interfering in the affairs of Transylvania County; however he is not convinced there is a danger of that occurring. He gave some examples of unsustainable development that have occurred in communities across the nation and the negative impact on the environment. Mr. Mockridge encouraged Commissioners to continue participation in GroWNC until there is a valid reason not to. He also asked Commissioners not to commit staff time to pursuing the alleged connection between GroWNC and Agenda 21, but rather instruct staff to engage in activities that have the potential of bringing jobs to this County.

Gerry Hunsicker: Mr. Hunsicker said many citizens have done extensive research on the connection between GroWNC and Agenda 21 and have nothing to gain personally except they want to see this County grow without dependency on big government. He said people need a livable income that will not come from just agriculture or seasonal tourism jobs. Mr. Hunsicker said this same group is deeply concerned about the increasing poverty level in the County which will not be resolved through government grants that seldom provide jobs to the citizens. He said government subsidized housing is also not the answer to encourage personal growth and pride in the people of this County. Mr. Hunsicker asked Commissioners to stand with Henderson County and not participate in GroWNC.

Marshall McCallie: Mr. McCallie said he attended the public meeting at the Library earlier this year on GroWNC. He thought it was impressive that GroWNC would seek input from the citizens and that the emphasis of GroWNC was on economic growth and jobs. Through participation in GroWNC, Transylvania County will retain its independence and the freedom to choose which programs to participate in and which programs to reject. Mr. McCallie believes this is a wonderful opportunity for Transylvania County to work with other counties to look at opportunities for the citizens. He is also aware of the discomfort between possible connections to Agenda 21. He said he had read the documents and sees no connection and encouraged Commissioners to continue their participation in GroWNC.

### **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. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.**

The following items were approved:

#### MINUTES

The July 9, 2012 minutes were approved with one change noted on page 4, paragraph 4 to indicate that Commissioner Chapman thought the proposal appeared to less advantageous to the County, as opposed to more advantageous to the County.

#### FACILITIES USE REQUESTS

The use of the old Library by the Board of Elections for One Stop Voting from October 8, 2012 through November 14, 2012 was approved. These dates include time for set up and clean up.

### **PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

#### PRESENTATION GROWNC

In October 2011, the Board of Commissioners agreed to participate in the Livable Communities Initiative, administered by the Land-of-Sky Regional Council, which is a three year project to develop a regional vision for economic prosperity, quality growth, and sustainable development. According to the agreement any member may at any time provide written notice to the Land-of-Sky Regional Council of their intent to leave the Consortium. In the spring of this year a few members of the community addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding their concerns about the initiative which has taken on the name of GroWNC.

Recently Chairman Hawkins and Commissioner Chapman met with Wayne Hennie and Mike West, two citizens greatly concerned about this initiative. As a result Mr. Hennie and Mr. West were asked to make a presentation to the Board and public on their research showing the connection between GroWNC and Agenda 21.

Mr. Hennie began the presentation. He reported that the concept of sustainable development came out of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972. In 1987 it was defined by the Brundtland Commission as being development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In 1992 the Commission's findings on sustainable development were presented to the United Nations at the Rio Conference. At the Rio Conference, Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration of Environment and Development, and the Statement of Principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests were adopted by more than 178 governments, including the United States. It was signed by President Bush and became soft law which means it does not have to go before Congress for ratification. In 1993 President Clinton established the Council on Sustainable Development which directly linked to Agenda 21. The Council required several major executive departments to establish a sustainable development program. Mr. Hennie noted that the specific wording in the definition of sustainable development comes directly from the 1977 Soviet Constitution. He turned the presentation over to Mr. West.

Mr. West said that sustainable development was established as a guiding principle and it was never implemented as law. The Council on Sustainable Development instructed federal departments to develop programs and guidelines that use sustainability as the central organizing principle. In regard to that, grant money that is given from those departments to any local government or nonprofit organization must also have sustainability as their organizing principle. The money being used by the Land-of-Sky Regional Council for GroWNC comes from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), one of the executive departments required to establish a sustainable development program. Sustainable development is an organizing principle by which HUD delivers monies. Therefore, Mr. West said it is important to know what that concept means because there is no way of knowing what the sustainable needs are for the future. There is also no way of knowing what sorts of technological developments are going to come

along. Also, Mr. West said in his conversations with others on this topic, some said the GroWNC initiative will be great because participants will get to determine what sustainability means to them. He commented that each participant will have their own definition of sustainability which helps no one. Mr. West pointed out that the Land-of-Sky refers to GroWNC as a grassroots movement; however there is no record of how the movement began. He said the movement was not started by people at the grassroots level, but rather it was organized around the principles of sustainable development that come from HUD. As long as local governments and organizations accept grant monies from HUD, they must operate under the six livability principles. Mr. West said GroWNC has nothing to do with creating jobs, but more to do with changing people's lifestyles and infringing on personal property rights.

Mr. West provided this statement directly from the Agenda 21 website. "As the level of governance closest to the people, they play a vital role in educating, mobilizing and responding to the public to promote sustainable development." This quote comes from the author of Agenda 21 and Mr. West believed this explains why Agenda 21 is being driven down to the local level through programs like GroWNC. Mr. West said sustainable development does not mean what one would think it means. Through his research he has learned that it is not about the environment and jobs. It is about social justice, changing people's lifestyles and making things people do every day unsustainable.

Mr. West asked the Board to consider definitions. He also asked the Board to consider what might happen if the money runs out during the process. Does the County incur the costs to finish the program? Furthermore, by being a member of the consortium, were there ever to be legal action taken against the Land-of-Sky or GroWNC would the citizens of Transylvania County be held legally or financially liable? Included in the Board's agenda packets is a list of questions Mr. Hennie and Mr. West asked Commissioners to seek answers to.

This is the start of an educational process for Commissioners. They intend to add their own questions to the list submitted by Mr. Hennie and Mr. West and send them to the Land-of-Sky to seek answers. Commissioners thanked Mr. Hennie and Mr. West for their presentation and for the time and effort they put into preparing this information. Commissioners assured the public that they will in no way support any initiative that impacts people's personal property rights. Chairman Hawkins suggested Commissioners and members of the public attend the GroWNC committee meetings to become educated further on this initiative.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

The terms of Robert Anderson (TRH KOALA), Barbara Greene (WCCA) and Rick Pangle (Parks & Recreation) expire at the end of August. Council on Aging Chair Louise Koontz recommended the following:

1. Reappoint Robert Anderson to serve another term
2. Grant a waiver of term limits to Barbara Greene and Rick Pangle and reappoint them to serve another term. Their expertise and contributions to the Council on Aging are much needed and appreciated.

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

### PARKS COMMISSION

There are three vacancies on the Parks Commission. The Clerk has advertised several times and recently received two applications.

**Commissioner Chappell moved to appoint Scott Saulsbury and Kevin Bryan Smith to fill two vacancies on the Parks Commission, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.**

## OLD BUSINESS

### SESQUICENTENNIAL LOGO CONTEST

In March of this year staff announced Maria Sentelle as the winner of the Sesquicentennial logo contest. One of the Sesquicentennial Committee's objectives was to create a new County flag. 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 if the Board of Commissioners so chooses. At the request of staff, Ms. Sentelle slightly modified her winning logo. Now staff seeks direction from the Board of Commissioners on how to use the logo, whether as a new County flag or logo, new County seal, both or neither. If allowed to move forward, staff will seek two additional minor changes to the logo which would be to move the date to the center of the logo and outline the dogwood flowers. There are monies remaining in the Sesquicentennial budget to cover the costs of a new flag. If Commissioners decide not to do anything with the logo, Ms. Sentelle has asked for the rights to the logo to use how she pleases.

**Chairman Hawkins moved to direct staff to use money in the Sesquicentennial budget to develop a new County flag. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman.** Chairman Hawkins reminded Commissioners that by moving forward the County retains the rights to the logo and Ms. Sentelle will not be able to use it for her personal use. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Hogsed asked to discuss the matter of the rights to the design sometime in the near future.

## NEW BUSINESS

### TEMPORARY CHILD WELFARE WORKER

Over the past year, Child Welfare Services has experienced an increase in its caseloads. The numbers reflected the need for two additional staff members but Social Services Director Stoney Blevins hoped the numbers would start coming down and thus requested only one additional staff member for the new budget year. Over the last few months, however, the case loads have continued to grow such that even with the additional staff member, additional help is needed to manage the caseloads. Mr. Blevins requested to add a full time temporary child welfare worker to help manage the rise in the caseload. A decision on whether to request additional full time positions will be determined over the next several months and will be part of next year's budget request if necessary. The net cost of adding the full time temporary child welfare worker is \$24,753.

Mr. Blevins reported that since February the caseloads have continued to climb at a consistent rate. Over the last year, the number of children in foster care has increased 156%. The number of in-home cases has increased 140%.

Commissioner Chappell said while he always questions adding additional employees to the County's headcount, child welfare is an area in which the Board should not compromise. The increase can easily be attributed to other problems in the community. Commissioner Chapman agreed but did not support an additional impact to the budget of \$24,753. He recommended the Manager look for efficiencies in other departments to cover the costs. Commissioner Chappell noted that the recommendation from the Manager is to take the money from contingency.

**Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the full time temporary child welfare worker with funds to come from the contingency line item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips.**

Commissioner Chapman clarified that this matter will be addressed again during the next budget cycle. Mr. Blevins assured Commissioners he will continue to monitor the situation and report to Commissioners when necessary. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### FEE SCHEDULE FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Annually the Health Department reviews fees based on the previous year's costs and state/regional comparisons. The Board of Health reviewed the proposed fees in June and recommended the Board of Commissioners approve the fee schedule. The proposed fee schedule is related to the following:

1. Align regional and state costs for immunization administrative fees
2. Cost increase for women's health service codes based on vendor cost increase; service codes based on Medicaid cost basis.
3. Fee inconsistencies among Child Health service codes

There is no budgetary impact. A large majority of these fees are individuals who qualify for the NC Department of Public Health Sliding Fee Scale 250% of Poverty. Many of these services slide to zero.

**Commissioner Chapman moved to approve the Fee Schedule for the Department of Public Health, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.**

#### BUDGET TRANSFERS

The following dollars were received in FY 2012 for specific projects in the Health Department but were not fully expended. These projects are:

1. Special Projects – Prescribed State funding for essential public health services. Structured plan in place in FY 2012 to make major modifications and enhancements to Department's primary conference room. This location serves as the central training room for staff and conference facility for community partners and the Board of Health. Modifications were delayed due to pending resolution of chronic water leak and moisture problem. All funds slated to be expended within FY 2013 (\$22,127).
2. Workplace Wellness – Health Educator assisted Human Resources Director with acquiring funds from a MAHEC mini-grant for workplace wellness. Grant objectives will benefit Transylvania County workforce. Funds just received in June and need to be placed in FY 2013 budget for appropriate use (\$500).
3. Healthy Living for a Lifetime – Partnership arrangement between NC Farm Bureau, Transylvania Regional Hospital and Department of Public Health. After community screening event, NC Farm Bureau provided total of \$2,500 for follow up care that might be warranted from those services. Remaining funds need to be moved into FY 2013 in order to complete that project (\$1,922).
4. Healthy Smiles (Dental Health) Cost Settlement – Cost settlement dollars received in FY 2012 specific to dental health. Unique consideration since there are no local dollars within this program (funded by Smart Start grant funds and Medicaid revenues). The NC Division of Public Health and the NC Division of Medical Assistance stipulate that these funds must be used for the types of services that generate them. All program related cost settlement funds were received in July 2013 and placed in General Fund. Dental health cost settlement dollars should be segregated and placed in FY 2013 budget for dental health services (\$11,651).
5. TRAIN (Transylvania Resource, Access and Information Network) – Remaining grant funds from NC Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation. Funds are needed in FY 2013 to continue the project work and achieve required objectives (\$23,457).

There is no impact to the budget unless the transfers are not approved. The inability to be accountable for appropriate expenditure of grant funds and State funds could result in re-payment of full funding or penalties.

**Commissioner Phillips moved to appropriate the transfer of these funds received in FY 2012 but not spent until FY 2013, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.**

#### 2011 TAX COLLECTOR'S SETTLEMENT REPORT

Tax Administrator David Reid reported the total levy for all jurisdictions in Transylvania County as \$30,196,651.68. The County's portion of that is \$23,668,341.20. Uncollected taxes total \$111,210.57 and of that the County's portion is \$88,319.18. The budgeted collection rate for FY 2011 was 99.5%; however the Tax Office exceeded the budget and ended the year with an actual collection rate of 99.63%.

Mr. Reid reported that over 85% of citizens pay their taxes on time. Beginning in January staff begins instituting forced collection remedies. During that period of time, from January through the end of June, staff collected approximately \$4.1 million in delinquent taxes. Staff made over 12,000 phone calls to citizens during that time. Collection remedies include bank attachments, wage garnishments, payment plans, debt setoff, selling property, etc. Staff also attempts to collect taxes from previous years. Delinquent taxes from past years total approximately \$228,000 from 2002 to 2011.

Commissioner Chapman inquired about unpaid personal property taxes that are in the single digits. He asked why the taxes are not being paid. Mr. Reid said many of these are old motor vehicle tax bills. Transylvania County has a minimum tax bill of \$2. Other counties require a minimum of \$5. Commissioner Chapman inquired about a potential cost savings if the minimum bill was raised to \$5. Mr. Reid said he would study the process and report back to Commissioners.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Reid and his staff for the excellent job they do. They also thanked the citizens of this community who pay their taxes which allows the County to continue providing services.

**Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve the 2011 Tax Collector's Settlement Report, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.**

#### 2012 ORDER TO COLLECT TAXES

Each year the Board of Commissioners must authorize the Tax Administrator to collect the ad valorem taxes for that year. The Tax Collector must be charged with the 2012 tax bills which give full and sufficient authority to collect taxes with forced remedies if necessary per NCGS 105-321. The estimated levy for 2012 is \$23,694,000 for Transylvania County. The budgeted collection rate is 99.5% for a net collection of \$23,575,530.

**Commissioner Chappell moved to authorize the Tax Administrator to take all legal means to collect the 2012 ad valorem taxes, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.**

The Manager reported that last year Transylvania County was recognized as having the highest tax collection rate in the State and it appears the County is on track of being recognized once again as having the highest tax collection rate for FY 2012.

#### DESIGNATE OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY

In October of 2011 the Bank of North Carolina acquired Blue Ridge Savings Bank. The deal was finalized in mid-February. For many years Transylvania County has done business with the local branch of Blue Ridge Savings Bank and currently has a CD there. In prior years Blue Ridge Savings Bank was included in the list of designated official depositories in the annual budget ordinance. For FY 2013, Blue Ridge Savings Bank was removed but Bank of North Carolina was not added in its place. Finance Director Gay Poor requested that the Board of Commissioners approve Bank of North Carolina as an official depository for County funds to be in compliance with NCGS 159-31.

**Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve Bank of North Carolina, as the successor to Blue Ridge Savings Bank, as an official depository of Transylvania County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.**

#### BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Finance Director Gay Poor presented the following budget amendments for approval:

1. #3. To carry forward \$11,843 from the Supplemental Emergency Management Grant, which was received June 21, 2012, to be used for printing and mailing notifications of address change requirements
2. #4. To carry forward \$16,818 of unspent funds budgeted in FY 2012 for the completion of the Septage Pretreatment Plant, which is scheduled for early FY 2013
3. #5. To appropriate \$2,383 in funds from the General Fund Balance for adjustments made to retirement and health insurance for Co-Operative Extension employees
4. #6. To appropriate \$795 in funds from the General Fund Balance to cover the cremation cost for an unclaimed body

If approved, these budget amendments will increase the FY 2013 General Fund Balance by \$31,839 to a total of \$40,098,515. .

**Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the Budget Amendments and increase the FY 2013 General Fund Balance by \$31,839 to a total of \$40,098,515. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed.** Ms. Poor noted that her figures do not include the budget transfers approved for the Health Department. Adding those transfers increases the FY 2013 budget to \$40,146,521. **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

1. New Animal Shelter- Ground Breaking for the new animal shelter was held on Saturday, August 4 and approximately 100 people attended. The pre-construction meeting was held on Monday, August 6 and work commenced on Tuesday, August 7. The contract allows 270 days to construct the facility which would put a completion date on the project of the spring of 2013.
2. Plans for the renovation of the Courthouse are almost complete.
3. Personnel-Approved a Social Worker III position to be filled in the Department of Social Services. It has been posted but not yet filled.
4. Staff received a letter from the NC Division of Parks and Recreation stating that Transylvania County is one of fifteen applicants that the Authority members recently voted to approve pending available funds. Staff sought funds to complete the next phase of the community park in Rosman. The County's application was ranked number ten. The announcement of the grant awards is planned for October and December after grant revenue has been reported.
5. The NC Association of County Commissioners is beginning its 2013-2014 county legislative process and is soliciting legislative goals from counties. All goals must be submitted by September 17.
6. Staff reviewed the sealed closed session minutes and determined there are none ready to be unsealed at this time.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Don Surrrette: Mr. Surrrette serves on the Transylvania Historical Society Board. He informed Commissioners that he recently attended the only US Flag Museum in the country which is located in Columbus, North Carolina. He encouraged everyone to visit the museum. It showcases the history of the US Flag.



Jackie Whitmire: Ms. Whitmire encouraged Commissioners to look at the positive things that GroWNC represents. She also encouraged Commissioners to attend the committee meetings. She commented that when there is no work for citizens, they can lose their self esteem which creates problems in people's families. Ms. Whitmire believes this is part of the reason for the increase in child welfare cases. Part of GroWNC's goal is to help counties get jobs which are much needed.

Mark Parker: Mr. Parker reported that he attended the GroWNC public meeting at the Library and he said he has yet to see a sustainable job that might be created by this initiative. He asked Commissioners to determine why Henderson County chose not to participate. Without industry jobs, the jobs that are created by this initiative will be minimal and will not provide livable wages. Mr. Parker agreed with Ms. Whitmire on her comments about the increased child welfare cases and believes the increase is a direct result of not having good jobs. Mr. Parker also suggested that Commissioners could learn more about GroWNC simply by determining who supports it and who is against it.

Lynn Peters: Ms. Peters reported that she attended the public meeting at the Library on GroWNC where she questioned the funding for the program. Her understanding is there are no monies available to implement any programs that may come out of the planning process. She does not believe GroWNC will be able to provide jobs to those people who have been out of work for quite some time. She believes there are too many strings that come with governmental money. Ms. Peters said there continues to be families hurting in this County so she asked Commissioners to ask the right questions about GroWNC before making a decision to continue participation.

Dan Blunt: Mr. Blunt expressed concern that HUD does not have a good track record of implementing long term successful programs.

Gerry Hunsicker: Mr. Hunsicker said this County often looks to Buncombe and Henderson Counties to determine what is best for Transylvania County despite the differences in population, geography and demographics. The growth in child welfare issues and home foreclosures are a reflection of the economy; yet he does not believe these facts are affecting the top 1% of income earners in this County. Mr. Hunsicker said it is time that County staff determines the needs of the citizens and not follow the path of other local governments.

### COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Chapman assured the public that he supports the new Transylvania County Animal Shelter; however he does not support the amount of money being spent on the construction of the facility. Commissioner Chapman also reported that on Thursday evening the Little River Community Center is hosting a special presentation about the history of the Silvermont Mansion and the Silversteen family. Commissioner Chapman commented that the Board is under no time constraints to make a decision about the County's participation in GroWNC. Commissioners will continue through the educational process and determine how to instruct staff.

Commissioner Chappell suggested that at the next meeting the Elections Director make a brief presentation on the changes in the voting precincts.

Commissioner Hogsd thanked everyone for their comments on GroWNC. He assured them that the Board will take their comments under advisement as they move forward. Commissioner Hogsd also addressed comments made by members of the Board of Education at their recent meeting regarding their budget. He said the Board of Education claims that the County cut their current spending by more than \$740,000, but in actuality the reduction was just under \$184,000. The \$740,000 figure comes from the Board of Education's request and Manager's recommendation; however this level of funding was never

approved and the Board of Education had not received this amount of money and therefore did not experience a reduction by this amount. Commissioners Hogsed feels that the people of this County should expect more from their leaders. Chairman Hawkins noted that he and Commissioner Chappell will be meeting with two members of the Board of Education this week to start thinking about next year's budget.

**Chairman Hawkins moved to enter into closed session per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with an attorney, (4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or businesses, and (5) to discuss potential acquisition of real property, after a 5 minute recess. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously carried.**

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with an attorney, (4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or businesses, and (5) to discuss potential acquisition of real property, closed session was entered into at 9:10 p.m. Present were Chairman Hawkins, Commissioners Chapman, Chappell, Hogsed and Phillips, County Manager Artie Wilson, County Attorney David Neumann, Planning and Economic Development Mark Burrows and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

Staff updated Commissioners on several potential economic development projects. Commissioners instructed staff on how to proceed.

**Chairman Hawkins moved to leave closed session, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously carried.**

#### **OPEN SESSION**

**Commissioner Chappell moved to seal the minutes of the closed session until such time that opening the minutes would not frustrate the purpose of the closed session. The motion was seconded by Chairman Hawkins and unanimously approved.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Chairman Hawkins moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Chappell 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