

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 27, 2012 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, August 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Transylvania County Courthouse.

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

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Jeremiah Reed

There were approximately 50 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 stated that at the last meeting he questioned Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows on proposed changes to the Subdivision Ordinance and Mr. Burrows agreed that the proposed changes could discourage new investment in the County. Mr. Hunsicker said subdivisions have provided many jobs for workers in the County. He believes the County's plan for future growth and jobs is dismal unless one works for County government. Mr. Hunsicker urged the Board to invest in the private sector to help grow jobs and stop depending on federal government grants which keep people in poverty.

Peter Mockridge: Mr. Mockridge commented about the presentation at the last meeting on the reported linkage between Agenda 21 and GroWNC. In the presentation, one of the speakers claimed that the term sustainable development was found in the Soviet Constitution of 1977. In his research, he found that sustainable development is not found in the Soviet Constitution.

Peter Chaveas: Mr. Chaveas complimented the Board for the thorough and transparent manner in which it is considering the issue of whether or not to participate in the GroWNC program. He said one of the speakers at the previous meeting claimed that the definition of sustainable development was a direct quote from the 1977 Soviet Constitution and that is untrue. Mr. Chaveas said he was a student of Soviet affairs in his undergraduate and graduate studies and remained interested and sought to remain well informed during his nearly 40 year career in the State and Defense Departments. Mr. Chaveas does not believe the United Nations will threaten the property rights of any citizen of this County and has no authority or the means to do so. All countries voluntarily participating in the United Nations retain their sovereignty. He believes GroWNC has real opportunities for the region and County.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

The Manager reported on the agenda modifications. He requested to add Item H-Workers Compensation Pool Award under Presentations and Item F-Advertisement for NC Economic Development Guide under New Business and move the Manager's Report to Item G.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 13, 2012 regular meeting and sealed closed session were approved.

DISCOVERY & RELEASE REPORT

The Discovery and Release Reports for June 26-30, 2012 and July 2012 were approved. Total tax dollars released was \$5,312.07. Refunds totaled \$679.97.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICIA KITCHEN

Pat Kitchen has been an employee of Transylvania County since 2003. She worked in the Transportation and Housekeeping Departments where she served as the Lead Housekeeper and primary substitute for Transportation Services. She retired from Transylvania County on August 1, 2012. Commissioners wished her the best in her retirement and recognized her with a resolution.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve Resolution 36-12 In Recognition of Patricia B. Kitchen, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

(Resolution 36-12 In Recognition of Patricia B. Kitchen is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MARY MCCALL

Mary McCall has been an employee of Transylvania County since 1984 where she served as an Elections Clerk in the Board of Elections office. She retired from Transylvania County on July 1, 2012. Commissioners wished her the best in her retirement and recognized her with a resolution.

Commissioner Chapman moved to approve Resolution 37-12 In Recognition of Mary H. McCall, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

(Resolution 37-12 In Recognition of Mary H. McCall is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION MARY MILLER

Mary Miller has been an employee of Transylvania County since 2007 where she served as a Social Worker III in the Adult Services Unit of the Department of Social Services. She retired from Transylvania County on August 1, 2012. Commissioners wished her the best in her retirement and recognized her with a resolution.

Commissioner Phillips moved to approve Resolution 38-12 In Recognition of Mary Miller, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

(Resolution 38-12 In Recognition of Mary Miller is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF TAMMY D. WOOD

Tammy Wood has been an employee of Transylvania County since 1993 where she served as the Housekeeper for the Courthouse, Administration, Probation & Parole, and Solid Waste Department and as a substitute for Transportation Services. She retired from Transylvania County on March 1, 2012. Commissioners wished her the best in her retirement and recognized her with a resolution. Ms. Wood thanked Commissioners for the recognition and expressed how much she misses the other employees.

Commissioner Chapman moved to approve Resolution 39-12 In Recognition of Tammy D. Wood, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

(Resolution 39-12 In Recognition of Tammy D. Wood is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPENDITURES IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

Transylvania County Veterans Service Officer Frank Pearsall gave a report of the expenditures in Transylvania County by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. He reported that for FY 2011 the US Department of Veterans Affairs spent \$13,305,000 in Transylvania County, up from \$13,100,000 in FY 2010. There are 3,631 veterans in Transylvania County, down 10 from the previous year. Also, in FY 2011, the VA Hospital served 811 Transylvania County veterans, an increase from the previous year.

Mr. Pearsall reported that the federal government recently passed legislation regarding Camp Lejeune water contamination that affects all Marines and their family members who were stationed or passed through the base from January 1, 1957 through December 31, 1987. It was discovered that an off-base dry cleaning plant was pumping chemicals into the water supply at Camp Lejeune. There have been 15 different cancers associated with the water contamination. Mr. Pearsall recently submitted an article to the local newspaper about this matter and he asked all Marines in the County to come visit his office to determine if they qualify for medical care for themselves and/or their dependents.

Commissioners commented that Mr. Pearsall and the services he provides to local veterans are invaluable. Commissioners thanked him for taking his position seriously and for helping to bring more dollars into the County to help local veterans. Commissioner Chappell reported there are significant retraining programs available to veterans in the community.

UPDATE FROM BOARD OF ELECTIONS ON CHANGE IN VOTING PLACES

On July 24, 2012, the Board of Elections unanimously voted to combine Balsam Grove and Gloucester precincts as TC1 and Lake Toxaway, Quebec, and Sapphire-Whitewater precincts as TC7. The financial impact of combining precincts reduces the number of precinct officials needed (approximately \$3,000 per election), reduces facility costs (approximately \$240 per election), and reduces delivery, testing, materials, and preparation costs for each election.

The Board of Elections determined that combining precincts was necessary because of the following:

1. Polling place accessibility surveys completed on July 17, 2012 and required by the State Board of Elections found the voting facilities for Sapphire-Whitewater, Quebec, and Gloucester did not meet accessibility standards for persons with handicap limitations and voters in general. Alterations would require extensive cost and time, and no public facilities are available as alternative sites. This matter had been brought up in the past but no action had occurred. A proposal had to be made by July 24, 2012 in order to meet State requirements;
2. All of the precincts have fewer than 600 registered voters. Combined, the new precincts have a total registration of 814 at TC1 and 1,506 at TC7; and
3. The small population of registered voters has made it difficult to identify and appoint individuals to serve as precinct officials for both parties.

The State Board of Elections approved the change in voting places on August 1, 2012.

Elections Director Karen Brinson noted that combining the precincts allows voters to vote at one precinct in one voting location but the votes will be tabulated based on their voting tabulation district. The voting tabulation districts are based on the old precinct lines.

Letters will be mailed to voters this week which explains their new voting precincts and lists all opportunities for voting on Election Day, during One Stop Early Voting, and by mail. Ms. Brinson believes voters will still be accommodated in spite of the changes. Voting for One Stop Early Voting continues to be strong in this County and she anticipates large numbers during this period for the upcoming General Election as well.

Commissioner Chapman expressed concerns about the changes even though he knows the changes are set to occur. He inquired about changes in the accessibility requirements. Ms. Brinson said while there have been some changes in the requirements since the last accessibility survey, the major changes have occurred with the conditions of the facilities. The funding for facility upgrades typically comes from the State level but the funds have been frozen. A small amount of funding from Health and Human Services has been released but was not enough to cover the needs. Because the County's voting locations are essentially private buildings, they do not receive first funding priorities.

Commissioner Chapman inquired as to what happens with the precinct officials from the precinct locations that are being closed. Ms. Brinson stated that the Board of Elections requested she speak with each precinct official before the final approval of combining precincts was made. The Board of Elections has expressed its intent to try to utilize the precinct officials at the combined precincts since the combined precincts will have to accommodate more voters. She also noted the struggles of finding precinct officials for small precincts because of the strict criteria.

Commissioner Chapman feels the combining of precincts was bad timing with the upcoming General Election. He asked if there had been any citizen input or citizen response during this process. Ms. Brinson said the only feedback she received was from two individuals who wrote opinion letters to the local newspaper and neither of the two individuals vote in the precincts that were impacted. She said the timing made the changes more critical because a very large turnout is expected for the upcoming General Election and the more voters coming to precincts that are not well accessible the greater the risk of someone being injured.

Board of Elections Chairman Jack Hudson added that this decision was unanimous by the Board of Elections members. He said there was no politics involved in their decision making. The decision was made purely from a safety standpoint. The facilities that will combine the precincts are nearly brand new

and have ample parking and accessibility for all voters. Mr. Hudson is confident that the precinct officials will handle the election process efficiently.

Commissioner Chappell suggested staff more than adequately notify the public of the changes to the precincts. He inquired about whether there has been action on identifying a second One Stop Early Voting location in the Rosman area in the future. Ms. Brinson said the Board of Elections has discussed this issue. One of the challenges is finding a suitable facility that can accommodate voting activities for the period of time during One Stop Early Voting. The Board of Elections will continue to research opportunities for a second location.

Ms. Brinson also reported that the Board of Elections has suspended the process for making name changes to all the precincts. The State has encouraged counties to be more generic in the naming of precincts. "TC" stands for Transylvania County meaning it is a County precinct. The Board of Elections postponed moving forward with the uniform name changes in part because of the upcoming election and because of requests by the local political parties. Name changes at this point might be somewhat difficult for the community to adjust to as well.

In response to Commissioner Hogsed, Ms. Brinson said there will be proper signage at the former polling places directing voters to their new polling places. Commissioner Hogsed noted that precinct identification is important to people and he would hope that the Board of Elections would be mindful of that. Ms. Brinson said, from an administrative standpoint, their sense of community would not be lost because the voting tabulation districts would remain the same. Only the location for these precincts is different.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Brinson for her presentation and update on this issue.

PRESENTATION ON REMOVAL OF FRENCH BROAD RIVER LOG JAM IN PENROSE

District Conservationist Bob Twomey requested to make a presentation to the Board about the removal of the log jam in the French Broad River in Penrose. He presented an extensive picture slide show showing the log jam in its entirety and the process of its removal, including rebuilding the eroded banks. The property owners on both sides of the river contributed greatly. The project was completed at far less cost than estimated by the engineer. The County supplied matching funds that were not used. Mr. Twomey was grateful at how the local, State, and federal agencies partnered with private stewardship to complete the necessary clean up of the debris jam. The debris jam could have caused major injury or death to anyone that tried to cross it. Commissioners thanked Mr. Twomey for his presentation and for the work that went into this project.

WORKERS COMPENSATION POOL AWARD

The Manager reported that at the recent NC Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference Transylvania County was recognized with the 2012 Workers Compensation Pool Award for recording the lowest number of claims per \$1 million in payroll and of all mid-size county members. The County pays 7% less than like counties. Transportation Keith McCoy accepted the award. He serves as the Safety Director for Transylvania County. Mr. McCoy thanked Commissioners for funding the safety projects and for giving staff the freedom and opportunity to work on these projects. He also thanked the Manager for his support and department heads and employees for being safety conscientious and implementing safety strategies into their daily work.

APPOINTMENTS

PARKS COMMISSION

There is one vacancy remaining on the Parks Commission. The Clerk advertised recently and received one application and it is the only eligible application she has on file.

Commissioner Chapman moved to appoint Jessica Ibarguen to the remaining vacancy on the Parks Commission, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

PROPOSED CHANGES TO TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE

The current Subdivision Ordinance 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 economic slowdown, many developers relying on either bonding or a letter of credit failed to complete the necessary subdivision improvements. In many cases local governments were 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. Therefore, the Planning Board is recommending the bond and letter of credit option be removed from the Ordinance. The proposal would prevent the local government from having to enforce the bond or letter of credit and would protect taxpayers from having to pay for the road improvements in the subdivisions.

A public hearing was held at the meeting on August 13, 2012. One citizen spoke during the public hearing and expressed concern that the proposed changes may discourage developers from building subdivisions in Transylvania County and therefore negatively affect the growth of the County.

Commissioner Chappell responded to the comments made during the public hearing with regards to concerns about removing the surety bond options. He said there was an issue in Henderson County with the surety bond and Henderson County government and taxpayers ended up being responsible for paying for the road improvements in the subdivision. Commissioner Chappell feels it is not the responsibility of all taxpayers to ensure subdivision roads are constructed; therefore he is supportive of the proposed changes.

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the proposed changes to the Transylvania County Subdivision Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Commissioner Chapman agreed with Commissioner Chappell's comments, saying it is not fair to the citizens of Transylvania County to be held accountable for developers being in default. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

LITTLE RIVER FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

Little River Fire Department received a truck donated by the NC Forest Service. The vehicle donation agreement requires that the vehicle be housed in a secure structure. Little River is planning to install a metal building on an existing concrete pad to house the vehicle. The existing building's bay areas are already full and the new structure will provide a method to store the truck and provide additional storage needed by the department. The department received a quote to construct the building for \$15,000.00. The department is requesting Commissioners approve the distribution of \$15,000 from the Little River

Fire District reserve fund. At the end of FY 2012, the Little River Fire District had \$39,070.96 in its reserve account. Of that, \$15,800.00 was applied to the FY 2013 budget leaving a balance of \$23,270.96. Emergency Management staff recommended that the Board of Commissioners grant the request to distribute the monies to the Little River Fire Department.

Operations Manager David McNeill added that there are no other known restrictions about the use of the vehicle. He also stated that Little River Fire Department has been a good department in terms of managing their funds.

Commissioner Chapman moved to grant the request to distribute the reserve funds (\$15,000) to the Little River Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

NCCI GRANT AWARD TO LAND OF WATERFALLS PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH-501(C) (3)

Health Director Steve Smith sought approval of the receipt of NCCI grant funding and incorporation in the Land of Waterfalls Partnership for Health program budget within the Department of Public Health departmental budget. The funding is for a local substance abuse coalition called C.A.R.E. (Community Awareness and Recovery Effort) which is targeting illicit drug use and abuse of prescription medications. Funding (\$30,000) will pay for a part time contract coordinator, training and operational expenses. Expenditures will be limited to funding received. The Board of Directors for Partnership for Health approved receipt of funding at their August 2, 2012 meeting.

If approved, the FY 2012 budget will be increased by \$30,000; however no local funds are required. Any expenditure under grant awards is limited to funding received. Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis. The funding process is a two-year process. If the program is successful in its first year planning process, funding will be supplied in the second year to fund implementation of the strategies.

Commissioner Phillips moved to approve the grant funds and budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

UNITED WAY GRANT AWARDS TO LAND OF WATERFALLS PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH-501(C)(3)

Health Director Steve Smith sought approval of the receipt of two United Way grants and incorporation into the Land of Waterfalls Partnership for Health program budget within the Department of Public Health departmental budget. The funding is for an innovative Transylvania Resource, Access and Information Network (TRAIN) project in two program areas: transportation (\$11,000) and expansion of information network related to individual/community health (\$15,000). Both initiatives involve local community agencies and are widely supported. The Board of Directors for Partnership for Health approved receipt of funding at their August 2, 2012 meeting.

If approved, the FY 2012 budget will be increased by \$26,000; however no local dollars are required. Any expenditure under grant awards is limited to funding received. Funding is provided in quarterly increments. This is a new funding stream from United Way.

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the grant funds and budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

REQUEST TO PROVIDE LIMITED AMOUNT OF FREE FLU VACCINE

Health Director Steve Smith requested permission to provide 150 doses of flu vaccine to uninsured populations at the Department of Public Health and the Free Clinic. A collaborative partnership between Transylvania County and the Free Clinic to provide free flu shots for the uninsured has been in place

since the 2006-2007 flu season. The Board of Health endorsed this ongoing effort at their August 14, 2012 meeting. The current vaccine order should cover this obligation. There would be no impact to the budget, as it is already included in the FY 2013 approved budget. 150 doses of vaccine represent an approximate cost of \$1,600.00.

Commissioner Chapman moved to recommend approval of providing up to 150 doses of free flu vaccine to the uninsured for the upcoming flu season. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsd and unanimously approved.

UPDATE OF WESTERN HIGHLANDS MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION

In January, Western Highlands transitioned to the 1915 (b) (c) Medicaid Waiver. Under the waiver the Managed Care Organization (MCO) acts much like an insurance company and has a capitated amount of funds to see that services are provided to consumers in the catchment area. Difficulties have been encountered during the transition. Health Director Steve Smith, who serves as the chairman of the Western Highlands Board, provided Commissioners with an update on the transition.

Mr. Smith stated that there are a lot of dedicated people on the Board of Directors for Western Highlands that are very committed to it being successful. He said it is important to note that the MCO Medicaid Waiver model is very challenging. Even if it were being executed perfectly, the per member per month reimbursement rate for Medicaid services is substantially lower than actual Medicaid expenditures. Providers, stakeholders and consumers all need to come together to figure out how to make this work. Mr. Smith asked Commissioners to come to him or the Manager with any questions or concerns about the MCO. The MCO is committed to providing services to citizens. Mr. Smith noted that his term on the Board of Directors expires in a couple of months. He and the Manager are working to find a suitable replacement.

ADVERTISEMENT – NC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows learned today that an article will be placed in the 2013 NC Economic Development Guide featuring New Belgium, Sierra Nevada and Oskar Blues Breweries. There is an opportunity to include a color advertisement in the article which has the possibility of providing good economic development exposure for Transylvania County. The estimated cost of the advertisement is \$3,163 and the decision must be made this week about whether or not to move forward with developing the advertisement. It would take about one month to create the advertisement and for review and editing. Market Connections, who has helped with the Tourism Development Authority's marketing efforts and created an advertisement for the County in Bike Magazine, believes this is an excellent opportunity for Transylvania County. This will further recognize Transylvania County in a positive light.

Chairman Hawkins believes that, if approved, the advertisement would send an excellent message and it will help brand Transylvania County. He suggested adding Brevard Brewery as well. Chairman Hawkins noted there are no monies set aside for marketing and this should be considered in the future.

Commissioner Chapman moved to approve moving forward with an advertisement in the 2013 NC Economic Development Guide, with a budget amendment transferring \$3,163 from the Contingency line item to the Economic Development Department. Chairman Hawkins seconded the motion. Commissioner Chappell commented that Transylvania County should not brand itself in this specific market because Transylvania County as a whole has much more to offer. Commissioner Hogsd agreed, saying it is fine to advertise successes in the County, but it should be noted that Transylvania County is open to accepting a variety of different businesses. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- New Animal Shelter- Land-clearing activities have begun at the Calvert site. The NC Department of Transportation has made repairs to the ditch in front of the property to provide a wider shoulder and lessen the depth of the ditch.
- Blue Ridge Community Health Services has begun renovations for their satellite center in Transylvania County. The Center is scheduled to be open October 1 of this year.
- Finance Staff has been busy preparing information for the closeout of FY 2012. The auditors will be on site the week of September 10.
- Sheriff Mahoney recently announced that the jail is currently housing nine inmates through the State Misdemeanant Confinement Program. This will generate approximately \$11,000 per month in revenue.
- Staff requested to move the next regular meeting from Monday, September 24 to Tuesday, September 25 and make it a joint meeting with the Planning Board to discuss the work plan for FY 2013. The Planning Board wants direction from the Board about what it should be doing to facilitate more development activities, particularly as it relates to manufacturing and identify areas where future development can take place and specifically start looking at water and sewer infrastructure. If approved, staff will begin planning this meeting. Commissioners approved this meeting.
- Received notification that the Medicaid Hold Harmless funds are higher than budgeted.
- Since the last census a section of Transylvania County has been designated as urban. This provides an opportunity for the County to participate in the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or remain in the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) in terms of transportation planning. Stakeholders believe it is in the best interest of Transylvania County to remain in the RPO. Staff will draft a resolution for the Board's consideration in the near future.
- The City of Brevard will hold a workshop in October on water capacity. He encouraged Commissioners to attend.
- At the recent NC Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference, Commissioner Chapman was elected as the District 16 Representative, which represents Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties.
- Staff is watching the path of Hurricane Isaac and making sure the County is prepared in terms of facilities and fuel. Operations Manager David McNeill gave an update on the path of the storm. The County may see some rainfall as a result of the storm. Staff will continue to monitor the situation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike West: Mr. West responded to comments made at the beginning of the meeting in regards to Agenda 21 and GroWNC. He said there is an illusion of sustainable development in the Soviet Constitution. He stated that sustainable development is a United Nations concept and it has been immersed in the United States political system through the Presidential Council on Sustainable Development which was an initiative by President Clinton from 1993 to 1999, an initiative that never been rescinded. Therefore, if the County accepts monies through federal grants, it is exposing itself to the elements of sustainable development. Mr. West also pointed out that all the websites used for the presentation at the last meeting were not conspiracy websites. The information was gathered from the United Nations website, and websites of the United States government and GroWNC.

Wayne Hennie: Mr. Hennie also responded to comments made at the beginning of the meeting in regards to Agenda 21 and GroWNC. He said he was mistaken at the previous meeting when he said the definition of sustainable development comes directly from the Soviet Constitution. What he should have said was

that the definition for sustainable development is based on the 1977 Soviet Constitution. He reminded everyone that two of the driving forces behind Agenda 21, Maurice Strong and Gro Brundtland, are both Socialists and are both highly placed in their respective governments and very familiar with the Soviet Constitution.

Peter Chaveas: Mr. Chaveas congratulated Mr. Twomey and all those involved with cleaning up the log jam in Penrose. He said he had the opportunity to attend a couple of the meetings that led to a quality collaborative effort involving federal resources, local government and the private sector to, amongst other things, protect private property rights. Mr. Chaveas suggested that GroWNC has that same potential if it is approached in the same collaborative manner.

Tim Petit: Mr. Petit commended Commissioners for the decision to spend monies to advertise in the NC Economic Development Guide. He agreed with Commissioners that Transylvania County has a lot to offer.

Carroll Parker: Mr. Parker attended a conference a few years ago in Lexington, Kentucky and he said the presentation relates to what is happening to Transylvania County today. He said the speaker asserted that globalization, container shipping, massive labor, and the internet have changed the world. The speaker also predicted that if globalization declined, areas would have to begin doing business locally again. Mr. Parker urged the Board to continue its support of GroWNC as one means of becoming prepared for the future.

Jack Hudson: Mr. Hudson said GroWNC is about growing the local economy. He believes the GroWNC initiative is in no way related to Agenda 21 and that there is no other motive other than finding good projects for Transylvania County. Most importantly, the Board of Commissioners makes the sole decision for the County on which projects to participate. It is his understanding that by participation in GroWNC, the region becomes eligible for more grant monies in the future. He wondered how this can be bad for Transylvania County and Western North Carolina. Mr. Hudson urged Commissioners to participate in the initiative.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Chapman said as the District 16 Representative to the NC Association of County Commissioners he will work to bring issues affecting this County to the Association. The first meeting is in October and the members will be working on legislative goals. Commissioner Chapman also responded to comments by Mr. Hudson during Public Comment. He said Commissioners are working to find out the answers to several questions before continuing participation in GroWNC. He is not yet convinced that Commissioners have the sole authority to opt in or out of projects. He also commented that with grant monies come conditions. Commissioners will continue through their learning process.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

Mike Hawkins Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board