

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 12, 2013 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rogow Room at the Transylvania County Library.

Commissioners present were Vice-Chairman Larry Chapman, Jason Chappell, Chairman Mike Hawkins, Daryle Hogsed and Page Lemel. Also present were County Manager Artie Wilson, County Attorney Tony Dalton, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Eric Crews

There were approximately 40 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Hawkins presiding called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

WELCOME

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

PUBLIC HEARING

FY 2014-15 SECTION 5311 GRANT

County Transportation Director Keith McCoy requested permission to apply for the FY 2014-15 Section 5311 Grant. This grant covers the majority of the administrative and capital costs for the County Transportation Department and is made up of both State and federal funds. The total amount being requested is \$232,211. The County's responsibility is \$32,072. The grant is broken down as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Administrative - \$176,986 | Requires 15% local match - \$26,549 |
| 2. Capital - \$55,225 | Requires 10% local match - \$5,523 |

The largest capital request is a replacement vehicle which will exceed the State mileage limit by the time it is replaced. The van is used to transport preschool children to Head Start and other daycare centers in the area. The van is also used to assist in general public transportation throughout the day.

A public hearing is required before the County can make application. For the benefit of the public, Mr. McCoy briefly described the services provided by the County Transportation Department.

Chairman Hawkins declared the public hearing open at 7:10 p.m. There were no comments from the public. **Chairman Hawkins declared the public hearing closed at 7:11 p.m.**

Commissioners will consider this item under New Business later in the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

The Manager reported on the agenda modifications. He requested to remove Item V.A Minutes under the Consent Agenda, add Item IX.G Machining Lab for Blue Ridge Community College under New Business and move the Manager's Report to Item IX.H.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the agenda as modified. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

The following items were approved:

PROCLAMATION THE SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE DAY IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

The Transylvania County Unit of the Salvation Army will hold its Red Kettle Kickoff on November 22, 2013 on the Courthouse lawn. On this day the Salvation Army will begin its mission to collect donations to aid needy families, seniors, and the homeless in Transylvania County. Commissioners approved Proclamation 40-2013 The Salvation Army Red Kettle Day in Transylvania County. Chairman Hawkins read the proclamation for the benefit of the public.

(Proclamation 40-2013 The Salvation Army Red Kettle Day in Transylvania County is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

UPDATE ON TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY EMPLOYEE WELLNESS CENTER

In March 2013, the Board of Commissioners approved an Employee Wellness Center which opened on September 4, 2013. Human Resources Director Sheila Cozart provided an update on the usage of the Employee Wellness Center.

All employees who participated in the health screenings are required to visit the center before the end of the year as a follow up to their health screening and discuss any other concerns. For the first two months, the center has seen an average of 12 patients per day, 7 of which were scheduled wellness/first patient visits and 5 of which were episodic visits for illnesses or follow up. Since opening in September, there have been a total of 171 wellness visits and 130 episodic visits. The center is tracking the costs of both the wellness and episodic visits to determine the savings to both the County and the employee. The Blue Cross Blue Shield value of the wellness visits was \$58,107.15. For episodic care the total was \$14,007.55. In addition, employee co-pays for wellness visits outside of the center would have been \$5,815 and for episodic visits \$4,405. In totality the costs of all services provided through the clinic would have cost \$82,334. The County contracts with Blue Mountain Medicine to provide the services at the clinic at a cost of \$114,000.

In her report, Ms. Cozart shared some of the comments made by employees, all of which were positive and expressed sincere gratitude for having the availability of this center. In fact, it may have saved the lives of some employees.

Ms. Cozart will continue to provide updates on the status of the clinic and the impact to the employee health plan, as well as some cost comparisons to last year and the forecast from the upcoming year.

Commissioners thanked staff for bringing forth this idea of an employee wellness clinic in the first place. It was an example of being creative and proactive about a problem. Not only is it cost effective to the County, employees, and taxpayers, but it is helping to change the lives of employees in a positive way. Commissioners hope to be more proactive in wellness areas when the time comes to discuss the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF FY 2014-15 SECTION 5311 GRANT

A required public hearing on the application for the Section 5311 Grant was held at the beginning of the meeting. There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the FY 2014-15 Section 5311 Grant application, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

REVISION TO SMOKING ORDINANCE

The use of electronic tobacco products has become an issue in the Courthouse and will more than likely become an issue in other County buildings as well. The Manager asked Commissioners to consider amending the Smoking Ordinance to change the definition of smoking by adding "or electronic tobacco product". By doing this, it prohibits the use of electronic tobacco products in all County facilities.

Commissioner Lemel moved to change the definiton of smoking in the Smoking Ordinance to read , "Smoking: Inhaling,exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted cigar, lighted cigarette, or any lighted tobacco product, or electronic tobacco product in any manner or in any form." The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappell. Commissioner Chapman said he supported the motion from a fire safety standpoint, but noted that electronic devices are helping thousands of people to quit smoking cigarettes. There are no dangerous chemicals being exhaled into the air. There is no tobacco in these products and users are inhaling and exhaling vapor. Because of Commissioner Chapman's comments, Commissioner Hogsed expressed concern about the wording in the motion and suggested it include the word vapor, otherwise there is the potential for a loophole in the ordinance. The County Attorney advised that the wording be changed to include the word vapor. Therefore, **Commissioner Lemel moved to amend her motion to "...electronic tobacco and/or vapor product... The amended motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved. The vote was unanimous to approve the main motion.**

REVISION TO NOISE CONTROL REGULATIONS

The County has received several noise complaints over the last couple of months. The complaints have been coming from a resident of the City's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Upon investigation, staff learned that neither the City of Brevard's nor the County's Noise Ordinances are enforced in the ETJ because neither ordinances were written to do so. The Manager asked Commissioners to revise the County's Noise Ordinance to include the ETJ.

Commissioner Chapman moved to change the Noise Ordinance, Article IV Jurisdiction to read , "This Ordinance shall apply to all areas of Transylvania County located outside the boundaries of any incorporated city or town." The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lemel. Commissioner Chappell stated that he will not support the motion because he never supported having a Noise Ordinance in the first place. **The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Commissioner Chappell voting against.**

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY FAIR HOUSING PLAN – UPDATE THROUGH JUNE 2014

Transylvania County received a Small Business and Entrepreneurial Assistance Grant through the Community Development Block Grant program. One of the requirements for accepting the grant is to have a Fair Housing Plan on file with the NC Department of Commerce, Division of Community

Assistance. Staff had anticipated the close-out of the grant already but it has been delayed. Because of this, the County must continue to have its Fair Housing Plan on file. The Manager asked Commissioners to update the Fair Housing Plan through June 2014 so that the County can remain in compliance with the grant requirements. It also allows the County the ability to apply for future grants under this program should any be identified.

Commissioner Lemel moved to authorize Chairman Hawkins to sign the Transylvania County Fair Housing Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

REQUESTED AMENDMENT TO SOCIAL WORKER I CLASSIFICATION

During the FY 2014 budget discussions, Health Director Steve Smith presented information to substantiate the need to add a Social Worker I position to cover non-nursing activities within the Care Coordination for Children and Pregnancy Care Management programs. The position would be split between these two programs to ensure the department's ability to remain compliant with contract obligations and preserve associated revenues.

Based on a review of the initial job description, the NC Office of Human Resources has deemed that the job responsibilities are more consistent with a Social Worker II position due to the independent nature of the programs and related work assignments. Other departments in the region have classified this position as a Social Worker II position as well. Staff requested that Commissioners reclassify the position from a Social Worker I to a Social Worker II at 80% time. At 80% time, there would be no additional financial impact.

Commissioner Lemel moved to allow reclassification of the existing full time Social Worker I position to a Social Worker II position at 80% time. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed. It was noted that the position is not currently filled. The reclassification must be approved at the State level first. Staff expects to fill the position soon thereafter. Commissioner Chappell asked staff to review the position on a regular basis. It was noted that the position is grant funded and if the grant goes away, so does the position. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR SMOKY MOUNTAIN MCO

With the consolidation of Smoky Mountain and Western Highlands Managed Care Organizations (MCO), a new Board of Directors must be formed. Senate Bill 191 states that the new Board of Directors may not have more than 21 members, and 12 of those members must be representatives of specific occupations or groups. There are 23 counties in the new MCO catchment area. That means only 9 positions remain for representation from the 23 counties.

The Smoky Mountain Executive Committee and the Western Highlands Transition Team came up with a proposed slate for a new Board of Directors which they believe will best serve the new organization. After naming the 12 positions, plus the one position allocated for a County Commissioner, there were eight slots available which were divided evenly between the former Smoky Mountain and Western Highlands catchment areas. Although there were more counties in the previous Smoky Mountain catchment area, the population of both areas is essentially the same.

In addition to approving the new slate of members for the Board of Directors, the Manager asked Commissioners to approve a resolution urging the NC General Assembly to change the structure to allow each participating county to have at least one elected official position or designee to serve as a voting member on the Board of Directors, in addition to the 12 members representing specific occupations or groups.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the 21 people nominated for the new Board of Directors for the Smoky Mountain Managed Care Organization. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed. Commissioners thanked the Manager for his work during this transition. They also thanked Health Director Steve Smith for his work when he served on the Western Highlands Board. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve Resolution 39-2013 A Resolution Urging the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the North Carolina General Assembly to Revise the Requirements Concerning the Governance and Appointment of Elected Officials or Their Designees as Board Members to LME/MCO Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappell. If changed, the membership would increase from 21 to 35 members. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

(Resolution 39-2013 A Resolution Urging the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the North Carolina General Assembly to Revise the Requirements Concerning the Governance and Appointment of Elected Officials or Their Designees as Board Members to LME/MCO Board of Directors is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

MACHINING LAB FOR BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Blue Ridge Community College has been working with the Transylvania County Board of Education to offer machining, mechatronics and welding course at Brevard High School through the Career and College Promise program. Blue Ridge Community College was able to purchase some advanced machining equipment with Golden Leaf Funds. Their original plan was to renovate the picnic shelter at the Transylvania County Campus to house the equipment. In September, the Board of Commissioners authorized the use of \$150,000 in capital reserve funds for this project. The Manager was notified today that the bids came in higher than anticipated and an additional \$100,000 is needed for the project. The Blue Ridge Community College Board of Trustees met last night and approved to defer the current capital projects and apply the available monies in this year's budget to this project. The total project cost is approximately \$200,000. There would be no additional funds required by the County.

Commissioner Lemel moved to authorize Dr. Parkhill (President of Blue Ridge Community College) to proceed with the machining lab project with current available capital funds to be used for this project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed. Commissioner Chapman expressed support for technical education opportunities because it prepares students for the workforce and creates small business. He thanked Dr. Parkhill for the College's collaboration with the School System. In response to a question from Commissioner Lemel, it was reported this project will cause a deferment of some repairs and fire door replacements. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- Staff went out to bid for the renovation of the Silvermont porch. The bid was awarded to Henry Roess. Mr. Roess hopes to begin the work very soon.
- The specifications and drawings for the renovation of the old library are almost complete. Staff anticipates going out for bid later this month.
- Commissioners recently held a workshop on water. Keith Webb of McGill Associates made a presentation on water supply planning. The Manager hopes to receive a proposal from McGill Associates soon on how the County should move forward on water planning.
- Met with some property owners on Fisher Road about the County's Community Appearance Initiative. Offered the County's help in cleaning up property from a recent fire.

- Reviewed the first draft of alternatives to the High Impact Land Use Ordinance. A workshop is scheduled for Monday, December 2, 2013 to discuss. Also on this date, staff would like to use some time after the workshop to conduct training on the paperless agenda system.
- Working with County Attorney to review various County ordinances
- Met with Engineer Terry Allen, County Operations Manager David McNeill and County Project Manager Larry Reece to discuss the preliminary drawings for the concession/restroom facility at the Community Park in Rosman. The final drawings should be ready in the next couple of weeks.
- In communication with the Superintendent of Transylvania County Schools regarding a possible joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners in January.
- Continues to work with the School of Government to schedule a follow up meeting to the recent Board retreat in January or February to establish goals and objectives. Ms. Lydian Altman contacted the Manager today and suggested January 8-9. The Manager asked the Board to let him know if these dates work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

An unidentified gentleman addressed the Board. He attended the Veterans Day Ceremony yesterday and applauded the County for planning this event for the last few years. He suggested the County look into doing something similar on Memorial Day as well. He noted that there have been some problems in planning the Memorial Day parade and he wondered if the County could offer its assistance.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lemel reported on her activities over the last couple of weeks. She attended the hunger presentation put on by Carolyn Barton with the School System. Hunger and food insecurity are huge growing problems in this County. She joined Commissioner Chappell at the Rosman High School Girls Volleyball semi-finals tournament. They did not win but it was a great event. Commissioner Lemel, along with Chairman Hawkins, attended the City's presentation on their market study on retail sales in downtown Brevard. She and others went to a presentation by the Secretary of Commerce, Sharon Decker, on economic development and the realignment of the Department of Commerce structure. Commissioner Lemel attended the Rosman Fire and Rescue Squad open house celebrating 50 years of service to the community. She also represented the County at the Aleen Steinberg dedication at Dupont Recreational State Forest.

Commissioner Chapman responded to the gentleman who spoke during public comment. He thanked Commissioner Hogsed personally for planning yesterday's Veterans Day Ceremony. He said that the Memorial Day parade and ceremony is a top priority of the veterans' organizations in the County. As far as the parade goes, he believes there have been some communication issues with procedures but those issues have been resolved. He encouraged more citizen participation and support of these events. Commissioner Chapman said he visited the new animal shelter recently and he was more than impressed and pleased at the operation of the shelter and the facility itself. He invited citizens to visit the facility and continue to make donations to support the animals in the community.

Commissioner Hogsed thanked Commissioner Chapman for his comments. He said having a Veterans Day Ceremony is the least the County can do for the veterans who have served this country. He thanked everyone who helped make the event successful. Commissioner Hogsed also commented that it is the local veterans' organizations who wish to plan the Memorial Day events; however, he will make contact with those organizations to see where the County may be able to assist them.

Commissioner Chappell thanked all those who serve in emergency services areas who sacrifice so much of their time to serve the citizens of this community. Transylvania County has come a long ways over the years in helping neighbors across county and state lines.

Chairman Hawkins welcomed the newcomers to the County Commission meeting this evening and he encouraged them to attend future meetings. He also thanked Commissioner Hogsed and staff for their work on planning the Veterans Day Ceremony. Chairman Hawkins referred to the water workshop Commissioners held last week. He said it was an extremely interesting and useful workshop. Commissioners and staff are now challenged to determine the County's next steps which will have a great impact on the County's future. Chairman Hawkins also reminded everyone that he has begun using Twitter as a social media experience in order to disseminate information into the community. He has 50 followers and hopes to have more. He has talked about a number of topics to help educate the public about various issues, not just what is going on at the local government level. His Twitter account is @mhcommissioner.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board