

**MINUTES  
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
March 24, 2014 – REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, March 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Transylvania County Courthouse.

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

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Jeremiah Reed

There were approximately 35 people in the audience.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**WELCOME**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Diane Harle: Ms. Harle brought forth a report completed by People for Clean Mountains on ways to alleviate pressure on the landfill through increased recycling. She stated that the recycling rate for Transylvania County is approximately 9.8%, much less than the national average of 35%. The City of Brevard's recycling rate is 19%. The report made a number of recommendations on how to increase recycling and she talked about a few of those recommendations. Ms. Harle asked Commissioners to be leaders in this effort and partner with the City of Brevard to create a countywide vision and plan to address recycling and get the community involved in this effort.

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

The Manager reported on the agenda modifications. He requested to add Item IV. C. Proclamation-Month and Week of the Young Child under the Consent Agenda.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 27, 2014 regular meeting and February 17, 2014 regular meeting and sealed closed session were approved.

PROCLAMATION-NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK

The second week in April is permanently recognized as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week to honor the thousands of men and women who respond to emergency calls, dispatch professionals and equipment and render life-saving assistance to the citizens of the United States. County Commissioners are very proud of all the Transylvania County Communications Center's Telecommunicators and the vital service they provide to the citizens of Transylvania County and their fellow emergency services comrades. Commissioners approved Proclamation 07-2014 National Public Safety Telecommunications Week April 13-19, 2014.

(Proclamation 07-2014 National Public Safety Telecommunications Week April 13-19, 2014 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

PROCLAMATION-MONTH AND WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Joe Castro, Executive Director of Smart Start requested Commissioners proclaim April as the Month of the Young Child and April 6-12, 2014 as the Week of the Young Child in Transylvania County. Commissioners approved Proclamation 08-2014 Proclaiming April as the Month of the Young Child and April 6-12, 2014 as the Week of the Young Child.

(Proclamation 08-2014 Proclaiming April as the Month of the Young Child and April 6-12, 2014 as the Week of the Young Child is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

**COMMITTEES**COMMUNITY APPEARANCE INITIATIVE

The terms of Richard Fry and Benjamin Owen expired at the end of February. The February meeting of this council was cancelled due to weather. They met on March 17 for their regular meeting and discussed the membership. Both are eligible for reappointment; however Benjamin Owen decided to resign and does not wish to be reappointed. It is also the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners to appoint the chair. Staff will recruit for the vacant position.

**Commissioner Hogsed moved to reappoint Richard Fry to another term, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.**

**Commissioner Chapman moved to reappoint David Morrow as chair, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.**

**NEW BUSINESS**REQUEST FROM HONOR GUARD

The Transylvania County Honor Guard is made up of veterans and service retirees from all branches of the Armed Forces. The function of the Honor Guard is to provide honorary funerals, participate in national holiday events, and other events as requested. The members of the Honor Guard are not compensated for their service. According to Commander Howard A. Thiele, the Honor Guard is in immediate need of replacing three uniforms at a cost of approximately \$1,100. The funds they have in hand will cover the anticipated funeral costs for the remainder of the fiscal year but will not cover the cost of the uniforms.

Included in the Commissioners' agenda packets is a breakdown of the organization's needs for the next two fiscal years which will be considered during the upcoming budget process.

**Commissioner Chapman moved to approve the request for \$1,100 for the purchase of three uniforms with funds to come from Fund Balance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed.**

Commissioners commented that the Transylvania County Honor Guard is highly recognized and performs professional and honorable services for families in this County. They provide services at a moment's notice and they make an effort for all branches of the service to be represented. Commissioners expressed sincere appreciation for the services they provide. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

#### PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

The County currently leases a 2.82 acre parcel from Ms. Ila Israel as part of the Community Park near Rosman. Ms. Israel wishes to sell the property and the County has been given the right of first refusal. This parcel is a key part of the Community Park that is being developed by the County. Ms. Israel has offered to sell the property to the County for \$9,100. The County has completed a survey of the property and is prepared to have the County Attorney complete the transaction if a clear title is found.

The financial impact to the County is the purchase price of \$9,100, survey fees of \$1,050 and estimated title research and recording fees of \$900, for a total of \$11,050.

**Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve the purchase of the 2.82 acre parcel from Ms. Ila Israel , PIN 8562 07 1760 000, for \$9,100 and authorize funds totaling \$11,050 to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance to purchase the property and pay for the cost of the survey, title research and recording fees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.**

#### HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL FY2015

Due to the requirements of the Affordable Care Act, employers must provide a Summary of Benefit Coverage (SBC) to employees 60 days prior to the new plan year for their consideration. Since the County is self-funded approval is needed for the Third Party Administrator for the County's Health Plan and any changes to the plan, if any. This year's renewal includes a 5.74% increase in administrative fees for medical, specific stop loss, aggregate stop loss and consulting costs. There are no changes in the health plan except for the changes required by the Affordable Care Act which allow for co-pays to now count towards the maximum out-of-pocket costs an individual has to pay. Staff estimates this will cost the County an additional \$73,000 in FY 2014-15. For FY 2015 staff recommends that Blue Cross/Blue Shield continue to be the Third Party Administrator for the County's Health Plan. However, staff is proposing to change the Third Party Administrator of the County's Dental Plan from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield to Ameritas at a lower administrative fee.

This has the following financial impact to the County:

- The requirement to accumulate co-payments toward the out-of-pocket/co-insurance maximums will increase health plan costs by \$73,000 in FY 2015
- Medical administrative fees increase of 5.7% = \$42,390 (estimate)
- Dental administrative fees decrease from \$4.30 to \$3.24, a reduction of \$3,994 (estimate)

The overall health and dental insurance budget including claims estimate will be presented as part of the total FY 2015 Budget.

**Commissioner Chapman moved to approve the renewal of the Employee Health Insurance Plan with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina as the Third Party Administrator and to approve Ameritas as the Third Party Administrator for the Dental Plan and give the County Manager authority to sign necessary documents and contracts related to the renewal for FY 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed.** There were significant healthcare cost increases over last year due to the Affordable Care Act. There are some increases for the coming year; however, there has been a savings due to reduced claims as a result of employees and dependents using the employee health clinic. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported on the status of several key projects:

1. Renovation of the old Library progresses.
2. Help continues to be provided for the people being displaced by the sale of the Rodeway Inn. This has truly been a community effort in helping find lodging and services for these people. Staff expects to move the trailer from Rodeway Inn sometime this week.
3. Last week met with Chairman Hawkins, Mike Singer of Renova Partners, Representative Chris Whitmire and NC Department of Transportation officials to discuss the Connector Road. The design plans should be finalized within the next six weeks. A presentation about this project will be made to Commerce Secretary Decker and Transportation Secretary Tata in mid-May. The goal is to start construction of the road in FY 2015.
4. City and County staff and elected officials are working together to help find funding for improvements to the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant. Assistant Secretary Ives with the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been a big help in identifying some potential funding sources.
5. Work continues on the Silvermont porch. Unfortunately the rain continues to delay progress. Staff is working on the development of the next phase of the project.
6. Budget reviews are underway and should be completed within the next three weeks. The Manager sent Commissioners a proposed budget and meeting schedule through the end of June.
7. A follow up meeting on the Courthouse study is scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2014.
8. Surveys for the compensation study have been returned to the consultant and they are reviewing the job descriptions where the responsibilities have changed. Staff expects to have a first review of the information in April. The recommendations will be part of the proposed budget for Commissioners' consideration.

Chairman Hawkins noted that the City of Brevard has scheduled a special meeting and wondered if it was related to the waste water issue. The Manager will follow up.

Chairman Hawkins thanked the Manager for his work on coordinating assistance for those displaced by Rodeway Inn.

Commissioner Chapman inquired about the status of the employee injured at the landfill. The Manager reported that the employee is home and recovering.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joe Castro: Mr. Castro thanked Commissioners for approving a proclamation for the Month and Week of the Young Child. He read aloud the proclamation for the benefit of the public. He also thanked Commissioners for their support of Smart Start.

Wayne Hennie: Mr. Hennie reported that his son has a degree in environmental biology. Paper, newspapers and plastic are not biodegradable. He believes the County's recycling efforts could be improved and he hopes one of the committees look into improving this process.

### COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Hawkins said he was surprised about the County's low recycling rate as reported by Ms. Harle. He looks forward to reading the report in greater detail. He wondered if this could become part of the County's Comprehensive Plan, along with a partnership with the City.

Commissioner Hogsed noted that the Telecommunications Tower Ordinance should include language for items like wind turbines, because they could potentially cause the same issues as cell towers. Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows noted that the Planning Board discussed this specifically. They kept their focus on telecommunications towers. Tall structures, such as wind turbines, should be addressed separately in a comprehensive plan.

Commissioner Chapman commented about the Ecusta Trail, a subject he was quoted on in two local newspapers. He stated that the railroad company has no immediate plans to abandon the rail line between Henderson and Transylvania Counties. Until any decision is made there, this is not an issue. He personally supports keeping the rail line open as long as there is the potential need for it at the Davidson River Village site.

**Chairman Hawkins moved to enter into closed session per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business, after a 5 minute recess. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously carried.**

### CLOSED SESSION

Per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business, closed session was entered into at 8:05 p.m. Present were Chairman Hawkins and Commissioners Chapman and Hogsed, County Manager Artie Wilson, County Attorney Tony Dalton, Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

The Manager and Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows updated Commissioners on a potential economic development project and other economic development items. After discussion, Commissioners directed staff on how to proceed.

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

### OPEN SESSION

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further to come before the Board, **Commissioner Chapman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed 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