

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 28, 2014 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, July 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rogow Room at the Transylvania County Library.

Commissioners present were Vice-Chairman Larry Chapman, Jason Chappell, Daryle Hogsed, and Page Lemel. Chairman Mike Hawkins was unable to attend because he was out of the country. 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 50 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Larry Chapman presiding called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

WELCOME

Commissioner Chapman 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. He also recognized elected officials in the audience.

PUBLIC HEARING

PERFORMANCE BASED INCENTIVE GRANT FOR COMPANY "X"

Staff has been working with Company "X" for several months to incentivize them to keep assets purchased from a local company in Transylvania County. The proposed incentive grant is performance based and is contingent on the creation of 80 new jobs over a 36-month period. The average wage of these jobs is \$12.25 per hour. Company "X" intends to make an estimated capital investment of \$12.1 million over the next 5-year period as well.

The County proposes to offer the following performance based incentive package:

- 75% grant back of ad valorem taxes on new investment=\$122,738
- 50% grant back of existing real and personal ad valorem taxes=\$144,530
- County pays \$1,000/new manufacturing job= \$80,000
- State pays \$1,000/new manufacturing job =\$80,000

The estimated total is \$427,268. The final amount will be determined by the current assessed value.

Benefits derived will be the retention of 45 manufacturing jobs and the creation of a minimum of 80 new manufacturing jobs, increased sales tax revenue from individuals employed with Company "X", increased long term property tax revenues and retaining existing manufacturing-related jobs and existing ad valorem tax revenues in Transylvania County.

The Manager added that the owner indicates he intends to build a new plant in the Midwestern United States and if Company "X" does not receive an incentive package from Transylvania County, he will

relocate the assets to the new plant. There is no guarantee the business will remain in Transylvania County; however, conversations with the owner have been very positive.

A public hearing must be held before the incentive package can be approved by Commissioners.

Commissioner Chapman declared the public hearing open at 7:10 p.m.

Larry Wilson: First, Mr. Wilson thanked Commissioners for their patience with all the speakers at the public hearing held at the previous meeting. Mr. Wilson is a citizen and local business owner. He commented that Company "X" appears to have a vision to bring jobs into this County now and in the future. By approving this incentive package, it shows the County has an interest in their vision as well. If they can generate the 80 jobs as promised and therefore provide wages for citizens who in turn spend their dollars locally, this would be a win-win for Transylvania County.

There were no further comments. **Commissioner Chapman declared the public hearing closed at 7:14 p.m.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jill Chapman: Mrs. Chapman reported that she gives historic walking tours of downtown and in the process of collecting information she learned some information that may be relevant as Commissioners make decisions on the Courthouse expansion project. She learned there are historical markers at the current Courthouse and Administration buildings that indicate a true north and south line and were used by surveyors to test and correct their compasses. The former UDC (United Daughters of the Confederacy) and first County Library were also located on the site. Mrs. Chapman asked Commissioners to consider this information as they make their decisions.

Charlie Landreth: Mr. Landreth is a citizen, local business owner, and a Brevard City Councilman. He spoke about the potable water study that will be presented here tonight. He believes it is important for the County to grow in terms of more jobs and businesses, homes, etc. He thanked the Board of Commissioners and County staff for investing in this water study because infrastructure is the backbone of economic development. He is interested in the City and County working together in the future.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications from staff. Commissioner Chapman requested to remove the Social Services Board appointment and delay until the next meeting when all five Commissioners will be in attendance.

Commissioner Chapman moved to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Commissioner Lemel and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 28, 2014 regular meeting and sealed closed session were approved.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

IN RECOGNITION OF SANDRA GLAZENER BECK

Sandra Beck will retire from Transylvania County effective August 1, 2014. She has been an employee of the Information Technology Department since April 2001 where she served as a Computer Specialist and Programmer and assisted with many related projects during her time with the County.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve Resolution 24-2014 In Recognition of Sandra Glazener Beck. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lemel. Commissioners thanked Sandra for her service and wished her well in her retirement. Sandra's supervisor, Information Technology Director Dean Landreth, commented on her service and also wished her the best. Commissioners recognized her with this resolution. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

(Resolution 24-2014 In Recognition of Sandra Glazener Beck is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE PROCLAMATION FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

Relay for Life is a signature activity of the American Cancer Society. Money raised during the Relay for Life events in Transylvania County supports the mission and efforts of the American Cancer Society. Nancy Galloway, a Social Worker in the Social Services Department, is a member of the Transylvania County Relay for Life team and she requested Commissioners approve a proclamation proclaiming July 28, 2014-August 2, 2014 as Relay for Life Days in Transylvania County.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve Proclamation 25-2014 American Cancer Society Relay for Life Proclamation for Transylvania County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lemel and unanimously approved.

Commissioners presented the proclamation to Nancy Galloway. She briefly described the events occurring on August 1 at Brevard College and encouraged everyone to participate in the events and activities.

(Proclamation 25-2014 American Cancer Society Relay for Life Proclamation for Transylvania County is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

STUDY ON EXPANSION OF THE COURTHOUSE

The County engaged the services of Moseley Architects to complete a study on the expansion of the Courthouse. The County Manager brought together several stakeholders to participate in the study, including the Clerk of Court, District Attorney, Public Defender, local Bar Association representative, Juvenile Justice, District Court Judge, Superior Court Judge, Probation/Parole, Sheriff's Office, City of Brevard Planning staff, County Operations Director, County Facilities Superintendent, and Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. The process began in late November 2013 and was completed in June 2014. Dan Mace of Mosley Architects presented the findings of the study and afterwards answered questions from Commissioners.

The Manager noted that he anticipates bringing several projects to the Commissioners in late August for discussion about next steps, including the Courthouse expansion project. He turned the presentation over to Mr. Mace to report on the findings of the study.

Mr. Mace reported that Moseley Architects was retained by the County to study a potential expansion of the Courthouse at the current location being that County Administration was planning to move out of its

current location, therefore freeing up the building next to the Courthouse. It was not under consideration during the previous study, so this fact allowed more flexibility with the design recommendations of the expansion downtown versus the recommendation to relocate court functions to a new facility.

The study began with a meeting of the key stakeholders to develop a space needs model for the next 15 years. Moseley Architects would use this information to develop design alternatives to complement the historical Courthouse and comply with the City's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), to provide Commissioners with schematic preliminary drawings so they could visualize how security and parking would be addressed, and to develop cost estimates for the expansion alternatives, including parking and UDO requirements. Upon approval of these items, the next steps would be for Moseley Architects to develop full architectural and engineering design services and to more narrowly define the full project cost.

Moseley Architects distributed space planning questionnaires to the key stakeholders to determine current space needs and 10-15 years in the future. Mr. Mace commented that it is difficult to project needs more than 15 years in the future. The space needs assessment resulted in a need for an additional large courtroom and small courtroom to handle increased caseloads, a new jury pool room that could also serve as a Grand Jury Room, new Probation offices (the County currently rents space), and miscellaneous spaces needed for a functional court system. A larger public entrance lobby/screening area would be needed for security, including a secure way to bring inmates from the Public Safety Facility to the Courthouse without crossing paths with members of the public and court officers. Giving the size and site limitations, it was determined that the addition would need to be two stories, with the first floor including the lobby, vehicular sally port and prisoner holding cells, Probation offices, and the Grand Jury Room. The second level would consist of judges' offices and new courtrooms.

Parking is currently a huge problem and this proposal does not provide for any improvements. The previous study completed in 2008 identified an idea for a parking structure with 300 spaces. Mr. Mace believes parking needs to be addressed in some capacity by the County.

Moseley Architects felt it was important that this expansion be a positive contextual neighbor to the historic Courthouse and its importance to downtown Brevard. It was determined that the gazebo and public open space be maintained on Main Street, and additionally public restrooms would be placed so that on weekends and during special downtown events the public could have access to them without being able to gain access to the other areas of the Courthouse.

Once the key stakeholders had consensus for the program document, site/floor plans as well as the general architectural appearance and a cost estimate were prepared and reviewed. The cost estimate includes not only anticipated construction costs, but also the total project costs to include furniture, fixtures and equipment, demolition, testing, and miscellaneous fees. Included in the cost is the space requirements, what is needed now and in five-year increments, which adds up to approximately 34,000 square feet of identified new construction space and 1,600 square feet of existing Courthouse space that needs some form of renovation to make it function better.

Mr. Mace showed the proposed artist's rendering of the expansion so Commissioners would have a visual idea of what this expansion might look like. The new building would match the look and detail of the current historic Courthouse. The two buildings would connect through a glass connector, and will not be connected brick-to-brick. Moseley Architects recommended a special contractor/brick manufacturer to match the brick, understanding the two buildings will never perfectly match.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$11,151,251 and includes 10% of the construction and design contingency. With further details, Moseley Architects will work to reduce the contingency. Included also

is a cost escalation of 5% for each additional year to the actual bid date. If the County were to consider a parking structure, Moseley Architects recommended the County budget \$15,000 per vehicle for the construction costs.

Discussion and questions:

This is a summary of Commissioners' discussions and questions to Mr. Mace:

1. In Section 2 of the report, Moseley Architects references that the existing building is only 66.8% efficient. What does this terminology mean?

Mr. Mace said an efficiency factor in building is the gross versus net comparison. The usable space in the historic Courthouse is about 67% of the building. Thick walls, mechanical rooms, etc. take away from the amount of usable space. New buildings are designed much more efficiently and include more usable space.

2. Given the walkability that this community appreciates, the proposed floor plan and size of the new building, it appears hard for the public to figure out how to get to the entrance to the Courthouse. The only egress remaining appears to be the small alleyway beside the jewelry store and the current Administration Building. Has any consideration been given to expanding the pedestrian access?

Mr. Mace said the best way to handle this issue is proper signage to instruct people how to gain access to the building. The new design adds a little more space to the alleyway, but not much. As the project moves forward, they can look at different ways to address this issue.

3. When Commissioners were considering a new courthouse at the Public Safety Facility site, what were the cost estimates then and what might it cost now?

In 2008 the estimated cost was \$21.5 million. This was for an 81,220 square foot building at \$265/square foot. With all the miscellaneous costs discussed tonight, the price would rise today to a cost of approximately \$29 million. This is for a nice quality building that will last for generations.

4. Does Moseley Architects have any recommendations to increase the life span from 15 to 20 years in terms of the space needs requirements?

Mr. Mace said just because they are using the 15-year future model to determine spaced needs does not mean that in 15 years it will be time to build another facility. This is simply a guide to determine how much space is needed for each office. It also does not allow for ultimate capacity; there must be the ability to expand. The new Public Safety Facility site has expansion capabilities. The proposal for a new courthouse offsite would also include the ability to expand on the same site. Once the build out of the site occurs, the County would have to consider another site. Mr. Mace noted that the historic Courthouse has been well-maintained by the County and has lasted for well over 100 years and he expects a new facility would do the same.

5. Does the expansion project include any work on the outside of the current Courthouse? There appears to be a need for some work on the outside.

The work is only for the interior spaces.

6. Will the front door of the historic Courthouse remain closed with this project proposal? Was there any discussion about this because many people would like to see the front door open again?

The front door will remain closed and will serve as an emergency exit only. A 21st Century courthouse needs to have one entrance in order to maintain security. Another entrance would require additional staff to provide the same security as the other entrance.

7. Does this renovation impact the historical designation?

Mr. Mace said the renovation would have to meet the requirements of the historic register. He does not expect this project to have an impact on the designation. This would need to be properly determined should Commissioners decide to move forward.

8. What is the time period should Commissioners decide to move forward in this direction?

Mr. Mace stated that the design period should take 10 months and then the process would move forward to obtain all approvals needed for the project. Commissioners should also hold a public input meeting. The bid process would take two months. Construction would likely take 14-16 months.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Mace for his presentation and requested that a copy of it be placed at the Library.

The next steps would be to discuss this project again at the second meeting in August, along with other projects. Commissioners would have an opportunity to discuss the financial piece of this project and then direct staff on how to move forward.

POTABLE WATER SUPPLY PLANNING STUDY FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

Keith Webb with McGill Associates presented the findings of the Potable Water Supply Planning Study for Transylvania County via PowerPoint Presentation.

He reported that McGill Associates met with the Manager and staff to determine the scope of the project and define what the study areas should be. They decided to define a study area that could be served off of the two current water systems, those being Brevard and Rosman. Once they defined the study area they could project the future water demands based on projected population growth and commercial and industrial growth in that study area. The next step was to identify existing water supplies. There are a lot of systems that are classified as public water systems but they are smaller, like community systems that have utilized ground water sources. They identified them for information purposes but also served as alternatives for them to consider. They also looked at alternatives on how to expand the system into this service area and the final step was to discuss the potential management alternatives to manage the water system.

Study Area

The service area was defined as the area from Rosman down Highway 64 to the Henderson County line and down Highway 280 to the top of Little Mountain.

Future Water Demands

If the County served the study area today, the current demand average would be 1 million gallons per day (mgd) with peak demand being 1.5 mgd. Using Brevard's and Rosman's current demand patterns the average demand in the year 2035 would be 2.1 mgd with peak demand being 2.8 mgd. In the year 2065 the demand increases to an average of 3.6 mgd with the peak being 4.8 mgd. Those demands include allocations for commercial and industrial growth.

Water Supplies

1. French Broad River. This is the number one water supply source. Using the US Geological Survey, McGill Associates was able to project the safe yield at five different locations.
2. Cathey's Creek which is Brevard's existing intake site. The City of Brevard has a water treatment facility on Cathey's Creek and a protected watershed provides them with a water supply to meet the current demand. Brevard has expressed a need to expand to meet future demands. They must be able to provide an uninterrupted water supply. Cathey's Creek should be supplemented and is vulnerable if it is the only water supply.
3. Davidson River. It has a lot of water in it but the drainage area is only 40 sq. mi. The safe yield is only 3 mgd. It is a nice pristine source and the watershed protection area would be inside in the Pisgah National Forest, but there does not seem to be enough water there for it to stand alone as a water supply.
4. Little River. The safe yield is 5 mgd.
5. Cascade Lake. McGill Associates did not consider this an option at this time but it could be considered in the future.

The French Broad River is the best source to provide a water supply. Its water quality over the years has improved and continues to improve. McGill Associates looked at locations that would provide enough safe yield.

1. Upstream of Rosman – 7mgd; enough to meet the County's demands, but not enough to include Brevard's and Rosman's projected future demands.
2. Move downstream to Island Ford Road – 11-13 mgd; the drainage area and safe yield increases further downstream.
3. Down the French Broad River to the County line where it meets the Little River – the safe yield is somewhere between 24-30 mgd.

Expansion Alternatives

McGill Associates developed three expansion alternatives along with the cost for each. They felt these were the best options available to provide water into the service area.

1. French Broad River upstream of Rosman. Watershed protection rules apply here but would have no impact on Rosman or Brevard. The County could build a water treatment plant at this location to meet future demands and provide 4 mgd. A water treatment plant, new transmission line down Highway 64 and connection to both Brevard's and Rosman's systems would cost approximately \$40 million. In addition, the system would run down Highway 64 to Little River/Crab Creek Road and then onto Barclay Road and Island Ford Road. There would be additional cost if Brevard's system is not large enough to handle the interconnection. Currently Brevard has infrastructure to take water from Cathey's Creek to the Highway 64/Highway 280 interchange. There is no cost included for updating infrastructure.
2. Move the water treatment plant downstream to Barclay Road area. This area would provide water well in excess of what is needed. A large transmission line to bring water back to the Brevard system and a smaller line to connect Brevard and Rosman so the new facility can provide a supplemental supply in the future if needed is estimated at \$38 million.
3. Partner with another governmental entity. Hendersonville has a 12 mgd plant on the Mills River. They use the Mills River as their main supply but they have in place the ability to build a future supply by tapping into the French Broad River. The City of Asheville has a plant near the Hendersonville plant that has a design capacity of 5 mgd. The City of Asheville also uses the Mills River as its main source and the French Broad River as a supplemental source. The County could purchase water from Hendersonville. Hendersonville has excess capacity of 2 mgd. If the County purchased the excess at \$3.50 per gallon (a negotiable price), this would allow the County to have a start in the water business at a much lesser cost than building a new facility. This option could serve the County for at least 15-20 years, and if it is determined that the County

needs additional capacity, it could work with Hendersonville to expand its facility. There are two options with this alternative. The first option is to purchase water from Hendersonville and connect to Brevard's system on Highway 64 near Walmart, also connecting Brevard's system to Rosman's system so Brevard can transmit water to Rosman if ever needed. The cost of this option is approximately \$14 million. The other option is, being that Hendersonville also has water access on Highway 280, to tie into that line which would require a storage tank on Little Mountain. Both options bring water into potential growth area and both options are attractive.

Potential Management Alternatives

There are many management systems that are allowed in North Carolina.

1. Counties can get into the water business but it means going into debt. Counties need to be able to answer these questions before taking on such debt: How many customers does the County intend to serve in these growth areas and how fast will they come onto the system? How much revenue will that generate based on the number of projected customers and will that generate enough revenue to amortize the debt?
2. Interlocal agreements between other government entities are the most attractive. The agreements would describe how the system will be built and paid for and determine who is going to own the assets in the future.
3. Joint management agency
4. Water authority. The concern with this option is how to establish the board. The same goes with option 3 above. What happens to the assets of the existing water systems? Are other water systems/local governments willing to give their assets to a water authority? These are difficult questions to answer.

It costs a lot to build and maintain a water system, so it is important that governments determine the best way to manage them. Mr. Webb believes interlocal agreements are the best option.

This concluded Mr. Webb's presentation. He took questions from Commissioners.

Discussion and questions:

This is a summary of the discussions and questions asked by Commissioners.

1. With regards to purchasing water from an adjacent county, how does that protect another county from other entities? How can we protect our water for our use?

Mr. Webb stated that North Carolina has riparian rights laws that say if someone owns property on a river, the owner has the right to use that water, but the landowner cannot impact the use of the downstream customers. The water does not belong to them. If someone wants to come into a county to build a water treatment plant and if that plant has to be on a protected source, according to law, they must come to the County to request watershed protection rules. The County is the only entity that can regulate the protection of that watershed.

2. Mr. Webb gave some examples of governmental entities that have interlocal agreements. What is the standard length of the contracts for those entities?

Mr. Webb said there is no length and they essentially agreed to be partners forever. They shared revenues for a period of time but they also share in the costs of future upgrades.

3. In terms of watershed classifications, who decides upon the reclassification?

Mr. Webb said the applicant is going to make a request to the State. Typically the applicant is going to request a WS4 classification which has less protected area, typically 10 river miles from the intake point. Public Water Supply will push back for stricter classifications which are usually to the top of the watershed because they want a bigger safe area. The result tends to end up becoming a compromise between the applicant and Public Water Supply. The final decision rests on the State Legislature.

4. Do the protection aspects of a watershed classification apply only to new development and are existing uses accepted?

Yes, existing uses are grandfathered in.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Webb for his presentation. There is a copy of the study report available at County Administration and the Library.

APPOINTMENTS

NURSING AND ADULT CARE HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The terms of Mary Grace Brennan, Linda Novosel and Jane Williams expired at the end of June. All are eligible and willing to be reappointed. There are no other applications on file.

Commissioner Lemel moved to reappoint Mary Grace Brennan, Linda Novosel and Jane Williams to another term on the Nursing & Adult Care Home Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

PERFORMANCE BASED INCENTIVE GRANT FOR COMPANY "X"

A required public hearing was held at the beginning of the meeting. Only one individual provided comment and the individual spoke in support of the performance based incentive package for Company "X".

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the proposed performance based incentive package for Company "X". The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed. It was noted that staff felt they had done their due diligence. They feel the business is sincere in wanting to be here. Furthermore, staff feels it is important to maintain and grow business here. It was emphasized that the grant is performance based. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

INTEGRATED HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

With the departure of Transylvania County's Health Director to Henderson County, the Manager believes this is an opportune time to study whether or not the County should consolidate the Health and Social Services Departments.

The Manager convened a committee consisting of the Chairman of the Board of Health, the Interim Health Director, the Chairman of the Social Services Board and another Social Services Board member, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners to discuss the issue. They met three times and one included a session with Jill Moore with the UNC School of Government. She provided the committee members with information and offered the three options available to the County.

Also, staff contacted a number of counties that had already consolidated their Health and Social Services Departments to learn more about their process and the reason for the consolidation. After reviewing and discussing all of the information, it was the consensus of the committee that consolidation of these two

departments should not be pursued at this time. They recognized that a number of counties are moving toward consolidation and believes this topic should be revisited in the future if opportunities arise.

The Manager asked for permission on behalf of the Board of Health to advertise the Health Director position. The new Director should have the ability to handle a consolidation should the County decide to move toward consolidation in the future.

Commissioner Lemel moved to grant permission to the Board of Health to advertise the Health Director position. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed. Board of Health Chairman Chris Biecker confirmed that the Board of Health will be looking for qualities in a new Director that could handle a consolidation. Commissioner Hogsed added that he agrees with the Board of Health's assessment that there is no need to move in the direction of consolidation at this time. He serves as the County Commissioner representative to the Board of Health. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FROM TRANSYLVANIA NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL (TNRC)

As a follow up to the workshop "Balancing Nature and Commerce in Transylvania County", the Transylvania Natural Resources Council (TNRC) has scheduled a workshop to discuss water issues in Transylvania County. This conference will develop a common understanding of water rights and responsibilities of the current and future economic impact of the County's water resources and consider how best to safeguard these resources. The TNRC estimates the total cost of the conference to range from \$8,000-\$10,000. The Pisgah Group of the Sierra Club has already contributed \$1,000 and the TNRC is seeking other pledges. The TNRC is requesting a contribution of \$4,000 from the County.

Commissioner Lemel moved to authorize \$4,000 to go towards the "Whose Water Is It Anyway" Conference scheduled for November 15, 2014 being sponsored by the Transylvania Natural Resources Council with funds to come from the contingency line item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman. TNRC member Peter Chaveas explained that the principle purpose of the conference is for public education purposes and the forum will be open to all. The TNRC intends to make every effort to ensure that everyone is aware of what is going on in terms of water and for them to have their say about it. Commissioner Lemel said she has been involved in the planning of this conference. It is clear that water rights and control of water and how it impacts personal property rights in this community have been key issues for many citizens. She believes this conference will help get those questions answered and provide an understanding of how to manage and care for water and how to use this resource as a foundation to develop the economy. She expressed full support for the request. Commissioner Chapman wants to ensure a cross representation of citizens and avoid agenda driven purposes. He asked what might happen if the TNRC cannot raise the funds. Mr. Chaveas said he is confident that the TNRC will be able to raise the monies necessary to hold the conference. He noted that this conference concept originated from a meeting held with Chairman Hawkins and Brevard College President Dr. David Joyce who said that the County and College would partner to present this conference. It might be hard to get a buy in from other partners if the County does not support this conference. Commissioner Lemel stated that the TNRC is trying to take a balanced approach in terms of the panelists for the presentation by including and recognizing regional and national experts in the subject matter. Elected officials are being asked to participate but it will not be an elected official agenda driven conference; but rather an effort to understand the issue from all viewpoints and levels of expertise. Commissioner Chappell expressed hesitancy because the money being requested from the County is slated to go toward marketing and catering the event. Commissioner Lemel responded that they intend to offer the conference at no cost to participants and being it is a full day event, the TNRC is trying to seek the ability to provide lunch for the participants so they do not have to leave the conference and can therefore participate fully in the conference and engage with others there. Commissioner Chapman

inquired about the deliverables. Mr. Chaveas responded that the TNRC intends to make a report to Commissioners. It is the goal of the conference to have a better educated citizenry on water issues and each other's views. Commissioner Chapman stressed that the conference should be inclusive to all and it not be agenda driven or else it will divide the community. **The motion failed by a vote of 2 to 2, with Commissioners Chappell and Hogsed voting against.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lemel reported on her Commissioner activities. She represented the County at the dedication of the Stacy's House addition. She participated in economic development meetings. She is confident of the bright future ahead for the County and understands there is lots of work to be done.

The Manager reminded Commissioners that the first meeting in August has been rescheduled to August 4. It will be a workshop style meeting at the Library. Commissioners will discuss the Economic Development Organization. He will provide Commissioners with pictures of the old library project at the next meeting.

Commissioner Chapman reported that the old Library project is moving forward.

Commissioner Chapman also announced that the search for the new County Manager has been complete and Commissioners intend to make an announcement soon.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board