

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 27, 2018 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, August 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Commissioners Chambers at the County Administration Building, located at 101 S. Broad Street, Brevard, NC.

Commissioners present were Chairman Larry Chapman, Jason Chappell, Mike Hawkins, Vice-Chairwoman Page Lemel, and Kelvin Phillips. Also present were County Manager Jaime Laughter and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan. County Attorney Misti Bass was participating remotely.

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Derek McKissock

There were approximately 50 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Larry Chapman presiding declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

WELCOME

Chairman Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the members of the public for participating in their local government. He introduced Commissioners and staff in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING

MOUNTAIN RIDGE PROTECTION ORDINANCE OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

Planning and Community Development Director Mark Burrows presented this item. The current Mountain Ridge Protection Ordinance of Transylvania County was adopted in 1983. In 2006, the NC Division of Community Assistance and North Carolina Geodetic Survey developed a GIS data layer of Protected Mountain Ridges across North Carolina. Based on NC General Statute and GIS data, the Transylvania County Planning Board recommended changes to the existing ordinance. They invited the public and property owners of identified Protected Mountain Ridges to attend the April 19, 2018 Planning Board meeting. The meeting was properly advertised and staff mailed over 300 letters and maps to property owners affect by the ordinance. Numerous property owners either called or visited the Planning and Community Development Office for more information, but none attended the Planning Board meeting. The Planning Board approved the proposed changes during their meeting on April 19, 2018.

Proposed changes to the ordinance included:

- Changing the definition of protected ridge to include the elevation of 3,000 feet as required by NC General Statute
- Updating the map to include the data produced by the NC Geodetic Survey
- Delegating the final permit review to the Transylvania County Planning Board, as opposed to the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners
- Defining Dunn's Rock
- Making other changes to ensure that the ordinance is easier to read and similar to other Transylvania County ordinances

The proposed revisions were presented to the Board of Commissioners on July 10, 2018. Commissioners directed to staff to advertise for a public hearing to receive public input. Following the public hearing, staff requested Commissioners add this item to a future agenda to consider for approval.

Chairman Chapman declared the public hearing open at 7:06 p.m. There were no comments from the public. **Chairman Chapman declared the public hearing closed at 7:07 p.m.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

The comments made by the public represent the individual speaker's opinion or point of view. No attempt was made to vet their statements for accuracy or modify them based on facts.

Barbara Ritchey: Ms. Ritchey is the organizer for St. Baldrick's of Transylvania County. She reported she has a child who has survived childhood cancer. As a result she became involved in St. Baldrick's Foundation, the world's largest private funder of childhood cancer research. Ms. Ritchey and others are hosting an event to honor a local child survivor, Holmes Desmelik, on September 22. She thanked Commissioners and other members of County government who have participated in the past. She is looking for volunteers for this event and anyone willing to shave their heads for the cause. The event will be held at Ecusta Brewing from 3-7pm. Other activities to raise money include a corn hole tournament and raffles for tickets to Dollywood and a night's stay at Greystone Inn. She again thanked the Board for allowing her to speak and hoped they will help spread awareness about this event.

Charles Callahan: Mr. Callahan strongly advocated for and supported a Doggy Day Out Program at the County's Animal Shelter. He felt it would be great for the animals and community. He asked Commissioners for assurance that sufficient human resources have been supplied to ensure that shelter operations are in compliance with the Animal Control Ordinance. He also asked if Commissioners had considered or will consider contractually outsourcing the shelter operations to a local nonprofit whereby the County would provide the nonprofit with a fixed source of revenue, which, along with the nonprofit's ability to fundraise, would help relieve the burden of increased operating costs.

Joleen Branagan: Ms. Branagan voiced her recommendation for the Doggy Day Out Program that Animal Services Director Kevin Shook will be presenting later during this meeting. Initially, she thought this program would be an extension of the current volunteer program and did not realize it would need to come before the Board of Commissioners. The program had prematurely received press coverage, so for that she apologized. However, since the public has become aware of the potential program, the public has shown its support through increased volunteerism and donations. Ms. Branagan reported she has been volunteering at the shelter since April 2017 and shortly thereafter she was named the volunteer coordinator by the former director. Her work includes exercising, training, and socializing dogs in their care, as well as working with potential adopters. She also contacts rescue organizations for the shelter on a weekly basis to ask them to pull some of the animals so they can keep a manageable level at the facility. Although the shelter has incredible partners, rescue organizations do not tend to pull hard to adopt dogs. Thanks to dedicated staff and rescue organizations, the live release rate is 86% which is phenomenal. While she is proud of that number, and it is one of the best percentages in the State, she felt they could still do better. There is a consistent stream of volunteers, but it is not enough. If volunteers cannot make it to the shelter, then dogs do not get exercise for 24-72 hours. Ms. Branagan reported the staff does a phenomenal job of meeting the animal's basic needs, but with the current staffing levels, they are not able to take it to the next level. She believes the Doggy Day Out Program would help to fill that void. The program would require participants to sign up as volunteers, sign legal documents, and meet orientation requirements. Only dogs that were dog and people friendly would be selected. She felt that this program would fill a void not only for the dogs, but also for people who may not have a pet of their own. Ms. Branagan pointed out that shelters and municipal facilities around the country have implemented similar

programs. She urged Commissioners to consider and support this program. She felt that the budgetary concerns will have been addressed, understanding the Board remains concerned about liability.

Kristen Hewitt: Ms. Hewitt spoke in support of the Doggy Day Out Program at the Animal Shelter. She has been volunteering at the shelter since February. She has been connecting with the community through handing out flyers about adoption events and has received a lot of positive feedback about the shelter, how much its reputation has improved, and how great it has been for the community. With that said, she also felt the shelter can do better for the community and for the dogs. Ms. Hewitt was unsure of the plan for restructuring staff, but she noted that, in her experience, when the shelter is short-staffed, the animals do not receive adequate exercise and the kennels are not cleaned. She pointed out that the more exercise, water and food, fresh air, and people-contact the animals have, the quieter and calmer the dogs are to be released for adoption. She said volunteers have stepped up and do a wonderful job but sometimes things fall through or leadership changes hands. She felt having this program in place would help tremendously. Additionally, with the restructuring plan, she asked Commissioners to ensure that the basic needs of the animals are met.

Lauren Delansandro: Ms. Delansandro spoke in support of the Doggy Day Out Program at the Animal Shelter. She reported she has been volunteering at shelters for many years. She stated the one thing dogs need from the time they are very young is socialization. When she visits the shelter, she said it is very clear to her which dogs have been recently exercised. She said it is most important that we present dogs at their best. She felt the Doggy Day Out Program was the best opportunity to not only socialize dogs, but to promote the shelter as well. It helps the volunteers and gives them something interesting and new to do, helps socialize the dogs, and helps staff, and most importantly helps improve the adoption rate.

Nita Hunt: Ms. Hunt is a volunteer at the Animal Shelter. She reminded Commissioners there is a large percentage of animal lovers in the County and many people contributed their time and money to ensure the construction of the new shelter. They continue to be vested in the care of lost, stray, and abandoned animals in the County. Ms. Hunt said she realizes there has been discussion regarding employee positions and that a director/office manager position is under consideration, adding that she will be very glad to see day-to-day onsite leadership at the shelter. Ms. Hunt hopes the director will put the care of the animals and community involvement as two of their top priorities. Ms. Hunt also supported the possibility of implementing a Doggy Day Out Program because the shelter environment is a very stressful place for dogs and a long stay at the shelter can make animals less adoptable. Regular exercise and exposure to social situations gives them what they need to be mentally and physically fit. Ms. Hunt felt that this program will benefit shelter staff and the shelter budget since healthier, happier, and better socialized dogs are easier to care for and more quickly adopted. She hopes to see this program implemented as quickly as possible.

Jimmy Jones: Mr. Jones is the President of Cedar Mountain Fire Rescue. He announced that the department received a FEMA grant in the amount of \$146,454 to replace their air packs. It requires matching funds in the amount of \$6,974 and he intends to make that request in the very near future from the department's reserve funds.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the agenda as published, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 25, 2018. Commissioners held a public hearing on the budget during this meeting. The Board of Commissioners also met in closed session on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 following the regular meeting agenda and the minutes were sealed. (The regular meeting minutes were approved on July 23, 2018.) Commissioners approved the minutes as submitted.

DISCOVERY, RELEASE AND MONTHLY SETTLEMENT REPORT

Per NCGS 105-312 (b), it is the duty of the Tax Administrator to see that all property not properly listed during the regular listing period be listed, assessed, and taxed. The Tax Administrator shall file such reports of discoveries with the Board of Commissioners. Per NCGS 105-381 (b), it is the duty of the Tax Administrator to provide a monthly report to the Board of Commissioners of the actions taken by the Tax Administrator on requests for release or refund; this report shall be recorded in the minutes. For July 2018, total tax dollars released was \$1,562.95 and refunds totaled \$1,042.86. Commissioners approved the Discovery, Release and Monthly Settlement Report for July 2018.

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM – SYSTEM SAFETY PLAN (SSP)

On April 12, 2018, a System Safety Review Assessment was conducted by the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The report of findings discovered where an “Accountable Executive” had not been identified in the SSP. Due to the NCDOT requiring annual Board approval of the SSP, the accountable executive language added, in addition to the Drug and Alcohol Policy Addendum, the updated Emergency Action Manual and language suggestions by the NCDOT for best practices. Commissioners approved the System Safety Plan (SSP) for Transylvania County Transportation as presented. Commissioner Lemel thanked County Transportation Director April Alm for the work that went into reviewing this document and commended her for the level of detail.

2018 HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND PASS-THROUGH GRANT APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY)

The Joint Historic Preservation Commission (JHPC) is a Certified Local Government (CLG) and at their May 8, 2018 meeting, the JHPC requested that Transylvania County Planning and Community Development staff apply for a NC State Historic Preservation Grant. The purpose of the grant is to facilitate an architectural and cultural survey of African-American communities in Transylvania County and document these resources. The JHPC also requested staff seek additional matching funds from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for up to \$5,000 and, as needed, to use the net book sale proceeds from *Transylvania – The Architectural History of a Mountain County* to serve as the balance of the required NC State Historic Preservation grant match of 40%. As a matter of information, the net proceeds from the sale of this book totals \$6,342.

Both grant applications were successful. The estimated total project cost is \$15,500 with \$9,000 from the State Historic Preservation Office, \$5,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and only \$1,500 from JHPC (book proceeds) to assist with the completion of the oral history interviews that are a vital part of determining structures that have historical significance and should be surveyed.

Per staff's recommendation, Commissioners authorized staff to enter into a contract with the NC State Historic Preservation Office to accept and administer the CLG grant, to enter into a contract with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to accept and administer the National Trust Preservation Fund grant, and to issue the request for proposals and select a qualified contractor to conduct archival research and oral history interviews in the African-American community, followed by an architectural survey of historically significant structures.

Commissioner Hawkins commended staff and members of the Joint Historic Preservation Commission for their work on this initiative. He felt it will be really positive for the community. Commissioner Lemel agreed. She reported, specifically to the newcomers in the community, that Transylvania County was the first county in the State to desegregate schools which is a huge source of pride for all of us. To be able to capture the oral tradition that was involved in that process will be tremendous for the history of our community.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

TRANSYLVANIA ECONOMIC ALLIANCE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Transylvania Economic Alliance Executive Director Josh Hallingse presented the organization's semi-annual report to the Board of Commissioners. This is a summary of his report: (Commissioners asked questions and there was discussion throughout his presentation.)

Program of Work

- Program of work focused on three areas :
 - Existing business and expansion
 - Product development (sites and buildings initiative)
 - Marketing/business development

Metrics: Goals and Actuals from FY 2018

Area of Measurement	Definition	Goal FY 18	Actual FY 18
Overall Organizational Performance			
Total Leads Generated	Direct contact with company, real estate agent, project manager, site consultant	45	47
Total Projects Generated	Leads that transitioned into project with specific real estate requirements, or need stated by company, with specific timetable	13	11
Total Projects Visited	Visit to county to evaluate market and real estate options	8	7
Projects Located	Private employer making decision to locate or expand in Transylvania County	4	3
Product Development			
Building & Site Property Visitations & Landowner Meetings	Coordinated meetings with landowners or real estate professionals to discuss property for economic development	20	29
Total number of building square footage for business recruitment and expansion purposes	Aggregate square footage	220,000 sq. ft.	204,247 sq. ft.
Total number of acreage identified for	Aggregate acreage totals	300	392.82 (largely due to

business recruitment and expansion purposes			Davidson River Village)
Total number of available buildings	Aggregate number of commercial and industrial buildings available on publicly accessible inventory database	45	30 (recent transaction in French Broad Place)
Total number of available sites	Aggregate number of commercial and industrial sites available on publicly accessible inventory database	18	20 (added Davidson River Village)
Existing Business			
Business Retention & Expansion Visits	Formal business visits to gather information relative to business climate, trends, job creation, investment opportunities	40	41
Troubleshooting Business and Industry Networking Activity	Consulting and troubleshooting contacts Opportunities to build relationships among business owners, improve community's perceived business climate, create business-to-business activities	80 3	77 2
Business Appreciation Event	Event to thank and recognize contributions of various economic sectors	1	1
Cost Savings to Local Businesses	Any tangible costs savings identified for a local company as a result of an Alliance connection or program of work	1	1
Economic Development Measures			
Jobs	Number of FT jobs created (35+ hours per week)	45	65
Investment	Capital investment (Real & Business Personal Property)	\$3,000,000	\$2,100,000 (Greystone Inn)

Commissioner Hawkins noted that Mr. Hallingse referred to Davidson River Village and that it is good to finally be able to market something with a price. He asked Mr. Hallingse to elaborate further. Mr. Hallingse reported that the property transitioned to a new owner who is outside of Transylvania County nearly a decade ago. The owner went through the process of cleaning it up, which is a huge advantage for the community. It was entered into the NC Brownfield Agreement Program, but they were never able to bring the site to market. When the Transylvania Economic Alliance would get a lead for a certain amount of acres for space, they were never able to market the property to available projects because they did not have a sales price. Having a sales price is one of the first things that any economic development project, site selection professional, or company is going to ask for when looking at a piece of property. Being unable to provide that figure within a reasonable timeframe makes it difficult to advance the conversation any further. The Transylvania Economic Alliance worked with the landowner over the last year to help them understand what the market looks like, the type of lead generation the Alliance was experiencing, and economic trends in the community. Ultimately, the Alliance was able to enter the property into Duke Energy's Site Readiness Program. This helped them to assign a sales price to the property and see how the property might transition to another party in the future.

Commissioner Lemel inquired further about the metric for the number of available buildings. She asked for clarification that the goal was to have 45 available buildings. Mr. Hallingse stated that from an organizational standpoint, they want to have sites and buildings available to market; otherwise, it is difficult to have an effective marketing and business development strategy. At the same time, one of their

goals is to fill available space. The Alliance was off of their projection in terms of what they thought might be possible in terms of availability, but it is not necessarily a negative that these buildings are not on the market because it means they are occupied.

Commissioner Phillips asked if the Alliance had established a prerequisite for building size. Mr. Hallingse responded no, but that their focus is on industrial and commercial space, not residential. The Alliance works with real estate brokers and individual land/building owners in an effort to try to build inventory. The Alliance maintains an online inventory of sites and buildings.

Commissioner Hawkins stated the importance of the Alliance's activities leading to capital investment and job growth.

Peer County Analysis

How are we performing as a community from an economic development standpoint? The Alliance compared Transylvania County on several major indicators to our peer counties: population estimate, # employed, # unemployed, labor force, average wage, tier designation as assigned by NC Department of Commerce, # of housing units, etc. Transylvania County's peer counties have been identified as Ashe, Bladen, Dare, Jackson, Macon, Montgomery, Scotland, Watauga, Cherokee, Haywood, and Madison. The purpose of the peer comparison is to understand how those counties perform compared to Transylvania County.

Transylvania County

- Population – increased to 33,956
- # of employed grew over this past year
- # of unemployed dropped over this past year
- Labor force unadjusted grew from last year's figures
- Unemployment rate dropped
- Estimated annual wage slightly decreased from last year to \$35,562 (from \$35,966)
- Average weekly wage increased compared to last year
- Total wages paid in the community grew from the previous year
- Tier designation remained same at Tier 2
- # of establishments up
- Total tax base increased
- # of housing units increased

For a point of reference, there were three counties that outperformed all other peer counties: Watauga, Dare and Ashe Counties.

Chairman Chapman asked Mr. Hallingse what he viewed as the County's major obstacles over the next three to five years and how the County should start to address them. Mr. Hallingse stated the issue lies with sites and buildings. If the community is able to implement a product development/sites and buildings strategy that helps bring on new, valuable light industrial/industrial sites, then the County can exponentially increase its opportunity to win economic development projects. The Alliance's work with Davidson River Village is very important, but it is even more important to expand the County's options outside of Davidson River Village because of the complexities of the Brownfield component. The Davidson River Village site is also expensive with a current asking price of \$15 million.

Commissioner Chappell commented that the fact that there is an asking price on the Davidson River Village property is a significant step forward. It has been frustrating over the last several years not to be able to market the site to potential companies because there was no sales price. All the County could do was refer the prospective company to the property owner. Commissioner Chappell commended Mr. Hallingse and the Alliance for their work to move this property to market.

Chairman Chapman reported that Transylvania County's median age is 50 years old and has the 6th highest median age in the State. He stated these figures must come into play in terms of workforce and workforce development. He asked if the Alliance sees this as a significant impediment to economic development. Mr. Hallingse said an older demographic brings experience that younger communities do not have. Rural communities are typically older. Beyond the demographics, 35% of Transylvania County's workforce has more than college degree. Many of our professionals have a Masters or PhD, which is well above the State average. It has an impact on who we can recruit, but it is also aligned with our target markets.

Commissioner Hawkins, in response to Chairman Chapman's question about the obstacles the County faces, believes the question is more complicated. For instance, if a new company moved into the County and brought 200 new jobs, housing could certainly be an issue. To him, it is hard to say the County needs one certain thing, understanding the fact that inventory is very important.

Product Development

- NC Building Reuse
 - Greystone Inn – \$100, 000
 - Program essential to economic development efforts
 - Available to Tier 1 and Tier 2 communities
 - Designed to bring property back into usable state
- Sylvan Valley Industrial Center should open this fall (formerly named Ecusta Road Industrial Building project)

Manufacturing in Transylvania County

- October 5 is National Manufacturing Day
- Over the last two decades manufacturing has changed significantly and the community has transitioned, but manufacturing is not dead in our community
- Manufacturing is an important component of our economic development strategy
- Total local jobs supported by manufacturing=1,323, which is significant with a labor force of 13,000
 - Direct manufacturing jobs-700
 - Indirect-supplier supported jobs-423
 - Induced-increased household spending supported jobs-203
- Without local industry, jobs in other sectors might not exist, for example
 - Accommodations & Food Service-42
 - Arts and Entertainment-21
 - Transportation & Warehousing-81
 - Agriculture-61
- Annual tax impacts from manufacturing to the County = approximately \$7.5 million
- Five-Year Percent Employment Growth Rate-Manufacturing vs All Industries
 - 68.6% growth in manufacturing compared to 8.4% in all other sectors
- Five-Year Percent of All Net New Jobs from Manufacturing
 - 41.7% in Transylvania County
- Five-Year Employment Growth by Major Industry in Transylvania County
 - Manufacturing-287
 - Construction-202
- Economic Output per Worker by Largest Industries in Transylvania County
 - Manufacturing-\$398,495
 - Unfortunately, not all of these dollars stay in Transylvania County
- Five-Year Percent Employment Growth Rate Manufacturing Versus All Industries
 - Decline in 2002 following the closure of some of our larger employers

- Transylvania County exports talent to our neighbors-475 people who could be working here
- Transylvania County has a significant labor force that is being untapped in some cases

Mr. Hallingse closed his presentation by announcing that this fall the Alliance will be launching an awareness campaign to help highlight the community's lesser known manufacturing firms, tell why they located here and why they like doing business here, and share their unique stories.

Commissioner Hawkins stated that people mostly talk about manufacturing jobs because of their historical role in the County but also because they are generally good paying jobs with benefits, making them more desirable overall. He asked if this statement was still true. Mr. Hallingse explained the Alliance's target market is focused on a variety of sectors, but they focus heavily on the industrial sector because of the wages and benefits associated with them. They also increase the tax base. He noted that the industrial sector has changed substantially over the last 20 years in Transylvania County.

Chairman Chapman pointed out that Commissioner Hawkins is heavily involved on the State Economic Development Board. He asked him to give a report at a future County Commission meeting about what is going on across the State and how Transylvania County compares to other counties. Commissioner Hawkins agreed to do so.

APPOINTMENTS

LAND OF SKY RPO TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ALTERNATE

The Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will meet on Thursday, October 18 at 11:30am at the Land of Sky Regional Council office. The TAC is the governing body of the RPO and is made up of elected officials from local governments, plus the representatives from the NC Board of Transportation.

At the October 18 meeting, the RPO TAC will conduct the final vote to assign the Division Needs Local Input Points for this round of prioritization on transportation projects. It is very important for Transylvania County to participate and have representation in this process. Commissioner Chappell represents the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners on the RPO TAC, but in the event that his work schedule or some other issue prevented him from participating, he and the Manager felt it was important to appoint an alternate who could serve and vote in his stead, if necessary. The alternate appointee will need to complete the ethics filing/training required of RPO TAC members.

Commissioner Lemel moved to nominate Chairman Chapman to serve as an alternate for the October 18 RPO TAC meeting, if needed, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously approved.

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

The terms of Jonathan Griffin, Deborah Haight and Nicole Petit expire at the end of August. Most members of this council serve in very specific roles.

Jonathan Griffin represented Parks and Recreation in his role as Interim Director. Jared Mull was recently hired as the new Director and should be appointed to this position. Deborah Haight represents WCCA and Nicole Petit represents Care Partners. Both should be reappointed to continue serving in their respective roles. The County Manager has designated the Finance Director to sit as her designee on this council. With the recent retirement of Gay Poor, Interim Finance Director Jonathan Griffin should be moved into this role.

Commissioner Lemel moved to reappoint Deborah Haight (WCCA) and Nicole Petit (Care Partners) to continue serving in their respective roles on the Transylvania County Council on Aging, to appoint Jared Mull to replace Jonathan Griffin as the Parks and Recreation Director, and to appoint Jonathan Griffin to serve as the County Manager's Designee in his current position as Interim Finance Director, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

The County Manager or Designee of a County is a statutorily required member of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC). For Transylvania County, the position has historically been held by the Finance Director. With the recent retirement of Gay Poor, the Manager requests Interim Finance Director Jonathan Griffin fill this position. Once appointed, the JCPC membership will appoint him to serve as Treasurer of the council.

Commissioner Lemel moved to appoint Jonathan Griffin to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council to fill the County Manager or Designee position, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

RADIO SYSTEM UPGRADE RECOMMENDATION

Communications Director Kevin Shook presented this item. This is a continuation of the Public Safety Radio System project that was approved at the April 13, 2017 Commissioners' meeting.

Mr. Shook said his takeaway from last year's presentation to the Board was that Commissioners wanted a guarantee. Following that meeting, he met with Finance Director Gay Poor to work on a plan. A request for proposals was developed in-house which saved approximately \$25,000, as opposed to hiring it out for service. Mr. Shook worked with his counterparts across the State to learn about their methods for ensuring they received the system they wanted for their respective counties.

Staff looked at the entire communications system because not much had been done to the backbone/ infrastructure of the system since its original installation in the early 1990's. All of the other equipment being installed would be new technology, so in order to get the guarantee, it was important to ensure all the equipment and infrastructure was up to date.

The RFP generated three responses. Out of those three responses, only one responded with zero exemptions and was 100% in compliance: Codan Radio Communications. With that said staff investigated all three responses and contacted references for all three vendors. Staff received no negative responses on Codan Radio Communications during their investigation. Mr. Shook pointed out Codan Radio Communications system is used exclusively in the State of Alaska for their US Forest Service. The US Forest Service and Department of Interior use them in more than 100 systems across the nation. They are truly interoperable giving the County the ability to allow other users, like fire departments, law enforcement, and EMS to utilize their own radio equipment as long as they fully compatible with the P25 system. That being said, Codan Radio Communications came in with the highest bid at \$1,117,249.06, but it is the only system he felt he could bring before the Board and provide the guarantee that the County desires.

The Manager pointed out the funds were approved and set aside in fund balance over the last two fiscal years to fund this project.

Chairman Chapman asked how much higher this bidder was than the other two. Mr. Shook responded that Codan Radio Communications' bid was at least 50% higher than the other two bidders. That being

said, neither of the other two bidders could provide the guarantee, otherwise, they would have to provide a higher bid.

Commissioner Phillips inquired about the references for the other two bidders. Mr. Shook stated that some of their references were not compatible with the County's system. The County is on a VHF system, but they provided references for customers on different systems. The RFP required references for customers on similar systems.

Mr. Shook noted that he has consulted with the Finance Department and they agree with his conclusion. He worked on this project with his Communications Manager. They met extensively with their peers in the County as well.

Commissioner Lemel recalled that the department is trying to solve several issues with this upgrade in terms of countywide communications in a significant emergency and having the ability to respond to emergencies without contamination. Mr. Shook confirmed.

Commissioner Lemel moved for approval of the recommended bid and to allow staff to proceed with the radio system upgrade as presented using the pre-approved funds, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins. Commissioner Hawkins inquired about the anticipated operational life of this system. Mr. Shook responded that initially the operational life is expected to be 10-15 years without any major upfit. The way this system is designed, which was included in the RFP, means we can continue to enhance it without having to replace it. Commissioner Chappell said an important component to him was the project was completely turn-key. Otherwise, having to add staff time and training might end up costing more in the long run. Chairman Chapman inquired about the timeline for completion. Mr. Shook said the project should be complete within 6-12 months. He allowed the additional time as part of the installation will be done during the winter months. Commissioner Phillips asked if this system has been used in mountains of WNC. Mr. Shook reported it has been used in Tennessee in similar mountain terrain and the user is very satisfied. The Manager pointed out this also saves our partner agencies because it is a non-proprietary system so they are not stuck with a single vendor for the purchase of radio equipment. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

RESTRUCTURING OF ANIMAL SERVICES

Interim Director of Animal Services Kevin Shook presented this item. He was appointed to this position in January of this year. Administration and Human Resources worked to recruit a permanent replacement. They made an offer to a candidate, but the candidate decided not come to the community.

During his service as Interim Director, he began reviewing overall services from an outsider's perspective. He also looked at the department from an emergency services' point of view because Animal Services is an integral part of Emergency Management when disaster strikes. They must be able to respond as part of the C.A.R.T. (County Animal Response Team), as well as assist with shelter duties when citizens bring their family pets with them to an emergency shelter. The County is required to offer pet friendly shelters as part of our operations during times of emergency.

During his review, he observed Animal Control Officers' having to deal with shelter issues, thus reducing their ability to respond to calls in the field. This led him to recommend dividing the department into two distinct divisions: Animal Control, focused on enforcement, patrol, and education; and Shelter Management, focused on adoptions and care of the animals in-house. This reorganization will allow the focus of the two divisions to be distinct yet meet the overall goal of animal welfare for the citizens of Transylvania County. It will allow for a more uniform response when disasters strike since they will be reporting to the Emergency Management Coordinator. There is already an established relationship there based on the County's statutory duties. The details of the restructuring are laid out here:

Staffing Proposal for Animal Services

1. Advertise and fill the current vacant full time position for Animal Care Technician.
2. Create a Shelter Manager position that oversees the daily operations of the shelter for care and adoption.
3. Based on funding availability through reclassifying a Director position to a Manager position (similar to the Lead Animal Control Officer Position), recommend the creation of an additional part time Animal Care Technician. This position would work a maximum of 24 hrs/week. The creation of this position would alleviate the need for Animal Control Officers to routinely assist with daily animal care needs in the shelter. It would provide for an Animal Care Technician to be in the shelter 7 days a week.
4. The Shelter Manager and the Lead Animal Control Officer would report to the Emergency Management Coordinator, allowing for the Animal Services Division to function directly under the Emergency Management Coordinator and help with the coordination of services during emergencies for both the citizens of the County as well as their pets, per statutory duty. The creation of the positions above allows for the two divisions of Animal Services to continue to work together, while it also brings about the distinction of enforcement versus care/adoption. The Lead Animal Control Officer will have two and half (Administrative Assistant) employees reporting to them, and the Shelter Manager will have two full time employees plus half of the Administrative Assistant's position and a part time Animal Care Technician reporting to them. The Shelter Manager would work with the volunteer and rescue groups and ensure efforts are focused on live release rates, currently one of the best in the State.
5. By putting the Emergency Management Coordinator in the position of oversight of Animal Services, it is believed that a more efficient operation can be achieved as well as coordination of services. The interaction between Emergency Services and Animal Services already exists. The merger of these divisions will only serve to enhance this relationship and ensure the County is meeting the needs of the citizens during every day events, as well as during emergencies.

Commissioner Lemel was impressed with the thoughtfulness that Mr. Shook and staff put into the proposal. She said it seems to her this should have been thought of before. She commended staff for their work.

Commissioner Hawkins mentioned that our current live release rate is 86%. This is one piece of quantifiable data that we can use to judge the effectiveness. He asked if there might be other areas that could improve the live release rate. Mr. Shook stated one area is having a shelter manager in place to help coordinate the daily activities with the rescue groups and volunteers. The volunteers are a critical component because animals need regular exercise; otherwise, they are prone to kennel stress and can eventually become non-adoptable. Ideally, there would be full time staff to help with this, but staffing is limited so they rely on the volunteers. Scheduling of volunteers is lacking and this is where the shelter manager can help tremendously.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the restructure as proposed and authorized moving forward with the staffing changes, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins. Commissioner Chappell agreed with the changes and said he thought they made sense. He asked staff to evaluate the financial impact during the budget cycle to make sure this is doing what is intended. The Manager agreed and stated staff can report in January as well during the six month departmental review. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Chairman Chapman reported that he visited the shelter last week and he was impressed with the condition. He thanked staff for all they are doing.

DOGGY DAY OUT PROGRAM BRIEFING

Interim Director of Animal Services Kevin Shook presented this item. He reported that one of the volunteers at the shelter proposed a Doggy Day Out Program that generated press coverage and support from the community without it first being vetted by staff and approved by the Board of Commissioners. An organization called Mutual Rescue developed such a program. Mr. Shook contacted the organization and was able to obtain a copy of their operational manual. He also spoke with staff at Mutual Rescue and other organizations across the nation that have adopted their program. There are no shelters in North Carolina currently utilizing their program. With the program, comes some liability, and those issues are spelled out in their comprehensive manual. He felt the program has definite merit.

Mr. Shook recommended prior to implementing such a program, that staff be allowed to further review the liability issues with the County Attorney and the UNC School of Government and get their feedback on what the County's exposure could be. In addition, the program recommends involving someone with a specialty in animal behavior. There is no one at the shelter who has this qualification. However, the volunteer coordinator, Joleen Branagan, is working toward certification and in the meantime has offered to bring someone into the program who can assist in this area.

Staff is working on a formal presentation to bring back before the Board at a later date, but there remains some work to be done. Mr. Shook reiterated that he felt the program has merit.

The Manager added that the Doggy Day Out Program specifically takes dogs offsite. There are already programs in place that allow volunteers to exercise dogs outside on County property. The other element is that the County Attorney will need to review the liability issues, as Mr. Shook stated. She reported that staff contacted our insurance company and they indicated a level of liability was associated, but they did not think it was something we could not overcome if the County ensured the correct forms were utilized. The intent of the program is to maximize the live release rate. Below are figures from 2017 and 2018, along with specific information about why some of the dogs that come into the County's care are not part of the live release rate.

	2017	2018
Adopted	272	144
Returned	151	97
Released	3	2
Rescued	135	70
	561 Total	313 Total
	Live Release Rate 86%	Live Release Rate 84%
Euthanized reference aggressive	16	23
Euthanized reference owner request	31	25
Euthanized reference untreatable	26	8
Euthanized for space	10	2
Dead on arrival	3	2
Died before care could be started	4	0
	90 Total	60 Total

Commissioner Hawkins referred to the comments concerning liability and asked which party would be liable. The Manager stated that any time an animal comes into our care, they are considered property of the County and they become our responsibility. When they are within our care and custody, we have to ensure they are safe. The County could become responsible for any actions of the animal when they are offsite. Conversely, the same liability would exist if someone did not take care of the animal or something tragic happened to the animal while offsite.

Commissioner Hawkins said a point he had never thought of before, referring to Ms. Delansandro's comments during the public comment period, was this would not just benefit the animals, but it would benefit the volunteers too.

Commissioner Lemel felt there was value in looking further at the program, but she did not feel the Board was in a position tonight to adopt the program. She felt it was really important to engage the volunteers and other organizations involved with the shelter because, as was stated in the program's manual, starting a new program can be daunting. In addition, the program calls for funding doggy adventure kits and we have to determine how to make these things possible. Mr. Shook noted that Ms. Branagan has already provided the funding for the doggy adventure kits. He stated that by tasking the volunteers he felt confident he can bring forward a program to the Board for their consideration by the end of the year.

Commissioner Lemel expressed that her biggest concern moving forward is liability.

Commissioner Phillips expressed concerns about liability as well and wondered why the County would take on such liability if we do not need to. He was concerned about compliance, especially knowing that current dog owners do not follow rules in State and federal park lands, which might further increase our liability.

Chairman Chapman instructed staff to bring back the recommendation before the Board prior to year's end for consideration.

ELIMINATION OF RIGHT OF WAY ADJACENT TO CONNESTEE PARK

The Manager reported that the County received a request from Paul Wilander with Looking Glass Realty, LLC to eliminate the right of way drive access in the upper parking lot on the property adjacent to the Connestee Park. There is a current water issue on the property that is impacting the Connestee Park lot. Staff met with Mr. Wilander onsite to review the proposed plan to eliminate the adjacent paved upper parking area and drive. Mr. Wilander plans to regrade and install permeable material suitable for picnic tables that is aesthetically pleasing and can be utilized by the public. In addition, Mr. Wilander agreed to work with County on a drainage solution near the property line that will eliminate the current water issue. This will not eliminate any of the current parking spaces. Most visitors enter and exit the same access currently. The financial impact to the County will be minimal for river rock and minor concrete work to contain and control water flow away from the parking area.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the request to eliminate right of way drive access in the upper lot of Connestee Park, seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Commissioner Chappell was concerned about this request and had general concerns about eliminating rights of way. Commissioner Hawkins asked if staff foresaw any unintended consequences. The Manager informed that staff was unaware of any based on current access. The Assistant County Manager, who is also over Emergency Management, reviewed the plan and did not foresee any related issues. She suggested as an alternative to maintain the right of way while still agreeing to remove the impervious surface and the entryway. **Commissioner Lemel amended the motion to maintain the right of way but remove the impervious surface, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved. The main motion was unanimously approved.**

RESOLUTION FOR AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH FIRST CITIZENS BANK

Interim Finance Director Jonathan Griffin presented this item. Under NCGS 159-31, local government units in North Carolina must select depositories to act as the official depository for financial transactions that are the result of county business.

First Citizens Bank, in its capacity as the primary recipient of County deposits, requires that local government boards (County Commissions and City Councils) in North Carolina pass resolutions officially identifying which members of County staff are authorized to conduct business with First Citizens Bank on behalf of a local government unit.

With the retirement of Gay Poor on July 27, 2018, the resolution previously provided to First Citizens Bank, Inc. no longer accurately represents authorized individuals for Transylvania County. The resolution corrects that by identifying which individuals are authorized to discuss the investment of idle funds held by Transylvania County in bank accounts held by First Citizens Bank consistent with NC G.S. 159-30.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve a resolution identifying County Manager Jaime Laughter and interim Finance Director Jonathan Griffin as the authorized officials and to authorize Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan to act as a witness to their signatures, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Interim Finance Director Jonathan Griffin presented the following budget amendments for approval:

- #20: A \$36,376 appropriation from fund balance for the Solid Waste fund, which reflects unanticipated revenues from FY18 being carried forward to invest in equipment purchases in FY19. The total is comprised of \$21,648 from sales of surplus equipment and \$14,728 from sales of scrap metal. The Solid Waste Department has proposed to carry forward these excess revenues (which at year end would flow into Solid Waste fund balance) and utilize them to purchase additional implements for the skid steer also budgeted in FY19.
- #26: A \$5,800 amendment to reflect a grant received from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County's Sean Collingsworth Fund to pay fees incurred by the Sheriff's Office on trainings for mass casualty events. This amendment is retroactive, as the Rosman High School Mass Casualty Training has already occurred, but it is necessary for the Board to take action because it reflects a revenue source that has not been previously identified or approved in the County's Fiscal 19 budget. There will be a second amendment at a later date for \$2,000 to reflect a second disbursement received from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County that will not require board approval.

If approved, these amendments will increase the General Fund budget to \$52,193,379 and the Solid Waste Fund budget to \$2,979,100.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the requested budget amendments, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

VAYA HEALTH FISCAL MONITORING REPORT

Interim Finance Director Jonathan Griffin presented this item. Per NCGS 122C-117 (c), the quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Reports (FMR) for the Local Management Entities must be presented to the Board of Commissioners in person and read into the minutes of the meeting at which it is presented at least twice a year. Interim Finance Director Jonathan Griffin presented the FMR from Vaya Health for the fourth quarter of FY 18. He reported revenues for the entire FY 18 in the amount of \$410,723,296 and expenditures totaling \$415,559,181, for an operational loss of \$4,835,885.

Commissioner Lemel moved to accept the report from Vaya Health, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously approved.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT INVOLVING UNDERPAYMENT OF PILT

The Manager presented this item. Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) federal funds are distributed to counties under the PILT Act to compensate local governments for the loss of tax income from lands held in federal ownership. These funds are intended to fund the full scope of services that the county provides and funds in lieu of the tax money that would be generated by the land if it were not held by federal government and exempt from property taxes. Approximately half of the land area in Transylvania County is state- and federally-owned, with the majority in federal ownership. The county received a total of \$219,803 in FY 2018.

A lawsuit filed by Kane County, Utah resulted in a ruling that PILT payments to eligible counties in 2015, 2016, and 2017 violated the provisions of the PILT Act formula managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Based on PILT Act Formula, Transylvania County's appropriation was \$8,659 lower than mandated by the PILT Act. County Attorney Misti Bass reviewed the findings and class action lawsuit and suggested opting in to the existing class action lawsuit rather than hiring separate legal action to pursue the underpayment. Transylvania County must take action to opt in no later than September 14.

Counties in North Carolina that have elected to opt in to date include:

Ashe County	Brunswick County
Buncombe County	Caldwell County
Camden County	Cherokee County
Craven County	Currituck County
Davidson County	Graham County
Haywood County	Henderson County
Hyde County	McDowell County
Mitchell County	Surry County
Swain County	Warren County
Yancey County	

The Manager noted this does not address the fact that PILT funds are insufficient. There has been a lot of discussion at the National Association of Counties about that issue, but this is specifically related to what counties were expected to receive under the formula and the fact that the appropriations were undercut during those years at the federal level. The recommendation is to allow Transylvania County to opt in to the class action lawsuit.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve for staff to opt in to the Class Action Lawsuit for PILT funds on behalf of Transylvania County, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins. The Manager noted that the legal expenses would be shared by all jurisdictions that opted in if and when a settlement is reached and the County would receive the funds that are remaining. The County is not at a loss if no settlement is reached, other than the loss of PILT. Commissioner Chappell asked staff to bring this item back before the Board if it starts to involve staff time. **The motion was approved unanimously approved.**

NCACC LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Before each biennial session of the General Assembly, counties submit their legislative proposals to the NCACC. The commissioners from across the State review and approve a comprehensive goals package and then the NCACC sets off to work on legislation that may impact counties. The goals submission deadline date to the NCACC is September 21.

This item is on the agenda for the Board's discussion and to provide staff with direction and guidance to draft language for the proposed goals. Staff intends to ask Commissioners to finalize their goals and approve them at the next meeting on September 11.

Offer proposed goals for submission to the NCACC by September 21, 2018. Staff will place this item on the September 11 agenda for final discussion and approval. Staff requests Commissioners submit to staff any other proposals not discussed tonight no later than August 31 to allow staff time to draft language for the agenda packet publication.

1. To appeal to the State to revise their metrics used for State funding designations, such as the economic tiers, the calculations being based on average weekly wages or annual wage income instead of per capita income in a county; additionally looking at small school definitions-looking at funding on a ratio instead of the current all or nothing method
2. Supporting financial transparency for all public bodies. If the LGC happens to flag audits, that the entity itself is notified of the concern that the LGC has, as well as the local governing body being notified of those concerns on the audits
3. State of North Carolina actually funds all their mandates: staffing ratios, service programs, etc. If the State requires it of a county, they need to pay for it.
4. Concern over capping the State income tax. This makes no sense because it seems the quickest and most obvious source for additional revenue would be property tax when the State is not able to raise our income tax any higher. That would be putting the burden on the shoulders of counties.

Commissioners will finalize their goals for submission and final approval at the next meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- The County Attorney just sent the Manager a message informing that for the PILT lawsuit that legal fees may be recouped; it will have to play out in court first
- Courthouse work is coming to completion; received complaints that clocks were not accurate; apparently there was no power going to them, but that has been resolved and they have been set to the right time; rumor on social media that the work cost \$2 million, but the tower project cost \$150,000
- NCDOT will be working on a Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the County in the coming year; an important step to plan for future needs and projects
- Silvermont Master Plan tour tentatively scheduled to conclude the next Commissioners' Meeting to view the storm water issues that are part of the recommendation to rework the site and relocate some facilities.
- Recruitment for Finance Director going well; assessment center scheduled in early September
- Recruitment efforts for County Attorney position continue; Misti Bass continues to work in position remotely
- Kate Hayes, our new NCACC Fellow starts on September 4 with a focus on County operations thanks to the NCACC Fellowship grant program. She is an Appalachian State graduate of the Masters in Public Administration Program
- Kudos to Mark Burrows who has announced his retirement upcoming on September 20. Mark has been serving the county since 1990 in Planning and has contributed in many ways over the years to Planning and Economic Development functions
- Kudos to Commissioners from the See-Off Community Center Board of Directors for the Wi-Fi grant they received; each one of them signed a thank-you letter to the Commissioners

- Kudos to Robbie McCall and the maintenance team for their assistance at the Woodruff Landfill implementing some of this year's projects.
- Kudos to the Heart of Brevard for letting the Early Childhood Initiative and Sesame Street in Communities launch their partnership at HalloweenFest on October 27; save the date and plan to be there

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The comments made by the public represent the individual speaker's opinion or point of view. No attempt was made to vet their statements for accuracy or modify them based on facts.

Edwin Jones: Mr. Jones said he has been attending County Commission meetings for many years and the last meeting he attended was the one in which the Courthouse decision was made. He was disappointed in the comments he heard from the public because the Courthouse has been a topic of discussion for a several meetings over the years and he said he does not think he has ever seen a project that was more transparent than the Courthouse topic. So he was deeply disappointed in the public's accusations of the Board. Mr. Jones inquired about the cost overrun on the industrial building on Ecusta Road. He stated that from what he understood from reading the newspaper, the cause of the overrun was to correct problems that were not discovered due to insufficient soil sampling. He wanted to know who was responsible for the soil sampling and how much of the cost they paid from their own pocket for their errors.

The Manager responded to Mr. Jones and clarified there was no issue with insufficient soil sampling. The appropriate amount of sampling was done. The failure in this instance was that the design professional did not regard the report and recommendations. In terms of the financial liability, the contract is between the designer and the Alliance and they will have to work through the legal action together. She assured Mr. Jones there was effort from staff to prevent this issue. Staff continues to take on cost savings measures and she expected that the full amount of the remediation costs not to be spent.

Nita Hunt: Ms. Hunt wanted to address the liability concerns of the Doggy Day Out Program. She pointed out the public is exposed to animals at the shelter and there is risk any time they interact with animals there. She does not believe the program will increase the County's liability, and that it could actually reduce liability because dogs that are constantly confined pose more of a risk to the public than those receiving appropriate exercise to reduce their mental stress. Ms. Hunt stated any funds spent on this program could be considered an investment because there are grants available for counties that have forward thinking/progressive shelters and programs.

Kristen Hewitt: Ms. Hewitt commented on the restructuring plan and requested that the shelter not rely on volunteers for the basic care of animals. The Animal Control Ordinance is clear that basic care should be provided by the County and its employees. In terms of liability, she asked Commissioners to view the Doggy Day Out program from an outside perspective and the positive impact it would have overall. The current live release rate is great, but in her experience in the community, if the live release were increased to 90%, she felt the amount of resources they would be able to tap into in terms of volunteers would be much greater. Lastly, Ms. Hewitt stated the program can help connect and build a better community.

Chairman Chapman thanked everyone for their efforts at the animal shelter. He felt that the County had come a long ways over the years.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lemel drew attention to the coverage that the Hawkins' family and the Pisgah Fish Camp received with their upcoming 50th anniversary celebration in *The Hendersonville Times News*. She gave him a copy of the newspaper. She thought it was important to recognize this milestone.

Commissioner Lemel and Chairman Chapman recently attended the NCACC Conference in Hickory. She said it was a great opportunity to spend time with leaders in other counties who are creative at solving problems and to be able to learn from each other.

Commissioner Chappell commented that local government is always in the news, but lately the news has been negative, specifically about some of our neighboring counties. He said government is complicated and he was sure people wonder why this Board does things the way they do, but he assured them it is because they are trying to do what is right and in the best interest of Commissioners, staff, and the public. The public should be able to feel confident in their county government. While it is ok to disagree with philosophy, citizens should be able to trust elected officials and their local government.

To piggyback on Commissioner Chappell's comments, Commissioner Hawkins stated that he had a discussion with the Manager last week regarding the situation in Buncombe County. He thought it might be helpful for staff to make a presentation to show how Transylvania County operates differently than Buncombe County. The problem is counties all get painted with the same brush and it is frustrating when those issues that are out of our control affect the public's perception.

Chairman Chapman pointed out that Interim Finance Director (Management Analyst) was recently profiled in the NCACC's quarterly magazine, along with Manager Laughter. Transylvania County's leadership and staff are making waves across this State and they are highly regarded. Chairman Chapman called attention to the NCACC's map book which contains 25-30 metrics comparing every county across the State. He called special attention to two key metrics for Transylvania County. For Local Current Expense per Student, Transylvania County ranks 4th, only behind Durham, Orange and Dare Counties. Transylvania County has the 12th lowest tax rate in the State. He thanked the Manager and staff for managing the finances of the County and working with the Commissioners to establish priorities. He was proud of the work we are doing.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Lemel moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously carried.**

Larry L. Chapman, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board