

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 25, 2013 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, February 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Transylvania County Courthouse.

Commissioners present were Vice- Chairman Larry Chapman, Chairman Mike Hawkins, Daryle Hogsed and Page Lemel. Commissioner Jason Chappell was unable to attend the meeting due to the birth of his son. Also present were County Manager Artie Wilson, County Attorney Tony Dalton, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

There was no media representation.

There were approximately 40 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

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

WELCOME

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

PUBLIC HEARING

HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF THE LODGE AND MCGAHA CHAPEL

The Joint Historic Preservation Commission (JHPC) has been working with the owners of two historic properties to help them obtain local historic landmark designation. They are *The Lodge* and *McGaha Chapel*. The JHPC already held a public hearing as required and subsequently the members voted unanimously to approve these two landmarks for local designation and they submitted the properties to the NC State Historic Preservation Office for its review. The next step in the process is for the County Commission to hold a public hearing as well.

JHPC Chairman Paul Heidmann showed a slide presentation explaining briefly the role of the Joint Historic Preservation Commission and highlighting the work they have done over the years. Mr. Heidmann stated that historic preservation actually helps the economic development of a city or county.

JCPC member Betty Sherrill presented information about *The Lodge*. The owners are Judith and Royal Duff and they were in attendance. She informed Commissioners that *The Lodge* has architectural and historical significance. The home was built in the 1930's and the siding is made from American chestnut. The house itself is made up of several floor levels. Most of the house is original; although the kitchen has been remodeled. Carved brackets decorate the wide interior doorways and much of the hardware is hand-wrought iron. The garage and breezeway were added to the house later but the date is unknown. *The Lodge* has been used as a summer home, corporate retreat, and rental house and is now a full-time residence. This is the first structure in which the JHPC has also designated interior elements (four fireplaces, two stairwells). The house has had very few changes over the years. *The Lodge* is eligible for 50% deferral of annual property taxes, equaling \$1,123 annually.

Mr. Heidmann presented information about *McGaha Chapel*. The owner is the Transylvania County Historical Society. The *McGaha Chapel* was built in 1872 and essentially remains the same today. The First United Methodist Church of Brevard turned the building over to the Historical Society in 2007 and they have done a marvelous job restoring it. The building has had no additions or remodeling and has been well cared for and restored. There is no tax implication.

Chairman Hawkins declared the public hearing open at 7:15 p.m.

Gene Baker: Mr. Baker is the immediate past president of the Transylvania County Historical Society. He reported that since the Historical Society took over ownership of the *McGaha Chapel* a lot of work has been done to the property. He said after the Civil War the *McGaha Chapel* played a major role in bringing the Cedar Mountain community back together. This is a significant part of Transylvania County's history so it is important to him that the *McGaha Chapel* receives an official designation as an historic landmark.

Royal Duff: Mr. Duff is the owner of *The Lodge*. He thanked Commissioners for considering this property for an historic landmark designation. He also thanked the members of the JHPC for their work on this project. He and his wife purchased the property in 1989 and he welcomed anyone who would like to visit.

Chairman Hawkins declared the public hearing closed at 7:20 p.m.

Staff will place this item on the agenda for the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gerry Hunsicker: Mr. Hunsicker congratulated Commissioners for choosing J. Goldsmith & Co. to perform an economic development study in the County. He urged Commissioners to make the choice to invest in employment for the residents of this County. Mr. Hunsicker remains disappointed with the amount of money being put into the improvement of County government facilities.

Jerry Rice: Mr. Rice is from Buncombe County. He spoke about School Resource Officers (SRO's) in the public education system. Mr. Rice said the schools are funded by the County and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and it is DPI that should provide funding for training teachers who do not know how to deal with kids with special needs. Furthermore, Mr. Rice believes if the Sheriff has the County covered properly, a phone call should have officers on the scene very quickly should a situation occur. The Sheriff's Office should not be overburdened by adding more staff nor should counties respond to a tragedy by adding SRO's to every school.

Bill Towler: Mr. Towler thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to serve on the Economic Development Advisory Board for two full terms and three of those years as chairman. Mr. Towler said he hopes Commissioners will be a leader in economic development.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

The Manager requested to remove Item V-A Approval of Minutes under the Consent Agenda. Also, Commissioner Hogsed proposed adding a resolution requesting legislation to exempt certain records of the Sheriff's Office from the Public Records Act. This item will be Item D under New Business.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were approved:

DISCOVERY AND RELEASE REPORT

The Discovery and Release Report for January 2013 was approved. The total tax dollars released was \$1,779.08. Refunds totaled \$431.84.

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JEFFREY G. FISHER

Jeff Fisher will retire from Transylvania County effective March 1, 2013. He has worked in the Building Permitting and Enforcement Department since September 1998 and as the Administrator of that Department since 2002. Commissioners approved Resolution 06-2013 In Recognition of Jeffrey G. Fisher.

(Resolution 06-2013 In Recognition of Jeffrey G. Fisher is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

APPOINTMENTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

On the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB), the terms of Libby Freeman, Roger Frisbee, Richard Grey, Lynda Hysong, and Bill Towler expire at the end of February. Libby Freeman was appointed by the Chamber and their Board of Directors recommends the appointment of Parker Platt to replace her. Roger Frisbee, Lynda Hysong and Bill Towler are not eligible for reappointment. Richard Grey is eligible for reappointment. The appointments to the EDAB shall represent specific segments of the community. It is also the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners to appoint the chairman of the EDAB annually. Bill Towler currently serves as chairman but his term expires at the end of February.

Commissioner Lemel moved to accept Parker Platt as the Chamber representative to the EDAB, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Lemel moved to appoint Larry Nelson as chairman of the EDAB, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Chapman recommended the following appointments to the EDAB:

1. Dick Grey – reappoint to serve another term
2. Pete Newsome
3. Joe Wilbanks
4. Linda Coye

Commissioner Chapman explained his reasons for nominating each. **The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lemel.**

Commissioner Hogsed nominated and moved to appoint the following:

1. Tom Dempsey

2. Aubrey Woodard
3. Wayne Hennie
4. Jim Meyer

The motion died for lack of a second.

The motion to reappoint Dick Grey to another term passed by a vote of 3 to 1, with Commissioner Hogsed voting against.

The motion to appoint Pete Newsome passed by a vote of 3 to 1, with Commissioner Hogsed voting against.

The motion to appoint Linda Coye passed by a vote of 3 to 1, with Commissioner Hogsed voting against.

The motion to appoint Joe Wilbanks passed by a vote of 3 to 1, with Commissioner Hogsed voting against.

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE INITIATIVE

The terms of David Morrow and Don Surette expire at the end of February. David Morrow is eligible for reappointment. Don Surette has served two full terms and is no longer eligible to serve another term. There are no applications on file. When asked, Mr. Surette said he does not wish to have his term limits waived. The Clerk will advertise for the vacancy.

Commissioner Lemel moved to reappoint David Morrow to serve another term, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

PERSONNEL BOARD

Anna Yount's term expires at the end of February. She serves on the Personnel Board in a Department Head role. There are two qualified applications on file. It is also the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners to appoint the chairman to the Personnel Board annually. Anna Yount is also the current chairman.

Commissioner Lemel moved to appoint Sheriff David Mahoney as chairman of the Personnel Board, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to appoint David Reid to the Department Head role on the Personnel Board, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD OF EDUCATION REQUEST FOR A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AT TC HENDERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Over the years the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners have worked together to recognize the importance of having safe schools. The Transylvania County School System is one of a few systems in the State that has School Resource Officers (SRO's) at the elementary, middle and high school levels. In fact, all schools except Rosman Elementary and TC Henderson Elementary have a dedicated SRO. Currently these two schools share an SRO.

Sheriff David Mahoney has been advised of a request by the Board of Education to staff a full time SRO at TC Henderson Elementary. The shared officer would now remain at Rosman Elementary full time, if

approved. The cost of an SRO position beginning March 4, 2013 through June 30, 2013 is \$16,658. The annual cost of an SRO for FY 2014 is estimated at \$52,000, not including the cost of a vehicle. The cost of a used vehicle is estimated at about \$23,000.

The Manager recommended approving the hiring of a full time SRO for TC Henderson Elementary School with monies to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance for the balance of the current fiscal year. He assumes the FY 2014 budget request by the Sheriff will include the SRO position as well. Captain Eddie Lance was in attendance on behalf of Sheriff Mahoney to answer any questions and provide additional information.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the monies to hire a School Resource Officer at TC Henderson Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed. Commissioner Chapman asked if the Sheriff's Office had available staff to fill this position until a decision is made on next year's budget. Captain Lance informed Commissioners that there is someone available to fill the position, but it was not doable to move someone from another position into the SRO position. Commissioner Chapman wondered if there was an available vehicle for the SRO to use as opposed to purchasing another. The Manager indicated that the Sheriff maintains a fleet of vehicles. The Sheriff can get by with providing a vehicle from that fleet through the end of June, but after that he will not have a vehicle to spare. To help with the budget, he requested a used vehicle, but it will be fully equipped just like the other officers' vehicles. Commissioner Chapman expressed full support for security in the schools; however, he is concerned with continually adding staff to County government. Plus, he said Transylvania County is one of very few counties in the State that will have SRO's in all schools. The investment in security is very important, but it is also very expensive. Commissioner Lemel reported that the cost of having an SRO at TC Henderson Elementary is approximately \$98 per person to provide security for the balance of the school year. Removing staff from the equation brings the cost to \$122 per student for the balance of the school year. She shared these figures to inform everyone of the cost. She is very much in favor of an SRO at TC Henderson Elementary. Commissioner Hogsed said the location of TC Henderson Elementary has concerned him for awhile. Because they share a SRO with Rosman Elementary, the response time from Rosman Elementary to TC Henderson Elementary and vice versa should an incident occur could take a while if there was no officer onsite. He supported moving forward with approving this position.

Captain Lance spoke at length about the role of SRO's in the schools. He believes Transylvania County serves as a model for the State when it comes to protecting its children. SRO's are proactive in protecting the students and they frequently participate in training exercises to continue learning about how to deal with issues that arise in a student's life, including dealing with special needs children. Blue Ridge Community College is also working with the Sheriff's Office to offer training in dealing with special needs children, as well as crisis intervention training. He said the Sheriff's Office has been a partner with the School System for a long time and he thinks it is vital that there is an SRO at all schools in Transylvania County.

Board of Education Chair Tawny McCoy thanked Commissioners for their consideration. She stated that the Board of Education makes this request knowing Commissioners are also concerned about the safety of the children. She reiterated that the School System has had a good relationship with the Sheriff's Office for several years now. She agreed that Transylvania County serves as a model for the State when it comes to providing a safe environment for students. Ms. McCoy believes having SRO's at the schools is a preventative measure, and not reactive. The Board of Education plans to include this position in its budget request for FY 2014. This action also allows the students at Rosman Elementary to have a full time SRO, because they are currently sharing with TC Henderson Elementary.

Chairman Hawkins asked about the availability of federal funding for SRO's. One of the reactions to the tragic shooting in Connecticut was that Congress intended to make funding available. The Manager reported that Congressman Meadows has introduced a bill but he is unsure of the status at this time. He will follow the bill and inform Commissioners of any action.

Commissioner Hogsed commented, as a parent of a child in elementary school, that SRO's do a lot more than just provide security and ensure the safety of those in the school. Also, he does not believe this is a knee-jerk reaction to a tragic event, but rather the right thing to do.

In response to a question from Commissioner Chapman, Captain Lance reported that if the position is approved it will be posted tomorrow with the goal of having the SRO in place by March 11. He anticipates the position will be filled internally.

Chairman Hawkins allowed public comment on this matter although a motion had been made and seconded. Gerry Hunsicker expressed support for hiring another SRO, but he was bothered by the cost because he believes the SRO's salary would be more than a teacher's salary. The Manager informed Mr. Hunsicker that the cost of the request includes a salary of \$32,218. The benefits add up to another \$15,000 with health insurance being the largest component. The County also has to furnish the uniforms, bullet proof vests, firearms, a vehicle and fuel. All of this adds up to the \$52,000 annual cost that Mr. Hunsicker thought was the SRO's salary. There was no further discussion and **the motion passed unanimously.**

NORTH CAROLINA PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND PROJECT AGREEMENT

In January, Commissioners permitted the Parks and Recreation Director to submit an application to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) for grant funds to complete phase three of the community park near Rosman. Staff was informed that the project was approved by the State and now the County has to approve whether or not to accept the grant by the end of February. The grant amount is for \$362,700 and it is a matching grant. This means the PARTF grant amount is \$181,350 and the County must provide the other \$181,350. The major component of phase three is the rest rooms, concessions, utilities, walking trail, playground, picnic shelter, paved sidewalk, basketball court, lights for the large baseball field, signage, and a small contingency. Commissioners have already made an investment with the completion of phases one and two in the amount of \$306,681. The Manager noted that the fields are being heavily used by school and recreational baseball and soccer teams.

The Manager asked Commissioners to accept the PARTF grant funds and designate funds for the required match, noting these funds would complete the park except for one item, that being a track that could be used by the School System. The construction of a track is very expensive. He asked that funds come from the Fund Balance and that he be given authority to approve any change orders as long as the project stays within the approved budget of \$362,700.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve phase three of this project and authorize the match of \$181,350 from the Undesignated Fund Balance, and authorize the County Manager to approve change orders as long as they fall within the approved budget of \$362,700. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed. Commissioner Chapman asked if the County has flexibility with making changes to the plans. Parks and Recreation Director Rick Pangle informed Commissioners that small changes are allowed, but any major changes within the plans must be approved by the State. This is a three-year process. The Manager noted that the County must upfront the monies for the project and then request reimbursement through PARTF. He said the completion of this park not only benefits those in the Rosman area, but also the Transylvania Little League Association. Mr. Pangle agreed, noting that without this field the school baseball teams in Rosman would not have a place to practice or play games. He said everyone is pleased that the park is there. For the benefit of the public, Commissioner Chapman

noted that many people in the Rosman community gave much of their time to make this park a reality and helped reduce the cost significantly. Commissioner Lemel believes this is an important investment in the County. She hopes there will be future discussion about adding to the recreational facilities in order to do more for citizens in the long term. She also thanked Mr. Pangle for his hard work putting this grant packet together. Commissioner Hogsed also thanked Mr. Pangle and Tim Petit for their dedication to this project. A facility of this nature was included in the Master Plan for that area of the County and so he really appreciates their efforts. Chairman Hawkins asked if there was a river component to this plan. Mr. Pangle said it is not included in the original plans. However, he spoke with the NC Wildlife Commission today and they inquired about the possibility of river access at the park. He plans to meet with representatives next week to discuss this further and to see if there can be a collaborative effort. Chairman Hawkins hopes this will become part of the plan because an important piece of the Goldsmith Report on economic development was understanding what makes Transylvania County special. He also thanked Tim Petit for his efforts in keeping this project going. **The motion passed unanimously.**

WESTERN HIGHLANDS NETWORK FISCAL MONITORING REPORT

The Manager reported that Western Highlands Network is required to submit a quarterly financial report. The second quarter report indicates \$87.4 million in revenues and \$85.9 million in expenditures. The organization has made significant strides in getting out of a deficit situation.

Commissioner Lemel moved to accept the second quarter report from Western Highlands Network, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST LEGISLATION TO EXEMPT CERTAIN RECORDS OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE FROM THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

This item was added by Commissioner Hogsed. He explained that this is a resolution that has been passed by several counties in North Carolina. The resolution asks the County's representatives in the NC General Assembly to support legislation that would make handgun purchase permits and concealed carry permits that are now public record exempted as a public record, thus making this information private. Commissioner Hogsed reported that a newspaper journalist in Raleigh requested from a local Sheriff's Office a listing of the concealed carry permit holders and printed the list in the newspaper along with the permit holders' addresses. This has occurred in other states as well. He noted that if this same information was turned over by the Health Director, he/she would be in violation of HIPPA laws; therefore it is just as important that this information be protected for gun owners as well. Commissioner Hogsed read Resolution 05-2013 for the benefit of the public.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve Resolution 05-2013 To Request Legislation to Exempt Certain Records of the Sheriff's Office from the Public Records Act. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman. Chairman Hawkins said while he respects Commissioner Hogsed's views on this, he is not sure how this resolution fits locally. He does not see this resolution as being meaningful because it is not going to influence anything or change anyone's mind. He is aware of only two counties that have passed such a resolution. He agreed with Commissioner Hogsed that this information should be private but he thinks there is a better way of getting the message across. Chairman Hawkins requested Commissioners not act on this resolution and over the next few weeks craft something different that reflects all Commissioners' concerns. Commissioner Chapman expressed support of this resolution and said he believes this Board should inform the County's elected representation in Raleigh of where the Board stands on important issues of this nature. He noted that Commissioner Hogsed has indicated very strongly the implications and the hate and discontent this has caused when those records are made public subsequently putting citizens at risk. Commissioner Chapman stated that this resolution is simply a recommendation to the County's representation of its support in passing such legislation. He believes this is a serious matter and deals with the potential security of the citizens of this State. Commissioner Lemel respected the position expressed by both Commissioners Chapman and Hogsed, but she feels strongly that this Board not take on issues that it has no jurisdiction or authority over. She believes it would

weigh more with officials in Raleigh if they were to hear from all the citizens as opposed to one resolution from this Board. She believes the voice of the people is far stronger in this instance than the opinions of this Board. Commissioner Hogsed stated he does not believe that an appeal to the State asking them to protect private information for certain citizens is meaningless and that this information should never have been public in the first place. He said this is about the safety and security of the citizens of this County which makes this issue a local one. Chairman Hawkins responded to him that should this resolution not pass, he would be open to discussions at the next meeting of achieving the same result in a way that the majority of Commissioners would support. **The motion failed by a tie vote of 2 to 2, with Chairman Hawkins and Commissioner Lemel voting against.**

MANAGER'S REPORT

Listed below are some of the key happenings:

- New Animal Shelter- Work continues to progress on the new animal shelter. The project is now 80% complete.
- Renovation of second floor of the Courthouse continues. The doorways have been expanded to meet ADA requirements. The contractor is preparing to paint. To date no major obstacles have been encountered.
- Maintenance completed painting and up fitting the office for Congressman Mark Meadows and Representative Chris Whitmire. The office is located on the second floor of the Community Services Building in Conference Room A. Commissioners and Staff are pleased to be able to offer an office where citizens can meet with Congressman Meadow's staff and Representative Whitmire.
- A large crowd attended the first meeting to hear Jeanette Goldsmith's report and recommendations on economic development. A second meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. and a third meeting on Thursday February 28 at 2:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Rogow Room at the Library. The report and presentation is posted on the County's website and Comporium is showing the meeting on its cable network.
- Met with Sheriff Mahoney, Solid Waste Director Jeff Brookshire, and NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) staff to discuss litter on the roads and highways. The NCDOT is going to contract for litter pickup which will begin in early April. The contract will be for 10 cycles per year and the NCDOT will perform two additional cycles. Mr. Brookshire sent a letter to all trash haulers reminding them of their obligation to secure all materials. Any additional litter pickup by sentenced inmates will be coordinated with the local NCDOT staff.
- Reminded Commissioners of the joint meeting with the Board of Education on Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rogow Room at the Library
- Plans to attend a strategic planning workshop on March 7 in Asheville, along with Chairman Hawkins and Commissioners Chapman and Lemel

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Petit: Mr. Petit thanked Commissioners for voting to accept the PARTF grant funds for the community park. He also thanked some former Commissioners and Rick Pangle for their support of this project. Mr. Petit asked Commissioners to consider river access because there are so many people that use the river and because it is important for the County's economic development. He also noted there has been interest in an outdoor skate park across the State and he believes this may be a feasible adage to this park. He again thanked Commissioners and said he looks forward to this project being completed.

Wayne Hennie: Mr. Hennie commented about the School Resource Officer position that was approved. He said this Board of Commissioners has spent monies on items he did not necessarily agree with; however he did support the SRO position. He shared with Commissioners that he lost a child 15 years

ago and stated that there are some things in this life that cannot have a value placed upon it. To have someone like an SRO involved in a child's life on a full time basis was the right thing to do. He thanked Commissioners for saving future families from possibly living the nightmare that his family has lived through.

Don Surette: Mr. Surette inquired if the litter pick up efforts will be made on major thoroughfares in the County. The Manager said the roads are major thoroughfares and he would be happy to provide a list of the roads. Mr. Surette also talked about the potential local historic designation of the McGaha Chapel. He said a group is starting a fundraiser to pay for the removal of several large trees around McGaha Chapel. There is no imminent danger but should any one of the trees fall on the building it would destroy the entire structure. Mr. Surette also commented on the Goldsmith Report and presentation. Her reported indicated the County needs to acquire 50-100 acres of property for the development of a business park. He said that opportunity is sitting at the old Ecusta site.

Bill Briggs: Mr. Briggs said he thought Ms. Goldsmith's report and presentation were excellent and he hopes the County, the City of Brevard and the Town of Rosman will collaborate to implement her recommendations. He also reported that over 700 people donated funds to the Friends of the Animal Shelter in excess of \$350,000. The County and the City of Brevard have committed \$750,000 and \$100,000 respectively to the new animal shelter, making up the rest of the cost of construction.

Lori Swank: Ms. Swank encouraged Commissioners to revisit the resolution put forth by Commissioner Hogsed. She said the approval of the resolution costs Commissioners nothing and by Commissioners not considering this she feels her protection is being infringed upon.

Edwin Jones: Mr. Jones serves on the buildings and grounds committee of the Board of Trustees at Brevard College. As a cautionary note for the community park or any other project that calls for composite surfaces, he said special attention needs to be paid to the maintenance of such surfaces. He reported that Brevard College sets aside funds each year to resurface two tennis courts a year in perpetuity. There are some areas of the composite track that are deteriorating and it is going to be a major expense to repair them.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lemel commented that she continues to be amazed of the successes of the Tax Office. They continue to collect taxes back from at least 2002. She acknowledged that the North Transylvania Fire Department received a new rating effective May 1. They managed to get their fire rating from a 9 to a 5 which is a substantial achievement and has a direct bearing on the fire insurance rates for citizens in that district. She commended the fire department on their efforts. Commissioner Lemel attended a CARE Coalition meeting and learned how this organization is trying to provide services to those with addictions to prescription drugs. She attended the Smart Start Executive Committee meeting and learned more about the efforts to provide quality early childhood programs in the County. She has been spending time getting to know the Brevard City Manager. Commissioner Lemel has been meeting with members of the Board of Education to discuss working more effectively as elected boards. She spent some time with former Henderson County Commissioner Renee Kumor and the director of the Vision program Bill Watson and discussed how to encourage more citizen participation on boards and committees and a process for accepting applications and vetting applicants. Commissioner Lemel had a lunch meeting with a local manufacturer to understand what it takes to be a successful manufacturer in this County. She also attended the Transylvania Partnership Business Competition Awards Ceremony and reported that Mayberry's was the top award winner with a \$10,000 prize to develop a new business where they will bottle some of their own sauces and develop a community kitchen that will be available as an incubator in food service for the community. She also met with a member of City Council recently. Today she met

with Dr. Scott Elliott of the School System. She took a tour of Oskar Blues to learn about how the mechatronics program works in collaboration with Blue Ridge Community College. Lastly, Commissioner Lemel encouraged citizens to attend one of the public meetings to hear Ms. Goldsmith's report on the economic analysis of the County. She believes the citizens of this County need to hear her presentation in order to start a dialogue about a vision for the County and how to move forward.

Commissioner Chapman attended the Board of Directors meeting for the NC Association of County Commissioners last week. He reported that the Annual Conference will be in Greensboro from August 22-25. He encouraged Commissioners to attend. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Robert Atkinson who is an expert in economic transformation and innovation and has performed extensive research on how individual states are positioned to excel in the new economy. Commissioner Chapman said a hot topic of discussion during the Board of Directors meeting was the new Tag and Tax program that will be implemented. When citizens renew their license tag they will also pay their property tax on their vehicle at the same time. There is a movement in some counties to overturn this legislation. Commissioner Chapman also noted that the NC Association of County Commissioners has a wonderful website and he encouraged citizens to visit it at www.ncacc.org.

Chairman Hawkins reported that he attended a meeting at the Land-of-Sky Regional Council last week that was very informative. One piece of information that was made known was upcoming Medicaid changes that were taking place for those living in assisted living facilities. The qualifications for Medicaid assistance is becoming stricter and may potentially affect 50% of all residents in assisted living facilities. He asked for staff to post this information on the County's website. He also attended a forum on entrepreneurship where the focus is trying to develop strategies to foster entrepreneurship among young people in rural North Carolina. Chairman Hawkins also attended a meeting with the NC Department of Transportation regarding NC 215. The State is supportive of the project but they face many challenges.

Commissioner Hogsed thanked Bill Towler for his service on the Economic Development Advisory Board. He also thanked Don Surette for his service on the Community Appearance Initiative Advisory Council, a council formed in lieu of a junk ordinance to clean up junky sites without compromising citizens' private property rights. Commissioner Hogsed took personal exception to some action by the Board this evening. He read comments from a December 10, 2012 article in *The Transylvania Times* by a current member of the Economic Development Advisory Board who was disrespectful to then Commissioner Kelvin Phillips and to Commissioner Hogsed himself on their position on GroWNC. Commissioner Hogsed stated that it is unfortunate there are members serving on County boards and committees that feel they must attack some Commissioners' intelligence and position on issues because they disagree with their positions and votes. Commissioner Hogsed said he is personally insulted by the action of this Board tonight to reappoint this member to the Economic Development Advisory Board.

On a lighter note, Commissioner Hogsed repaid the promise to Chairman Hawkins to sing the fight song in a public meeting of the Carolina Tar Heels if they beat the NC State Wolf Pack in a regular season basketball game.

Chairman Hawkins moved to enter into closed session per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with an attorney and (4) to discuss matters relating to expansion of industries, after a five minute recess. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with an attorney and (4) to discuss matters relating to expansion of industries, closed session was entered into at 9:13 p.m. Present were Chairman Hawkins,

Commissioners Chapman, Hogsed and Lemel, County Manager Artie Wilson, Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows, County Attorney Tony Dalton, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

Mr. Burrows updated Commissioners on two potential economic development projects. Commissioners directed staff on how to proceed.

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

OPEN SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Chapman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chairman Hawkins and unanimously carried.**

Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board