

**MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 13, 2014 – REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, October 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Transylvania County Courthouse.

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

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Jeremiah Reed

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. He introduced the members of the Board of Commissioners and staff.

PUBLIC HEARING

RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This is an annual request by the County Transportation Department. The Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) provides funding for local transportation programs. County Transportation Director Keith McCoy reported that the ROAP grant for FY 2014-15 provides funding for the following:

\$55,714	Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program
\$13,390	Employment Transportation Assistance Program
<u>\$54,048</u>	<u>Rural General Public Program (requires 10% County match)</u>
\$123,152	Total Funds FY 2014-15

Mr. McCoy noted that the request is nearly \$20,000 lower than last year. The State used part of the monies for the highway fund. The department is absorbing most of the loss through departmental cuts. They are making up the difference by not accepting any new riders and reducing some transports and general public transportation. Commissioner Chapman encouraged Mr. McCoy to come back to the Board of Commissioners if funding reductions severely impact the department's ability to provide services.

A public hearing is required in order for the County to make application. The public hearing was properly noticed by the County Transportation Department. It was announced that Voluntary Title VI Public Involvement forms were available for the public. Staff requested Commissioners act on this item at this meeting as well.

Chairman Hawkins opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. There were no comments from the public.
Chairman Hawkins closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judith West: Ms. West welcomed Ms. Laughter as the new Transylvania County Manager. This is her first meeting as County Manager. She wished her courage and wisdom in her new role. Ms. West's comments were met with applause from the audience.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

The Manager requested to add Item V.C Economic Development Administration Grant-Letter of Support under the Consent Agenda.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

Commissioners met in regular session on June 9, 2014 and then proceeded with budget workshops on that evening which continued to June 11, 2014. Commissioners held several special/closed session meetings in their search for a new County Manager. They met June 12-13, 2014, June 18, 2014, June 25, 2014, July 2, 2014 and July 7, 2014. Commissioners also met in regular session on June 23, 2014. Commissioners approved these minutes as submitted.

AMENDMENT TO THE 2013 TAX SETTLEMENT REPORT

Tax Administration staff has been working with Finance Director Gay Poor to resolve a discrepancy on the 2013 Tax Settlement Report and the 2013 audit currently in process. Ms. Poor found a \$29.62 discrepancy while reconciling the records. While looking into the issue staff found the error also impacted the Little River fire district by \$4.33. Tax Administration identified the "problem bill" and worked with the software vendor to identify the problem. The problem has been identified, and the 2013 settlement should be amended by the above mentioned amounts in order to balance perfectly with the audit.

The software clones a temporary bill when being viewed and this one bill did not delete the temporary bill for reporting purposes and created the error in the final report. This is the only time this issue has occurred. The vendor Bi-Tek has reviewed the situation and implemented steps to prevent this from happening again. Tax Administrator David Reid discussed this discrepancy and solution with Chris McLaughlin at the School of Government and he concurred that this approach to resolving the issue was reasonable. This issue did not affect money, or the monthly balances. It was an issue that only impacted the final report. Commissioners approved the recommendation to amend and replace the 2013 Transylvania County and Little River Fire District Tax Settlement Report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION GRANT-LETTER OF SUPPORT

For the past few months Chairman Hawkins, Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows, and Biltmore Park President Jack Cecil have been working to promote an idea of developing a Western North Carolina business/research park. The idea would be to develop a park with separate but interconnected nodes, and be concentrated in the Haywood-Madison-Buncombe-Henderson-Transylvania

creascent. Earlier this year, Land-of-Sky Regional Council hosted a meeting of the region's county managers and economic development directors, and Chairman Hawkins made a presentation to introduce the idea to them. Also, Mr. Cecil is a board member of Research Triangle Park (RTP) and he has talked with them about it, and RTP has offered to partner with Land-of-Sky to help develop a feasibility plan.

Land-of-Sky is applying for a grant from the Economic Development Administration through the US Department of Commerce to conduct a full feasibility study. One of the items needed for the application is a letter of support from the various counties. The application is due November 3. There is no financial commitment. The Economic Development Administration grant requires no local match. Commissioners approved the letter of support.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE INITIATIVE REPORT

The Community Appearance was formed in 2007 for the purposes of assisting citizens with the removal and disposal of abandoned manufactured housing and junk motor vehicles and to provide financial assistance in some cases to aid in this effort. This program is strictly voluntary. Requests are either self-initiated or reported by members of the community. The Community Appearance Initiative has taken action on 90 projects and has removed and disposed of hundreds of tons of junk. Details of their work were highlighted via PowerPoint presentation. All of their assistance has been limited to properties along the major corridors. Total County funds expended were \$21,766. Property owners expended funds as well. With the majority of the projects being complete or acted upon, there are few opportunities for this council to affect change. Therefore the Community Appearance Initiative is seeking guidance from the Board of Commissioners as to the future direction of this council.

Mr. Morrow reported there are vacancies on this council and he requested assistance in filling them. He suggested a member be a cyclist because cycling is growing in the County and this person has the ability to see other parts of the County that the typical motorist does not.

Commissioner Chapman asked what the best method to perform a survey of the community would be. He believes there is a need to identify the various areas that may need clean up outside of the major corridors. He wondered if an effort to segment the County and assign tasks to members to survey the County would be the best approach. Mr. Morrow said the membership has already done this. They divided the County into different areas and members toured their assigned areas and took photographs and notes of potential projects. This is usually done in the fall. Sometimes concerned citizens will call County staff and inquire about what can be done about particular areas they feel need to be cleaned up.

Commissioner Lemel inquired about the guidance the council is seeking from Commissioners. She noted their tremendous success thus far and the efficiency of the program. Mr. Morrow said the projects that were completed were the easiest projects because there was cooperation from the property owners. Other property owners have been approached but are not interested at this point. It is unknown if those property owners even qualify for assistance. Maybe advertising that the council still exists and is available to help might be helpful with drumming up new projects. Mr. Morrow is not in favor of imposing citations and fines for junk property.

Commissioner Chapman asked what kind of assistance and support the County can provide to property owners to assist them in cleaning up their property. Mr. Morrow responded that County staff has the name of contractors who recycle and perform demolition, and a list of the costs of renting a dumpster and/or landfill dump fees. Rarely have County employees been utilized in an actual cleanup.

Mr. Morrow recommended to Commissioners to restructure the council's meeting schedule to an as needed basis. He felt doing this would be a better use of their time. He also requested to have a small pot of money to use when needed as an ongoing source of funding.

Commissioner Lemel moved to recognize the work the Community Appearance Initiative has done over the last eight years and their ongoing drive to continue keeping Transylvania County clean. She further moved to allow the Community Appearance Initiative to meet as needed based on citizen requests and for the Commissioners to continue funding an annual amount up to \$5,000 based on need. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappell. Commissioner Chappell requested the Community Appearance Council continue to make an annual report to the Board of Commissioners. It is important that Commissioners are aware of the projects they are working on and funds expended. In addition, Commissioners instructed the Manager to work with Mr. Burrows to promote this program to let citizens know it exists. **The motion passed unanimously.**

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT OF REVIEW OFFICER FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

North Carolina General Statute 47-30.2 requires that the Board of County Commissioners designate, by name, one or more persons experienced in mapping or land records management to be appointed as a Review Officer to certify that maps or plats presented to the Register of Deeds are in compliance with all statutory requirements needed for recording. Michelle McCall, Program Support Assistant in Planning and Economic Development, left employment with the County at the end of September. Trish Hamilton, who retired from the same position one year ago, has been hired to fill in while the department recruits for the position. In order for her to be able to review and sign maps or plats brought to the County Planning and Economic Development Department, a resolution must be approved by the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Lemel moved to Approve Resolution 34-2014 Appointment of Review Officer for Transylvania County, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

(Resolution 34-2014 Appointment of Review Officer for Transylvania County is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

BREVARD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEAL

On September 22, 2014 Commissioners appointed Tom Tartt to fill the alternate member slot on the Brevard Board of Adjustment & Appeal. Since that time the Clerk was informed that member Carl Brown had resigned. The City of Brevard Planning Department recommended moving Tom Tartt into the regular member position vacated by Carl Brown, leaving the alternate position vacant.

Commissioner Lemel moved to appoint Tom Tartt to fill the member slot vacated by Carl Brown on the Brevard Board of Adjustment & Appeal and to instruct the Clerk to advertise for the vacant alternate position and any other vacancies on other boards and committees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

The Economic Development Advisory Board was established by the Board of Commissioners in 1991 (and amended in 1994). Its purpose was and has been to develop and carry out an effective economic development program, work to attract new industries, lend support and encouragement to existing industries, assist in agricultural development, strive to encourage commercial development and lend assistance to both new and existing businesses. In the last year and a half, Commissioners hired a

consultant to study and report on economic development in Transylvania County. As a result, Commissioners formed an independent economic development task force to review and make recommendations on the findings from the consultant's report. The task force recommended that Commissioners move forward with establishing a new economic development organization to consist of an 11-member Board of Directors, an Executive Director and various other staff members with economic development experience.

At the April 14, 2014 County Commission meeting, Commissioners voted to move forward with the recommendation by the task force. Since that time, the 11-member Board of Directors has been formed and staff, along with Commissioners, has been working with them to develop a contract and discuss funding.

Because of Commissioners' decision to move in a different direction with economic development efforts, the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) met to discuss and determine its future. The EDAB met on September 11, 2014 and unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to terminate the EDAB consistent with the newly adopted economic development direction creating an Economic Development Organization (EDO), a governing board of directors, and formation of a public/private partnership. The EDAB, being an advisory board to the Board of Commissioners, also offered its final recommendations that they feel is essential to success:

1. Joint meeting of all entities involved with new EDO
2. United, collaboration and cooperation-each entity should accept an "action item" supporting the efforts of the EDO
3. Adequate funding and resources-funds should be spent in the following order of priority: a) development of a product/site to sell to potential businesses, b) development of a consistent marketing plan across the entities, and c) minimize administrative expenses
4. Consolidation of rules, ordinances and permitting to make it easier, less complex, and less costly to do business in Transylvania County
5. Review targeted industries listing and revise as the EDO or County sees fit
6. Workforce development to understand the workforce needs of businesses and work with various educational groups to begin to close the gap and put ourselves in a position to "sell" our workforce as an overall product; continue with the Business Plan Competition
7. Structured incentive plan to attract desirable businesses
8. Metrics and measures to track progress
9. Contacts and networking keys to success in the competitive environment of economic development
10. Rail service should remain protected until it is clear that rail service is not needed to sites in the area

Approval to dissolve the EDAB should be done through resolution and this is the recommendation by staff.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve Resolution 35-2014 Dissolving the Transylvania County Economic Development Advisory Board. This should be done with acknowledgement of their great service to the County for the years they existed and acceptance of their recommendation in their capacity as an advisory board and to thank each individual member for their service and commitment to economic development in Transylvania County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed. Commissioner Chappell thanked all the members both past and present for their service and commitment to economic development. Commissioner Chappell recommended as an amendment to the motion for staff to send the above listed 10 recommendations from the EDAB to the new EDO for their consideration. There was no objection and the amended motion was

seconded by Commissioner Chapman and Lemel simultaneously. The amended motion was unanimously approved. Chairman Hawkins commented that the 10 recommendations from the EDAB seem very sensible. The EDO is already working toward a few of them. He was supportive of the resolution but was hesitant because the structure of the EDO is not yet in place. However, the EDAB felt it was time to dissolve and he supported their request. Chairman Hawkins noted that Commissioners have the ability to reform the EDAB if necessary. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

(Resolution 35-2014 Dissolving the Transylvania County Economic Development Advisory Board is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT (PSAP) INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF BREVARD

Transylvania County 911 is the primary answering point for all 911 calls in Transylvania County. The Transylvania County Communications Department receives, handles/dispatches, and monitors all calls for Fire, EMS, Rescue, Sheriff's Office, and several other non-traditional emergency services providers and nonemergency services agencies. Transylvania County Communications receives 911 calls for request for service from Brevard Police Department and these calls are transferred to the Brevard Police Department Communications Center for call management. The City of Brevard Police Department Communications Center qualifies as a Secondary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) because they handle/dispatch and monitor 911-related calls requiring Brevard Police Department response.

Brevard Police Chief Phil Harris requested that the County consider entering into an inter-local agreement to allow the City of Brevard to benefit from potential NC 911 Board funding. Prior to this year, the North Carolina 911 Board funding mechanism only provided funding to primary PSAPs. The recent change to the NC 911 Board funding structure allows for secondary PSAPs to receive funding provided an agreement between the Primary and Secondary PSAP is in place. The NC 911 Board funding mechanism requires that funding for secondary PSAPs pass through the Primary PSAP. This will require additional effort/work from Transylvania County 911 staff and the Transylvania County Finance Office to coordinate and validate expenditures to ensure they qualify under the NC 911 Board funding program. Primary PSAPs have been assured that funding to secondary PSAPs will not be impacted by the Secondary PSAP funding program. Staff has added wording to the inter-local agreement to allow the Primary PSAP to terminate the agreement if future funding to the Primary PSAP is affected. No other financial impact from this agreement is expected for Transylvania County but it does present a positive annual financial impact for the City of Brevard. They stand to receive approximately \$68,000.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the Inter-local Agreement on the PSAP funding. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman. It was noted that this agreement will be placed on City Council's agenda for approval. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A required public hearing was held at the beginning of the meeting. Staff requested Commissioners approve the application at this same meeting.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the Rural Operating Assistance Program application as presented, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

FLUZONE HIGH DOSE VACCINE FEE COST

This item came at the request from the Board of Health. The cost of the high dose flu vaccine (trivalent) is higher than the quadrivalent flu vaccine. The quadrivalent flu vaccine is \$15. The majority of the high dose flu vaccine is billed to private insurance or Medicare. The Health Department may experience a loss

of \$1,960 if they bill using the trivalent flu vaccine cost of \$15. The recommendation by the Board of Health is to set the fee to \$29 to recover the vaccine cost effective October 1, 2014.

Commissioner Lemel moved to set the high dose flu vaccine trivalent cost to \$29 effective October 1, 2014 as recommended by the Board of Health. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman. Interim Health Director Terry Pierce clarified that total price is \$52 which includes an administration fee. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Based on Section 32 of the FY 2015 Budget Ordinance, certain budget amendments must be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Below is a summary of amendments that have been requested that require Board approval either because they increase the total General Fund budget and are derived from funding sources that have not been previously approved by the Board and are not simply pass-through funds or because they decrease the total General Fund budget and reflect reductions in projected funding sources.

The budget amendments presented below are carry-forwards from FY 2014. Finance Director Gay Poor reviewed the amendments for the benefit of the Board and public.

#17: \$2,876 for Economic Development for professional services related to the wastewater pretreatment system at Oskar Blues Brewery

#18: \$2,800 for the Sheriff's Office for equipment for the Project Lifesaver grant

#19: \$687 for Cooperative Extension for funds from NC State University for staff development and \$87 for a refund of unspent SHIP grant funds

#20: \$18,028 for Social Services for funds received in prior periods for Special Child Adoption (\$14,866) and specific purposes designated by St. Philips grants (\$3,162)

#21: \$3,000 for Child Development from a PNC grant for the New Adventure Learning Center

#22: \$8,956 for the Health Department for unspent portions of grant funds (\$1040 – Mountain Valley Resources Grant, \$500 – St. Philips TRAIN Grant, \$71 – Delta Dental Foundation Grant, \$5294 – Project Lazarus Grant, \$2051 – GlaxoSmithKline Grant)

#25: \$1,578 for Juvenile Crime Prevention Council to refund money received but not used in FY 2014 for the Temporary Shelter program

If approved, these amendments will increase the General Fund budget by \$38,012, bringing it to a total of \$46,991,183.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the requested budget amendments, seconded by Commissioner Chappell. Staff intends to present the audit at the December 8, 2014 County Commission meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

SUMMARY OF FIRST QUARTER BUDGET AMENDMENTS

At the end of each quarter, the Finance Director provides a recap of the budget amendments that have been approved and entered year-to-date and their impact on the fiscal year General Fund budget. Finance Director Gay Poor reported that all of the changes represent an increase in State and federal funding for grants.

The Health Department received a United Way grant for Transylvania Resource, Access and Information Network, better known as TRAIN, in the amount of \$48,840. The Health Department also received a Smart Start CCHC grant for oral education totaling \$15,489. The Soil and Water Conservation District was also in receipt of two grants. The first was a TVA Ag and Forestry Fund grant for equipment at \$15,000. The second was a grant from the Division of Water Resources for river restoration projects. This grant is a multi-year commitment. The revised General Fund Budget as of September 30, 2014 totals \$46,953,171.

MANAGER'S REPORT

New County Manager Jaime Laughter said she was pleased to have begun employment as of October 1 with the County and thanked Commissioners for this opportunity. The last five days for her have been a balance of coming up to speed on County issues while also functioning in the managerial role. The following is a summary thus far reflecting highlights:

- Relationship building: Thus far the Manager has met with various groups including attending the Transylvania County Farm Bureau annual meeting, the Chamber Board meeting, touring the Brevard Health Center, meeting with Blue Ridge Community College and the newly formed Transylvania Partnership for Economic Development, among others. She is also actively meeting with department heads and touring facilities. She plans to attend the Department of Social Services staff meeting tomorrow.
- The Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) held their conference in Asheville the first week of October representing a broad spectrum of manufacturers who work within the outdoor recreation industry. Approximately 40 people signed up to go on an excursion bringing them to Transylvania County for various outdoor activities. Sylvan Sports was very instrumental in getting the OIA here, setting up the excursion and hosting the group that visited the County. The County was pleased to welcome them here and Transylvania Partnership for Economic Development intends to follow up with those contacts made at the event.
- Work continues on the communications plan and looking for ways to get more information out to the public about County business.
- The move to the new Administration Building will occur the week of October 13. County offices will be closed on Friday, October 17 for the major move. The first Commissioners' meeting to be held there will be the first meeting in November. Staff is also working to schedule an open house there on November 13 and will be finalizing those plans soon.
- The County Manager has been asked to be a panelist presenter at the November 15 Water Conference hosted by the Transylvania Natural Resources Council.

Commissioner Chappell thanked all those that assisted with the OIA excursion. There was a lot of behind the scenes work making sure those participants got to truly experience what Transylvania County has to offer. Staff and others were able to make some very valuable contacts during the conference.

The Manager elaborated on the event. Approximately 40 people visited the County over the course of two days. Their excursion included activities like fly fishing, rock climbing and hiking. Chairman Hawkins and Commissioner Lemel took turns welcoming the groups when they arrived in the morning and the Manager wrapped up with them in the afternoon when they returned from their excursion. They were all given goody bags with items to help them remember the area. The Transylvania Partnership for Economic Development intends to follow up with the contacts made over the two-day period. The feedback from the participants has been incredibly positive. Those that were avid mountain bike riders said they saw things on their rides they had never seen before and that they would make a return visit to the County. There was also a group of participants who opted in to receive promotional materials.

Commissioner Lemel bragged on the Manager for pulling together the gift bags for the participants so quickly. Everyone thought the gift bags were spectacular. Commissioner Chappell was impressed as well and noted that the visit could have a lasting impact on the County. Chairman Hawkins agreed and said this was not just a fun event, but the County and other organizations in the community were able to establish long term relationships with outdoor industry representatives.

Commissioners took a 10 minute recess before beginning the workshop portion of the meeting.

COURTHOUSE WORKSHOP #3: NEXT STEPS

The Board of Commissioners has held two consecutive workshops to discuss Courthouse needs and the options that have been explored over the last 10 years. Workshop 1 covered the history of the Courthouse needs discussion including all study information and estimates provided over the years. The most recent estimates detail an option on the existing Administration Building site that would total \$11.2 million. Workshop 2 demonstrated the need for additional space, security improvements and relief from overcrowding during court. Finance Director Gay Poor then discussed finance options available to fund the project.

There are two options currently being discussed. Option 1 leaves the Courthouse in downtown and proposes demolishing the existing Administration Building to build a two-story addition to the Courthouse. Option 2 proposes building a new Courthouse at the Public Safety Facility site.

These workshops have warranted discussion as to whether the option to build a new Courthouse near the Public Safety Facility should have updated cost estimates and specifications with detail similar to the option presented for adding at the existing site so that the two options can be compared. The cost is \$26,500 to include the study update, travel expenses and miscellaneous printing cost with the assumption of four trips to the County for site visits. The Manager asked Commissioners to discuss the proposal by Moseley Architects to provide additional detail on Option 2 and direct staff on how to proceed.

Chairman Hawkins began the discussion by saying it seems to him there are at least four options for Commissioners to consider. One option is to do nothing meaning Commissioners do not think there is a need. The second option would be to commit to dealing with this issue over the next several years and include new Commissioner(s) in on the discussion. Another option is to move forward and direct staff to get the drawings with the suggestion of renovating at the current site. The fourth option is to start looking at building a new Courthouse at the Public Safety Facility site, comparing data with the existing site option.

Commissioner Chapman does not feel there is enough information yet to decide on the new Courthouse option so he thought it would be worth seeing a cost benefit comparison for both sites.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve \$26,500 to complete a full study update on the possibility of locating a new Courthouse at the Public Safety Facility. It was noted that the last study was completed a few years ago. **Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion.** Commissioner Lemel remains concerned about adding on to the existing Courthouse. There are substantial public safety issues with that option. She believes the highest and best use of tax dollars is to build something that will serve the public well. She is interested in what a proposal might look like at the Public Safety Facility site and how that site would offer substantial improvements in public safety, traffic and parking downtown. This site option would potentially allow the front doors of the Courthouse to be open for another use. Commissioner Chapman expressed concern about the timing of this project being that the Board of Education is discussing the possibility of a school bond. In addition, the Transylvania Partnership for Economic Development will be looking at possibly acquiring property and discussions are happening with the municipalities about future water capacity and possible expansion. He does not believe the

County can afford to do all of these multi-million projects. He was supportive of getting updated information but was concerned the funds would be wasted if Commissioners do not move forward with addressing Courthouse needs. Commissioner Lemel informed the Board there are options available to local governments for structuring financial debt in ways that are feasible for smaller communities. She hopes Commissioners will start making deliberate steps forward to achieve their goals and address the many needs of the community. Commissioner Hogsed stated he will not support building a new Courthouse at the Public Safety Facility site for many reasons. The Courthouse has been at the heart of the County and the City of Brevard since 1881 and he does not want to see what has happened to other communities that relocated their courthouse happen to this community. He also shared his disappointment that the Moseley Architects proposal did not address parking at the current site. He believes there is enough space there to build a larger facility and solve the parking issue with an offsite structure. Commissioner Hogsed wants the doors to the historic Courthouse open and for the building to be in use. Commissioner Lemel agreed that the building should be utilized and she envisions it as a place where citizens can continue to do business in the County. She believes the actual courtroom functions should be moved to a facility that would serve them better and provide more adequate public safety. Commissioner Chapman asked Commissioners to consider potential options for the use of the current Courthouse before spending money on this study. He would like to know how the building can continue to serve the public before court functions are relocated and the building is left vacant. He is not opposed to the study; he just preferred to delay it for a time. Commissioner Chappell preferred court functions to be held in the Courthouse because it makes Transylvania County unique. That being said, he believes it is imperative that Commissioners have all the information possible to make the best decisions. He thinks it would be prudent to move forward with the study to determine what exactly would be in a new facility so Commissioners can truly make comparisons on the options and then involve citizen input. Chairman Hawkins stated that the current site cannot be considered without addressing parking. He noted that staff has had formal discussions with the City of Brevard about ways to partner and address this issue. If it is determined that the Public Safety Facility is the best option, Commissioners need to decide what to do with the current Courthouse. This should be done before the building is empty because it is a central part of the community. The decision should involve input from citizens. He agreed with Commissioner Chappell that Commissioners cannot compare the sites without having all of the information in front of them in order to make comparisons. He does not believe this study is going to be a waste because he believes all Commissioners believe something needs to be done. The study should take three to four months which gives Commissioners time to think about other issues as well. **The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Commissioner Hogsed voting against.**

Commissioner Chapman said while Commissioners are moving forward with the study, there remains security issues with the Courthouse. He recently met with Court Sergeant Jimmy Jones to discuss options to deal with immediate concerns, particularly with transporting inmates to and from the facility. Court staff suggested fencing or an enclosed area where the van can safely load and unload prisoners and get them through security safely as well. Commissioner Chapman asked Commissioners to consider engaging an architect to provide a recommendation. Chairman Hawkins asked the Manager to follow up on this recommendation and report back to the Board. Sergeant Jones said he believes there are some viable options to address security and he agreed to meet with the Manager as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Wilson: Mr. Wilson welcomed the Manager to her new role. He talked about the Courthouse issue. He is not against building a new courthouse as long as it is not elaborate. He said the current Courthouse has been a beautiful building for many years and he has good memories of this place. Mr. Wilson shared the same thoughts as Commissioners about trying to determine the right thing to do with the building should court functions be relocated. Walking the halls of this building now reminds him of the precious

history of this County. Mr. Wilson believes Transylvania County has so much to be proud of and he thinks the right decisions will be made with everyone working together.

Jackie Hovey: Ms. Hovey expressed appreciation for those Commissioners who seem to have a vision and a plan forward and disappointment with those who seem to come up with reasons not to move forward.

Don Surette: Mr. Surette reported that the French Broad River Stewards sponsored an elected officials canoe ride over the weekend. He thanked Chairman Hawkins for his participation and for the Board's support of the French Broad River Stewards.

Ellen Harris: Ms. Harris is a local architect. She thanked Commissioners for agreeing to get an updated study. She also thanked Commissioners for listening to the architects group. She pointed out there are many other factors that need to be taken into account other than construction costs. Ms. Harris also reminded Commissioners when the Courthouse was built it contained many functions, the court system being only one. She hopes Commissioners will remember this as they move forward. She hopes the architects group can help Commissioners decide what to do with the Courthouse should it be vacated. She shared a list of ideas of what this building might be used for. She looks forward to working with Commissioners and helping to ensure the County uses the historic Courthouse to its potential and maintains its historic character.

Jack Hudson: Mr. Hudson stated that many County departments need space larger than they currently occupy. The newly formed Transylvania Partnership for Economic Development will need space too. He feels many of these departments should fit nicely in the Courthouse, while also providing space for the Heritage Museum. Mr. Hudson noted that nothing has been said about where court would be held while construction is going on at the current site, if that is decision. Also, no plans have been made for use of the Administration Building or the cost of demolishing it. Parking will need to be addressed as well. Mr. Hudson thanked Commissioners for moving forward with the study. Lastly, he reminded Commissioners that the original study included space for the Tax Office and Register of Deeds which have since been moved into their own space.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lemel informed Mr. Surette she missed the river float because she attended Rosman Heritage Day which was an amazing event. She reported on her Commissioner activities over the past couple of weeks. She attended the Parks and Recreation Strategic Planning Committee meeting, spent time with building inspectors looking at construction projects in Lake Toxaway, including Mountain Falls Motor Coach Park which was very impressive, and met with the Manager and the Mayor of Rosman to discuss leachate treatment. Commissioner Lemel serves on the Agriculture Extension Advisory Council and regularly meets with members of City Council. She attended an event at SylvanSport as well as the dedication of the Cottages of Brevard, a USDA project. She had lunch with USDA and Brevard College officials to talk about financing for the College and learned about financing options for small rural communities. On Saturday she spent time at the Red Bull Dreamline BMX event at the REEB Ranch in Henderson County. This event was attended by 3,000 people. She hopes to make sure the County can capitalize on events like this in the future. Commissioner Lemel is working with a small group of citizens to review the process for making appointments to boards and committees. The group is looking at four deliverables with a target date of December 1. The four deliverables are: 1) how to recruit and attract board and committee members and how to advertise openings, 2) how to better manage the applications once they are received, 3) how to evaluate applications and develop a consistent review to ensure everyone is treated fairly as they apply for these boards and committees and what qualifications should be

considered, and 4) what kind of training will be offered to board and committee members and how are the chairs elected.

Commissioner Chapman reported he was recently in Wilmington at the Board of Directors meeting of the NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC). He said the NCACC does great work for counties and serves as a lobbying group for counties. The NCACC recently hired a new Executive Director. The former relocated to Washington, DC to take a senior level position with the National Association of Counties. Commissioner Chapman informed Commissioners they will be receiving information about upcoming NCACC events soon. He reported that counties recently submitted legislative goals to the NCACC for consideration. The NCACC has formed committees to vet each goal. Commissioner Lemel has been contacted about serving on one of the committees. The Legislative Goals Conference will be held in January to determine what legislation will be lobbied for at the NC General Assembly. The NCACC will also host County Assembly Day where Commissioners can meet with legislators to discuss issues. NCACC will also have representatives available for the public to walk the halls of the Legislature and anyone interested should contact the NCACC. Commissioner Chapman stated tonight Commissioners have talked about items that will cost a tremendous amount of taxpayer money so it is important citizens communicate to Commissioners what they want for their community.

Chairman Hawkins commented about the USDA assistance Brevard College will be utilizing to build their new dorm. He said this is an example of where the County has been able to assist a local business in a substantive way. He commended Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows for learning about the loan and informing the College about it. Chairman Hawkins also thanked Mr. Surette for the opportunity to participate in the river float because the river is such a key part of this community. Commissioner Lemel will be participating in an event with the Land of Sky Regional Council and he asked her to comment on that. Commissioner Lemel said she has been asked to be a presenter tomorrow night at the annual Land of Sky Friends of the River Dinner around the support of the French Broad River. Transylvania County has three recipients who will be honored tomorrow night and she will be giving them the award. Last year her father was honored posthumously which was a real honor for her family.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board