

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 10, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, October 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in Commissioners Chambers at the County Administration Building, located at 101 S. Broad Street, Brevard, NC.

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

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Derrick McKissock

There were approximately 30 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

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

WELCOME

Chairman Hawkins 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 COMMENT

David Morrow: Mr. Morrow is the Chairman of the Board of Elections. He thanked Commissioners for providing them with the new Elections Center building and all those who lobbied for the facility over the years. Having Elections staff, voting equipment and supplies, and the ability to hold poll worker training in the same building will allow the department to be more efficient. The facility will be able to meet the needs of voters for many years. Mr. Morrow reminded everyone that Early One Stop Voting begins October 20. Parking may be an issue and he asked everyone to be patient with one another. He noted that Rosman Town Hall will serve as an early voting site beginning October 27.

Sandy Briggs: Ms. Briggs is a member of Friends of Transylvania Animals (FOTAS). Over the past three years, she has coordinated several volunteers for the shelter. She frequents the shelter and continues to see a need for additional help. The director and officers can only manage so much between the care of animals, dealing with animal control issues and performing other essential job duties. Ms. Briggs stated that full time help is needed to care for the animals and manage the front desk/customer services duties. FOTAS will continue to work to support the shelter only through the end of the fiscal year due to a lack of funds. Ms. Briggs is concerned that the new shelter could fall into disrepair like the old one. She asked Commissioners to consider the recommendation on the agenda to support additional staff for the shelter.

Holly Jones: Ms. Jones is a full time volunteer with Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue (CAAR). She stated that CAAR is committed to saving lives at the local animal shelter. She pointed out that through adoption and rescue work, the euthanasia rate has dropped to between 20-30%. Ms. Jones believes the successes thus far are very much in jeopardy. The shelter is in desperate need of additional staffing to care for animals. Animal advocate groups, along with CAAR want to continue to do their part to get animals

adopted and increase the visibility of our shelter. She asked for the Board's help to address staffing issues and also asked them to consider implementing forced spay/neuter regulations and stricter animal cruelty policies to reduce the shelter's intake totals. Ms. Jones stated that without action, not only are we failing the animals, but also those that fought so hard for the new shelter.

Jill Murray: Ms. Murray started a group called CHAT, Citizens Helping Animals of Transylvania. She is concerned about citizens not knowing where the shelter is located, so she started working with the shelter to host pet adoption days. It has been successful thus far. Through social media, she requested volunteers and now has a list of over 250 members she can call on anytime. Adoption days are held around the community. Those that do not adopt will sometimes make donations to the animal shelter. Ms. Murray asked Commissioners to consider the additional staffing request because it is sorely needed. Volunteers are great help, but most of them have full time jobs and cannot overcommit themselves. She stated that animal advocates will not stop working to help animals in this community.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 22, 2016. Following the regular session, the Board met in closed session to discuss a lawsuit, potential economic development projects, and property acquisition. Commissioners approved the minutes of the August 22, 2016 regular meeting as submitted. The sealed minutes of the closed sessions will be brought before the Board at the next meeting for approval.

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

NCDOT Special Event Guidelines stipulates that counties shall pass an ordinance declaring a road closure for a special event. The purpose is so NCDOT can review for conflicts and concerns, and is neither approving nor denying the event. The Clerk has submitted the special use permit application and fee of \$50 to the City of Brevard to close a portion of Main Street on November 11 for the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Courthouse Gazebo. Commissioners approved "An Ordinance Declaring a Road Closure for the Veterans Day Ceremony" and instructed the Clerk to the send the document along with a cover letter to the NCDOT Highway Division 14 office.

Commissioner Chapman invited the public to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Courthouse Gazebo at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 11, 2016. This is an opportunity for citizens to thank veterans for their service to this nation. Commissioners thanked Commissioner Chapman for his work on planning the event.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

NCACC ANNUAL SAFETY AWARD

On August 4, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) notified Transylvania County staff that we had won the NCACC Workers Compensation Pool's 2016 Safety Award for having the lowest number of claims per \$1 million in payroll in the mid-size county class. The NCACC requested to present the award during a regular meeting of the County Commissioners. Risk Management Deputy Director Charlie Eaton presented the award to Commissioners and staff. Mr. Eaton recognized Transylvania County's efforts for establishing and monitoring protocols in order to control the safety of employees. This requires the effort of all employees on a daily basis which can be difficult because of the nature of various jobs, e.g. law enforcement, animal control.

The Manager stated that the County's safety program is led by our Safety Committee. The Committee meets monthly to review incidents and to consider ways to improve our policies and procedures to keep employees safe. The Safety Committee is working hard to protect the County's liability as well.

Commissioners were very proud of staff for receiving this award, noting that their efforts not only keep employees safe, but also save the County money in terms of insurance and workers compensation costs.

PARKS AND RECREATION FEE SCHEDULE

At the request of Commissioners, Parks and Recreation Director Carleen Dixon presented this item because of some confusion within the community about user fees for parks and recreation facilities. She reported that the fee schedule for Parks and Recreation has changed very little over the years; however, she found that the fees were not being charged to users consistently as they were laid out in the fee schedule. There were also fees being assessed for tournament use although these were not part of the fee schedule. In addition, she reported that the public has been requesting to reserve facilities more frequently, securing their right to use facilities instead of on a first-come first-serve basis. In FY 13 and FY 14, the base fee schedule was very basic and users were charged fees for the gym and multipurpose room at the Recreation Center, Silvermont and Champion Pool.

The former County Manager asked Ms. Dixon to research fee schedules of surrounding counties for comparison purposes which varied depending on their facilities. She then drafted a new fee schedule which was submitted with the FY 15 Budget proposal and subsequently adopted by the Board of Commissioners. The new fee schedule included additional fees to reserve facilities that were previously available only on a first-come first-serve basis, an increase in rental fees at Silvermont to cover the cost of a staff person being onsite during the rental period, and fees that were being charged but not spelled out in the previous fee schedules for group pool and group field rentals. The fee schedules for FY 15, FY 16 and FY 17 added field rental fees at all sites, additional charges for use of outside lighting for evening use, and added fees for the Courthouse Gazebo, picnic shelter and tennis courts.

After the fee schedule was adopted, staff discussed with the Parks and Recreation Commission how to implement the fees that were not previously being enforced. Staff began communicating to users who had been allowed free use the Recreation Center in the past, the majority of those being private businesses offering programs at County-owned facilities, that a fee schedule would be imposed and then offered them multiple options on how they could continue using the Recreation Center. The options included paying the rental fee to reserve space or contracting and partnering with the County to offer programs at a 70-30 revenue split. They were also given six months advance notice of the fee schedule taking effect.

Staff also met with organizations that used the fields on a regular basis at no charge. These were organizations such as Transylvania Youth Soccer Association (TYSA), Rosman Youth Football (RYF), etc. Staff informed these user groups they would work with them to determine past usage so they would

be able to estimate their approximate fee once implemented. Staff established a timeline to begin assessing these fees January 1, 2017. Ms. Dixon noted that the fees are for reserved use only and that facilities were still available on a first-come, first serve basis at no cost.

This concluded Ms. Dixon's presentation. Commissioners posed several questions and comments.

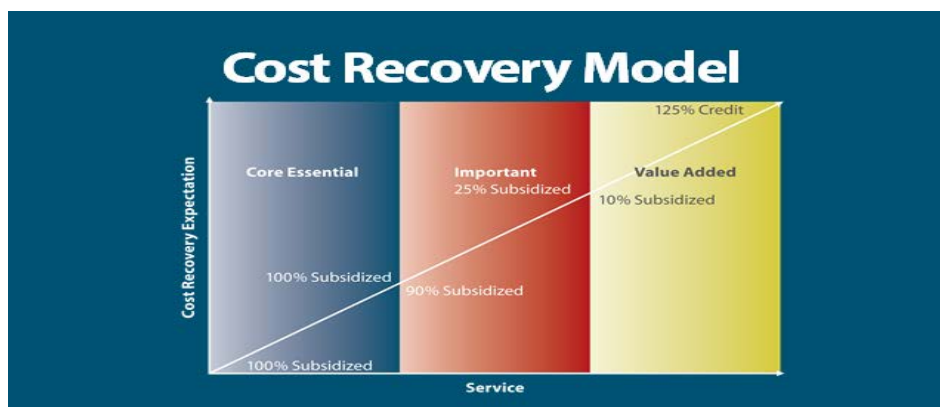
Commissioner Chapman asked how much revenue has been or is projected to be generated by assessing these fees. Ms. Dixon said the fees recoup 0.5% of operating costs. This does not include revenues generated from field usage because those fees have yet to take effect. Based on past usage for one organization, if they were to reserve the fields for practices and games, the amount generated could be upwards of the \$4,000 range for the year.

Commissioner Chappell asked if these figures were included in the Parks and Recreation budget as projected revenues. Ms. Dixon said none of the fees are part of the projected revenues at this time.

Commissioner Lemel stated that during the Master Plan study there was some discussion about cost recovery. She asked Ms. Dixon to elaborate on that and report on the current industry standard. Ms. Dixon stated that the trend in parks and recreation across the nation is the implementation of a cost recovery model, a philosophy of comparing the individual benefit versus the community benefit and assessing user fees according to the needs of the citizens. While Transylvania County's cost recovery is currently at 0.5% of operating costs, the industry standard is in the 30-35% range. Ms. Dixon said it would be very beneficial to have a cost recovery model in place when considering new programs and assessing the appropriate fees.

Commissioner Chapman stated that recreation is a community benefit and is paid for with taxpayer dollars. He is concerned that organizations, specifically youth organizations, will struggle with determining how to pay for the usage of parks and recreation facilities. He believes if money is the issue, then the Board needs to appropriately fund parks and recreation. He understands fees should be assessed for reserving facilities for non-routine activities. Commissioner Chapman feels that the fee structure could be a deterrent to growing parks and recreation and getting more youth involved. He asked the Board to revisit the fee schedule and determine whether or not it is appropriate to charge our citizens.

Chairman Hawkins noted that the Master Plan study identified three different levels of services, those being core essential services, important services and value added services. He said Commissioner Chapman's concern might be addressed with how Commissioners categorize the different uses and not necessarily by doing away with user fees completely. Ms. Dixon agreed and showed this example of a cost recovery model:



Ms. Dixon explained that Commissioners can classify programs however they want. For example, nonprofit youth groups could be classified as core essential services, making them 100% subsidized, according to the above model. This philosophy can be applied to a multitude of programs and services. This is where staff needs direction from the Board.

Commissioner Phillips asked if the gymnasium was available free of charge on Saturdays. Ms. Dixon stated that the Recreation Center is guaranteed to be open Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. When there are no scheduled events going on, there is open gym time. The Recreation Center is open on the weekends depending on what is going on there and if it is not reserved for use, then it is available.

Commissioner Phillips agreed with Commissioner Chapman about not charging for the use of the fields. He stated that citizens are already paying user fees in the form of taxation. He understands charging fees for some uses because it guarantees that a facility is reserved for a particular use; otherwise, he sees no need for a field rental fee for youth activities and sports.

Commissioner Chapman asked how the collection of fees would impact the budget and wondered if they were to be part of future budgets for additional staffing proposals. Ms. Dixon said these fees are strictly being assessed for recovering operating costs. Commissioner Chapman continued to express concern over the fees and stated that he does not want this Board to impose any fee or policy that would inhibit participation in parks and recreation.

Commissioner Lemel recalled paying fees for her children to participate in youth sports organizations; therefore, she was struggling to understand the difference between programs that Transylvania County Parks and Recreation offers versus programs being offered by ancillary groups that charge fees for their own purposes yet utilize County facilities at no charge. Ms. Dixon stated that Commissioner Lemel's concerns emphasize the need to categorize users/programs. She stated that she does not want these groups to struggle because the County Parks and Recreation Department does not have the resources to take them on.

Commissioner Chappell reminded Commissioners that these fees are scheduled to take effect January 1, 2017 so time is of the essence for Board direction. The Manager suggested the next step is for Ms. Dixon to provide information about all the users and programs that occur in our parks and recreation facilities with a recommendation of where they might fit into a cost recovery model as a platform for discussion. She also suggested suspending the implementation of these fees until the end of the fiscal year to give Commissioners more time for discussion.

Commissioners asked for an item on the next agenda to suspend the fees. At a future meeting, Commissioners will begin to discuss in more detail a cost recovery model to go along with next year's budget and how to appropriately categorize users and programs.

ACT WORK READY COMMUNITIES

Transylvania County is now a participating ACT Work Ready Community. Commissioner Chappell requested staff show a short video during this meeting which explains what a Work Ready Community designation means and how it benefits the County.

The purpose of the designation is to connect employers and job seekers and to market Transylvania County as a good fit for potential employers. It also links education and workforce development in order to have sustainable economic development. A skilled workforce that can adapt to a changing economy drives economic growth.

The advantages for Transylvania County being a Work Ready Community are many. For one, it documents for individuals their skill sets which are then translatable to certain positions. It also gives employers a certain level of assurance that a person has a certain skill level and provides them with the confidence in their hiring decisions. This designation also gives Transylvania County and the Transylvania Economic Alliance an advantage over other counties because it rates us as being job friendly.

Commissioners thanked Commissioner Chappell for his work to help Transylvania County become a participating Work Ready Community. Commissioner Chappell encouraged businesses to register with the program to help the County receive its official certification.

NEW BUSINESS

ANIMAL SERVICES STAFFING

The Manager reported that, along with the FY 17 Budget, Commissioners adopted annual work plans submitted by all departments to help meet the goals of the strategic plan. Animal Services incorporated several activities into their work plan related to working with animal welfare groups in the community to help increase adoptions and reduce the euthanasia rate and to work on preventative measures through increased education efforts. She stated this is a critical part of how the department intends to move forward with its mission. Last fall, Animal Services staff worked closely with the NC Department of Agriculture to ensure their policies and procedures were up to standards and also to develop some of the activities and measures seen in the work plan. The Manager reminded Commissioners that the approved budget for the Animal Services department for FY 17 is \$386,337. This is a testament to the Board's commitment to Animal Services and animal welfare. The conservative budget assumed the use of inmate labor in various ways in the department. The current staffing model consists of the Animal Services Director, a Lead Animal Services Officer, two Animal Services Officers and a part-time Animal Shelter Technician.

Assistant County Manager David McNeill and Animal Services Director Elma Rae Greene continued with the presentation of this agenda item and subsequent request to Commissioners. Mr. McNeill stated that the Animal Services Department has been dependent on the utilization of inmate workforce to meet minimum staffing needs since the new animal shelter opened in 2012. During this time, the department has experienced occasional loss of inmate labor due to a variety of reasons. Each time inmate labor is lost, Animal Services staff struggles to operate the shelter and respond to calls for animal related activities throughout the County.

Ms. Greene reported that awareness of the animal shelter is growing and as a result staffs are receiving more requests for animal services. The animal shelter's visitation rate is growing as well. Ms. Greene stated that the use of inmate labor is not a practical solution to their labor problems. The department is providing a more sophisticated veterinary health program to the animals. She noted that the animal rescue groups can only do so much with their limited funding. The department is mandated by the State to perform at a certain level in order to maintain its licensure and remain open.

Ms. Greene, via PowerPoint, provided statistics on the number of animals housed by the shelter. The impound rate for animals has steadily increased as awareness of the shelter grows. She reported that the National Animal Control Association uses a formula to determine adequate staffing which is required by the Animal Welfare Act. This same model is used across the nation. The formula determined that at least one full time employee is required in the shelter to meet basic care of the animals and the animal shelter.

Also with the growing public awareness, there are more public inquiry phone calls and drop-ins. Ms. Greene said it is imperative that staff be on-hand to answer the calls and assist the public as needed. She reported that a local veterinarian provides pro bono animal care and needs a trained staff person to assist with handling the animals. Ms. Greene stated that while there are many aspects to animal welfare, the

request by staff today is for the purposes of adequately caring for the shelter itself. Because the shelter is understaffed, the Animal Control Officers are providing basic kennel assistant duties on top of the over 900 service requests that will have responded to in the field by year's end. She believes their time is better spent in the field assisting the public.

Ms. Greene emphasized that in order to reduce the impound numbers; the department needs to develop an appropriate outreach program to encourage responsible pet ownership. She reported that the department will be faced with an additional challenge soon with the closure of the local spay and neuter clinic. With the current staffing level, the department is hard pressed to continue their goal of reducing impound and euthanasia rates. Staff needs the time to explore opportunities and continue the good work of this community that started with the new animal shelter.

Mr. McNeill reiterated that the work plan for the department included an increase in prevention and public education in order to meet the goal of reducing the number of animals in the shelter, decreasing the euthanasia rate, and increasing the live release rate. This should in turn reduce the demands on staffing moving forward. He noted that other counties have taken these steps and have seen positive results.

Mr. McNeill offered two options to Commissioners for consideration:

1. Option 1: Do Nothing, No cost
 - a. Manage the shelter population according to state law minimums
 - b. Would take work plan in opposite direction from FY 17 adopted plan
 - c. Loss of 50% of current staffing at shelter due to loss of inmate support
2. Option 2: Increase Part Time Shelter Tech to Full Time and add Full Time Shelter Attendant at a cost of \$59,653.15
 - a. Replace inmate loss with staffing
 - b. Consistent with adopted work plan for increasing live release rate
 - c. Pursue coordinative efforts on spay and neuter, public education and prevention
 - d. Maintain animal health
 - e. Still does not meet the recommended staffing level by National Animal Control Association Guidelines
 - f. Below staffing levels in comparison counties
 - g. Recommended by staff

This concluded the presentation. Commissioners posed the following comments and questions.

Commissioner Chappell asked for a detailed breakdown of the additional costs. Mr. McNeill reported the increase in part time to full time as \$18,096. The remaining is for the full time position. This is for a full year. The impact to this year's budget would be only three-fourths of this amount.

Commissioner Chapman shared the concerns about the use of inmate labor. He also emphasized that the County Commissioners are committed to Animal Services. Given the issues of the department, he did not see that Commissioners had another choice but to approve the recommendation. He also thanked Ms. Greene for her expertise and stated that Transylvania County made a great decision in hiring her as Animal Services Director.

Commissioner Chapman inquired about where the funds would come from to cover the additional costs. The Manager said initially the funds will come from fund balance. She anticipates staff will find cost savings throughout the year to potentially cover the cost within the Animal Services budget.

Commissioner Chapman asked if this measure is intended to be a band-aid approach to the issue. Mr. McNeill agreed that Ms. Greene was a great hire as Animal Services Director. He believes staffs'

recommendation will free up Ms. Greene's time to work with the animal rescue groups to identify strategies for a local low cost spay neuter program and to reduce the animal shelter population. He believes this step forward will prevent him from having to come back before the Board to request additional staffing.

Commissioner Chapman asked if the employee currently in the part time position is willing to work full time hours. Staff reported yes and she is very qualified.

Commissioner Phillips asked how the daily capacity compares at the current time to when the shelter first opened. He also inquired about the average stay for an animal. Ms. Greene said the number fluctuates, but it is manageable. At times during the seasonal highs, the shelter does exceed capacity. The shelter is mandated by law to keep stray animals at least 72 hours. At minimum the shelter holds strays for five days. Surrendered animals may be put up for adoption immediately after having a routine veterinarian exam. She reported there are 40-50 animals being housed at the shelter right now and most of them are cats.

Commissioner Lemel commended Ms. Greene for the very specific detail and the actual calculations of time exposure for the animals as part of the agenda packet information. The data analysis was very clear that there was no other solution but to add positions. She stated that the staffs are doing a remarkable job and she appreciated the relationship they have forged with the nonprofit animal advocacy groups.

Commissioner Chapman thanked the volunteer groups as well. He said we would not be where we are today without their efforts.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the minimum staffing request for a total of \$59,653.15 to upgrade the part time veterinary technician to full time and add a full time shelter attendant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman. Commissioner Chappell asked if an internship or work-based learning opportunity would assist with any gaps that may still exist. Mr. McNeill said the department would be open to any options. He hopes that the additional help will free up Ms. Greene to be able to work with the volunteers to coordinate efforts to help with that regard. Chairman Hawkins stated that this will help support our staff which is very important. The data shows this is needed. He also thanked the Sheriff's Office for providing the inmate labor that has allowed Commissioners to delay providing additional staffing to this point. Chairman Hawkins believes this plan allows us to move forward in a positive way. **The motion passed unanimously.**

BUDGET AMENDMENT

Finance Director Gay Poor submitted a budget amendment recommended by the County's auditors to reflect the impact of the capital lease entered into in FY 16 for a cot for EMS. For accounting purposes, the lease is treated as an "other financing source", and the full amount of the lease is treated as expenditure even though the payments are spread over three years. In addition, the amount budgeted in FY 16 in EMS for the current year lease payments for the FY 12, FY 13, and FY 16 leases is being transferred from the EMS equipment budget line to capital lease principal and interest payments. If approved, this amendment will increase the final FY 16 General Fund budget by \$17,878, bringing it to a total of \$49,180,608.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the requested budget amendment increasing the General Fund by \$17,878, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- Smoky Mountain LME/MCO meeting

- Rebranding with the name Vaya Health
- First in WNC to get a screening kiosk for mental health/substance abuse; targeting November 1 for a kiosk to be placed at Health Department
- Transylvania County Jail to participate in pilot Jail Diversion Program
- New Veteran's Initiative for Uninsured Veterans
- Working in region with partners on Perinatal Substance Abuse
- Presenting at October Early Childhood Initiative meeting on Community Resilience Model Behavior Intervention which officers six skills to handle trauma
- Community Forum on Mental Health on October 17 in the Rogow Room at the Library
- Early Childhood Initiative-18 months progress
 - School System reporting improved kindergarten readiness
 - Health Department seeing improvement on infant substance abuse
 - Report coming out soon with progress since State of the Young Child was released last December
- Planning and Community Development worked with Rosman and Comporium to secure an ARC Grant
 - Total Budget of \$11,560 (Comporium + ARC Funds)
 - Provides free public wifi in four locations (Town Hall, Champion Pool, the intersection of Main Street and US 178, and the County's recreation facility off Old Rosman Highway)
 - Target completion by Rosman Christmas Parade
- October 28, Tax Administrator Assessment Center
- November 1, Commissioners' Capital Workshop
 - Software to be able to make different project, financial and timing modifications to model in real time
- Elections- Early Voting to begin October 20
 - Parking on County campus will be limited because of several activities
 - Curbside voting designated
 - Asking everyone to be patient during this time
- New Citizen Letter to Anna Yount from Ms. Stokes
 - Customer Service and inviting space
 - E-Resources
 - Lynda.com online courses
 - Children's Programming innovation and creativity

Commissioner Chapman asked the Manager to monitor the parking situation during the election very closely so any issues can be addressed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Edwin Jones: Mr. Jones served on the Brevard College Board of Trustees. He wanted to know if Brevard College is ACT Work Ready certified. Commissioner Chappell reported that Brevard College is not yet certified. Mr. Jones intends to bring this issue up at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

Cody Owen: Mr. Owen is the President of Transylvania Little League. He emphasized that the youth organizations within the County are nonprofit. He had an issue with a statement made in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan study about the youth organizations. He commented that the nonprofit organizations have historically been partners with the County in order to provide programming and facilities to youth. Mr. Owen expressed disappointment that the youth organizations were not invited to participate as a focus group during the study process. His impression thus far signals that there is going

to be a strategic shift in the relationship between the County and the nonprofit groups. Mr. Owen pointed out that the nonprofit organizations do in fact charge fees for participation in the programs and they receive funding as well through sponsorships and community donations. These funds are used to pay for equipment, uniforms, etc. Mr. Owen asked that these groups be allowed to have a voice in decisions moving forward.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lemel reported that Hendersonville Pediatrics, United Way and SAFE, Inc. have agreed to sponsor the mental health forum on October 17. Because of their generous donations, there will be some light refreshments for the participants. The forum will consist of a panel of speakers from several service providers. It will be an opportunity to understand the services available in the community. The planning has been a cooperative effort by Transylvania County, the Health Department and Smoky Mountain MCO. Commissioner Lemel mentioned that the Early Childhood Initiative has been working very closely with WCCA and allowed us to expand our NC Pre-K classrooms to two at Brevard Elementary School. She reported there is space is available. This is an opportunity to nurture and prepare children for kindergarten. Already, Transylvania County Schools have seen an improvement in kindergarten readiness. Lastly, Commissioner Lemel reported there is a Homeless Teens Coalition meeting tomorrow. They are exploring options on how to provide physical support for homeless teenagers, such as relief supplies that will be maintained in the schools. Any assistance is greatly appreciated.

Commissioner Chapman reminded everyone that he and the Mayor traveled to Charlotte recently to attend the memorial dedication for Dr. Ephraim Brevard for whom Brevard was named and the supposed author of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. He received a letter from Charlotte City Councilman Greg Phipps thanking him for his participation and a City of Charlotte lapel pin. Commissioner Chapman read the letter aloud. Commissioner Chapman reported that today he visited Brevard High School to check in on the Marine Corps JROTC program. He reported there are currently 100 students involved in the program which focuses on developing young leaders. He said citizens should be proud of this program because it is preparing these young students for the future.

Commissioner Chappell asked everyone to pray for those impacted by the flooding on the east coast. He reported that donations can be made to Anchor Baptist.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Lemel moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.**

Larry Chapman, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board