

**MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 24, 2022 – REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in a regular meeting on Monday, October 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Chambers at the County Administration Building, located at 101 South Broad Street, Brevard, North Carolina.

Commissioners present were Larry Chapman, Chairman Jason Chappell, Vice-Chairman Jake Dalton, David Guice, and Teresa McCall. Also present were County Manager Jaime Laughter, County Attorney Julie Hooten, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Jon Rich
Brevard Newsbeat – Dan DeWitt

There were approximately 25 in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason Chappell presiding declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

WELCOME

Chairman Chappell welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Commissioners and staff in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Bentley: Mr. Bentley said he recently inquired about volunteering as a poll worker at the Election Center but was informed by Election Director Jeff Storey that they had all the staff they needed for the season. During their conversation, Mr. Bentley learned from Mr. Storey that individuals can open-carry a firearm or carry concealed with a valid permit in polling places. Mr. Bentley stated that he is not against an individual's right to carry a firearm, but he felt that polling places should be gun-free zones. He asked the Commissioners to consider passing a law to ban firearms in polling places before the 2024 General Election.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

The Commissioners and staff requested the following agenda modifications: add Item F Modify the Time of November 14 Board of Commissioners' Meeting to the Consent Agenda, add Item G Offer to Purchase Unsold Foreclosed Property to New Business, and move the Manager's Report to Item H under New Business.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner McCall moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Guice, and unanimously approved.

The Board approved the following items:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on March 28, 2022, and following met in a closed session in which the minutes were sealed. (The sealed closed session minutes will be submitted for approval at the next meeting.) The Board approved the minutes as submitted.

DISCOVERY, RELEASE & MONTHLY SETTLEMENT REPORT

Per N.C.G.S. § 105-312 (b), the Tax Administrator must see that all property not properly listed during the regular listing period be listed, assessed, and taxed. The Tax Administrator shall file such reports of discoveries with the Board of Commissioners. Per N.C.G.S. § 105-381 (b), the Tax Administrator must provide a monthly report to the Board of Commissioners of the actions taken by the Tax Administrator on requests for release or refund, which shall be recorded in the minutes. For September 2022, releases totaled \$2,451.65 and refunds issued amounted to \$1,813.94. The Board approved the September 2022 Discovery, Release, and Monthly Settlement Report as submitted.

PROCLAMATION - VETERANS DAY 2022

The Board approved Proclamation #35-2022 Veterans Day 2022 which will be presented at the Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Dalton read aloud the proclamation for the benefit of the public.

**PROCLAMATION # 35-2022
VETERANS DAY 2022**

WHEREAS, the freedoms we enjoy as Americans have been purchased and maintained at a high price throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the original 13 States, Americans have been willing to fight and die to preserve their individual rights as guaranteed in the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, we owe a great debt to those who have served in defense of this nation; and

WHEREAS, throughout the generations, their sacrifices have preserved our unique form of government dedicated to human rights and respect for the individual; and

WHEREAS, for many, that sacrifice had ended in permanent injury or death, yet their spirit remains in continued preservation of our freedoms and the promise of liberty established as an example for all the oppressed persons of the world; and

WHEREAS, in honor of these dedicated men and women, we pledge our continued defense of our nation so that their sacrifice will stand before the entire world as a tribute to the spirit and determination of people dedicated to the principles of freedom and democracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County does hereby call upon the citizenry of Transylvania County to participate in services and to observe the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month with expressions of gratitude to all veterans and to further extend this gratitude to the families of the deceased veterans and to solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us re-consecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain.

This the 24th day of October 2022.

S://Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

In support of military veterans statewide and across the country, this Veterans Day, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners joins the National Association of Counties and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers in inviting North Carolina counties to participate in Operation Green Light. This initiative shows support for veterans by lighting county buildings and infrastructure green from November 7 to November 13 as a marker to show that veterans are seen, appreciated, and supported.

Operations and Maintenance staff conducted a review of the outside lighting at the courthouse. This facility is in the main square of town and would be the most visible. Staff estimated being able to provide lighting on the Broad Street side by the Christmas tree, and in front of the courthouse on Main Street, as well as at the gazebo and the Veterans History Museum. Staff are also searching for green floodlights that can be placed in the ground. Staff are doing everything possible to ensure the site is under a flood of green lights for the week. Staff estimated the cost of lighting and equipment to be between \$350-\$450. The Board approved Resolution #36-2022 In Support of Operation Green Light for Veterans.

**Resolution #36-2022
Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans**

WHEREAS, the residents of Transylvania County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Transylvania County seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20% increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72% of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Transylvania County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States Military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Transylvania County hereby declares from October through Veterans Day, November 11th, 2022, a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Transylvania County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence.

This the 24th day of October 2022.

S://Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION ALLOWING RETIRING OFFICER TO PURCHASE SERVICE HANDGUN

Sheriff David Mahoney will retire from the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office effective November 30, 2022, with 31 years of service. N.C.G.S. § 20-187.2 allows the governing board to award to a retiring member the service gun of the retiring member. Sheriff Mahoney requested approval from the Board of Commissioners to purchase his service handgun for \$1.00 upon retirement. The Board approved Resolution #37-2022 Allowing Retiring Officer to Purchase Service Handgun.

**RESOLUTION # 37-2022
ALLOWING RETIRING OFFICER TO PURCHASE SERVICE HANDGUN**

WHEREAS, NC General Statute § 20-187.2 provides that the governing body of a local law enforcement agency may, in its discretion, award to a retiring member the service handgun of the retiring member; and

WHEREAS, David A. Mahoney is a member of the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office where he has served as Deputy Sheriff, Patrol Sargent, Patrol Lieutenant, Investigations Lieutenant, Chief Deputy and most recently as Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, David A. Mahoney will retire from the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office effective November 30, 2022, with 31 years of service to the Sheriff's Office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners to allow David A. Mahoney to purchase his service handgun in accordance with the provisions of NC General Statute § 20-187.2 for the purchase price of \$1.00.

This the 24th day of October 2022.

S://Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

MODIFY THE TIME OF NOVEMBER 14 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Board needed to change the time of the November 14, 2022, Board of Commissioners' meeting from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Board approved the time change and directed the Clerk to the Board to post and publish notice and update the Commissioners' calendars.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

RECOGNITION OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY VETERAN EMPLOYEES

Friday, November 11 is Veterans Day. County staff felt it was fitting and appropriate to recognize County employees who served in the US Military in honor of Veterans Day.

Department	Employee	Branch
Board of Elections	Michael "Jeff" Storey	US Air Force
Commissioner	Larry Chapman	US Marine Corps
EMS	Wesley "Dean" Galloway	US Marine Corps
EMS	Joseph Hall	US Air Force
EMS	Larry Miller	US Navy
EMS	Edward Orrell	US Army
EMS	Shannon Ropp	US Air Force
EMS	Clark Anderson	US Army
EMS	Stephanie Gibbs	US Navy
Facilities Engineering	Larry Reece	US Army
Information Technology	Jason Cox	US Army
Sheriff	Christopher Clark	US Marine Corps
Sheriff	Ralph Davenport	US Air Force
Sheriff	Hampton "Rick" Lasater	US Army
Sheriff	Jonathan "Kris" McCall	US Army
Sheriff	Henry "Hank" Moffitt	US Army
Sheriff	William "Anthony" Worley	US Marine Corps
Sheriff	Justin Fisher	US Army
Sheriff	Chase Quin	US Air Force
Sheriff	David Kennemer	US Marine Corps
Social Services	Erin Owen	US Air Force
Social Services	Tracy Justice	US Army
Social Services	Sherri Stearns	US Navy
Solid Waste	Adam Poe	US Navy
Tax Administration	Chazney West	US Air Force
Tax Administration	James "Aaron" Siniard	US Navy
Transportation	Marion "Jack" Duncan	US Air Force
Transportation	Marty Pressley	US Army
Veterans Services	Frank Pearsall	US Marine Corps

ANNUAL VAYA HEALTH PRESENTATION

Angie Garner, Community Relations Regional Director from Vaya Health gave an annual presentation on the services they manage and provide in Transylvania County. The following is a summary of her presentation:

Increased Demand and Limited Resources

Since the end of the pandemic, there has been a rising increase in the need for child and adult mental health and substance use services across the State. There has also been a rising increase in the loss of mental health and substance use professionals leaving the field. Additionally, the expansion of new health plans in North Carolina and the ability for staff to accept remote positions nationally has created significant competition on the already limited staffing resources. These factors have created waitlists for services across the healthcare system. Vaya has been working with providers to meet these unique challenges while trying to expand and develop new service opportunities across the Vaya region.

Stabilize Walk-In Centers

In response to these challenges, Vaya has tried to stabilize crisis walk-in centers by increasing outpatient rates. This was done by stabilizing physician and clinical staff through the retention of existing staff, recruiting additional staff through increased reimbursement, improving access to same-day care in rural communities, incentivizing face-to-face service in rural communities, and expanding access to substance use services. Ms. Garner acknowledged that telehealth has been very helpful to folks needing to consult with physicians during the pandemic and that it remains a useful tool for those who have difficulties traveling from their homes to see a doctor in person. Ms. Garner said that despite those benefits, telehealth is not for everyone and that it is not perfect to conduct everything that can be done on an in-person visit. This is one of the reasons for the inclusion of incentives for those willing to return to work in person.

Strategies to Address Workforce Challenges

Ms. Garner described a few strategies to address workforce challenges. The first was increased rates across all service areas to promote competitive recruitment and retention. The second was targeted rate increases for direct support professionals for more competitive pay for key community-based behavioral health and intellectual/developmental services. Another strategy was targeted work and funding with providers to develop strategies for recruitment and retention. The last two strategies involved utilizing funding to allow providers to incentivize staffing in more rural counties and focusing work with the Vaya Provider Advisory Council to develop recruitment and retention strategies across service and disability.

Statewide Child and Youth Improvement Initiative

Transylvania County is among many counties that have Vaya support its Department of Social Services (DSS) by co-locating their care management with the department for clinical and system support. The person who works in Transylvania County works closely with the Director of Social Services.

Vaya is working with all the local management entities and managed care organizations (LME/MCO) to establish a standardized seamless transition of care for children placed outside of the Vaya Health Plan region. Vaya is implementing a standardized pass-through authorization process for children entering residential treatment services to eliminate any barriers for children needing to quickly enter residential treatment. Vaya continues to expand a statewide open network to improve access to care for child services. Vaya has an escalation protocol for the Department of Social Services to notify Vaya leadership of acute high-risk cases including 24/7 access through the Vaya Call Center outside business hours.

Vaya is raising rates to expand access to crisis/emergency beds to reduce/eliminate the need for DSS to temporarily house children with an emergency need. Vaya currently has 38 crisis beds that are available to its members and is actively working to add 20 additional crisis beds over the next three months, pending the Division of Health Service Regulation's approval. Vaya is working with other LME/MCOs and benchmarks to develop a standardized referral process for all residential providers. Vaya increased the TFC rate from \$97.22 to \$175 per day, and emergency respite to \$360 per day.

Opioid Settlement Funds

This is a historic \$26 billion agreement that resolved litigation over the role of four companies in fueling the opioid epidemic. A memorandum of agreement between the State of North Carolina and its local governments directs how opioid settlement funds are distributed and utilized. This is a complicated process and schedule of payments that will last through the year 2038. Before spending these funds, every county and municipality must select which opioid mitigation strategies to fund. Local governments are required to file annual financial reports and impact information.

Option A (High-impact Opioid Abatement Strategies) includes the following components: collaborative strategic planning, evidenced-based addiction treatment, recovery support services, recovery housing support, employment-related services, early intervention, naloxone distribution, post-overdose response team, syringe service program, criminal justice diversion programs, addiction treatment for incarcerated persons, and reentry programs.

Option B (Additional Opioid Remediation Activities) includes the following components: collaborative strategic planning with a diverse array of stakeholders, an array of core abatement strategies (26 strategies in 9 categories), and an expanded array of evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or strategies. These evidence-based or evidence-informed programs and strategies expand high-impact and core abatement strategies, offer more specific funding opportunities to implement high-impact and core abatement strategies, include special populations, and expand prevention, education training, planning, coordination, and research opportunities. A local government must formally authorize the expenditure in its budget or through a separate resolution or ordinance.

Ms. Garner then described a few principles to consider for the use of the settlement funds. These funds should be spent with the understanding that it will save lives. Local governments should use evidence-based strategies to guide the spending of these funds and invest in youth and family prevention. There should be a focus on racial equity, and the development of a fair and transparent process for deciding where this money will go. The root causes of opioid deaths are diverse; however, a lack of economic opportunity, financial and housing instability, persistent physical and emotional pain, and untreated mental illness problems are all common factors that lead to opioid deaths. There should be a focus on access and retention in medication-assisted treatment, and the knowledge that the opioid crisis is now considered polysubstance.

Update on Local Providers for Child Support

Blue Ridge Health and Meridian are comprehensive providers of services to children who have Medicaid. Family Centered Treatment, administered by the SPARC Foundation, has been employed in Transylvania County to address an entire family's use of drugs going on within the home. There is one clinician in Transylvania County who is serving two families, and two more families will be served soon after a referral from the Department of Social Services. The group is looking to start serving a fifth family and to hire another clinician for the area. Youth Villages is another organization operating in Transylvania County that works with all the organizations that partner with the Department of Social Service to provide clinical assessments and the route of treatment. These assessments are administered at DSS where they determine the best treatment for the child assessed. They work to keep families together but also serve children who are separated from their families.

Other Updates

Vaya Health recently completed training on September 30 at Brevard High School in conjunction with TC Strong. Vaya Health is working to ensure that several groups and organizations, such as the Health Department, the Sheriff's Office, and charitable organizations, have access to Narcan to combat an overdose if they encounter one. Medicaid Transformation turned Vaya Health and other organizations into a tailored plan, which means they will provide whole-person care. Currently, they are serving those with the highest needs, but the State is now requiring that they take on more. Ms. Garner will provide a future update to the Board of Commissioners when their new responsibilities take effect. This concluded her presentation.

Chairman Chappell called for comments and questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Chapman referenced the staffing crisis that Vaya Health and other community providers are experiencing and asked if there was a common reason for people not wanting to work in this field. Ms. Garner said there does not seem to be one reason people are not working in this field anymore, but Vaya Health is researching the issue to gain a clearer picture. She acknowledged that it is a challenging field to work in and the pay is not great, which has been historically true for this field.

Commissioner McCall asked if in-person care in the homes of clients had increased since the state of emergency had been lifted at the end of the pandemic or whether there was reluctance on the part of the providers and the clients. Ms. Garner shared that clients have not been reluctant to have providers in their homes because they have been waiting a long time for treatment.

Commissioner Guice said the challenges have remained throughout the pandemic and these providers must be able to return to these homes and deliver much-needed treatment. While telehealth has helped to deal with the negative effects of the pandemic, Commissioner Guice did not feel that telehealth provided the level of care needed by these clients. He stated that the Legislature has contributed to the issue for not appropriating adequate funding. He was also wary about using the opioid settlement funds towards a regional clinic as he believes that this facility will be placed in a county far away from Transylvania County and those who need the facility will not be able to secure transportation to take advantage of the services.

UPDATE FROM BLUE RIDGE HEALTH AND MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Chairman Chappell shared that in early October, County Commissioner Teresa McCall and former County Commissioner Page Lemel met with representatives from Vaya Health, Blue Ridge Health, and Meridian Behavioral Health to share their concerns about gaps in coverage in Transylvania County. As a follow-up to those discussions, they asked representatives to give an update to the Board and the public on the available services and how they can access those services.

Dr. Richard Hudspeth and Dr. Don Buckner presented on behalf of Blue Ridge Health and Meridian Behavioral Health Services.

Blue Ridge Health – Service Area

Blue Ridge Health is a community health center operating 55 clinics in 10 counties in Western North Carolina that are either Blue Ridge Health clinics, Meridian clinics, or School-Based Health Centers. These counties are Polk, Rutherford, Henderson, Transylvania, Buncombe, Haywood, Jackson, Swain, Macon, and Cherokee. There are 33 School-Based Health Centers in the counties of Buncombe, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, and Transylvania.

Blue Ridge Health – Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)

Blue Ridge Health, as do all nonprofit healthcare entities in Western North Carolina, receives support with grants from either federal, state or other grantors. As an FQHC, Blue Ridge Health applies competitively for federal funding every three years in the form of a 330 grant, which is authorized under the Public Health Services Act. Because Blue Ridge Health is an FQHC, it is a part of the largest network of primary care providers in the nation. As of today, 20% of Blue Ridge Health's patient costs are covered by federal grants.

Blue Ridge Health – Services Overview

Blue Ridge Health either provides onsite or partners with local providers and organizations to ensure the following services are available: comprehensive primary care, laboratory and radiology services, preventative services, OB services (prenatal, intrapartum, perinatal), cancer and other disease screening, pediatrics (well-checks and immunizations), family planning, full-range dental (preventative, restorative, endodontics, and crowns), behavioral health (psychiatry, addiction services, educational counseling), School-Based Health Services, pharmacy, nutrition, 24/7 access to care, patient navigation (interpreting case management), outreach, health education, transportation, and minor injuries. All these services are required by the federal 330 grant. They must be provided directly or through a contract with a local provider. Blue Ridge Health stands out by directly providing most services at each site. The main sites provide all services.

Blue Ridge Health/Meridian Behavioral Health Services

Both Blue Ridge Health and Meridian have a variety of services that are not necessarily offered in Transylvania County, including the following: offender services, peers assisting in community engagement (PACE), psychological rehabilitation program, recovery education centers, suboxone clinic, substance abuse intensive outpatient program, and supported employment. Services for children and adolescents include the following: day treatment, intensive in-home treatment, outpatient therapy, in-school counseling, and family-centered psychiatry. Services for adults include the following: domestic violence intervention programs, social services assessments medication management, psycho-social rehabilitation, recovery education centers, sexual abuse intervention, suboxone clinics, intensive substance abuse programs, supported employment, community treatment and recovery support teams, and jail programs.

Expansion into the Community

There are 33 School-Based Health Centers in Western North Carolina, and they serve eight of the nine public schools in Transylvania County.

Blue Ridge Health Update

During the past two years, Blue Ridge Health and Meridian have struggled with retaining and recruiting staff. In many programs, Meridian has lost 50% of its staff. Although there is such a great staffing shortage, client encounters have remained at full capacity due to the people who remain working harder. There is a big push to innovate with new technologies like telehealth, but this change is hard for both clients and staff. The goal is for clients to have seamless medical, behavioral, and dental care and access to low-cost medications. Blue Ridge Health and Meridian are ahead of the push to defragment Medicaid; however, this process takes effort, time, resources, people, and community understanding to make it a reality. This concluded the presentation.

Chairman Chappell called for comments and questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Chapman asked how student referrals in schools are made. Dr. Hudspeth responded that parents, teachers, and school nurses make referrals. The students may also make self-referrals.

Commissioner Chapman asked how the organization measures success and whether they are making a difference. Dr. Hudspeth stated that measuring success is challenging particularly with the small number of patients they serve. Dr. Hudspeth pointed out that it is easier to see the metrics in traditional health services than in behavioral health. Traditional health metrics are supported by the federal government through comprehensive survey data collection, while behavioral health requires following a patient's behavioral health condition for many years. Looking at aggregate statistics across the country, School-Based Behavioral Health Services are effective in keeping kids in school, keeping parents at work, and helping kids get better overall. Several evidence-based programs have proven effective with violence prevention programs.

Commissioner Chapman asked if there were any incentives to help keep kids in the program. Dr. Hudspeth pointed out that for a child to be served by a School-Based Health Center, the parent's consent is required. The families are very much involved, except in special circumstances in which the child comes to them without the parent's knowledge. A child could theoretically refuse to come in, but once they come in, they are going to receive the help that makes them want to return.

Commissioner Guice emphasized how important it was to have this service available for kids as it could set the tone and change the direction of their entire lives. He also expressed concerns about the staffing challenges, and he was interested in learning why. He also stressed the importance of relationship-building with local colleges and community colleges in attracting a prospective workforce.

Commissioner McCall asked whether the professionals who worked in those schools had a dedicated spot for them or whether they were called out to the school on a case-by-case basis. Dr. Buckner responded that they had a dedicated spot in the schools for them to work and that they should be there regularly for the students to visit when needed. Dr. Hudspeth noted that sometimes due to staffing limitations, a single person will be covering multiple schools, but that telehealth was always available and that a crisis would take precedence and require a swift response.

Commissioner McCall asked whether they had seen an increase in issues in kids related to the pandemic, and both responded that they had. Commissioner McCall said it was important to note how devastating this pandemic has been to the public, not only in how the virus infected, spread, and killed people but also how the shutdown and isolation affected the collective psyche of the populace. Dr. Buckner pointed out that our society is just now beginning to see the impact of the pandemic on mental health and that it will be studied for years into the future.

Commissioner Dalton asked a clarifying question about which of the nine schools did not have a health center. Brevard Elementary School is the one school that does not have a health center. Commissioner Dalton then asked if they had seen an influx of new patients due to the vacuum that has been created by our local health system. Dr. Hudspeth said they have seen some, but many have stayed.

Chairman Chappell thanked them for the presentation and for providing much-needed services in the community and he invited them to return for periodic presentations in the future.

HISTORICAL PRESENTATION OF COURTHOUSE PROJECT

The purpose of this presentation was to build off the capital workshop that the Board of Commissioners had earlier this year.

Transylvania County Courthouse Challenges

The discussion around courthouse needs and additional court space began in 2005. During each study and assessment of the courthouse, the same challenges arose when considering what the building lacks and what a new courthouse would need. One component that is needed is ADA access for the public, jurors, and court staff. Security is another concern that needs to be addressed, due to the small, shared hallways and access to the stairwell, the pathways of inmates intermingling with the public and court officials, and the lack of secure space for judges. Parking availability for the public and staff has also been identified as a concern. Space is also an issue, as there needs to be more room for jury deliberation, access to public files, and another functional courtroom. There are also some concerns related to the inmates because Transylvania County is liable for inmates when they are in the County's care, custody, and control. Currently, inmates pass through the same hallways as the public and staff. This is unsafe for everyone. Inmates are often held in the hallways in the potential view of the public and the jurors, which could lead to a mistrial. There is limited access to confidential counsel while they are in custody at the courthouse.

Transylvania County Courthouse Space Needs Historical Overview

An initial survey was conducted in 2005 to assess the facility's space needs. It evaluated the population and court filing projections from that point forward. This resulted in the removal of the Register of Deeds, Tax Office, and Probation and Parole from the courthouse to maximize the use of the existing space. The Register of Deeds and Tax office moved into its current building and Probation and Parole Office moved into leased space. Court space was soon after identified as the direst need. There was also discussion about moving the County Administration to its current location to make space for the court in the old location adjacent to the courthouse as an interim solution. The population projections from that time fell short by 3,000 to 4,000 people in 2020 according to the most recent census of population demographics of Transylvania County.

The 2005 facility space needs survey recommended a new courthouse building for \$19.6 million and a parking deck at a cost of nearly \$4 million. This would have included a three-level building above grade on the existing site, a parking deck to the north, and would have required the closure of Probart Street. Building offsite would have reduced the parking cost by \$500,000 at that time. Some ideas to reuse the old courthouse included a museum, lease for business/law offices, chamber/visitor's center, nonprofit hub leased space, and reuse for court offices if built on site.

In 2005, the County purchased property along Morris Road for a new Public Safety Facility. In 2006, the Board decided to delay the decision to build a new courthouse for 10-15 years and instead focused on alleviating space issues with relocation efforts. In 2007, the Rural Courts Commission report was published which brought some changes to the courthouse, including security improvements (single point of entry and closing the Main Street entrance to the public), ADA improvements, and the consideration of relocating non-court functions out of the building. At this time, the Board of Commissioners decided to study new courthouse options.

In 2008, the Board of Commissioners appointed two citizen-led committees to research aspects of the courthouse project. Committee A was tasked with studying the impact of moving the courthouse from

downtown. They conducted surveys and held public hearings, and the results showed that most people were not concerned that moving the courthouse out of downtown would have a negative impact. Committee B was appointed to study the cost of a new or expanded courthouse with Moseley Architects. The recommended action from this committee was a building located adjacent to the Public Safety Facility due to the cost and logistics of construction. The cost was estimated at \$29 million for 81,000 sq. ft. The alternate solution of remaining downtown and renovating the existing building was projected at \$38.6 million for 90,000 sq. ft.

In 2009, there was a major economic downturn, and at that time the Board of Commissioners discussed splitting civil and criminal courts. This action was opposed by law enforcement officers, the judicial branch, and the legal community. In 2011, the Board approved the relocation of the Tax Office and Register of Deeds. In 2012, the old courthouse was renovated to add space for the District Attorney and the Clerk of Superior Court, and creation of an office for the Public Defender. This did not address the security and ADA issues identified by the Rural Courts Commission report. In 2013, the results of a study showed a proposal cost of \$11.1 million for building at the existing location to meet a 15-year need. This would not include parking and there was concern about the architectural impact. In 2014, the Board of Commissioners authorized the move of County Administration to its current location. At this time, there was an exploration of the option to renovate the old Administration building to give a mid-term solution to the courthouse problem.

In 2015, Dean and Associates evaluated the old courthouse structure due to an incident where concrete fell through the ceiling. After this event, the Board approved the repair of the structure. That same year, the Board received results from a 2014 study that updated the 2008 study based on the economic downturn. The recommended square footage that was needed for the project was reduced from 80,000 sq. ft. to 60,000 sq. ft. This left three location options to consider: the Public Safety Site with 81,000 sq. ft. (including an unfinished shell) at \$29.9 million, expanding at the existing site for \$11.1 million (without an additional parking deck for \$4 million), or the Public Safety Site for 61,000 sq. ft. for \$20.9 million. The Board of Commissioners was also evaluating neighboring sites downtown for purchase, such as the lot down the hill from the current facility but it was under litigation at the time and was unavailable for purchase.

In 2016, the Board of Commissioners explored a joint project with Brevard College. During this time, the litigation ended with the College owning the parcel downhill from the courthouse. The Board of Commissioners was concerned about Brevard College's desire to lease and not sell the property. In 2017, the Board of Commissioners voted to pursue a 90,000 sq. ft. building on Morris Road to include a third-floor unfinished shell for \$31 million and securing a USDA loan at 40 years at 3.5%. The Board discussed an FY 2019 budget proposal to enact a 2.5 cents tax increase to pay for the project. However, the Board of Commissioners stopped work on the courthouse after public turnout opposed both moving the courthouse from downtown and the tax increase to pay for it. In FY 2020, a \$1.2 million annual collection for the courthouse project was added to the budget.

In 2019, the Board of Commissioners hired an architect to explore more downtown sites. In 2020, the Board and staff evaluated four sites: Morris Road for \$36.7 million, South Broad Street for \$43.2 million which includes the cost of relocating the New Adventure Learning Center, the existing site with a full 90,000 sq. ft. building footprint at \$40.8 million with a parking deck included, and a site downhill from the courthouse for \$39.2 million with a parking deck. At this time, the COVID-19 pandemic caused shutdowns and volatility in the market and the sales tax revenue. In 2021, the second courtroom ceased to be used by the judicial branch in the existing structure. The Board and staff evaluated the old BI-LO building, the old Kmart building, the American Legion, the Masonic Lodge, and the Board of Elections conference room to determine whether any of them could serve as an interim solution to the courtroom deficiency. The Board of Commissioners selected the Elections Center conference room and provided additional funding for security, including a mobile metal detector.

In 2022, County staff engaged with the stakeholders on space needs and a review of the last study. They removed the property down the hill from the courthouse from consideration. Staff then researched the sizes of courthouses with comparable dockets which reduced the footprint needed to 45,000 sq. ft and an estimated

cost of \$25 million with a design that included expansion capabilities. Staff ascertained the costs of building a new facility at the three options: Morris Road. at \$44 million, existing downtown property at \$56.8 million, and the South Broad Street site at \$53 million.

The Manager presented three different renderings of the new courthouse and how they would be located on the three sites. The renderings were not a complete architectural design of the building but rather demonstrated the base footprint of the building on surrounding preexisting structures to give the public and the Board of Commissioners an idea of what each option would look like. At the Morris Road location, the courthouse would be connected to the Public Safety Facility so that inmates can be safely and efficiently transported to and from the detention center and courthouse. This option would also include rerouting the entrance to County maintenance around the new courthouse facility. The South Broad site would have frontage on South Broad Street. This site option would have parking areas both behind the courthouse along Morgan Street and between the courthouse and the library. The downtown option would have a new structure to the right of the existing courthouse behind the row of stores along Main Street and would have a parking deck on the other side of Gaston Street. This option would involve additional land purchases.

The tax rate levied to pay for a new courthouse would depend on the option that the Board of Commissioners selects. Currently, the Board is setting aside \$1.2 million from the current annual tax collection, and this would buy approximately \$26 million at 3.5% over 40 years through annual payments. Limited obligation bond payments would be higher on the front end with a term of up to 20 years. \$14 million at 15 years for 3.5% could be acquired by a traditional loan paid back annually. The Board would also need to factor in an increase in annual operational costs, such as personnel for security, information technology, housekeeping, maintenance, utilities, and supplies, and determine whether they would continue to operate the current courthouse as a County facility.

There is currently enough cash in the assigned fund balance to pursue architectural fees. The estimated time to complete the construction once authorized is approximately three years. To go out to requests for qualifications for an architect, the Board of Commissioners would need to decide on the location, the footprint of the facility, and the footprint of any additions planned for the future. The design process would take approximately one year and would produce more detail on exactly what the layout, look, and space allocation would be and refine the construction costs.

The Manager invited the public to view the special projects tab on the County website to remain apprised of the courthouse project and other projects going on. This concluded her presentation.

Chairman Chappell reiterated that this presentation was simply a recap of the history and steps the Board of Commissioners has taken up to this point. He called for questions and comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Chapman shared that the Commissioners will be considering options to either lease, sell, or reuse the current facility once vacated, and he suggested that the City of Brevard might be interested in occupying the facility. He suggested another option might be to consider moving the County Administration, Tax Office, and Register of Deeds into the courthouse.

Commissioner McCall said that it was important to discuss the use of the old facility early on in the project. As a historic structure, she felt strongly that it should be preserved. The old courthouse is a focal point for Transylvania County, and it should not be haphazardly turned into something that would displease the public. Commissioner McCall pointed out that the Board has not closely considered the costs of having to build a new facility for the New Adventure Learning Center which she felt would be substantial. She looked forward to further discussion and noted that a referendum in 2024 to add sales tax revenue will be crucial to continuing this project.

Chairman Chappell reported that the Board will discuss the referendum at an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Chapman encouraged the Board to move as quickly as possible on this project, noting that nothing can be done to the old facility until a decision is made on the location of the new facility.

Commissioner Guice emphasized that the Board needed to consider the additional costs of moving facilities and renovating the existing courthouse. He also said the location of the new courthouse will be very important to the public.

Commissioner Guice asked whether the new plan for the Morris Road option was to connect the new courthouse to the Public Safety Facility, as opposed to a 2014 plan that constructed a tunnel between buildings. The Manager said this change was made due to issues at the existing lot over stormwater constraints.

Commissioner Guice asked whether the Morris Road option would impact any future expansion of the detention center. The Manager replied that it would not.

Commissioner Guice asked whether any consideration had been given to purchasing land behind the facility to ensure direct road access for the maintenance building. The Manager said there had not been any discussion about this but that she could pursue it if that is the direction the Board of Commissioners wanted to take.

Commissioner Dalton reminded the Board and staff about the soil issues the County incurred when constructing the Sylvan Valley Industrial Building and to keep that at the forefront of their minds when this project commences.

Chairman Chappell thanked the Commissioners for their comments and stated that this will be an ongoing item of discussion at future meetings.

APPOINTMENTS

PLANNING BOARD

There is a vacancy on the Planning Board due to a resignation. The Clerk to the Board advertised seeking applications with a deadline of October 15. There are applications on file and the advertisement yielded one additional application. The recommendation is to appoint an applicant to fill a vacancy on the Planning Board.

Commissioner Dalton nominated and moved to appoint Fred Morse to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Chapman. There were no further nominations. The motion was unanimously approved.

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

There is a vacancy on the Transylvania Council on Aging due to a resignation. The Clerk to the Board has one qualified application on file.

Commissioner Chapman moved to appoint Debra Yunker to fill the vacancy on the Transylvania County Council on Aging, seconded by Commissioner Guice and unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

There is a vacancy on the Transportation Advisory Committee due to a resignation in May. The Clerk to the Board advertised and received one application.

Commissioner Guice moved to appoint Harold Paxton to fill the vacancy on the Transportation Advisory Committee, seconded by Commissioner Dalton and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

CONTRACT WITH VYVE INTERNET SERVICES FOR RECIPROCAL USE OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Information Technology Director Nathanael Carver presented this item to the Board. He reported that Vyve approached the County's Information Technology and Communications departments about housing their equipment in the County's Data Center in exchange for discounted internet services that would benefit the County and its citizens. They worked with Vyve to determine where the County would benefit the most from their services and agreed to the following, pending the Board's approval:

- Vyve to provide the County with 5 gigs of internet service in the Data Center, a good portion of which would be dedicated to the County's public WIFI system. This connection will also allow the Data Center to have a secondary connection going through the upper end of the County.
- Vyve to provide 500M of internet service at Animal Services and the Quebec EMS Station resulting in an upgrade to both locations from cable internet to fiber, while also allowing visibility of the security cameras by the 9-1-1 center.
- Vyve to provide 200M of internet service at the Rosman Community Park which allows the County to provide public Wi-Fi at the park and have the visibility of security cameras by the 9-1-1 center.

If approved, the County would pay \$200 per month over 120 months beginning July 1, 2023. Vyve intends to cover the \$75,000 installation fees. Mr. Carver recommended the Board approve the agreement between Vyve Internet Services and Transylvania County and authorize the execution of the agreement to ensure resiliency, provide a quality internet connection, improve security, and address the need for additional public Wi-Fi access.

Todd Westmoreland, a representative from Vyve spoke briefly about the recommended partnership, noting that Vyve is a new privately funded company in the area primarily focused on providing internet services to businesses. They are expanding from Forest City into the area and looking to proactively build infrastructure along the way.

Commissioner Chapman moved to approve the agreement between Vyve Internet Services and Transylvania County and authorized the execution of the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Dalton and approved unanimously.

Chairman Chappell called for a 10-minute recess. The Board reconvened the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

AMENDMENT TO COUNTY RESOLUTION 35-2021 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TCTDA)

Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority (TCTDA) Executive Director Clark Lovelace presented this item. He reported that he has been working alongside TCTDA Chair Layton Parker to adhere to the new elements of County Resolution 35-2021 which has involved conversations and input from the County's legal counsel, County Manager, and Finance Director. Specifically, there has been considerable conversation about the most efficient way to handle marketing contracts, often media buys of TV, radio, print, digital, etc., that are routine marketing expenditures covered in the annual marketing plan while following the intent of the resolution.

Currently, all contracts require approval from legal counsel, pre-audit from the Finance Officer, verification of adherence to the resolution by the County Manager, and approval from the TCTDA Chair indicating that the Authority Board has approved it. Contracts that are \$50,000 and above require a review by the County Commissioners. The TCTDA proposes allowing contracts whose expenditure is covered in the annual marketing plan, which has been approved by the TCTDA, to be considered as having already been approved by the TCTDA. All other elements of the approval process will remain. This would save up to three weeks of waiting for the Authority Board approval at their next monthly meeting on contracts that already have legal,

finance, County Manager, and Authority Chair approval, and already have Authority Board approval via the approved annual marketing plan. The following verbiage was provided by attorney Patrick Scott and supported by the Authority Board Chair and County Manager to amend County Resolution 35-2021.

"14.a.1. For the purposes of this provision, contracts which arise from the Authority Board approved annual marketing plan shall be deemed "approved by the Authority Board" and do not require subsequent approval by the Authority Board, but still require approval by the Finance Officer and Transylvania County Manager".

Commissioner Chapman moved to add the following as a subpart to include after 14.a of County Resolution 35-2021 to resolve this - "14.a.1. For the purposes of this provision, contracts which arise from the Authority Board approved annual marketing plan shall be deemed "approved by the Authority Board" and do not require subsequent approval by the Authority Board, but still require approval by the Finance Officer and Transylvania County Manager", seconded by Commissioner Dalton, and unanimously approved.

TCTDA CONTRACT WITH BP SOLUTIONS GROUP

Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority (TCTDA) Executive Director Clark Lovelace presented this item. The TCTDA's marketing partner agency, Market Connections, coordinates the production of the Adventure Guide. The price of paper and printing in general have increased dramatically over the last two years. TCTDA and Marketing Connections considered multiple vendors. BP Solutions was the most efficient and cost-effective when considering paper quality and the ability to store and ship directly from their warehouse and they have used this same vendor for years. The County Attorney, County Manager, and Finance Director have reviewed and approved the final version of the contract.

Commissioner Dalton moved to approve the proposed contract as tourism-related and appropriate for the TCTDA to enter into, seconded by Commissioner Guice, and unanimously approved.

FY 2022 - AMENDMENT TO AUDIT CONTRACT WITH MARTIN STARNES & ASSOCIATES

Finance Director Jonathan Griffin presented this item. Pursuant to N.C.G.S § 159-13, the contract to audit the accounts of a local government is subject to the approval of the governing board. Mr. Griffin reported that the Finance Office requires additional time to complete the audit process and therefore needs to extend the due date of the audit contract.

He cited the following reasons for the delay of the audit completion:

- GASB 87 is a significant project that has required setting up and deploying new software solutions and assessing all the County's contracts to ensure an accurate assessment of the County's financial standing. Any contract that includes the use of physical property, which means everything from office space for Probation and Parole to a postage machine, must be reviewed and presented.
- The Finance Office began engaging County departments, agencies, and offices about the new lease rules beginning April 1, 2022; however, County departments were still gathering and submitting documents to the Finance Office as of September 30, 2022.
- Actuary Reports: The County is required to have two reports prepared by licensed actuaries each year that assess the County's liabilities related to retiree health care and law enforcement pensions. Our consultant was not able to deliver those reports back to the County until September 28th, 2022. The Finance Director must review these reports for accuracy before Martin Starnes audits these reports.

Additionally, as the Tourism Development Authority issues financial statements and is audited separately from the County (though both audits are done by Martin Starnes), the TCTDA audit must be completed first and those final figures are rolled into the County audit. This audit was complete but not finalized as of October 17.

Currently, the County has submitted 92% of the information Martin Starnes needs to complete the audit but the County will not be able to meet the October 31 deadline set by the Local Government Commission. At this time, the Finance Office believes it will be able to complete an annual report earlier than January 31, 2023, but is requesting a longer deadline to give some room to work around holidays. Mr. Griffin pointed out there are no repercussions at this time for not meeting the deadline.

Commissioner Dalton moved to approve the contract extension with an end date of January 31, 2023, seconded by Commissioner McCall and unanimously approved.

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT - REVISION #1

Finance Director Jonathan Griffin presented this item. He reported that each year, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services allocates a grant to each local government regional council. The Land of Sky Regional Council assists Transylvania County and as such, the Board of Commissioners vests funding decisions in the Transylvania County Council on Aging. At its May 2022 meeting, it lacked a quorum to proceed with making a recommendation, but there was consensus on not allocating the full amount of the block grant up front and instead holding some funds in reserve to allocate toward adult day programs if a local option became available. Staff brought that consensus to the Board of Commissioners and implemented it.

The TCCOA and staff have estimated that there will not be a local option available that would be eligible for these resources until next year. Therefore, it is reasonable to proceed with finalizing the numbers for the remainder of the year.

The recommended funding plan allocates the remaining funding to MountainCare for \$75,334 for Adult Day services and to Pisgah Legal for \$5,323 for legal services. A table summarizing the recommended changes in total funding is below - reimbursement rates will not be changed by this, only the total pool of funds eligible for reimbursement:

HCCBG Service	Annual Allocation (Before Tonight)	Annual Allocation (After Tonight)
Adult Day Transportation	\$10,206	\$40,824
Adult Day Care	\$5,947	\$23,787
Adult Day Health	\$8,958	\$35,834
Legal Assistance	\$1,440	\$6,763

Commissioner Guice moved to approve Revision #1 to the 2023 Home and Community Care Block Grant, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

FY 2023 - Q1 FINANCIAL RESULTS

Finance Director Jonathan Griffin presented the quarterly report of the County's actual financial activity. Quarter 1 reports only a small portion of the property tax levy. Most revenues are recorded in Quarter 2. Mr. Griffin stated that taxes that are collected by the State lag. DMV reports one month behind while the Department of Revenue reports three months behind.

Mr. Griffin displayed a table comparing the revenue expenses and net position between the Quarter 1 data from FY 2023 and FY 2022. 81% of revenue in the general fund is property tax collections. There is an increase in revenues over the prior year, which are primarily variances in property tax collections, occupancy taxes, and other general revenues such as interest on idle funds. Other revenue categories are within budget expectations or historical expectations (25% or similar to the previous year's amounts). There were a couple of exceptions. Public Health revenues are lower, mostly due to the timing around COVID grants. EMS and ambulance revenues are higher due to Medicaid transformation.

Mr. Griffin showed two graphs highlighting the percentage of the highest expenses by department and by function. By department: Education (27%), Sheriff's Office (12%), Transfers (10%), and Emergency Management (8%). By function: Personnel (36%), Education (35%), Other Organizations (6%), and Remittances (3%). Total expenditures are 24% of the budget, which is within 1% of expected levels. The expenditures that exceed 25% are Other Organizations and Nonprofit Agencies (due to the timing around actual payments), Education (due to the timing of monthly payments to Transylvania County Schools), Insurance, Special Projects (Cove Creek AOP), and Recreation programs.

Mr. Griffin then showed a table comparing the revenues, expenses, and net position between the total budgeted amount and actual amounts in the Solid Waste Fund after Quarter 1. The Solid Waste Fund is currently showing a positive result (revenues over expenses), which is primarily due to Woodruff fees being 32% of the budget when they were expected to be at 25%. The convenience center fees are at 20%, which is 5% less than expected.

Mr. Griffin noted that included in the Board of Commissioners agenda packet were additional reports, including reports on life-to-date projects, like water/sewer projects, general capital projects, and education projects. There were also expense revenue reports on non-major funds and simplified balance sheets which showed \$50.7 million cash on hand, \$25.9 million in the general fund, \$629,000 for fire districts, \$4.8 million for water/sewer/landfill, and \$17.4 million for capital projects.

Commissioner McCall moved to accept the quarterly financial report as presented, seconded by Commissioner Chapman, and unanimously approved.

OFFER TO PURCHASE UNSOLD FORECLOSED PROPERTY

The Manager reported that the County received an offer from Morris Jenkins to purchase an unsold foreclosed lot located on King Street comprising .11 acres. The property is a wooded and landlocked lot that borders Mr. Jenkins' property. Mr. Jenkins has offered \$25,000 for the lot and has made the required 5% deposit. The current tax value is listed as \$15,000. The County is currently not receiving any tax revenue from the property. Under State law, any offer to purchase county-owned property must follow the upset bid process. The Board of Commissioners accepted the offer at the October 10 meeting and approved a resolution describing the property, the amount, and the terms of the offer. The resolution also set the terms of the deposit requirement, detailed the upset bid procedures, and set the deadline for accepting or rejecting the final bid.

The upset bid process began on October 13 and closed at 9:00 a.m. on October 24. There were no upset bids received. Staff recommended the Board of Commissioners accept the final offer and direct staff to work with an attorney to transact the transfer of the property to Morris Jenkins.

Commissioner Guice moved to accept the final offer and instruct staff to work with an attorney to transact the property transfer to Morris Jenkins, seconded by Commissioner Dalton and unanimously approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- Pumpkinfest is ongoing this month each weekend at Silvermont and is being hosted by the Friends of Silvermont.
- Congratulations to Parks and Recreation Director Jared Mull for being sworn in as the President of the NC Recreation and Park Association. The 2023 Board Members were installed on Thursday last week during the Association's awards lunch in Greenville, NC.
- October is Fire Safety Month. Remember to have heated units serviced, remove leaf litter and other debris from around your home, check smoke detectors, and make sure your household has a plan of escape and regroup should a fire occur.
- A grand opening was held on Saturday for the new Mary C. Jenkins Community Center on Mills Avenue. Brevard Mayor Maureen Copelof said, "This beautiful space is a tribute to the history of

Brevard's African American community and a precious space where people can connect, grow, and continue to build community connections.”

- All activities currently scheduled for the Commissioners' Chambers and the large conference room in Administration during the day the week of November 7 will be rescheduled in case the spaces are needed for the court.
- Congratulations to Commissioner Chapman for being sworn in to represent District 16 on the Board of Directors of the NC Association of County Commissioners.
- There is an extra week in between meetings. The next Board of Commissioners meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 14 at 5:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Morrow: Mr. Morrow shared that tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. the Co-Ed Theatre will be hosting a showing of *Through Their Eyes* on behalf of the Veterans History Museum.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner McCall gave kudos to the Board of Elections staff for the great job they are doing preparing for the upcoming election. She also congratulated Parks and Recreation Jared Mull for his recent appointment. She acknowledged the increase in the number of recreation programs available to the community and she was appreciative of his work.

Chairman Chappell moved to enter into a closed session per N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body and per N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) (3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged, following a 10-minute recess, seconded by Commissioner Dalton and unanimously carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Per N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body and per N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) (3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, a closed session was entered into at 8:40 p.m.

Present for the first two closed sessions were Chairman Chappell, Commissioners Chapman, Dalton, Guice, and McCall, County Manager Jaime Laughter, County Attorney Julie Hooten, Transylvania Economic Alliance Executive Director Burton Hodges, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan. Present for the last closed session were Chairman Chappell, Commissioners Chapman, Dalton, Guice, and McCall, County Manager Jaime Laughter, County Attorney Julie Hooten, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

The Board of Commissioners received information regarding potential economic development projects and consulted with the attorney on matters of attorney-client privilege, and then directed staff on how to proceed.

Chairman Chappell moved to leave the closed session, seconded by Commissioner Dalton and unanimously carried.

OPEN SESSION

Chairman Chappell moved to seal the minutes of the closed sessions until such time that opening the minutes does not frustrate the purpose of the closed sessions, seconded by Commissioner Dalton and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Chairman Chappell moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Dalton and unanimously carried.**

Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board