

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 26, 2009 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, January 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Transylvania County Courthouse.

Commissioners present were Lynn Bullock, Chairman Jason Chappell, Mike Hawkins, Daryle Hogsed and Vice-Chairman Kelvin Phillips. Also present were County Manager Artie Wilson, County Attorney Curtis Potter and Clerk to the Board Trisha McLeod.

Media: *Transylvania Times* – Mark Todd

There were approximately 30 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason Chappell presiding called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

WELCOME

Chairman Chappell welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the members of the audience for participating in their County government.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

The Manager reported on the Agenda modifications. He requested to add two items under New Business: Item D Grant Application Clean Water Management Trust Fund and Item E Potential Department of Transportation Projects for Federal Economic Stimulus/Recovery Plan. The Manager's Report was moved to Item F under New Business.

Commissioner Phillips moved to approve the revised Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The Minutes of the January 6, 2009 Joint Meeting with the City of Brevard were approved.

FACILITIES USE REQUESTS

The use of the parking lot on South Broad Street by the Transylvania Tailgate Market from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from April through October and from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays in November and December was approved.

The use of the Courthouse gazebo by the Transylvania Heritage Coalition to conduct Old Time Street Dances from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays from June 30, 2009 to August 18, 2009 was approved.

DISCOVERY AND RELEASE REPORT

The Discovery and Release Reports for November and December 2008 were approved.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONSRESOLUTION 02-09 IN APPRECIATION OF DONNA STOUT AND THE WHITE SQUIRREL SHOPPE

Donna Stout, owner of the White Squirrel Shoppe, has provided the Christmas decorations for the Transylvania County Courthouse for 10 years. The Board recognized and thanked Ms. Stout for her generosity with the presentation of a resolution. Ms. Stout was unable to attend the meeting so two of her staff accepted the resolution and spoke on her behalf.

Commissioner Bullock moved to approve Resolution 02-09 In Appreciation of Donna Stout and the White Squirrel Shoppe, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

(Resolution 02-09 In Appreciation of Donna Stout and the White Squirrel Shoppe is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.)

RESOLUTION 05-09 IN HONOR OF CHIEF PROBATION/PAROLE OFFICER W. DAVID GUICE

Chief Probation/Parole Officer and former County Commissioner David Guice will retire from the State of North Carolina effective February 1, 2009 where he has served 30 years with the Department of Correction. Commissioners recognized Mr. Guice for his many years of service to the citizens of North Carolina. The resolution was presented to him at his retirement luncheon on January 23, 2009.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve Resolution 05-09 In Honor of Chief Probation/Parole Officer W. David Guice, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously approved.

(Resolution 05-09 In Honor of Chief Probation/Parole Officer W. David Guice is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.)

ACCREDITATION PROCESS FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Health Director Steve Smith spoke about the accreditation process. He explained there are 148 activities involved, some of which will be brought forth to Commissioners for their approval. His staff is looking forward to this process.

Commissioner Hawkins asked about the length of the process. Mr. Smith explained this is the first year the Health Department has been involved. The Health Department will be on a four year cycle.

Commissioner Hogsed thanked Mr. Smith and his staff for the time they have spent on this process.

APPOINTMENTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Commissioner Hogsed nominated and moved to appoint Jon Montague-Clouse, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins. The motion failed by a vote of 1 to 4.

Commissioner Phillips nominated and moved to appoint Bill Ragland, seconded by Chairman Chappell. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1.

Commissioner Hawkins nominated and moved to appoint Greg Austin, seconded by Chairman Chappell. The motion failed by a vote of 2 to 3.

Commissioner Bullock moved to reappoint James Robert "Bo" McCall and Madrid Zimmerman to additional terms, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

PLANNING BOARD

Commissioner Hogsed nominated and moved to appoint Jay Kaiser, seconded by Chairman Chappell. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1.

Commissioner Bullock nominated and moved to appoint Robert Twomey, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed. The motion failed by a vote of 2 to 3.

Commissioner Phillips nominated and moved to appoint Mark Tooley, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1.

Commissioner Hawkins nominated and moved to appoint Susan Miller. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to reappoint Mason Sexton as the Chairman of the Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Bullock and unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE INITIATIVE

Commissioner Phillips moved to reappoint Harold Paxton to an additional term, seconded by Commissioner Bullock and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Hogsed nominated and moved to appoint Susan Miller, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON THE 2006-2009 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

Tony Morrow, Chairman of the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB), provided an update on the progress of the 2006-2009 Economic Development Strategic Plan. He reported that in addition to the Strategic Plan Update Objectives and Tasks, the County also completed the requirements for the AdvangeWest Certified Entrepreneurial Community Program (CEC) with support of the Senior Resource Network and Blue Ridge Community College. Also the Small Business Incubator was completed and is ready to assist perspective businesses. Because of the current economic concerns, the EDAB recommends that the County begin the process of creating its next Economic Development Strategic Plan early in 2009 rather than waiting until later in the year as was the original intent.

Specific areas the Plan should focus on include are:

- Working with the Heart of Brevard and the Chamber of Commerce to better inventory existing businesses and identify ways to assist them.
- Reevaluating the County's top target markets for business and industry recruitment.
- Expanding access to high-speed broadband that is competitive with surrounding areas is critical for businesses.
- Developing "product" and having it available to help attract new business to the County or to provide existing businesses new opportunities to grow. The Transylvania Partnership should be commended for their efforts during 2008 to identify several parcels that might be appropriate for a Certified Industrial Site.
- Evaluating the County's current policies for water/sewer extension and incentives.
- Focusing on helping the County's businesses and citizens become more aware of ways to reduce their energy dependency while utilizing "green" practices.

Mr. Morrow stated that the Planning and Economic Development staff and the EDAB are concerned that a new economic development strategic plan should not become the main focus of their work. Creating a new economic development just to create a "plan" is not the answer. They believe the work of Bill Layton and the Senior Resource Network to better identify and communicate with existing businesses will significantly help the County obtain a better understanding of where it needs to focus its efforts. The EDAB

should also be able to take advantage of the comments the Planning Board received from the eight community meetings they held throughout the County this past summer.

Commissioner Hogsed thanked Mr. Morrow for his report and for serving as Chairman of the EDAB. He asked what the EDAB's plans are for helping businesses and citizens reduce their energy dependence and utilize "green" practices. Mr. Morrow responded that the EDAB identified this area to help businesses and citizens reduce costs but they have no specifics at this time. Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows commented that Gaia Herbs is an example of a "green" industry they would want to try to attract to Transylvania County. He also noted that Watauga County has a program where they work with businesses in the building and permit stage to help find ways to save energy.

Commissioner Hawkins asked about the time frame for completing the Plan. Mr. Morrow said the EDAB should have a Plan for the Board's review in approximately six months.

UPDATE OF ECONOMIC SITUATION AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING PAY INCREASES

In October staff presented Commissioners with estimates on how the downturn in the economy affected the current budget. As a result, Commissioners approved approximately \$850,000 in budget reductions. The Manager reported that staff has continued to monitor the situation and it has appeared to worsen. Staff now estimates that revenues will fall approximately \$285,000 below the budget changes made in October. The Manager provided the six month budget projections detailing the major shortfalls. The major impact continues to come from those areas affected by the building industry.

The Manager hopes to offset part of the shortfall as a result of lower fuel costs; however this will not cover the estimated shortfall and other risks that may occur if the State decides to cut funding to such areas as the Health Department and Social Services. Due to the worsening economy and the fact that the County has already withdrawn funds from the Fund Balance for ongoing operational expenses, the Manager recommended no employee salary increases as normally implemented in February of each year. The amount allocated for salary increases is \$326,000 which will make up for the estimated loss in revenues. He noted that the budget still includes \$500,000 in Medicaid Hold Harmless Funds, but with the worsening economy, it is not unlikely that the State would decide to hold those funds. There are several unknown factors that may potentially affect the budget further.

The Manager has already met with Department Heads regarding this matter. His goal is to avoid a reduction in services and possible layoffs. On February 10, 2009 the Board of Commissioners will hold a Planning Session at which staff will provide them with future projections. The Manager further stated that staff may request Commissioners revisit the issue of salary increases later in the year after the revenue and expenditure numbers become clearer, but he does not recommend salary increases at this time.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if the Manager's recommendation will save positions. The Manager said the average cost of an employee with benefits is \$47,000. The annualized cost of the budgeted amount for salary increases is the equivalent to 12 employees. He offered several scenarios to Commissioners. A 1% cost-of-living adjustment plus the pay for performance is equivalent to nine employees. A 1.9% cost-of-living adjustment is equivalent to six employees. The Manager emphasized that his goal is to preserve jobs. He noted that two major factors affecting next year's budget is the carryover from the current year and the new staffing level at the new Public Safety Facility. He recognizes that employees are the County's biggest asset but again his goal is to preserve jobs.

Commissioner Hawkins inquired about the Manager's meeting with Department Heads and how they responded to his recommendation. The Manager said in general Department Heads were in favor of his recommendation in order to avoid layoffs and preserve jobs.

Commissioner Hawkins said the problem with not giving a cost-of-living adjustment or pay for performance increase is that it compounds which makes it painful for employees beyond just this year. On the other hand, it is the kind of choice a lot of businesses have to make these days and he understands the logic, especially if Commissioners are able to revisit the issue in a few months. The Manager added that the data shows the County remains competitive with surrounding counties. Last year Commissioners made a significant investment in County employees with the implementation of the Pay Classification Study.

Commissioner Phillips asked if a loss of personnel or reduction of services would occur if the economy continues to worsen. The Manager said staff is working to avoid both. He noted that in 2002 the Board of Commissioners directed staff to reduce the budget by \$2 million. The FY 2008-09 had a 2% reduction because no inflation was factored in. Staff reduced the budget again an additional 2% in October. At the February 10 Planning Session staff will provide Commissioners with the financial projections for the next few years. Staff will be seeking direction from Commissioners and if there is a reduction in services, staff will need time to plan for that. The Manager's goal is to maintain the current service level and preserve jobs. He is also working with the departments to reduce capital expenditures and extend the life of vehicles, etc.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if there was any opportunity for staff to assist in other departments. The Manager said staff is exploring shifting resources around, specifically with those areas that may be slow or not as busy.

Commissioner Hawkins said it seems that staff has been exceptional in working to reduce their budgets. He commented that if the Board agrees not to give salary increases, he would like the Board to pledge that it will not go back to staff and ask them to do this again. The Board should explore other alternatives first.

Commissioner Bullock discussed the loss of revenue in the State, specifically the loss in sales tax. He also discussed the President's Stimulus Bill which he understands may cost

states and counties monies just to oversee the spending. Also, the Department of Transportation has reduced their workforce significantly and more cuts are planned for February. The County is facing several issues, including how to deal with space needs, etc., but the County should do whatever is needed to preserve jobs and services.

Commissioner Hogsed stated that last year at this time Commissioners were debating the implementation of the Pay Classification Study, and now Commissioners are debating whether or not to give employees a cost-of-living adjustment or a merit increase. Commissioners implemented the Study which made employees competitive. Commissioner Hogsed said the recommendation of no salary increases will negatively affect employees and nullify the new classifications and said there should be other options available. He agreed with Commissioner Bullock that the County is going to have to delay projects, etc.; however he felt there was something that could be done for employees now. Commissioner Hogsed commented that previous Boards through the toughest of times took care of employees and he said he hopes this Board can do the same.

Chairman Chappell said the Board would like to be in a position to give employees a salary increase. The recommendation now is to not implement an increase at this time until the figures are clearer. There are too many uncertainties to implement increases at this time. Chairman Chappell said the Board would be doing a disservice to employees by giving salary increases now and then have to do something drastic in the future if the situation worsens.

Commissioner Hogsed suggested tabling the decision and for Commissioners to have further discussion at their Planning Session and explore other alternatives. He said this will allow time to engage the employees as well. Commissioner Hogsed and the Manager discussed other alternatives, including requiring employees to take a day off each month without pay, which the Manager said is a 4.6% reduction in pay for employees. A reduction in pay would be very difficult for many employees. Commissioner Hogsed said the employees should be more engaged with helping to determine more options. He asked about the impact of a 1% or a .75% increase. He again suggested tabling the decision at this time, exploring other options and making a decision for employees by the end of February.

The Manager discussed the Planning Session scheduled for February 10. The options Commissioners will be looking at for next year and the future are reducing services or finding additional funds. Staff will be expecting direction from Commissioners. He noted that it will take some time to make any major reductions in services. It will be later in the year before staff has a clearer picture of the budget situation. There are other options available as far as pay increases are concerned, such as, if implemented in July, making them retroactive from February. The Manager said he would never make this recommendation if the circumstances were not what they are today. The data indicates that employees remain competitive with surrounding counties. If Commissioners make a decision to implement any sort of increase today, it will carry forward into next year. There are too many uncertainties facing the County at this time.

Commissioner Hawkins said Commissioners are all looking for a way to be fair to staff; however Commissioners also have an obligation to be fair to citizens of the County. Commissioner Hawkins said he would prefer to err on the side of caution and still have the opportunity later on to look at what could be done for employees. Commissioner Hogsed said he also has the interest of the taxpayers in mind. He said he believes there are going to be further spending cuts that will impact the budget less.

Commissioner Phillips said the primary focus should be to preserve jobs. He said he does not like the choices provided, and agreed with Commissioner Hogsed that the Board should revisit this issue. He said it is better to have everyone working than to lay off employees so others can have a pay increase.

Chairman Chappell said it will be difficult to have any revised budget projections in two weeks. This issue should realistically be discussed further during the budget workshops.

Commissioner Hogsed said he wants to see other alternatives at the Planning Session, such as smaller percentage increases. Commissioner Hawkins agreed that the discussion could start at the Planning Session. Commissioner Hogsed added that staff will better understand Commissioners' thoughts and plans for future years at the upcoming Planning Session. Chairman Chappell asked Commissioners to email other alternatives to the Manager. Commissioner Phillips asked Commissioners to be careful that a decision is not made that may cause a tax increase which will negate the salary increase.

After further comments, **Chairman Chappell moved to accept the Manager's recommendation and not implement a pay increase at this time and revisit the item later, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins.** Commissioner Hogsed asked when the Board plans to revisit the issue. The consensus from the Board was that they would revisit the item when the situation improves. **Commissioner Hogsed requested to amend the motion to table the decision on pay increases for County employees.** Commissioner Bullock said there would be some difficulty in taking another look at this matter within a certain time frame. The decision will be based on changes in the economy. Commissioner Hogsed said the original motion states that Commissioners will not institute pay increases and he is asking that the decision be delayed and for the Board to consider other alternatives. The original motion has no promise for revisiting the matter. Commissioner Phillips suggested adding to the motion that Commissioners will revisit as soon as possible or as soon as more information is received. Commissioner Hawkins suggested adding that Commissioners would revisit within 30 days. After further comments, **Chairman Chappell withdrew his motion.**

Commissioner Hogsed made a motion to table the decision on pay increases for County employees with the decision to be made within 30 days, seconded by Commissioner Bullock. Commissioner Hawkins said tabling an item is not the same as taking an action and he would prefer to take action now and if information is found later that contradicts or makes the situation better, then the Board can reverse the action. He further stated that no action makes it difficult for staff and the uncertainty continues.

Commissioner Phillips agreed that staff should not be left in limbo. After further comments, **the motion failed 2 to 3, with Commissioner Hawkins and Phillips and Chairman Chappell voting against.**

Commissioner Hawkins moved to accept the Manager's recommendation for a freeze on pay increases at this point with the understanding that the Board will continue to monitor and revisit as is possible, seconded by Commissioner Bullock. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Commissioner Hogsed voting against.

PROPOSED EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL AMENDMENTS TO THE SUBDIVISION AND BUILDING REGULATIONS

The Transylvania County Planning Board has reviewed the comments made during the Public Hearing on the proposed Erosion and Sedimentation Amendments to the Subdivision and Building Regulations and is recommending changes to the previous document. The Manager asked County Planner Mike Thomas to review the proposed amendments and for the Board to schedule a Public Hearing on February 9, 2009.

Mr. Thomas reported three key modifications. There was a great effort to clarify the definition of land disturbance for purposes of Building and Subdivision Regulations to exclude agriculture, forestry and any other disturbances not associated with a building or subdivision unit. Secondly, there was an amendment to change the minimum square footage regulated from 2,000 to 4,000 square feet. Lastly, the Planning Department's approval of control measures selected by the owner was removed. Mr. Thomas emphasized that the owner is responsible for selecting control measures from the Best Management Practices in the North Carolina Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual. If the control measures prove to be ineffective, then the owner is responsible for taking additional measures.

It is the Planning Board's intent to require nothing more than a responsible party to comply with the State's sedimentation laws. The proposed regulations should not add any additional cost to site preparation and stabilization over the costs a responsible grading contractor or home builder would incur to comply with existing NC law to control erosion and sedimentation. Staff recommends a nominal fee to cover the administrative costs.

Mr. Thomas asked Commissioners to schedule a Public Hearing and consider adopting the amendments. He noted that the Planning Office worked with those who offered input at the previous Public Hearing and the consensus is that these proposed amendments are a workable solution.

Commissioner Hogsed asked the amount of the nominal fee. Mr. Thomas said it would be the Board's decision but the recommendation is \$25 to cover filing and reviewing the submitted plans.

Commissioner Bullock asked who would be responsible for following up, the Planning Department or the Building Permitting Department. Mr. Thomas replied that the

Planning Department, with the help of the Building Permitting Department, will follow up. He explained that after a plan is filed, the inspectors would observe and report any problems to the Planning Department. The Planning Department would then contact the owner or responsible party to investigate and take corrective action.

Chairman Chappell said he is not very supportive of the proposed amendments because of the additional fee when it was the intent not to add costs. Planning Board Chairman Mason Sexton noted that the amendments were unanimously approved by the Planning Board. He further noted that some counties created an entire new department just to perform the duties that State has been neglecting. The Planning Board also studied this issue from an economic development standpoint and they felt the \$25 fee was not a burden.

Chairman Chappell said he is concerned about another layer of bureaucracy and additional staff time. The State already has laws and the County is volunteering for an unfunded mandate by doing the State's job. Mr. Thomas said their intent is to protect the waters of Transylvania County.

Commissioner Phillips said he would prefer not to discuss this item at great length and would like to hear what the public has to say during the public hearing. Commissioner Bullock said he agrees with the importance of protecting the waters, but he thought it could be done more cost effectively, specifically through the building permitting process.

Commissioner Hawkins moved to schedule a Public Hearing for the proposed Erosion and Sedimentation Control Amendments to the Subdivision and Building Regulations for Monday, February 9, 2009, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

BIDS TO COMPLETE THE MCCALL/BURTON STREAM BANK RESTORATION PROJECT

The Transylvania County Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors received seven bids for the McCall/Burton Stream Bank Restoration Project. The lowest responsible bidder was John Rogers Construction for \$92,880. The lowest bidder was not recommended due to past performance issues. The Soil and Water Conservation Board has adequately justified their decision. North Carolina General Statutes requires entities to take the "lowest responsible" bidder. Funds for this project are being provided by the NC Division of Water Resources.

Commissioner Phillips moved to award the bid to John Rogers Construction for \$92,880, seconded by Commissioner Bullock and unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A POLICY FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Sheriff Mahoney requests that the Board of Commissioners adopt Resolution 04-09 to allow his department to enter into mutual assistance agreements with other law enforcement agencies in accordance with reasonable arrangements, terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the respective heads of the law enforcement agencies. This resolution should be adopted annually.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve Resolution 04-09, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, and unanimously approved.

(Resolution 04-09 Adopting a Policy for Mutual Assistance With Other Law Enforcement Agencies is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.)

SCATTERED SITE HOUSING GRANT POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS

Transylvania County has been awarded a \$400,000 Scattered Site Housing Grant. In order to proceed, Commissioners must approve a series of resolutions.

Commissioner Hawkins moved to approve:

- 1. Resolution 06-09 A Resolution to Adopt the Required Community Development Block Grant Policies, Procedures and Plans for the Program;**
- 2. Resolution 07-09 A Fair Housing Resolution;**
- 3. Resolution 08-09 Authorizing the County Manager to sign the required DCA Reports and Documents;**
- 4. Resolution 09-09 Scattered Site Housing Rehabilitation Loan Subordination Resolution;**
- 5. Resolution 10-09 Community Development Block Grant Project Ordinance.**

The motion was seconded by Chairman Chappell and unanimously approved.

(Resolutions 06-09, 07-09, 08-09, 09-09, 10-09 are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.)

GRANT APPLICATION CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND

Staff is in the process of preparing a grant application for the Septage Pretreatment Facility. A grant application has already been submitted to the North Carolina Rural Center for 50% of the project cost. This grant application is for the remainder of the funds, or \$210,000. The application is due February 2, 2009. The Manager reported that the County's intent is to fully fund this project through grant funding. He asked Commissioners to approve Resolution 11-09 which commits the County to carrying out oversight of the project if the grant awarded.

Commissioner Hawkins moved to approve Resolution 11-09, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

(Resolution 11-09 Authorizing a North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant Application is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.)

POTENTIAL DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS FOR FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS/RECOVERY PLAN

The Manager submitted a list of projects the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is requesting the Federal Government to include in its Economic Stimulus/Recovery Plan. Staff has asked the NCDOT to include paving for secondary roads in Western North Carolina in their request as well as the replacement of the Pisgah Forest Bridge #4291. To include any projects, they have to be ready for construction within 90-180 days and funded within 18 months, or what the State calls shovel ready projects. The NCDOT has stopped resurfacing secondary roads because of the lack of funding. In discussions with the NCDOT, the Manager said it is important that the resurfacing continue to prevent further deterioration of the roads. He asked Commissioners to allow staff to make a recommendation to add the resurfacing of the secondary roads. In Transylvania County, the amount originally allocated for resurfacing of secondary roads was \$249,000. The Manager noted that the plans for the bridge in Pisgah Forest are complete.

Commissioner Hogsed asked how the stimulus package would work. The Manager said various agencies have been asked to identify shovel ready projects. The NCDOT is putting together a list to submit to the Federal Government. The Manager said there will of course be more projects than monies allocated. The State will allocate funding to the departments and local levels of government.

Mr. Hawkins asked if rail is included and if the stimulus monies benefit Renova. The Manager replied there are monies available for rail but the projects must be shovel ready.

After further comments, **Commissioner Bullock moved to include the two projects to the list to submit to the LOSRC RPO, seconded by Commissioner Phillips.** Commissioner Phillips asked if Commissioners would have a chance at some point, if the County were approved for funding, to review any plans or conditions. The Manager replies yes. The first step in this process is the submission of the projects. **The motion passed unanimously approved**

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- Staff is working on a Federal grant to assist with the Emergency Services portion of the Public Safety Facility.
- This week staff will be reviewing staffing alternatives for the new Public Safety Facility with the Sheriff and will bring back more information to Commissioners at a later date.
- Staff received information from Congressman Shuler about projects that may be included in the Federal budget. These requests are due back to Congressman

Shuler by February 16. Staff will bring back recommendations to Commissioners at the February 9 meeting.

- Staff is working on the Planning Session scheduled for February 10.
- A public meeting has been scheduled for February 2 to discuss the reclassification of Horse Pasture River. It will be held at the Sapphire Whitewater Community Center at 7:00 p.m. He encouraged all Commissioners to attend. Written comments are due to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources by February 13. State representatives will be attendance to answer questions from the public and discuss the proposals.
- Chairman of the Transylvania County Cemetary Board, Jill Chapman, has informed the County that the reinterment of the abandoned and unidentified graves in Connestee Falls will occur on February 16.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

There were no comments from Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Bullock motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously carried.**

Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha D. McLeod
Clerk to the Board