

**MINUTES**  
**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**June 21, 2010 – PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in special session on Monday, June 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Transylvania County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing on the FY 2010-2011 Budget proposal.

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

Media: *Hendersonville Times News* – Leigh Kelley  
*Transylvania Times* – Mark Todd

There were approximately 50 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 HEARING**

**FY 2010-2011 BUDGET PROPOSAL**

The Manager presented the FY 2010-2011 Budget proposal as follows:

As advertised:

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund Revenues     | \$38,521,270 |
| General Fund Expenditures | \$39,942,819 |
| Fund Balance Appropriated | \$ 1,421,549 |

As staff further reviewed the budget, particularly with Child Development, it was determined that the child to staff ratio could not be met with the proposed budget reductions. Social Services Director Stoney Blevins requested to reinstate funding for the eight aide positions in Child Development resulting in an addition of \$13,272 to the budget. The Manager recommended the following revised budget:

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund Revenues     | \$38,521,270 |
| General Fund Expenditures | \$39,956,091 |
| Fund Balance Appropriated | \$ 1,434,821 |

The proposed budget for the Home and Community Block Grant for Older Adults is \$286,161 and is broken down as follows:

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Congregate Meals     | \$79,589 |
| Home Delivered Meals | \$10,437 |

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Adult Day Care        | \$24,254 |
| Adult Day Health      | \$39,000 |
| Level 1 In Home Aid   | \$22,500 |
| Level 2 In Home Aid   | \$76,675 |
| General Transport     | \$12,722 |
| Med Drive             | \$ 3,079 |
| Senior Companion      | \$15,359 |
| Pisgah Legal Services | \$ 2,546 |

The following tax rates are proposed for the Transylvania County Fire Service Districts:

|                    | <u>Tax/\$100</u>                       |
|--------------------|--|
| Brevard            | \$0.0269                               |
| Rosman             | \$0.0626                               |
| Little River       | \$0.0577                               |
| Connestee Falls    | \$0.0494                               |
| Cedar Mountain     | \$0.0756 (down from previous year)     |
| Lake Toxaway       | \$0.0287 (increase from previous year) |
| Balsam Grove       | \$0.0968                               |
| North Transylvania | \$0.0911                               |

**Chairman Chappell declared the Public Hearing open at 7:07 p.m.**

Debbie Holden: Ms. Holden distributed a letter to Commissioners from her employer stating why it is important that employers have employees with quality childcare. Ms. Holden explained why she believes taxpayers should help fund early childhood education saying that investing in early childhood education now saves dollars in the future by preparing children for school and said that as adults these children will be more likely to hold jobs and less likely to commit crimes and depend on welfare. She also noted there are over 190 children on the waiting list for the New Adventure Center and said instead of cutting back spending, the County should be opening more facilities like this one where children can learn. Ms. Holden also expressed opposition to the fee increase.

Laura Franklin: Ms. Franklin thanked the Board for reinstating the hours for the teacher aide positions. She explained that the New Adventure Center is an early childhood education center, not a daycare, and as an educational center can not be revenue neutral. She said government funds the cost of education because very few families can afford to pay the real cost of education. Ms. Franklin also discussed how the County benefits economically from early childhood education. She urged the County to invest in early childhood education now, or pay the cost of the failure to fund early childhood education for that person's entire adult life. She noted that the New Adventure Center is the only center in the County that serves middle income families and that families do not have to demonstrate a financial need in order to attend the center. She encouraged the Board to maintain its commitment and possibly increase its commitment to early childhood education in Transylvania County because it is important now and for the future.

Meredith Baldrige: Ms. Baldrige said part of the reason she moved to Transylvania County was because of its quality education system. She explained how her children have benefited from attending the New Adventure Center and she thanked the Board for keeping the Center open.

Larry Chapman: Mr. Chapman said it is important for the people in the audience to understand and realize what the County is facing in the upcoming year. He also said it is important for the

Board to determine its role and what services the County can afford to support and not support. Mr. Chapman pointed out that citizens can not expect service levels to remain the same and not expect a tax increase. He urged the Board to begin addressing next year's budget now.

Meredith Licht: Ms. Licht said while she understands the budget process this year has been difficult for the County, it is important for the County to keep the budget level as it is in order to maintain the level of services for all citizens in Transylvania County. She asked Commissioners to balance the budget with a combination of the Fund Balance and a tax increase. She echoed Mr. Chapman's statements about next year being a more difficult budget year and said if Commissioners thought families would not be able to handle a tax increase this year, next year will be even more difficult. Ms. Licht applauded the Board's actions in terms of reinstating the teacher aide position hours at the New Adventure Learning Center, for funding education, and for reinstating funding for non-profit organizations, but she expressed her disappointment with the Board for what not approving what she believes is a necessary tax increase in order to maintain the level of services that citizens have come to expect and need.

Joe Castro: Mr. Castro, the Executive Director of Smart Start of Transylvania County, thanked the Board for restoring the funding for outside agencies. Mr. Castro spoke about the Commissioners' decision to restore funding for the New Adventure Center saying that it is an important part of the community and provides quality education and should receive the County's full support.

There were no further comments from the public. **Chairman Chappell declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:30 p.m.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no additional 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 moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously carried.**

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Jason R. Chappell, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Trisha M. Hogan  
Clerk to the Board