

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 23, 2012 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, April 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Transylvania County Courthouse.

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

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Eric Crews

There were approximately 60 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Hawkins presiding called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

WELCOME

Chairman Hawkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the members of the audience for participating in their County government. Chairman Hawkins introduced the members of the Board of Commissioners and staff.

PUBLIC HEARING

CDBG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM CLOSEOUT-GAIA HERBS BUILDING REUSE PROJECT

In 2010, Transylvania County helped Gaia Herbs apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$116,000 to retrofit an existing vacant building located in Brevard. The CDBG grant is a matching grant and forgivable over a five-year period. The grant required Gaia Herbs to create six new jobs. Gaia Herbs is two years into the five-year agreement. A Public Hearing is required in order to hear comments from the public about how Gaia Herbs and the County met the requirements identified in the grant. Karen Kiehna, Senior Planner and grant administrator with the Land-of-Sky Regional Council reported that Gaia Herbs has completed all the responsibilities. The State has reviewed the project and has deemed it complete in a satisfactory manner. Gaia Herbs upfitted a warehouse on Railroad Avenue in Brevard which acts as their warehouse and distribution center. In the process they created more than six jobs. Ms. Kiehna believes this project has been a success. The Manager noted that part of the loan agreement was that Gaia Herbs also had to contribute \$116,000 of its own money into the upfitting of the building. Gaia Herbs actually contributed more than that amount.

Commissioner Chapman noted there are three more years remaining in the agreement and asked if Gaia Herbs will continue to be monitored during that time. Ms. Kiehna informed Commissioners that she will check in with Gaia Herbs on an annual basis to ensure that they have retained six positions and complied with the loan agreement. If they do not, there is a repayment clause in the loan agreement.

Chairman Hawkins declared the Public Hearing open at 7:10 p.m. There were no comments from the public. **Chairman Hawkins declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:11p.m.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gerry Hunsicker: Mr. Hunsicker expressed concern that the Board of Commissioners is being drawn into a path that will result in a loss of private property rights for the citizens of this County. He said he has done research on such issues as greenways and the Sustainable Rural Communities Report released in Transylvania County in the fall of 2011 by federal agencies in conjunction with the US Department of Agriculture. His research indicates that these issues fall under an initiative called Agenda 21 and he said any acceptance of any part of this program is not in the best interest of Transylvania County residents or the nation as a whole. Also, Mr. Hunsicker believes that over the last 20 years, Transylvania County has discouraged manufacturers from locating here because there was an attitude in County government that the County could survive on retirees and tourism. He said the local, State and federal governments must reduce the number of rules and regulations that discourage manufacturing and jobs from locating here and thus denying prosperity to all. He encouraged Commissioners to do what is best for the working class and the long term residents of this County.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

The Manager requested to add Item VI.G Legislative Update by Representative Trudi Walend under Presentations/Recognitions and move all other items down in succession. He requested to remove Item VI.G 2010-2012 Economic Development Strategic Plan Update under New Business. This item will be added to the agenda for May 14, 2012. He also requested to add Item IX.E Application for Permit to Conduct Aerial Fireworks Display under New Business and move Manager's Report to Item IX.F.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 9, 2012 regular meeting were approved.

FACILITIES USE REQUESTS

The use of the training room at the Public Safety Facility by the Williamson Creek Precinct for a GOP precinct meeting on May 1, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. was approved. There is no fee to use the facility.

The use of the Courthouse gazebo for a National Day of Prayer ceremony on May 3, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. was approved. There is no fee to use the gazebo.

DISCOVERY AND RELEASE REPORT

The March 2012 Discovery and Release Report was approved. The total tax dollars released was \$5,200.82. The Tax Office refunded \$329.32.

UNSEALING OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Commissioners approved unsealing closed session minutes from February 23, 2010 relating to the location or expansion of industries and made them available for public inspection.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY REPRESENTATIVE TRUDI WALEND

Representative Trudi Walend gave an update on upcoming legislative issues that may affect Transylvania County. She announced that the short session will begin on May 16 and legislative leaders have indicated they plan to end the short session by July 4. She said if Commissioners need anything done during this session to please get it to her as soon as possible. Also, there will be no controversial local bills taken up. There will be no new statewide bills either. The purpose of the short session will be to adjust the budget.

Representative Walend updated Commissioners on the COPA (Certificate of Public Advantage) issue that involves Mission Health Systems. A special committee was formed called the Certificate of Need and Related Hospital Issues but it morphed into working on Mission Hospital's COPA arrangement. Mission's COPA arrangement has been in existence for 16 years since it merged with St. Joseph's. The purpose of the COPA is to ensure that when expansions or mergers of hospitals occur that it is in the public's advantage. Currently Mission is the only hospital in the State that still has a COPA and it restricts them quite a bit. Representative Walend reported that the committee recently made a recommendation that would cause a great deal of harm to Mission's services. The committee's recommendation would reduce patient care and physician services and would prevent the hospital from future expansion at any time, even to the point of not being able to fill physician positions upon retirement. Representative Walend was called in to work on this committee and after a lot of work the committee decided not to take any action at this time. This however does not mean the issue has gone away and Commissioners should be aware that Mission's COPA issue could come back up for discussion.

Representative Walend has been appointed to a committee called the Unemployment Fraud Task Force and she is looking for input. Currently North Carolina is in debt \$3 billion to the federal government who has been bailing out the State because it cannot afford to pay unemployment costs anymore. The committee may try to make a few changes during the short session and then continue to review and potentially overhaul the whole system when session reconvenes in January 2013.

Representative Walend reported that leaders in Raleigh have indicated to legislators that the main objective in 2013 will be to overhaul the antiquated tax code in North Carolina. It has not been studied in years. She welcomed input from local government.

Commissioner Chappell inquired as to what direction was given to legislators for overhauling the tax code. Representative Walend said everything is on the table and they plan to review what other States have done that have been successful. They plan to complete a thorough study of what the options are. Commissioner Chappell recommended the legislature consider repealing the death tax during its overhaul. Representative Walend said this is one of her concerns as well and noted that North Carolina is the only state in the Southeast that has a death tax which is hurtful to business, etc.

Chairman Hawkins said he attended a regional North Carolina Association of County Commissioners meeting recently and one of things discussed was rural issues versus urban issues. He stressed the importance of keeping local issues at the forefront. The Manager agreed and noted that staff is working on scheduling a meeting with the County's representation, including Representative Walend, to discuss some issues that are specific to rural counties and Transylvania County.

RESOLUTIONS RECOGNIZING COMMUNITIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY'S 150TH CELEBRATION

Last year Transylvania County celebrated its 150th anniversary as a county. This was a yearlong celebration and various communities held celebrations in their respective communities. Every

community is to be congratulated on the great job they did bringing the families of their communities together for fellowship and to learn about their founding families and create a vision for the future.

Chairman Hawkins recognized Carson Griffin and Susan Threlkel who both worked tirelessly last year to ensure these events occurred in the communities which were the backbone of the entire celebration. Ms. Griffin said it was a great year and the communities put together some of the best celebrations that occurred all year. She noted that the community representatives continue to meet and are working toward preserving their history and moving toward the future. Ms. Threlkel said this group has agreed to serve for another year and they have several goals and purposes. They want to move from celebrating within the communities to celebrating between the communities. She also gave lots of credit to the Heritage Museum for the work they did with the traveling exhibits.

Each community, along with the Transylvania Heritage Museum and Transylvania Historical Society (Allison-Deaver House), was honored and appreciated with a resolution and a 150th banner. The communities that held celebrations were Balsam Grove, Blantyre, Cathey's Creek, Cedar Mountain, Dunn's Rock, Eastatoe, Lake Toxaway (with Sapphire), Little River, Rosenwald, Sapphire (with Lake Toxaway), and See Off.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve the resolutions and thanked each of the communities for their participation in the County's 150th Celebration and for continuing their efforts to bring the County closer together. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

(Resolutions 15-12 through 27-12 are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

PROCLAMATION: THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD APRIL 22-28, 2012

Joe Castro, the Executive Director of Smart Start, requested Commissioners to proclaim the Week of the Young Child from April 22-28, 2012 in Transylvania County. Mr. Castro informed Commissioners that next year he will be asking the County to proclaim April as the month of the young child in order to bring to the forefront in the community the importance of getting children started early and getting the community involved in the education and care of children in this County.

Commissioner Phillips moved to approve Proclamation 11-12 The Week of the Young Child April 22-28, 2012, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

(Proclamation 11-12 The Week of the Young Child April 22-28, 2012 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

PROCLAMATION: OLDER AMERICANS MONTH 2012

Louise Koontz with Transylvania County Council on Aging requested that Commissioners recognize the many contributions of senior citizens and designate the month of May 2012 as Older Americans Month. Commissioners have adopted proclamations annually for a number of years.

Commissioner Chapman moved to approve Proclamation 12-12 Older Americans Month 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappell. Commissioners thanked all those that provide services and support for senior citizens in the County. The motion was unanimously approved.

(Proclamation 12-12 Older Americans Month 2012 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

PROCLAMATION: NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2012

The week of May 13-19, 2012 is National Police Week with Peace Officers' Memorial Day designated on May 15. Sheriff David Mahoney requested that Commissioners publicly recognize and salute the service of law enforcement officers in our community and in communities across the nation. This is an annual proclamation approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Phillips moved to approve Proclamation 13-12 National Police Week 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

(Proclamation 13-12 National Police Week 2012 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

PROCLAMATION: NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 2012

In 1988 both Houses of Congress adopted legislation declaring the first Thursday in May of each year as National Day of Prayer. Commissioners wish to designate May 3, 2012 as "A Day of Prayer in Transylvania County." The Board of Commissioners has adopted similar proclamations over the past few years. A National Day of Prayer ceremony will be held at the Courthouse gazebo on May 3, 2012. Commissioners encouraged citizens to attend.

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve Proclamation 14-12 National Day of Prayer 2012, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

(Proclamation 14-12 National Day of Prayer 2012 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ANNUAL REPORT

County Extension Director Eric Caldwell gave an overview of the activities completed this past year in Cooperative Extension. Cooperative Extension has been serving the citizens of Transylvania County since 1917 and operates with a memorandum of agreement between Transylvania County and North Carolina State University.

The current staffing level includes a Director, a 4-H and Youth Development Agent, an Agriculture and Community Resource Development Agent, a vacant position in the Expanded Foods Nutrition Education Program that is funded by both federal funds and a cooperative agreement with the Health Department, an Area Commercial Horticulture Agent that is shared with Buncombe County, and an Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Caldwell spoke about some of the impacts of Cooperative Extension. He discussed them by program areas which are 4-H and Youth Development, Agriculture Programs, Community Development Programs, and other programs he called value added programs which add value to other County departments, other units of government and other organizations and groups in the County. Last year the local Cooperative Extension office had over 7,000 face-to-face contacts with the public, over 17,000 total contacts and more than 230,000 hits on the website. Their 187 volunteers donated approximately 2,500 hours which equates to a value of nearly \$50,000.

4-H and Youth Development

The focus of this program has been on life skills and workforce preparation. This is done by getting young people interested in science outside of the textbook. This is also done through signature programs such as T.I.M.E., various clubs, Youth Speak, etc.

Agriculture and Horticulture

Cooperative Extension works with interested individuals to help them receive professional certifications and re-certifications which have been vital in this slow economy because it provides potential job seekers an advantage over others. Cooperative Extension also competes for grants through the Golden Leaf Foundation to help farmers try new things on their farms or new marketing or production practices. There is also the Master Gardeners Volunteer Program which is a training program and an outreach program. These volunteers do several seminars and demonstration gardens, etc. to reach out to the community. The Agriculture Advisory Board works to protect farmland and has recently been working with the City of Brevard to incorporate some of items the Board of Commissioners adopted in its countywide farmland protection plan. Cooperative Extension has also worked with the Chamber of Commerce over the last three years to produce the Farm Fair which allows people to gain exposure to local agriculture.

Community Resource Development

This area deals with various local communities and providing information to the public and local governments. Cooperative Extension provides education on sediment and erosion control and storm water collection. The Expanded Foods and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a partnership through federal funds and the local Health Department. Over 1,000 youth participated last year in all grades. The program teaches basic nutrition education to students during the school year and through summer programs. Last year Cooperative Extension received a Smart Start grant to administer the NAP-SAC program which is a program teaching childcare facilities and childcare providers how to provide basic nutrition and education to their kids. Another volunteer program is the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP). Through this program volunteers assist the public with navigating through the sometimes confusing Medicare Part D paperwork. Last year there were 221 clients assisted. It is estimated that each client saves about \$1,000 on average.

Added Value Programs

These are just a few of the groups and committees that Cooperative Extension works with to provide information and organizational support: Transylvania Natural Resources Council, Agricultural Advisory Board, Center for Dialogue, Smart Start, Council on Aging, T.I.M.E., Parks Commission, Silvermont Opportunity Center.

APPOINTMENTS

TRANSYLVANIA NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

Randy Burgess, the US Forest Service appointee to the Transylvania Natural Resources Council, has retired. The new head of the Pisgah Ranger District is Derek Ibarguen. He has taken the place of Randy Burgess on this council.

Commissioner Chappell moved to accept the appointment of Derek Ibarguen as the US Forest Service's representative to the Transylvania Natural Resources Council, seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.

ABANDONED CEMETERIES BOARD

Drew Suddeth, a student at Rosman High School, was appointed to the Abandoned Cemeteries Board in March 2011 for a period of one year. The position was temporary and for the purposes of allowing a young person to learn about cemeteries and how to keep track of them thereby preserving the County's heritage. Drew has assisted his mother, Rebecca Suddeth, Executive Director of the Transylvania Heritage Museum, in cemetery surveys and clean ups for a number of years. The members of the Abandoned Cemeteries Board feel that Drew has been an asset and requests that the Board of Commissioners reappoint him to another one-year term.

Commissioner Phillips moved to reappoint Drew Suddeth to the Abandoned Cemeteries Board for another year with his term to expire April 2013. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

NORTH TRANSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

The North Transylvania Volunteer Fire Department received a loan from United Financial to expand their building and purchase a fire engine. During construction they encountered some unexpected issues which will require an additional \$25,000. United Financial is agreeable to loan the fire department \$25,000 over a 20-year period. In order to proceed, the fire department needs a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners. This letter of support in no way obligates Transylvania County to repay the loan. The Manager noted that the loan payment has been included in next year's budget request and will not require a tax rate increase.

Commissioner Chapman moved to approve the letter of support for North Transylvania to borrow an additional \$25,000 to support the fire services in the North Transylvania Fire District. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

PROPOSED CHANGED TO THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY

The Personnel Board met recently to discuss the Family Medical Leave (FMLA) and Sick Policy to specifically address some areas that were unclear. The proposed policy ensures that employees receive required benefits without compromising the ability of departments to meet their staffing and workload demands. The Personnel Board also reviewed policies from other organizations in the county, including Transylvania Regional Hospital, and they reviewed policies from other counties as well. Anna Yount, chair of the Personnel Board, on behalf of the Personnel Board recommended the following proposed changes to the Transylvania County Personnel Policy:

1. Begin FMLA leave at the point an eligible employee has taken 10 working days of accrued, paid sick leave for any FMLA purpose.
2. In the event that an employee has used 12 weeks of leave for FMLA purposes and is unable to return to work, a determination regarding the employee's continued employment will be made.
3. All leave, including leave covered under Worker's Compensation, which is used for an FMLA purpose shall be counted as FMLA leave.
4. If FMLA leave is granted for the birth of a child and both parents are eligible Transylvania County employees, each parent may be granted one 12-week period of leave for the birth and postpartum care of the child.
5. A permanent employee may be granted a leave of absence without pay for a period of up to 90 days in one year for compelling personal reasons. (old policy was for a period of one year)

Commissioner Chapman asked for clarification on proposal #4. Ms. Yount explained that the law requires that an eligible employee get 12 weeks of leave upon the birth of a child. If the parents of the child are both eligible employees, they are both eligible for the leave. Commissioner Chappell, who serves as the County Commissioner Representative on the Personnel Board, said it was the Personnel Board's purpose to put together a policy that treats all employees the same. Commissioner Chapman asked if the policy pertains to a couple who is not married. Human Resources Director Sheila Cozart said the law specifies the employee as being the parent of a child. Therefore the policy would apply to parents even if they are unmarried. Commissioner Chapman said he would prefer to have the attorney review the proposed changes before making a decision to approve.

Commissioner Chapman moved to delay the approval of the proposed changes to the Personnel Policy until they have been reviewed by the County Attorney. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and approved unanimously.

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL COUNTY PLAN

Each year Transylvania County receives Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funds which are recommended to be allocated to various agencies by the local Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC). This year the JCPC recommends allocation of funds as follows and the allocation is similar to the current year:

Center for Dialogue	\$ 25,900
Temporary Shelter	\$ 5,250
Project Rebound	\$ 47,450
Project Challenge	\$ 21,334
<u>Administrative</u>	<u>\$ 2,600</u>
Total	\$102,534

No County Funds are required and all matches are made by the receiving agency by either cash match or in-kind match.

Maurice Jones serves the current chairman of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and he briefly discussed the changes in the allocations. He believes these services are making an impact. The goal of the JCPC is to reduce recidivism as much as possible. These allocations will save monies in the long term. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for their consideration of this plan. It is a four year plan but allocated on an annual basis.

Commissioner Chapman thanked Mr. Jones and the members of the council for the work they do noting that these are monies well spent on programs that work.

From the audience, Mike West publicly commended Maurice Jones for the work he has done as chair of this council.

Commissioner Chapman moved to approve the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Plan and authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary paperwork. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND FINANCIAL UPDATE

Finance Director Gay Poor gave a financial update through the third quarter of the current fiscal year and reviewed the budget amendments. She reported the following:

Actual Financial Results Through March 31, 2012

Revenues

Through the third quarter of this year, the revenues have been approximately \$32.8 million, or 81.3% of the budget. Revenues have been somewhat better than last year so far for the same period, better by \$380,000. The main driver is property taxes. Property taxes collected is at \$22.9 million which is better than last year at \$22.8 million. Property taxes make up approximately 50% of the budget and currently the County has received 97.8% of the amount budgeted.

Sales taxes are at \$2.7 million. There is a two and half month lag on receiving sales taxes. This figure represents collections through December which is 50.9% of budget. Sales tax revenues are better than

expected but a little below last year at this same time. Since the end of March the January sales taxes have been received and the gap between this year and last year appears to be closing.

Real Property Excise Taxes total \$235,000 or 67.9% of the budgeted amount which is in line with last year. Inspection Permits are at \$174,000 or 71.1% of budget and are below last year at this time.

Expenditures

The major expenditure for the County is in personnel costs. Compensation so far this year totals \$10.2 million which is 72.3% of budget.

Fuel and utilities are watched closely because of their volatility. So far fuel costs have been \$202,000 or 72.3% of budget. This figure represents eight months of fuel charges. Staff will continue to closely review fuel usage because the price of fuel continues to rise. Utilities are running less than budgeted and a little less than last year.

Travel and Training expenditures total \$62,432 which is 56.6% of budget.

Capital costs were \$579,000 which is on budget at 75% of budgeted expenditures. There is a small increase over last year because of two projects. The first is the septage pretreatment facility and the other is the community park in Rosman.

School current spending and capital outlay is distributed evenly over the year and is at 75% of the budget. School spending is a major component of the County's budget. There is a 2% increase in appropriation from last year.

Debt Service is \$2.7 million or 96.2% of budget. There are two payments remaining this year. One is for the QZAB's and the other is for the loan payment on the Public Safety Facility.

All other expenditures total \$7.4 million versus a budget of \$11.2 million. This totals 65% of the budgeted amount.

Total expenditures for the first three quarters equal \$29.3 million, or 72.6%, versus a budget of \$40.3 million, and \$317,000 more than this time last year. Currently this leaves a surplus of \$3.4 million which is the same as last year.

Self-Insurance Funds

Health Insurance claims are running at 80.6% of the budgeted amount and 44.3% more than they were last year at this time.

Solid Waste Funds

There has been a small increase in the volume of waste at the landfill. Scale sales have increased over 10%. Other operating revenues are more than budgeted. Operating expenses are 63% of budget. Capital purchases are 51% of budgeted revenues. Income at the landfill is exceeding budgeted revenues.

Budget Amendments

Budget Amendments have increased the budget by \$913,000. This amount increases the budget from \$39.4 million to \$40.4 million. Of the increase, carry forwards from the prior year total \$304,000. Additional funding was received for Health Department programs. The County appropriated monies from fund balance. There were also other items including insurance proceeds and donations.

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO CONDUCT AERIAL FIREWORKS DISPLAYS

The 2010 Pyrotechnics Act requires the Board of Commissioners to approve all permits to conduct aerial fireworks displays in each county. Fire Marshal Gerald Grose received a permit application from Camp Carolina to hold aerial fireworks displays on April 30, May 1 and May 2. The permit specifies that both Emergency Medical Services and the local fire department shall be notified of the aerial fireworks display but neither is required to be onsite.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to approve the permit application for Camp Carolina to hold aerial fireworks displays on April 30, May 1 and May 2. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

1. New Animal Shelter - Bill Daggett is working on modifying the plans and specifications and has agreed to have a complete set of plans by May 7. Staff plans to advertise the week of May 14 with plans and specifications to be picked up on Monday, May 21. The County will allow 30 days to complete the bids.
2. Work is progressing on the renovation of the Old Sheriff's Building. A completion date by the end of April is anticipated. Staff has set a move date of Friday, May 18. Both the Register of Deeds and Tax Administration offices will be closed that Friday and will reopen on Monday, May 21 in the new location.
3. The log jam project is progressing nicely. The Soil and Water District is working on a proposal for the Board of Commissioners to consider in reference to the removal of log jams around the County.
4. The required paper work to transfer the river access property adjacent to the Rosman Town Hall to the Town of Rosman is completed and has been forwarded to State officials for approval.
5. Budget - Work continues on the budget. Staff is working on scheduling a meeting with representatives from the Board of Education to learn about their request for FY 2013.
6. On Wednesday, April 11 Chairman Hawkins, Commissioner Chapman and the Manager attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners District meeting in Asheville. The Clerk is working to set up a meeting with local representatives to discuss issues prior to the short session. Several key items were discussed as it related to all counties including local governance of local management entities, lottery funds and Medicaid transportation.
7. On April 24 there is an education forum being held at Brevard High School at 7:00 p.m.
8. On April 24 the Secretary of Agriculture will be speaking at North Henderson High School at 5:30 p.m.
9. On April 25 there is an elected officials' reception from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Biltmore Park.
10. Last Thursday a public meeting was held at the Library on the Connector Road at Davidson River Village to receive information and provide public comment. No members of the public attended. At the next meeting staff will bring a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to modify the County Transportation Plan to include the Connector Road.
11. The Budget workshop schedule has been revised. The budget meetings are scheduled for June 7, June 11, June 12 and June 14. A public hearing will be held on June 18 with approval of the budget on June 25.
12. The Friends of the Animal Shelter has raised over \$220,000 which includes stocks, furniture and pledges. They are pleased with the progress and they continue to receive verbal commitments for donations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maurice Jones: Mr. Jones noted that his term on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council expires at the end of June and he requested to be reappointed.

Edwin Jones: Mr. Jones expressed concern about the large increase in County health insurance costs for employees. He also expressed concern about the location of the aerial fireworks displays saying that dangerous situations could occur if the fireworks were to explode on the ground.

Fire Marshal Gerald Grose responded to Mr. Jones about his concerns over the fireworks. He explained that the dates were requested for the purposes of training for a gentleman who is applying for his State operator's license. He must show proof that he has performed three displays. Based on the size of the fireworks there are separation distances that must be met.

The Manager responded to his concern about insurance costs. He said the last few years have been favorable; however one bad year in a five-year period is typical according to the insurance broker.

Don Surrette: Mr. Surrette encouraged Commissioners to attend the first Fourth Friday Gallery Walk this month in downtown Brevard. There will be two displays at the old Aethelwold Hotel. One is on the French Broad River log jam and the other will pertain to a future request to the County. Mr. Surrette reported that a chestnut orchard has been planted at Dupont State Forest.

Mike West: Mr. West commented on the visioning process for economic development. He urged the Board to be cautious about engaging in any contracts because there is an undergrowth of things going on similar to the City of Brevard's Unified Development Ordinance called Agenda 21. Agenda 21 involves sustainable development, greenways, etc. that nip away at people's property rights. Mr. West said there are people in the County concerned about this process. He also pointed out that the Land-of-Sky Regional Council is the regional leader in Agenda 21 terminology and if the County enters into contracts with them that ensures the erosion of private property rights and the County's natural resources. He encouraged the Board to be careful of its actions so the citizens will be protected.

Wayne Hennie: Mr. Hennie gave the Board a history of his background and told a story about carbon black that ended in a lesson about Agenda 21. He said Agenda 21 is insidious and it cannot be seen, smelled or tasted but it is here. Mr. Hennie also commented on the stimulus funds to the Department of Energy from the federal government which contained federal mandates that supersede all local and State codes. He urged the Board not to take Agenda 21 lightly because it is threatening the people's sovereignty and is an attack on the nation.

David Morrow: Mr. Morrow announced that the Board of Elections holds its first poll worker training session tonight. Early Voting is going on now. The Primary is scheduled for May 8 and he expects there will be a second Primary election.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Chappell thanked the members of the audience for attending and participating in this meeting. He thanked Elections staff and all the poll workers for their hard work. Commissioner Chappell also encouraged citizens to vote for the NC Marriage Amendment.

Commissioner Chapman said he met with two ladies who were instrumental in the renovations of the second floor of the Silvermont Mansion. They personally invited Commissioners to come by Silvermont for a tour. He also encouraged the public to attend.

Commissioner Hogsed also thanked the members of the audience for attending the meeting. As well he encouraged the public to support the NC Marriage Amendment. He commented that those in opposition to the Amendment also support abortion.

Commissioner Phillips agreed with comments by Commissioners Chappell and Hogsed. He reported that he recently visited the Boys and Girls Club and he was impressed at how much interest there was in gardening and nutrition. He thanked the local Cooperative Extension Service for their involvement.

Commissioner Chapman encouraged people to visit the Boys and Girls Club. He said the staff there does a fantastic job and the interaction with the children, who are from all different backgrounds, is amazing.

Chairman Hawkins said the visioning process is important and involves cooperation from all the local elected boards. The visioning process is directed towards economic development. He believes if it is to be done correctly the boards have to understand what people want. He announced that the City of Brevard is holding a workshop related to this topic on April 30 and it is open to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board