

**MINUTES**  
**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**October 22, 2012 – REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, October 22, 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 Attorneys David Neumann and Curtis Potter, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Eric Crews

There were approximately 45 people in the audience.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mike Hawkins presiding called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 COMMENT**

Gerry Hunsicker: Mr. Hunsicker said he forwarded each Commissioner a copy of a request for information that he sent to Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows. He thanked Mr. Burrows for the feedback he provided; however, Mr. Hunsicker believes much more information should be available than what he was given. Mr. Hunsicker urged Commissioners to support measures that bring manufacturing jobs back to the County and stop spending taxpayer dollars on County facilities.

Phyllis Snyder: Ms. Snyder addressed the Board in reference to a noise ordinance complaint. She said the Brevard High School Band practices in a parking lot behind her home and the noise is unbearable and intolerable. She said attempts to meet with school officials have been unsuccessful. Ms. Snyder noted that her daughter is disabled and suffers from migraines and she is unable to escape the noise in her home. Ms. Snyder contacted the Sheriff's Office but when the officer arrived the noise quieted. She asked for the County's help in dealing with this issue. The Manager informed Commissioners that he is aware of this issue and will be following up with school officials and others to address the noise complaint.

Lori Swank: Ms. Swank cautioned Commissioners from considering any proposal which involves multi-county participation, keeping in mind motives and agendas, unintended long-term consequences, as well as the independent, self-sufficient nature of Transylvanians. She suggested that any decision to participate in such a venture should be postponed until after the election.

Margaret Nocito: Ms. Nocito works at a business across from Brevard High School. She said this is the first year the band has practiced in the parking lot across from the school and when they do the sound resonates throughout the office. The same goes for the massage therapy office nearby. The banging of the drums and the noise interferes with patients' treatment. Ms. Nocito said it is her understanding that the band moved its practice to the parking lot because of the wet conditions of the fields. If this is the

case, she wondered why a group cannot come together to put turf on the field, or do whatever it takes to fix the field conditions. She asked for help from the County.

Commissioner Chapman encouraged Ms. Nocito to attend a Board of Education meeting to voice her concerns since this is a school activity. Chairman Hawkins agreed there must be a reason the band is no longer practicing on the field. He also encouraged her to voice her concerns to the Board of Education. He noted that the Manager has communicated the complaint to the Superintendent and he will follow up.

### **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

The Manager reported on the agenda modifications. He requested to add Item IV.D Proclamation National Red Ribbon Week 2012 under the Consent Agenda.

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the Consent Agenda as revised, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.**

The following items were approved:

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the October 8, 2012 regular meeting were approved.

#### FACILITIES USE REQUESTS

The use of the Silvermont Mansion on Saturday, November 17, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. by the Rosman Rally Cats dance team to hold a fundraiser for the program was approved. Commissioners waived the fees per their request.

The use of the Courthouse lawn and gazebo on Monday, November 12, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a Veterans Day Ceremony was approved. There is no cost to use the facility.

#### DISCOVERY AND RELEASE REPORT

The Discovery and Release Report for September 2012 was approved.

#### PROCLAMATION NATIONAL RED RIBBON WEEK 2012

Kathleen Mallet is a Coalition Coordinator with CARE (Community Awareness and Recovery Effort). She has requested that Commissioners declare the week of October 23-31, 2012 as National Red Ribbon Week. National Red Ribbon Week is an ideal way for people and communities to unite and take a visible stand against substance abuse. Ms. Mallet and others will have a booth at the HalloweenFest on October 27 in downtown Brevard to promote National Red Ribbon Week and she feels it would be fitting to have a proclamation at the booth approved by the Board of Commissioners showing their support for National Red Ribbon Week and a drug-free County. Proclamation 48-12 National Red Ribbon Week 2012 was approved.

(Proclamation 48-12 National Red Ribbon Week 2012 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

## **PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

### **PRESENTATION BY SHARING HOUSE**

Transylvania Christian Ministries is a faith-based organization that assists Transylvania County residents in need with the basic necessities of life and open up opportunities for people to improve their quality of life. Executive Director Linda McCready shared with Commissioners things the Sharing House has done over the last year to help people in crisis.

Ms. McCready informed Commissioners about the mission of the Sharing House, community trends, and the impact that Sharing House has had on the community. Sharing House was formed 31 years ago to alleviate emergencies for low income families so people in need can resume their normal lives without becoming a burden on the community. Services provided include food, clothing, and financial assistance for energy and shelter needs. As the needs grew over the years, services expanded to also include intensive case management, laptop and vehicle donations for those who had enrolled in college or technical school to improve their marketable skills, school supplies for young students, household articles, cut/split wood, special assistance at Christmas that includes holidays meals, gifts and any other assistance to meet people's specific needs. All the resources are funded by community churches, individuals, businesses, and some small grants.

Over the years, the Sharing House has acted as Transylvania County's safety net where people in financial trouble can go when all other options have been exhausted. Last year the Sharing House spent over \$1 million on client services, twice as much as in 2008. The agency is currently serving 19% of the County's population at least one time per year, a 90% increase over 2008. The Sharing House will respond to over 1,000 client requests for aid in any given month.

By year's end, the Sharing House projects that client services will jump again, up over 50% from last year. The Sharing House is no longer dealing with emergencies but rather they are sustaining people because they do not have enough money to cover their basic needs. 100% of their clients do not earn a living wage. The cost of food, gasoline and other basics keeps rising, but income does not. As a safety net, Sharing House was the last hope for many people. Their clients are the elderly, the disabled on fixed incomes, the underemployed who do not earn a living wage, and the newly unemployed who until recently were self-sufficient. There are a multitude of difficulties facing some families all at the same time.

Ms. McCready shared several client stories that illustrated what they are dealing with and the difficult decisions that the staff at Sharing House need to make every day. Staff is careful to work only with the clients who are truly in need. The screening process is compassionate yet thorough; however they are troubled by recent trends. Families who are now in a current state of crisis need to come back to the Sharing House month after month. This is not sustainable and Ms. McCready fears there could be a collapse of the County's social service safety net under the weight of this growing need. The Sharing House was dangerously low on emergency reserve funding until several unexpected bequests saved the day. The community has been extremely generous to people in need, but Ms. McCready wondered how much longer this can go on. She hopes the community leaders can join forces to find a way to bring living wage jobs back to Transylvania County. She closed by saying that the Sharing House hopes to be part of the solution of recreating a self-sustaining community.

Commissioners thanked Ms. McCready for her presentation and for the work the Sharing House does to assist people in crisis and help people improve their lives.

### CERTIFICATE AND AWARD OF FINANCIAL REPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

Counties and municipalities throughout the United States are asked to submit their annual financial reports for consideration of the coveted Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program. The Transylvania County Finance Department has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011.

Chairman Hawkins presented Finance Director Gay Poor with the award. Commissioners thanked her and her staff for their dedication to their work and for all they do for Transylvania County.

Ms. Poor reported that this is the 25<sup>th</sup> year the Finance Department has received this award. On behalf of her department she thanked Commissioners for the recognition. Ms. Poor also noted that a new staff member, Abbey Own, joined the team in September and she has been a wonderful addition to the department.

### ANNUAL REPORT BY SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

Solid Waste Director Jeff Brookshire provided an overview of his department and the work that has been going on over the last year. Prior to 2008, the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) going into the landfill was increasing approximately 10% per year, prompting the County to move forward with the construction of cell 5. When the recession hit in 2008, the amount of MSW coming into the landfill decreased drastically; however it resulted in the extension of the life of cell 4. At the same time, overall recycling decreased particularly because scrap metal prices were on the rise. The landfill went from receiving about 600 tons a year in scrap metal to less than 100 tons a year. Other recycling has improved which has increased revenues somewhat. While there is not a lot of money to be made in recycling, there is the benefit of saving air space in the landfill and other intangible benefits. The increased revenues from recycling have helped to offset the loss in tipping fees from the MSW. The landfill depends on tipping fees in order to cover operating costs.

Mr. Brookshire noted that a vacancy in his department that occurred from a retirement was not filled due to the loss in revenues. The staffing level is adequate at this point; however if the MSW levels return to the levels prior to 2008 he feels he will need the additional staff person. Mr. Brookshire invited Commissioners to the landfill to see the operations firsthand.

Commissioner Chapman inquired about cardboard recycling and the status of the bailer the County intends to purchase. Mr. Brookshire reported the project is moving forward and a cardboard bailer will be located at the Pisgah Forest Convenience Center.

Commissioner Chappell inquired about what percentage in the loss of MSW is directly related to the downturn in the construction industry. Mr. Brookshire reported that nearly one-third of the loss was related to the construction industry. Commissioner Chappell said when the construction market improves he hopes staff will explore options for accepting construction and demolition materials. Mr. Brookshire stated that new regulations have been put into place making construction and demolition materials almost as regulated as MSW. He noted that this has been explored in the past but at the time it was not cost effective for the County.

Commissioner Chapman reported that an old landfill near Stone Mountain has been converted into a solar panel farm and he wondered about the possibilities for the County. Mr. Brookshire said the current landfill location would be a good source of solar and wind power, and once closed, methods could be put in place to capture methane. However, there is still much life remaining in the current location and closure will be many years down the road.

## ANNUAL REPORT BY TAX ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Tax Administrator David Reid and his staff provided an overview of his department and the work that has been going on over the last year.

Annette Raines reported that Tax Administration is responsible for billing and collecting taxes on approximately 62,000 tax bills each year. These include real property, personal property and motor vehicles. Motor vehicles and personal property are valued at 100% of market value every year. Real property is valued at 100% of market as of the date of the last revaluation. The County's last revaluation was in 2009 and the next one is scheduled for 2016. North Carolina General Statutes mandate that property revaluations must be done at least every eight years.

Tax Administration also handles land records. Last year, staff processed over 1,500 deeds along with nearly 300 plats. The department's website includes the Geographical Information System (GIS) site and appraisal data and it is updated on a monthly basis. Staff is currently reviewing a new website that will provide more information to citizens.

Ms. Raines announced that the new motor vehicle legislation will go into effect July 1, 2013. The new legislation shifts the collecting of taxes on motor vehicles to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). When a person goes to get their tag they will pay their taxes at that time. Tax Administration will still be responsible for valuing the motor vehicles.

Jessica McCall reported that North Carolina requires all equipment owned by a business on January 1 to be listed for County taxes. Business equipment includes machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures, computer equipment, and supplies and such. In 2012, there were approximately 1,950 business abstracts processed. The 2012 tax value for business personal property was \$105,350,292. For the 2013 tax year, 179 new business accounts have been added and more are expected to be added before the year ends.

Christy Lyday reported on foreclosures. Currently there are 29 properties in foreclosure. The total amount in delinquent taxes owed on these foreclosures is \$42,930.57. In 2011, the department sold 15 properties. The department has sold six so far this year. There are no properties pending for sale at this time.

Charlene Stone stated that the foreclosure process is the final step in the tax collection process. Before this occurs, staff has gone to great lengths to work with the taxpayer and resolve these matters before foreclosure begins. Last year the tax collection rate for Transylvania County was 99.63%. During the budget deliberations Commissioners budget a certain amount for staff to collect in delinquent taxes. This year the budget included \$99,000 in delinquent taxes. As of this date, staff has already collected just over \$37,000 of the budgeted amount. Of that amount, \$35,000 was from 2011 taxes which increases the collection rate to 99.78%.

The most effective tool in collecting taxes is talking with people. Since July 1, staff has made approximately 700 phone calls to taxpayers, encouraging them to make arrangements to pay their delinquent taxes before forced collection remedies are begun and also to prepare them for payment of their current year taxes. This can be done by establishing payment plans. Another option used in collecting delinquent taxes is the debt setoff program. With the help of the State, the County can intercept any State refunds or lottery winnings. During the last fiscal year, Tax Administration collected \$24,527 in delinquent taxes through the debt setoff program. Sometimes staff must use forced collection remedies like garnishing wages. This practice involves taking 10% of a person's gross income. The most disruptive course of action they can take is attaching bank accounts which are a last resort effort to get someone to pay their taxes and involves locking down the entire account.

Mr. Reid noted that staff developed an in-house program to track all their efforts to collect delinquent tax bills. Through that they have been able to identify habitual delinquent taxpayers. Also, when complaints occur, he and his staff can prove the steps they took to remedy the situation before forced collection efforts were begun. Good record keeping helps to deal with these complaints. Mr. Reid also noted that Commissioners approved a revaluation coordinator in this year's budget. The process to find a good candidate for this position is ongoing.

Mr. Reid discussed the efficiencies realized with the move to the new location. With the move, staffing is no longer an issue and staff has been cross-trained. He said taxpayers are also happy with the new location, especially since they no longer have to go through security to enter the building.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Reid and his staff for the job they do. The Manager noted that Tax Administration does the collecting and assessing for the City of Brevard and Town of Rosman as well. He also pointed out that when a previous Board of Commissioners combined the collection and assessor divisions there was a savings of over \$100,000 that will be realized annually.

## APPOINTMENTS

### WESTERN HIGHLANDS NETWORK BOARD

The bylaws of the Western Highlands Local Management Entity (LME) state that each participating County will have two members who serve on the Board of Directors. One of those members is the County Commissioner, County Manager or the County Manager's designee whose term is unlimited. The other member is subject to term limits. Public Health Director Steve Smith has served two term limits and is not eligible to serve another term. Mr. Smith's term expires October 31. The Manager and Mr. Smith have discussed possible candidates to replace him on the LME Board. They recommend Michael Becker as the citizen representative from Transylvania County to serve on the LME Board. Mr. Becker has considerable experience in the area of behavioral health and strong management skills obtained through his work experience.

**Commissioner Chapman moved to appoint Michael Becker to serve on the Western Highlands Network Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips.** Commissioner Phillips commented that Mr. Becker has been very interested and engaged and he believes he will be a very good addition to the LME Board. Commissioner Chappell thanked Mr. Smith for his service on this Board. He said the County has been in a better position than other counties because of the representation the County has had on this Board. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

## OLD BUSINESS

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY & REPORT FROM CHAMBER'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY GROUP

At the last Board of Commissioners' meeting held on October 8, 2012, the Board tabled the decision to move forward with hiring J. Goldsmith & Company to complete an economic development study and requested that staff complete a thorough check of the references. The Manager contacted six of the firms listed as references. All six firms responded and all offered favorable comments regarding the projects completed by Ms. Goldsmith.

Each of the respondents highly recommended Ms. Goldsmith based upon their experience with her and because of Ms. Goldsmith's knowledge of the economic development field. The Manager recommended Commissioners move forward with engaging J. Goldsmith & Company to analyze the County's current economic development structure and make suggestions for enhancing efforts and to work with the County on specific actions plans for future economic growth. He recommended Commissioners allocate \$30,000

for the project with funds to come from Fund Balance. The Manager also recommended that Commissioner Chapman be the liaison between the Board of Commissioners and the project team.

**Commissioner Chapman moved to approve the recommendation by the Manager. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed.** Commissioner Phillips said he contacted several of the references and many times no one was able to forward him to the appropriate person to get a reference. Commissioner Hogsed reported that he followed up with two of the references and both felt confident in her abilities. He also spoke directly to Ms. Goldsmith today and said he was very impressed with her. Commissioner Chappell said it is important that there are very specific goals the County wants to accomplish and he hopes whatever the process may be that all the partners and stakeholders are on the same page, otherwise this process will be counterproductive. Commissioner Chapman said, if approved, he will serve as the liaison between the project team and the Board of Commissioners. He understands this is just the first step in improving economic conditions in this County. Chairman Hawkins thanked the members of the Chamber's economic development study group for the work they did to get the County to this step in the process. **The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Commissioner Phillips voting against.**

## NEW BUSINESS

### SYLVANSPORT-NC RURAL CENTER OCCUPIED BUILDING GRANT

Planning and Economic Development Director Mark Burrows recently met with Tom Dempsey, owner of Sylvan Sport, and Karen Kiehna with Land-of-Sky Regional Council, to discuss a possible NC Rural Center Occupied Building Grant. If successful, the grant funds would be used to make needed building improvements to produce additional "GO" trailers and update the facility. The NC Rural Center provides \$5,000 for each new job created as a result of the improvements to an occupied building. Sylvan Sport has occupied one half of the building where they are currently manufacturing "GO" trailers, but recently signed a two year lease to occupy the entire space as they continue to expand their operations.

Mr. Dempsey has indicated that he will hire four new employees, in addition to the eight he has now. The grant requires that Sylvan Sport create four jobs in a period of 18 months. Once created, these jobs have to be maintained for six months. The NC Rural Center would grant \$20,000 to Transylvania County and, in turn, the County would loan the amount to Sylvan Sport. The loan would be granted at no interest and forgivable after the loan terms are met. This amount must be matched by Sylvan Sport. The local unit of government is responsible for making application and matching 5% of the grant provided by the NC Rural Center, in this case \$1,000. Ms. Kiehna is willing to assist both Transylvania County and Sylvan Sport with this grant. Her fee would be part of the match provided by Sylvan Sport. The County will set up a lien on the property so the money can be recovered should it become necessary. Mr. Burrows said the County and the Transylvania Partnership has been working to support Sylvan Sport over the last five years. Last year, through this partnership, Sylvan Sport was able to move their manufacturing division from Ohio to here. Mr. Burrows said Sylvan Sport is a healthy business that is doing well and is a business that should be supported.

Mr. Burrows noted that the pre-application deadline was Friday, October 12, 2012; however, Melody Adams with the NC Rural Center informed him that the County could submit a pre-application grant by Friday, October 19, 2012 with County Commissioner approval on October 22, 2012. Ms. Adams also informed him that there are many strong applications for this pre-application process and that it will be extremely competitive, particularly with only four jobs being proposed. There is no guarantee the money will be awarded.

**Commissioner Phillips moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the Certification by Chief Elected Official document supporting the Sylvan Sport – NC Rural Center Occupied Building Grant and**

**provide a local match of up to \$1,000 as required by the NC Rural Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.**

#### WRITE-OFF OF UNCOLLECTABLE SOLID WASTE ACCOUNTS

Finance Director Gay Poor requested authority to write off \$12,156.77 in uncollected Solid Waste accounts. Of that amount, only \$5,555.78 is due to tipping fees. The remainder in the amount of \$6,660.99 comes from late fees that have accumulated on the tipping fees. Ms. Poor pointed out that of the tipping fees that are past due, \$1,142.01 is attributable to customers who are considered regular type customers to Solid Waste. The balance of \$4,413.77 goes back to the charges related to FEMA. In September 2004, there were two severe back-to-back storms. The Solid Waste Department set dumpster boxes in some of the areas that were hardest hit by floods and did not charge County residents for the tipping fees at that time, with the understanding that FEMA would reimburse the County. FEMA reimbursed the County \$22.70 per ton; however the County was charging \$42 per ton at that time. The County did receive a partial payment from FEMA in the amount of \$1,800. At that time the monies were mixed in with some other funds the County received from FEMA and deposited into the General Fund. Ms. Poor said it should have been credited to the Solid Waste Fund at that time. Staff stopped charging the late fees on the FEMA account in 2008 when it was realized that FEMA would not be paying the County any more money.

Ms. Poor reported that staff has been actively pursuing the other accounts. They can use some of the same collection remedies as the Tax Office. Staff will continue pursuing collection measures on these delinquent accounts.

**Commissioner Chappell moved to approve writing off delinquent accounts but continuing with collection measures already initiated, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.**

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER FY 2013 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Finance Director Gay Poor gave an overview of the financial activity for the first quarter of FY 2013.

##### *Revenues*

- Ad Valorem taxes are nearly 25% of the budget and slightly above this time last year; majority of taxes are received in December and January
- Prior year Ad Valorem taxes received are over one-third of the target for the year
- No Sales Taxes have been received; they lag two to three months behind
- Real Property Excise Taxes are running ahead of budget and ahead of this time last year
- All Other taxes includes federal and State funding and they typically lag a month behind
- First Quarter revenues in the General Fund are 18.4% of budget

##### *Expenditures*

- Salaries and Wages are on target with the budget and ahead of last year because of the increase in salaries and wages and health insurance
- Fuel and Utilities lag a month behind; expenditures below budget at this time
- Capital varies and is currently at 30% of budget for the year
- Education-Current and Capital is on target at 25%
- Debt Service-only two payments this year which included the interest on the school bonds and installment for the Public Safety Facility
- All Other taxes is on target with the budget
- General Fund expenditures are 22.9% of budget, just below the 25% expected for this point in the year

*Self Insurance*

- Health insurance claims are only 16.8% of budget and 24.5% less than they were for the same period a year ago

*Solid Waste*

- Solid Waste revenues are 25.2% of budget
- Expenses are only 17.9% of budget due primarily to the timing of fuel deliveries and capital acquisitions

In summary, the First Quarter results are fairly normal, with no foreseeable concerns at this time. Ms. Poor noted that the school bonds will be paid off in FY 2017-2018.

Ms. Poor reviewed the changes in the General Fund budget. For the First Quarter, the budget increased by \$149,173, bringing the total budget to \$40,215,849. Of the increase, approximately \$77,000 was carried forward from the prior year. These funds represent funds received in FY 2012 for specific purposes but were not used before the fiscal year had ended. The County received an additional \$59,000 in State and federal funding, mostly for the Health Department. There was also a small amount appropriated from Fund Balance.

PROCLAMATION VETERANS DAY 2012

In 2009, the Board of Commissioners established a Veterans Day Committee that is responsible for developing a program to honor the veterans of this community on Veterans Day. Commissioner Hogsed serves as Chair. For several years, Commissioners have approved a proclamation honoring Veterans Day. This year the Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on Monday, November 12, 2012 since November 11, 2012, actual Veterans Day, falls on a Sunday. The Committee decided to move the ceremony to ensure people will be able to attend.

**Commissioner Phillips moved to approve Proclamation 47-12 Veterans Day 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman.** Commissioner Chappell thanked Commissioner Hogsed for spearheading the Veterans Day Ceremony. Commissioner Hogsed reported that the ABCCM's Veterans Restoration Quarters in Asheville will be making the presentation during the ceremony. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

(Proclamation 47-12 Veterans Day 2012 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

1. New Animal Shelter- Weather continues to plague progress. The sally port area was poured and the remainder of the plumbing for the buildings is being completed so the remainder of the floor can be poured.
2. Request for Qualifications for legal services for the County was issued with a due date of November 9, 2012.
3. Request for Proposal for the renovation of the Courthouse has been sent out. Bids are due back on November 8, 2012.
4. Met with Mayor Shelton and Alderman Petit of Rosman and officials from the NC Department of Transportation to investigate the possibility of obtaining access off the "new cut" on US 64 West and discussed the feasibility of extending the multi-purpose path to the Peter Vitalie Building. Also met with Representative Trudi Walend and Rosman officials regarding the possibility of a local bill allowing voluntary satellite annexation of a property into the Town of Rosman.

5. Represented the Board of Commissioners at the open house of the newly renovated Rosman High School Career Technical Education Building. The Board of Commissioners partnered with the Board of Education to provide the funds for the renovation.
6. Represented the Board of Commissioners at the inauguration of Dr. David Joyce as the 13<sup>th</sup> President of Brevard College and the ribbon cutting ceremony at Gorges State Park.
7. Attended the Brevard City Council workshop on water capacity. Hopefully the Planning Board's look at future growth can be included in the final figures used for needed water capacity. The Manager hopes to follow up soon with another meeting with City officials.
8. Met with officials in Travelers Rest, SC on Saturday, October 13, 2012 to discuss the economic impact of the Swamp Rabbit Trail and visited five businesses to get their opinion of the trail. Two said they were opposed to the trail in the beginning but after seeing the economic impact they have changed their minds. As the County moves forward with the economic study this is an area in which the County will need professional advice to determine the pros and cons before any decision is made on the rail line.
9. There will be a farewell reception for Joe McKinney on Wednesday, October 24 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Land of Sky Regional Council.
10. Reviewed the sealed closed session minutes with the County Attorney and determined there are none to unseal at this time.
11. The Blue Ridge Bike Plan will be presented on November 7, 2012 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Rogow Room at the Library. Gary Lightfoot represents the County on the committee that put forth the plan.
12. The next Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 since Monday is a holiday.

The Manager and Commissioners presented County Attorney Curtis Potter with a framed copy of a Transylvania County waterfall. This is his last Board meeting. He is relocating to Cary, North Carolina. Commissioners thanked him for all the work he has done for the County over the last few years.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Edwin Jones: Mr. Jones stated that he has a friend who raises range-fed chickens for his family's consumption and he thought this may be a concept the Sharing House or the Bread of Life could use to help provide people with food. Also, Mr. Jones said he attended a memorial service for a veteran over the weekend. The service included a military flag ceremony and it moved him how the ceremony honored this country, the flag, the deceased veteran and his family.

Tim Petit: Mr. Petit asked questions concerning the hiring of J. Goldsmith & Company to do an economic development study. He asked if the consultant would be working exclusively for Transylvania County while she is under contract and he inquired about the time frame in which she expects to complete her work.

The Manager responded that Ms. Goldsmith projected a completion date of March 2013 in her proposal; however the project has been delayed. When the project team meets with Ms. Goldsmith in the very near future, a definitive time frame will be set at that time. The Manager said he does not know what other projects she might be involved in outside of Transylvania County at the same time. Her background suggested that she met all times frames and deadlines with her other projects.

Marty Griffin: Mr. Griffin spoke in response to public comments made at the beginning of the meeting about the band practice being so loud and why the band did not practice on the football field. He said there is a group working to raise monies to upgrade the field. He said wet and muddy fields are

dangerous for children to play on and there is much work to be done on improving facilities here in the County.

David Morrow: Mr. Morrow reported that One Stop Voting is in progress. As of Saturday, 2,100 people have voted with an additional 500-600 today. He said the Board of Elections staff is working very hard, as well as the elections workers. Training begins for poll workers this evening for the General Election. Mr. Morrow said there have been no problems so far but from time to time there are some acoustics issues in the old Library where One Stop Voting is being held.

### COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Hogsed thanked County Attorney Curtis Potter for his service to the County and wished him the best on his move to Cary. He also thanked those that have been working on the economic development project. Commissioner Hogsed asked the Manager to please continue following up with noise complaints reported earlier in the meeting. The Manager noted that he has been in contact with the Superintendent and others to address the noise complaints.

Commissioner Chapman thanked County Attorneys David Neumann and Curtis Potter for their service to the County and, as veterans of the Army and Marines respectively, their service to their country.

Commissioner Chappell thanked the Board of Elections staff and volunteers for their hard during this election season. He also offered his thoughts and prayers to Chairman Hawkins and his family on the recent loss of his father.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

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Mike Hawkins, Chair  
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board