

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 11, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Commissioners Chambers at the County Administration Building, located at 101 S. Broad Street, Brevard, NC.

Commissioners present were Chairman Larry Chapman, Jason Chappell, Mike Hawkins, Vice-Chairwoman Page Lemel and Kelvin Phillips. Also present were County Manager Jaime Laughter, County Attorney Misti Bass, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Derrick McKissock

There were approximately 30 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Larry Chapman presiding declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

WELCOME

Chairman Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the members of the public for participating in their local government. He introduced Commissioners and staff in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Laura Leatherwood: Dr. Leatherwood is the new President of Blue Ridge Community College. She addressed the Board for the purpose of introducing herself. She assured the Board that the College supports them in their economic development efforts and she looks forward to working closely with the County.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 22, 2017. The minutes were approved as submitted.

RESCHEDULE REVALUATION CYCLE

The Board of Commissioners previously adopted a resolution to have the tax reappraisal fall every four years following the 2016 reappraisal. The Manager proposed to schedule the next revaluation for five years out, instead of four, so that it occurs in the year 2021 and in an odd year. This will aid in project management given that State statutes require bond referendums, if held, to be on the ballot in even numbered years. Commissioners approved delaying the next tax reappraisal to January 1, 2021 via adoption of Resolution 23-2017 which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

RECOGNITION OF CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

In July 2015, the Board of Commissioners implemented a recognition program for the purposes of expressing their appreciation to citizens who volunteer their time and expertise on the County's many citizen advisory councils. Commissioners intend to recognize citizens on a semi-annual basis. This period covered January 1, 2017-June 30, 2017. Since the Board of Commissioners added a daytime meeting, citizens were given a choice of attending either of the July meetings. Each person in attendance was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a coffee mug. The Clerk will mail certificates to those citizen volunteers that were unable to attend or have moved out of the county. This item will be placed on the July 24 agenda for those preferring to attend the evening meeting.

List of Citizen Volunteers whose term expired or ended January 1, 2017-June 30, 2017:

Citizen Volunteer	Citizen Advisory Council	Term
Brittany Whitmire	Agricultural Advisory Board	July 2011-April 2017
Gus Constantine	Board of Equalization & Review	August 2010-June 2017
Claudia Hawkins	Board of Equalization & Review	January 2002-January 2017
Rick Lasater	Joint Historic Preservation Commission	October 2015-April 2017
Betty Sherrill	Joint Historic Preservation Commission	February 2011-May 2017
Lauren Wise	Joint Historic Preservation Commission	June 2014-May 2017
Gayla Phillips	Jury Commission	August 1999-June 2017
Kelly Burton	Juvenile Crime Prevention Council	November 2015-June 2017
Betsy Jordan	Library Board of Trustees	June 2011-June 2017
Kristin Armstrong	Nursing & Adult Care Home Advisory Committee	August 2014-June 2017
Susan Cothorn	Nursing & Adult Care Home Advisory Committee	October 2016-June 2017
Madelyn Meyer	Nursing & Adult Care Home Advisory Committee	December 2011-April 2017
Linda Novosel	Nursing & Adult Care Home Advisory Committee	January 2014-April 2017
Todd Branham	Parks and Recreation Commission	June 2014-June 2017
Kathleen Johnson	Parks and Recreation Commission	August 2015-February 2017
Sammy Kicklighter	Parks and Recreation Commission	June 2014-June 2017
Jan Plemmons	Parks and Recreation Commission	May 2016-June 2017
Maureen Copelof	Planning Board	January 2014-February 2017
Kris Hovey	Planning Board	January 2014-February 2017
Craig Burghardt	Transportation Advisory Committee	May 2012-May 2017
Mac Morrow	Transportation Advisory Committee	May 2005-May 2017
Ron Schieve	Western Carolina Community Action	September 2010-May 2017

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPENDITURES IN NORTH CAROLINA

County Veterans Service Officer Frank Pearsall presented an annual report to Commissioners and reported on the expenditures in Transylvania County for veterans' services.

In FY 16, 889 veterans used the VA hospital in Asheville, an increase of 15 over the previous year. This figure has slightly increased every year since at least 2008. In FY 16, the veteran population in Transylvania County was 3,353, a decrease of 66 from the previous year. Despite the decrease, expenditures by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs continue to rise. Total expenditures were \$20,169,000, which included \$9,728,000 in compensation and pension and \$9,600,000 in medical. In 2006 when Mr. Pearsall came on as the Veterans Service Officer, only \$5 million was expended for the benefit of veterans in Transylvania County. Mr. Pearsall reported that the majority of his clients are Vietnam veterans and he is seeing that Agent Orange used during the Vietnam War has caused several health problems in these veterans.

Commissioner Lemel noted that the number of veterans in Transylvania County being served by the VA Hospital is less than other counties and inquired as to why. Mr. Pearsall wondered the same and noted one reason might be that there are a large number of retired veterans living here that use TriCare insurance and therefore do not use the VA Hospital, thus causing the figure to be lower than other counties.

Chairman Chapman made everyone aware of a tragic plane crash that killed 16 marines yesterday and asked everyone to keep them and their families in their thoughts and prayers.

Commissioner Chappell announced that Congressman Meadows has scheduled several upcoming veteran seminars in the region and he wanted to get the word out about those for veterans that may need services. Mr. Pearsall reported that during these seminars, veterans service officers meet with veterans and help expedite their claims. He believes Transylvania County would benefit by having a seminar here and he asked Commissioners to encourage Congressman Meadows to do so. Congressman Meadows is a true advocate for veterans in Western North Carolina and Mr. Pearsall said he is thankful to have a good working relationship with him.

This concluded the presentation. Commissioners thanked Mr. Pearsall for the outstanding service he provides to veterans in Transylvania County.

TRANSYLVANIA ECONOMIC ALLIANCE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Transylvania Economic Alliance (TEA) Executive Director Josh Hallingse presented the organization's semi-annual report to Commissioners. He also introduced the members of Board of Directors in attendance. This is a summary of his presentation:

The Alliance

- Public/private not-for-profit economic development corporation
- Mission is threefold
 - Work with existing businesses
 - Product development
 - Marketing/Product development

Metrics

	Goal FY 2016-17	Actual FY 2016-17
Business Development & Project Activity		
Direct contact with a company, real estate agent, project manager or site consultant representing an opportunity to provide market information	32	43
Projects generated defined as qualified project with site selection schedule, project specifications, defined real estate needs and direct Alliance contact	10	17
Projects visited defined as visit to the county to evaluate market and real estate option for investment project or actively engaged in retention/expansion of existing business location	6	10
Project located defined as a private employer making a decision to locate or expand in Transylvania County	3	4
Website		
Number of times website has been visited by users	5,000	8,666
Number of individual visitors to website within a specified time period	3,000	5,681
Business Retention & Expansion		
Formal business visits which can include partner organizations to gather information relative to Transylvania County business climate, trends and job creation and investment opportunities	38	39
Existing business consulting and troubleshooting	80	66
Formal Business Meetings	2	2

Successes

- Automated Tool and Machine
 - Filled vacant building, the former Peter Vitalie manufacturing building in Rosman
 - Drastic expansion from former facility
 - Two new jobs created
- Gaia Herbs
 - Added production capacity at existing location
 - Created 15 new jobs
- Mind and Mood
 - Purchased facility on NC 280
 - 11 jobs
- Flymen Fishing Company
 - Local outdoor gear manufacturer and designer of outdoor fishing products
 - Built new facility on US 64
 - Two new jobs
- Lynn Cove Foundry & Forge
 - New company
 - Two new jobs
- Ecusta Brewing
 - Three new jobs
- OGRE
 - New outdoor gear company
 - Three new jobs
- New Excelsior
 - 20 new jobs created with expansion

Community Overview

How is Transylvania County performing from a trend analysis compared to peer counties? Peer counties established based on population: Ashe, Bladen, Dare, Macon, Montgomery, and Cherokee Counties. These counties are similar in size to Transylvania County and comparisons were to employment, population growth, and growth in wage standards. Transylvania County is fortunate to have performed better than its peer communities. Using the year 2014 as a base year, the County has experienced growth in population, average weekly wage and total wages, and the number of establishments producing goods or services, and a decrease in the unemployment figures.

Chairman Chapman asked Mr. Hallingse if TEA has the ability to determine the origin of the website hits. Mr. Hallingse responded that it depends on the type of server the person is using at their particular location, but he can generally determine the country of origin. He reported that most of the hits are local, but the website does generate hits from outside North Carolina.

Commissioner Lemel asked what attributed to some of the business retention and expansion challenges being that the metrics indicate they met only 82% of their goals in this area. Mr. Hallingse responded that TEA started with an aggressive goal without having any data to support what would be an appropriate place to start. Although they did not meet their goals, he felt the results were positive. The number of troubleshooting meetings has decreased, whereas the number formal visits have increased. This is a positive trend for him because he preferred to be more proactive than reactive.

Commissioner Phillips noted there is a substantial difference in the labor force from 2014 to 2016 and it is larger than the population growth. Mr. Hallingse said the growth is due to people commuting to Transylvania County to work. The labor force is regional so a sizable amount of our population works outside of Transylvania County as well. It is TEA's goal to grow full time employment in Transylvania County for our citizens.

Commissioner Hawkins pointed out that of our peer counties; Transylvania County is the only county over the past three years with no negative trends in the categories reported. Transylvania County has remained consistent as a Tier 2 county, but a couple of our peer counties have regressed to a Tier 1, a designation meaning the county is economically depressed. He said the information reveals to him that while North Carolina as a whole has recovered from the recession, not all counties in the State have recovered.

Commissioner Lemel was impressed and pleased that 58 new jobs have been created over the last year. Mr. Hallingse reported that small businesses in Transylvania County put in a tremendous amount of time and effort in trying to be successful and TEA is fortunate to have the opportunity to assist them.

Chairman Chapman reported that Senator Edwards announced a significant amount of funds are available for Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties and he urged Mr. Hallingse and the Manager to stay abreast of how Transylvania County might benefit. He also noted Senator Edwards was successful in accessing \$200,000 in State dollars that provided additional funds resulting in added square footage for the Ecusta Road project.

Mr. Hallingse continued with this presentation. He showed various charts and graphs (created by Syneva; sources: US Census Bureau, NC Commerce, US Bureau of Labor Statistics) that indicated the following trends for Transylvania County:

- Population growth is trending upward
- Population growth is slightly behind the State and region
- Employment growth rate is one of the top in the region at 3.4%
- Average weekly wage \$605

- Manufacturing sector leads employment gains in the community, adding over 250 jobs since 2012
- Manufacturing sector average wage exceeds the County average

Existing Businesses

TEA coordinated a manufacturer-specific roundtable event to give local employers an opportunity to discuss common issues and meet other local employers. This was part of the organization's goal to hold formal business meetings.

Facts:

- 33 manufacturing companies in Transylvania County
- \$31.7 million estimated annual manufacturing payroll
- 724 manufacturing jobs
- 8.02% of total employment (US average 8.80%)
- 25% higher wages than County average

Business Development & Marketing

TEA has been active in this area by investing in quality promotional materials. In addition, per the request of Commissioner Lemel during the organization's last report, TEA has updated its sites and buildings tool on their website to be more accessible and mobile friendly.

One of TEA's first accomplishments was adopting a new brand. They also created the tag line *Natural Advantage*. To help people understand what this means, particularly as they market Transylvania County, TEA created a video that was produced in collaboration with several existing companies. He showed the video during his presentation which is available on their website.

Commissioner Chappell thanked Mr. Hallingse and TEA for their assistance with the Work Ready Community application process and for being an advocate of this initiative. He also appreciated their assistance and guidance in developing the current economic incentive policy. The scoring measure has helped Commissioners make decisions and has contributed to many successes.

Commissioner Chappell pointed out that the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board is also creating videos that highlight different employers in the region, including several from Transylvania County. Mr. Hallingse indicated that one of the major concerns for employers is labor availability. Some employers do a better job than others of getting their message out. He commended the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board for coordinating this marketing effort because it is a regional issue.

Mr. Hallingse reported that TEA has had a busy year from a marketing and business development standpoint. Most of their business development activities involve partnerships, particularly with the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) and Carolina West, a regional economic development group. TEA has also participated in several events that are specific to our target markets. Mr. Hallingse pointed out TEA makes hundreds of phone calls in advance of these events to make appointments with company representatives that have expressed an interest in our region and community. This is a list of events TEA participated in this year, either on their own or with a partner organization:

FY 2016-17 Events

1. EDPNC, Ohio (Cleveland/Columbus) Call Mission
2. Carolina West, Charlotte Call Mission
3. Carolina West, EDPNC Project Managers
4. EDPNC, Outdoor Retailer-Winter Tradeshow
5. Alliance, Natural Products Expo-West
6. Carolina West, Greenville SC Call Mission
7. Alliance, Hunter Hotel Conference

8. Carolina West, Atlanta Call Mission
9. EDPNC, Craft Brewers Conference
10. Alliance, BIO International

Dollars spent on marketing and business activities have generated the following:

- 26 leads, 17 projects
- Majority of leads came through direct contact to or from TEA
- Other leads generated by partners (EDPNC, Carolina West, Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Development Authority, Heart of Brevard, real estate professionals)
- Majority of leads fall under advanced and niche manufacturing; small to mid-size companies with an average of 30 employees
- Also receive leads from food and organics sector, tourism and creative services (retail or service business that does not fall into other target sector)
- More than 60% of leads looking for existing space; 35% inquiring about land
- Square footage varies depending on target sector and client and if looking for building or acreage; business activity driven by what is in the inventory

Product Development

Inventory is critical to success. TEA has taken a very structured and measured approach to product development. TEA completed a greenfield analysis last summer which helped determine appropriate land and places appropriate for a new business park or other type of business activity. This plan guides TEA's activities.

One of the short term goals generated by the greenfield analysis was the Ecusta Road Project, a collaborative effort involving TEA, the County and City of Brevard. TEA is currently advertising in order to prequalify bidders. These are due in August. Following this process TEA and the County will move forward with receiving bids from the prequalified bidders on the formal construction documents. They have also completed demolition of an old building on the project site and conducted known remediation issues to prepare for the construction process. The timeline for breaking ground on the project is slated for the fall. Mr. Hallingse thanked the Board of Commissioners for securing State funding to enhance the project and growing it from a 50,000 sq. ft. facility to an additional 10,000 sq. ft. bay. This project demonstrates what happens when local governments recognize a need and work together to find solutions.

Over the last two years, TEA has worked with the owners of the Davidson River property to help bring that property to market. The property has been entered into the Duke Energy Site Readiness Program which is a nationally recognized site selection certification process that is funded primarily by Duke Energy and other partners. They identify high-potential properties in their service territory and work with a globally recognized site selection firm with the goal of bringing that property closer to market.

Priority Topics, Initiatives & Budget

- Ecusta Road Project
- Transportation Improvement Priorities
 - West Loop could have a huge impact to local business community because it impacts several existing companies
- Fundraising campaign (five-year capital campaign)
- Workforce
 - Efforts of Workforce Development Board
 - Certified Work Ready Community
 - Increase awareness of existing companies
- Brevard Planning Department Projects – to improve business climate and make it easier to do business

- Form Based Code
- Storm Water Ordinance
- Budget – Contract Request
 - Operations and Staffing - \$260,000
 - Marketing and Business Development-\$90,000
 - Existing Business Initiatives - \$35,000
 - Implement Greenfield Analysis (Product Development) - \$50,000
 - **Total – 435,000**
 - Will continue to raise private dollars in an effort to diversify funds

This concluded the presentation.

Commissioner Lemel thanked Mr. Hallingse for the thoroughness of the report. She commented it is obvious that TEA has been busy. She said she looks forward to continuing to work with TEA.

Commissioner Hawkins noted that the current contract with TEA has expired and suggested as a next step that members of the Board meet with Mr. Hallingse and members of the TEA Board of Directors to discuss mutual goals and a vision for the coming year.

Chairman Chapman thanked Mr. Hallingse for his presentation and encouraged him to keep up the good work. He stressed that the County has made a significant investment in economic development so it is imperative that the County sees results. Mr. Hallingse thanked the Board for their support; especially on the product development because he believes it will bring dividends to the County moving forward.

Commissioners asked the Manager if a new contract will be ready for approval by the August 8 meeting. The Manager will arrange a meeting quickly so that funding is not delayed. She was unsure if it would be ready for approval by the August 8, but will strive to do so.

APPOINTMENTS

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

At the last meeting, Commissioners made several appointments to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. It was reported at the time that due to some restructuring at VAYA Health, the mental health director/designee position was vacant due to the elimination of a position within VAYA Health and that staff was waiting for a recommendation for replacement. On June 29, the Clerk was informed that Lyndsey Westall will be filling the mental health director/designee for VAYA Health on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Her application was included in the Board's agenda packet for review.

Commissioner Lemel moved to appoint Lyndsey Westall to fill the mental health director/designee on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Commissioners made appointments to the Parks and Recreation Commission on June 13, 2017. One of the new appointees (John Whitmore) is unable to serve and should be replaced. Staff recommendation was to appoint an applicant to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission from the remaining applications on file.

Commissioner Lemel nominated and moved to appoint Amy Burgess to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

VOTING DELEGATE TO THE NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) will hold its 110th Annual Conference in Durham County August 10-13, 2017. The NCACC requires counties to elect a voting delegate to the Annual Conference. The voting delegate is authorized by the counties to vote on business items during the conference. Chairman Chapman is registered to attend the Annual Conference. The voting delegate is due to the NCACC by August 4.

Commissioner Lemel moved to appoint Chairman Chapman to serve as Transylvania County's Voting Delegate to the NCACC Annual Conference, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD CONTRACT

Funding for the Transylvania County Rescue Squad is included in the recently adopted FY 18 budget. Staff had hoped there would be a contract in place by July 1. The Board of Commissioners approved the contract at their last meeting; however, since then and after further review the Rescue Squad is asking for an amendment to modify page 6, section 12, subsection (b) Dispatch Protocols. This section reads:

The Rescue Squad shall comply with the Transylvania County protocols on file in the 911 Communications Center. This includes ensuring that the Rescue Squad has personnel to respond to any call for assistance 99 percent of the time following the first dispatch and 95 percent of the time following the 2nd dispatch.

They are requesting to change "99 percent of the time following the first dispatch" to "97 percent of the time following the first dispatch". For FY 17, the Rescue Squad met the 98% measure. Staff is concerned that a measure of 97% would not be a goal for the contract and that the contract should not reflect a decrease from existing measures. The Manager invited Chief Dale Whitlock to speak on behalf of the Rescue Squad's request.

Chief Whitlock said it was explained to him by County staff that the 99% measure is meant to be a goal of the department, but as written it is a standard. He reported his figures indicate the department responded to 97.5% of calls, not 98% as the County indicated, and he believes this standard sets his department up for failure. He indicated the Rescue Squad is staffed with an all-volunteer force who works full time jobs, with the exception of him being the one paid staff member. Chief Whitlock stated the morale of the department's volunteers has taken a hit because the department is losing services it used to provide, coupled with the fact that Brevard Fire Department pays their members while the Rescue Squad does not. The Rescue Squad also responded to more than double the calls of Brevard Fire Department. He pointed out that the Rescue Squad's request for additional paid staffing was denied. Because of these things, he asked the Board to consider amending the contract to read "97% of the time..." in an effort to boost morale and ensure the department does not fail.

The Manager pointed out on the second dispatch the Rescue Squad ranks 4 out of 9 for the top percentages of meeting those measures. The intent from Emergency Management and Communications staff is to encourage goalsetting at a higher level for all our departments.

Commissioner Lemel asked if the Rescue Squad would agree to the insertion of the word "goal". She questioned why the measures would be set lower than what the department is currently performing. Chief Whitlock said the department would be agreeable, noting that as written it is a standard for which there are consequences for not meeting. He noted that the department's goal is to answer 100% of the calls, but as a volunteer-staffed department it is difficult to respond to every call.

Commissioner Lemel moved to amend the contract with the Transylvania County Rescue Squad: page 6, Section 12, subsection b, to read *This includes meeting the goal that the Rescue Squad has personnel to respond to any call for assistance 99 percent of the time following the first dispatch and 95 percent of the time following the 2nd dispatch.* The motion was seconded by Chappell.

Commissioner Hawkins stated this amendment does not mean that 90% is acceptable. He also pointed out the difference in the percentages is small and he thinks there are bigger issues that need to be addressed. Commissioner Lemel agreed there are bigger issues to attend to and wondered if it is time to start exploring the possibility of paid staffing as part of the overall emergency response. In the meantime, she said it was important to have a contract in place before these types of discussions can be had. Commissioner Hawkins expressed disappointment that at this and the prior meeting of the Board, Chief Whitlock commented that the County is setting up the Rescue Squad to fail. He assured him that there is no desire by anyone in the County for this to happen. Chairman Chapman commented that the goals are important and they must be realistic and attainable. Emergency Management and Emergency services as a whole are reaching critical stages in terms of funding for services, equipment, etc. and he said it is time to start having serious discussions about how to ensure services are being provided at the appropriate level across the County. He thanked Chief Whitlock and the Rescue Squad for providing important services, and stressed that no one is interested in seeing the department fail. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

RECLASSIFICATION OF POSITION IN TAX ADMINISTRATION

In February 2017, a vacant Property Appraiser II position in the Tax Administration department was reclassified to a Property Appraiser I in preparation of the nearing retirement of a long time employee. When the position became vacant, Tax Administrator Jessica McCall conducted a review of the department to determine appropriate positions needed.

Over the last year, the Land Records Assistant has successfully completed tasks related to land records including the completion of software issues and upgrades, working with the Assistant Tax Administrator on the pictometry project, land records related courses and tax office mapping. This person has taken on more responsibility and is equivalent to a Property Appraiser I. Ms. McCall recommended this position be reclassified as a Land Records Supervisor, moving from a salary grade 13 to a salary grade 14.

Ms. McCall proposed to reclassify the vacant Property Appraiser I position to a Property Appraiser and for this person to serve as a backup to the Land Records Supervisor with mapping projects. This position will also serve as a backup to Real and Personal property appraisal, Tax Collections and will be responsible for maintaining the bankruptcy files as they relate to Tax Collections. The position is currently a salary grade 14 and would be reclassified to a salary grade 13.

There is no financial impact. Due to the Land Records Assistant position already being a salary grade 13 and the Property Appraiser I position being a salary grade 14, the approved budget allows for the requested reclassifications without any funding increase.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the reclassification of the Land Records Assistant to a Land Records Supervisor and the Property Appraiser I to a Property Appraiser. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Commissioner Chappell noted there have been several reclassifications over the last year. He requested to see a countywide organizational chart at the Manager's convenience. Chairman Chapman asked if Ms. McCall is able to fill positions and meet the demands of department. Ms. McCall felt she is able to meet the demands of the department. In response to Chairman Chapman, she reported that the County ended the year with an unaudited 99.82% tax collection rate. Chairman Chapman thanked Ms. McCall and her staff for their continuous and amazing accomplishments. He said Commissioners across the State are envious of our tax rate. Commissioner

Chappell also thanked citizens for paying their tax obligations. He said he understands it is not always easy, but noted that staff will work out payment arrangements when circumstances arise. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

RESOLUTION APPROVING DONATION OF SURPLUS COMPUTERS TO TRANSYLVANIA HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Transylvania Heritage Museum has expressed a need for computers with an operating system later than Windows XP. North Carolina General Statute 160A-280 allows the County to donate any surplus property to a nonprofit organization incorporated in the United States. The two computers are identified as Dell OptiPlex 3020 Computers (Service Tags: JWCPFZ1 & DZ4QM22), both having Windows 7 Professional OS, with two Dell monitors. These computers were removed from service in February 2017. The County Manager has declared the computers surplus. Prior to donation the County must post a public notice of its intent to donate the property and then adopt a resolution donating the property at another meeting.

On June 26, the Board of Commissioners authorized staff to post notice. The notice requirements have been met. Resolution 22-2017 *Approving Donation of Surplus Computers to Transylvania Heritage Museum* is included in the Board's agenda packet for approval.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve Resolution 22-2017 Approving Donation of Surplus Computers to Transylvania Heritage Museum and authorized staff to move forward with donation, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously approved.

(Resolution 22-2017 Approving Donation of Surplus Computers to Transylvania Heritage Museum is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- Opened new fiscal year as of July 1 and audit work for FY 17 has begun
- Invited to NCACC Annual Conference Workshop Presentation-Early Childhood on August 11
- Parking at Silvermont-issues have arisen with some patrons not adhering to parking signs
- Kudos Report!
 - To County staff, the Library Board, volunteers, and consultant for the excellent strategic planning process from citizen Patricia Fair for developing a plan that is readable, understandable and achievable
 - To Jared Mull in Parks and Recreation from Daryle Hogsed for dodgeball camp and a job well done
 - To Frank Pearsall from Terrance Turbin for being knowledgeable, helpful and pleasant in assisting him with making use of his veteran's benefits
 - To County Commissioners from Susan Brown with French Broad River Stewards for sponsorship of Riverfest
 - To Transylvania County Maintenance: Robbie McCall, Glen Strickland, Clinton Owen; Transylvania County Solid Waste: Dwayne Smith, James Anders; Lake Toxaway Fire Chief Carmen West; Tony (last name unknown) from NC Department of Transportation, and Communications Director Kevin Shook for response on July 2 to a culvert washout and road collapse on Old Cartwright Place (County-owned property) was undermined and collapsed due to the culvert being blocked. Utility Crews and Residents had no access other than this route. These individuals worked to restore access through excavation and debris removal, replacement of the culvert piping, layering of stone and concrete mixture to prevent erosion and layering of a final cover. This was all completed over a 24-hour period on a Sunday morning over a holiday weekend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lemel highlighted the Manager's mention of her upcoming presentation at the NCACC Annual Conference on the County's early childhood efforts. Transylvania County is in a group that includes Charlotte, Guilford County (Greensboro), Durham, and Forsyth County (Winston-Salem) who are recognized as leading in the State on early childhood initiatives and efforts. She hopes everyone can be extraordinarily proud of what has been assembled in this County to take care of our littlest and most vulnerable citizens.

Commissioner Hawkins complimented the Manager on a couple of items. First she is participating in a webinar tomorrow along with Library Director Anna Yount to talk about the Library's strategic planning process and how it aligned with the County's strategic plan. In addition, she was interviewed by *The Hendersonville Lightning* for an article on multicounty planning, particularly greenway planning, and she eloquently explained Transylvania County's position on the Ecusta Trail and how it is not our decision to make.

Chairman Chapman reminded everyone of the upcoming total solar eclipse on August 21. He stressed to everyone to wear safety glasses because the sun can cause permanent damage to one's eyes. He reported he has organized a trip for local leaders to visit PARI on July 21 so they can see some of the positive things they are working on and the investment they are making in the community.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Lemel moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously carried.**

Larry L. Chapman, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board