

**MINUTES**  
**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**March 26, 2018 – REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.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, and Kelvin Phillips. Vice-Chairwoman Page Lemel was traveling out of the country and therefore unable to attend. Also present were County Manager Jaime Laughter, County Attorney Misti Bass, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Derek 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 7:04 p.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**

Deborah Tibbetts: Ms. Tibbetts is the Executive Director of Smart Start in Transylvania County. In anticipation of the approval of the proclamation declaring April as the Month of the Young Child, she wanted to thank Commissioners and the County for their support of young children.

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

The Manager requested to add under Presentations/Recognitions Item V-A Presentation from Michele Pilon, President of Transylvania Regional Hospital, Regarding the Mission Health Letter of Intent to Engage HCA and under Closed Session Item XI-B per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with an attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege. There were no additional modifications from Commissioners.

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

Chairman Chapman recognized State Representative Cody Henson and Michele Pilon, President of Transylvania Regional Hospital, who were both in attendance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 13, 2018. Commissioners approved the minutes as submitted.

DISCOVERY, RELEASE AND MONTHLY SETTLEMENT REPORT

Each month the Tax Administrator prepares a listing of proposed releases. The Board of Commissioners has the responsibility of approving the releases. For the month of February 2018, total tax dollars released was \$366.10 and refunds totaled \$1,089.20. Commissioners approved the Discovery, Release and Monthly Settlement Report for February 2018.

REQUEST LETTERS OF INTEREST AND PRE-QUALIFICATIONS FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING

Over the past year the Transylvania County Community Land Trust and the Planning and Community Development Department have explored ways to encourage the construction of new workforce housing to assist individuals and families making between 80% - 120% of the area median income. As part of the discussion, property owned by Transylvania County near Rosman was identified as a potential location that the County could offer as incentive. This property has access to public water and sewer, natural gas and has areas that are relatively flat. Although this parcel has been identified for potential economic development activity, its location and topography (including the streams on the property) make it impractical for manufacturing.

At their last Transylvania County Community Land Trust meeting, the board unanimously recommended that this approach would be an ideal way to determine the interest by for-profit and non-profit organizations and demonstrate the County's desire to promote workforce housing. Commissioners authorized Planning and Community Development staff to distribute the Request for Letters of Interest and Pre-Qualifications as presented.

PROCLAMATION-MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Smart Start Executive Director Deborah Tibbetts requested the Board of Commissioners proclaim the month of April 2018 as Month of the Young Child. Commissioners have passed similar proclamations in past years. The purpose of the proclamation is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families, to recognize the early childcare programs and services that meet those needs, and to thank and recognize our early childhood educators who care for and educate the youngest children in our community. Commissioner Chappell read aloud the proclamation for the benefit of the public. Commissioners approved Proclamation #07-2018 Month of the Young Child and presented it to Ms. Tibbetts. Chairman Chapman thanked Ms. Tibbetts for the work Smart Start does on behalf of children in Transylvania County. He noted that he attended the Thrive Conference in Greensboro last week and it was mentioned several times the great work of this organization.

(Proclamation #07-2018 Month of the Young Child is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

PROCLAMATION-NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

The second week in April is permanently recognized as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week to honor the thousands of men and women who respond to emergency calls, dispatch professionals and equipment and render life-saving assistance to the citizens of the United States. The Board of Commissioners expressed how proud they are of all the Transylvania County 911 Communications Center's Telecommunicators and the vital service they provide to the citizens of Transylvania County and their fellow emergency services comrades. Commissioner Phillips read aloud the proclamation for the

benefit of the public. Commissioners approved Proclamation #08-2018 National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and presented it to Communications Director Kevin Shook.

(Proclamation #08-2018 National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

#### RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF BREVARD 'S SESQUICENTENNIAL AS A MUNICIPALITY

The City of Brevard was incorporated in 1868 following the creation of Transylvania County in 1861. The City of Brevard will therefore celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018. Mayor Jimmy Harris and Brevard City Council requested that the Board of Commissioners recognize and honor Brevard with the passage of a resolution. The City will celebrate its anniversary on Saturday, November 10 at the Veterans Day Celebration of Our History and Heroes and at a number of other events throughout the year. Commissioner Hawkins read aloud the resolution for the benefit of the public. Commissioners approved Resolution #06-2018 In Recognition of the City of Brevard's Sesquicentennial as a Municipality. It will be delivered to the City of Brevard.

(Resolution #06-2018 In Recognition of the City of Brevard's Sesquicentennial as a Municipality is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

### **PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

#### PRESENTATION BY MICHELE PILON, PRESIDENT OF TRANSYLVANIA REGIONAL HOSPITAL, REGARDING MISSION HEALTH LETTER OF INTENT TO ENGAGE HCA

Chairman Chapman invited Transylvania Regional Hospital President Michele Pilon to present to the Board regarding Mission Health's recent announcement of their submission of a Letter of Intent to engage with HCA.

Ms. Pilon reported that last week a press release was put out by Mission Health announcing submission of a Letter of Intent to possibly engage with HCA. She said it is important to note the decision was unanimous by the Mission Health Board of Directors, and not a sole decision by the President and CEO of Mission Health. Over the next several months, Mission Health will work through a due diligence phase. If a transaction is to occur, there will be several months of regulatory requirements that must be met and investigated. If all points are met, the transaction should occur by the end of the calendar year. To address concerns, she wanted to explain why this action is occurring, how it would occur, and what the expected outcomes will be.

#### **Why?**

Engaging in a Letter of Intent with HCA allows Mission Health to be proactive, to continue to meet WNC's needs, and reflects the Board of Director's long term vision and commitment to preserve and expand the world class healthcare they are currently offering to the community. It is important to note that healthcare is rapidly consolidating and Mission Health is not alone in their actions. Ms. Pilon stated that stand alone facilities cannot exist without partnering or being acquired by a system or larger entity. Now systems are finding themselves in the same situation. Over the last four years, Mission Health has mitigated \$261 million in expenses, but they cannot continue to mitigate this dollar level without impacting patient outcomes and patient safety. She noted that 75% of their demographics - i.e., patients are either governmental or charity. So the earnings they receive are from the remaining 25% of patients who are privately insured.

**How?**

Ms. Pilon reported that in most cases, HCA saves financially dying hospitals, but that is not the case with Mission Health. Mission Health remains very viable and continues to perform well. Mission Health's performance attracted HCA to them, as well their quality outcomes and innovation platform. HCA visited Mission Health and Transylvania Regional Hospital to explore some of the innovative things the hospitals were doing. Following their visit, they met with Mr. Paulus and expressed how impressed they were with a small nonprofit hospital system having such a remarkable innovation platform. HCA invited Mr. Paulus to visit their corporate headquarters located in Nashville, TN. Ms. Pilon reported Mr. Paulus quickly realized the value of HCA and the wonderful things they were doing. HCA's clinical and patient outcomes are very similar to Mission Health System's and they give back within their communities. Ms. Pilon stated the equality within the two systems illustrates the relationship HCA and Mission will have. HCA will not be acquiring Mission Health due to financial issues; rather HCA and Mission Health will enter into a partnership due to quality and patient outcomes and an innovation platform Mission Health can offer them. HCA currently does not exist in North Carolina, but they have 179 facilities along the east coast.

**What will be outcomes be?**

Ms. Pilon stated, should this partnership take place, it will be the right choice for patients and families because quality care will continue. HCA and Mission Health intend to build off of each other's strengths. The partnership will offer protection to facilities located throughout WNC communities. Because the relationship will be one of quality and not financial, Mission Health requested from HCA these protections for their facilities and HCA was very willing to accept the request because of the quality outcomes and innovation platform. In terms of staffing, the partnership will offer growth and expansion and will keep current management and personnel in place. Operating costs will also decrease due to the creation of a larger entity. Ms. Pilon reported that a result of this partnership will be the creation of a system foundation which will address social determinants that current foundations are not addressing. Foundations are addressing structures, but not programs. The system foundation will address issues like transportation, affordable housing and programs that get to the core of what determines people's health. Ms. Pilon reported there are tens of millions of dollars to be spent every year on the community and those social determinants. This is a huge piece of giving back to the community that will be an offshoot of this partnership. Ms. Pilon noted that Mission Health will keep its name. HCA feels like the hospital is part of the community and should remain part of the community's identity.

Ms. Pilon encouraged everyone to visit the website [www.missionhealthforward.org](http://www.missionhealthforward.org). This website will be updated with information as the process moves forward. She stressed that at this point, they are in the Letter of Intent phase and the information she shared is all she knows. Once more information is available, she will be willing to share. This concluded her presentation. She called for questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if the Letter of Intent is on the website. Ms. Pilon replied no.

Commissioner Hawkins commented about the protections agreed to by HCA and asked if there were details available, particularly for Transylvania Regional Hospital. He asked if we can expect TRH to operate the same as it is today. Ms. Pilon responded that one of the protections is that TRH will continue to operate as it is today at least for several years.

Commissioner Hawkins also inquired about the staffing, noting Ms. Pilon had mentioned that staffing would remain the same or similar. Ms. Pilon reported there may be changes in job roles and job descriptions and there may be deletions of jobs. However, HCA is a very large system so there will be an opportunity for jobs within the system. She stated that Mr. Paulus has been thoughtful about the impact

on employees and therefore Mission Health intends to set up a transition fund to assist employees should they have a job role change or job deletion.

Commissioner Hawkins inquired further about the \$261 million of mitigated dollars and asked if this amount is a loss experienced by Mission Health. Ms. Pilon explained what she meant by mitigation is either services that will create revenue or expenses that they were able to decrease.

Commissioner Hawkins noted that Mission Health would be transitioning from a nonprofit to a for-profit organization. He asked for confirmation that the hospital facility would become a taxable entity. Ms. Pilon confirmed yes and noted there will be a lot of tax revenue coming into the community as a result.

Commissioner Hawkins stated it has been mentioned that the foundation could be as much as \$1 billion. He said this would be remarkable and the importance of how those funds would be used throughout WNC cannot be overstated. The foundation is an exceptional component of this transaction. For that reason, he wants to ensure Transylvania County has local representation on the foundation board. Ms. Pilon stated it is her understanding the current Board of Directors will create the oversight for the foundation.

Rowena Buffett Timms, Senior Vice-President of Government and Community Relations with Mission Health added that there will be an assessment on all facilities to determine the tax impact to all communities. In terms of the foundation, they are not ready to finalize a dollar amount, but they are excited about the possibilities. It will be the second largest foundation in North Carolina, the largest being the Duke Endowment valued at \$3.4 billion. This foundation will not be quite that robust, but will be significant and will generate tens of millions of dollars every year in WNC. These funds must be used for purposes that Mission Hospital was originally designed around –health and wellness, healthcare disparities, transportation, and other programs, including the development of new care delivery models in WNC that will be shared across the country. This foundation will positively impact economic development. Commissioner Hawkins quoted Mr. Paulus from an article and noted that all of the items he mentioned are related to economic development which is why it is vital that Transylvania County have representation on the foundation board.

Commissioner Phillips followed up on Ms. Pilon's response about the Transylvania Regional Hospital operating as is for the next several years. He inquired about a timeframe and what happens during that time. Ms. Buffett Timms responded that for a five-year period there will be no changes in significant services and no changes in the facilities. Anything after that will require approval from the foundation board.

Commissioner Phillips asked if there had been any significant impacts to systems that HCA partners with now. Ms. Buffett Timms responded that the research showed no significant red flags.

Chairman Chapman stressed the need for current services to continue. The community already experienced significant change with the loss of the birthing center. The community is concerned about a loss of services and would like to see service not only continue, but improve.

Commissioner Chappell asked if HCA has contracted out for services that local hospitals would normally provide. Ms. Pilon responded yes, in her experience, but that is not to say that will occur with this partnership. If it makes financial sense and quality of care can still be delivered, HCA will outsource, based her personal experience with HCA in the past.

Chairman Chapman thanked Ms. Pilon and Ms. Buffett Timms for sharing this information and he welcomed them back anytime. He commented this issue will greatly impact the community so the

community needs to remain well-informed. Ms. Pilon reminded everyone to visit the website to remain up-to-date.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### PERSONNEL BOARD

There is one vacancy on the Personnel Board due to the recent expiration of the term for Scotta Orr. The Clerk to the Board forwarded applications on file to the Human Resources Director. The Human Resources Director and two Personnel Board members interviewed two of the candidates and discussed their interest in the Personnel Board and their specific background and experience. The review group forwarded their recommendation to the other members and by majority requested Vernon “Lee” McMinn be appointed to fill the current vacancy on the Personnel Board.

**Commissioner Hawkins moved to appoint Vernon “Lee” McMinn to the Personnel Board, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.**

### NURSING AND ADULT CARE HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Last year the Federal Long Term Care Ombudsman Program modified the Ombudsman Program guidelines. Since then the NC General Assembly has been working to implement those changes through new and updated legislation. One of the changes affected how volunteers are appointed to the Nursing and Adult Care Home Advisory Committees. The new process for appointing volunteers is as follows:

1. Citizen completes application to serve on citizen advisory council (NACH)
2. Citizen must complete training program with Regional Ombudsman
3. After training complete, name forwarded to State Long Term Care Ombudsman for approval/designation
4. County Commissioners notified of approval/designation

Three citizens have completed this process and Regional Ombudsman Carol Allison requested their appointment to the Nursing and Adult Care Home Advisory Committee.

**Commissioner Chappell moved to appoint Heather Stewart, Emily Ullmer and Jane Wheelless to the Nursing and Adult Care Home Advisory Committee for an initial term of one-year, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### FEE WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR ANIMAL SERVICES

Interim Animal Services Director Kevin Shook presented this item. He requested authorization to waive or reduce fees when appropriate. At times Animal Services is faced with difficult decisions in regards to animal capacity at the shelter and trying to assist potential adopters of animals. Some adoptions are not possible due to financial ability of the adopter, while this in no way affects the continual care of the animal. Other circumstances have arisen that, by no fault of the owner, have cost citizens to reclaim their pets due to unforeseen events. These can include manmade and or natural disasters as well as automobile accidents. Mr. Shook stated that having the ability to reduce or waive certain fees within the shelter gives the department another tool to use for the betterment of animal welfare.

**Commissioner Chappell moved to give the Animal Services Director the authority to waive or reduce fees when appropriate that are associated with the care and adoption of shelter animals. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hawkins.** Commissioner Chappell thanked Mr. Shook for bringing forth ways to provide better customer service. To many people, pets are members of the family.

In times of crisis, this is helpful. Commissioner Phillips expressed concern that waiving or reducing fees increases costs to taxpayers. Commissioner Hawkins said he was appreciative of the concept, but wanted to establish some parameters instead of just allowing free judgment. Ms. Shook reported that he identified issues where it would be appropriate to waive or reduce fees and included a list with his agenda item. He stressed this would only occur during extenuating circumstances. Chairman Chapman inquired about the financial impact to the County. If approved, he requested staff to track when fees are waived or reduced and to notify the Manager and Commissioners of any complaints received about fairness. He agreed with the concept as well and was concerned about pets being abandoned because of fees. Mr. Shook stated that he as Interim Director and the future Director will send monthly reports to the Manager explaining any fee waivers or reductions. The Manager added that staff can bring back before the full Board in six months to determine if the authority is being used appropriately. Commissioner Phillips shared his concerns about not recouping the costs of housing animals. The Manager pointed out in this situation if the fee is being waived, the County is already in a position to lose the fees invested in that animal. The thought from staff is that this would be a measure that saves the life of the animal and to recoup at least some of those fees. Commissioner Chappell pointed out if the Director follows the guidelines for exemptions (provided with the Board's agenda packet), there should be no problem because each exemption was well thought out and reasonable. **The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 1, with Commissioner Phillips voting against.**

#### VACCINE FEE SCHEDULE UPDATE

Health Director Elaine Russell presented this item. A recent review of current vaccine fees and acquisition costs identified several for adjustment. The increases will allow the agency to cover acquisition costs associated with the following vaccines:

Vaccine	CPT Code	Current Vaccine Fee	Vaccine Purchase Price	Recommended New Vaccine Fee
Influenza (high dose)	90662	\$43.00	\$46.93	\$50.00
GARDASIL-HPV-9	90651	\$185.00	\$196.07	\$200.00
MMR	90707	\$68.00	\$70.85	\$72.00
PNEUMONIA (23)	90732	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$100.00
TD	90714	\$30.00	\$32.64	\$34.00
VARICELLA	90716	\$117.00	\$121.90	\$130.00
SHINGRIX (SHINGLES)	90750	New vaccine to be offered	\$138.60	\$150.00

The Board of Health approved the adjusted vaccine fees during its regular meeting on March 13, 2018.

**Commissioner Hawkins moved to approve the adjusted vaccine fees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips.** In response to Commissioner Chappell, Ms. Russell stated that staff monitors the vaccine amounts on a monthly basis and will come back to the Board anytime an adjustment is needed. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

#### ROSMAN LEACHATE AGREEMENT

The Board of Commissioners entered into a Leachate Disposal Agreement with the Town of Rosman in 2015 for a three year term. The current agreement expires on June 30, 2018. A new agreement has been negotiated for a term of five years with no changes to fees charged by either party during that time period.

The agreement also has the County donating a surplus dozer and pickup truck as part of the new arrangement. Staff will need to follow the public notice procedures for donating personal property to another local government unit. The Town of Rosman has already voted to enter into the contract as drafted. The Manager noted that Solid Waste Director Kenn Webb was attendance to answer questions if needed.

**Commissioner Phillips moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement and direct staff to begin proceedings to donate the surplus dozer and pickup truck as stated in the agreement to the Town of Rosman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hawkins.** Commissioner Chappell asked for confirmation that there is no other County use for the surplus dozer and pickup. The Manager replied no. Chairman Chapman inquired about the condition of the equipment. Manager said staff has been open about the condition of the equipment and the Town remains willing to accept the equipment as is. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

### MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- Historic Brevard Ramble on May 19 from noon-4pm
  - Collaborative effort between Joint Historic Preservation Commission, City of Brevard, Transylvania Heritage Museum and Transylvania County Historical Society
  - County Planner Joy Fields and JHPC created brochure for the event
  - Copies of brochure available for the public in the in the foyer of Commissioners' Chambers
- Graham County Courthouse Order to make provisions to relocate trials and budget for expenses
  - "courthouse may not be adequate to provide for a modern trial with the expected provisions for security and due process"
  - Graham County will have to pay for the relocation of court while working to establish a better court facility in county to replace the 1942 era courthouse currently in use
  - Findings of Fact list issues that are similar to the Transylvania County Courthouse including equitable access to court participation for persons with mobility limitations, jury space, parking and safety; will be posted on County website Courthouse page
  - Judge has authority to create an order; when counties are not proactive about court facilities, it becomes more costly to counties
- Manager presented to NCACC Thrive Conference on Early Childhood in Greensboro last week; great discussion on different ways to address early childhood issues; Transylvania County is one of only rural counties that is consistently a voice for early childhood in the State; she thanked the Board for their support of the Early Childhood Initiative and the partners that come to the table every month to discuss early childhood issues
- April 12 Kindergarten Readiness Rally at Parks and Recreation Activity Center from 4-7 pm
- Kudos Report!
  - NC State Board of Education Report to General Assembly shows State dropout rate of 2.3%
    - Transylvania Public Schools for ranking 4<sup>th</sup> of county school systems for lowest graduation rates with an all-time low graduation rate of 0.7% for the 16-17 school year
    - To Blue Ridge Community College for the Adult High School Program collaboration that has helped lower dropout rates by allowing another option for students to complete their education. Statistics show students are more successful in their adult careers and incomes by completing high school.
  - US Census Bureau released population growth figures for 2017

- Transylvania County was the 26<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the state with a annual growth rate from 2016 of 1.4% compared to the statewide growth rate of 1.1%
- NC Department of Commerce released January unemployment figures
  - Transylvania County unemployment rate fell 1% to 4.7% for January 2018 and is at State average even with increase in population
- To Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan for being named Treasurer of the NC Association of County Clerks

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judith West: Ms. West stated that under Consent Agenda was an item related to workforce housing and she was unable to see the information on the Power Point. This is an exciting topic and she requested the Manager read the information from the Power Point. The Manager read the information on the slide show for the benefit of the public. (Detailed earlier in the minutes under Consent Agenda.)

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Chappell thanked the Manager for mentioning the Graham County Courthouse issue. It sheds light on what counties are responsible for and judges can compel counties to do. This is very telling and obviously very expensive.

Commissioner Hawkins recognized the recent death of former County Commissioner Guis Siniard. He said it important to recognize County Commissioners in the public record when they pass away. The newspaper did a great job paying tribute to everything he did in the community. Commissioner Hawkins remembered Mr. Siniard as a great and kind person and said his passing is a big loss for the community.

Commissioner Hawkins reported that last week he and the Manager met with Pryor Gibson, Director of the Hometown Strong Program, an initiative started by Governor Cooper to work with rural areas in facilitating regulatory issues. Commissioner Hawkins felt the program could be very useful to local governments. He thanked the Manager for doing a wonderful job being an advocate for Transylvania County. Mr. Pryor was impressed with the Manager as well.

Commissioner Hawkins announced another affordable housing project is in the works. It is not a workforce housing project, but it is needed nonetheless. The project is a result of a \$500,000 grant from the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium. The project is called Falling Waters and will be located off Nicholson Creek Road. He commended the City of Brevard for their great job working with the City of Asheville on this project.

Commissioner Hawkins reminded staff to follow up on reviewing sealed closed session minutes and bring forth any that can be unsealed.

Commissioner Hawkins announced that students in the TIME program competed over the weekend at the NC School of Science and Math. Several students won 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes in their categories, which means they will be entered into the national competition in either Washington, DC or Pittsburgh. He read aloud their names and congratulated all the winners on their outstanding achievement.

Chairman Chapman attended the THRIVE Summit along with the County Manager. He said it was an excellent summit with representation from nearly every county showcasing the various initiatives they have implemented to address children's needs. He intends to share the information with Commissioners Lemel and the Early Childhood Initiative. He mentioned that Transylvania County is getting a lot of

recognition across State because of the work we are doing in this area. He said it was pleasing to hear a Durham County Commissioner report she got information for Durham County from the work Commissioner Lemel and the Manager started. Transylvania County is leading the charge on early childhood. Chairman Chapman lauded Commissioner Lemel for her continued work at the State level. He also praised Commissioner Hawkins for his efforts at the State level on economic development. Chairman Chapman commended all Commissioners for their dedication to the community.

Chairman Chapman asked Commissioners to consider the lease for the WNC Military History Museum at the second meeting in April. He encouraged everyone to visit the museum.

Commissioner Chappell announced that on April 10 from 11am-6pm there will be a regional job fair at the WNC Agricultural Center. It is being sponsored by Mountain Area Workforce Development Board. Over 150 employers have signed up to participate.

**Chairman Chapman moved to enter into closed session per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5) to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease, and (a) (3) to consult with an attorney to protect the attorney-client privilege, after a 5-minute recess. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously carried.**

#### CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5) to establish, or instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property to purchase, option, exchange, or lease, closed session was entered into at 8:30 p.m. Present were Chairman Chapman, Commissioners Chappell, Hawkins and Phillips, County Manager Jaime Laughter, County Attorney Misti Bass and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

The Manager updated the Board on available property for purchase and the Board instructed staff on how to proceed.

Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with an attorney to protect the attorney-client privilege, the second closed session was entered into. Present were Chairman Chapman, Commissioners Chappell, Hawkins and Phillips, County Manager Jaime Laughter, County Attorney Misti Bass and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

The County Attorney consulted with the Board on two separate matters and received direction from the Board on how to proceed.

**Chairman Chapman moved to leave closed session, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously carried.**

#### OPEN SESSION

**Chairman Chapman moved to seal the minutes of the closed sessions until such time that opening he minutes does not frustrate the purpose of the closed sessions, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Chairman Chapman moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously carried.**

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Larry L. Chapman, Chairman  
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board