

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 18, 2007- REGULAR SESSION

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, June 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Transylvania County Courthouse.

Commissioners present were: Lynn Bullock, Chairman Jason Chappell, David Guice, Daryle Hogsed and Vice-Chairman Kelvin Phillips.

Staff Members present: County Manager Artie Wilson, Veteran's Services Coordinator Frank Pearsall, Board of Elections Director Judy Matthews, County Attorney David Neumann, Bailiff Supervisor Jimmy Jones, Finance Director Gay Poor, Emergency Services Director David McNeill, Library Director Anna Yount, Project Manager Larry Reece, Tax Assessor/Collector David Reid and Clerk to the Board Trisha McLeod.

Media: *Times News*- Jonathan Rich
Transylvania Times- Kim MacQueen

There were approximately 25 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason Chappell presiding called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME

Chairman Chappell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED FY 2007-2008 BUDGET FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

Manager Wilson showed a Power Point Presentation highlighting the major components of the FY 2007-2008 Budget for Transylvania County. The proposed FY 2007-2008 General Fund Budget is \$42,476,320, 4.3% higher than last year. Excluding the approximately \$624,000 that will be transferred back to the General Fund, the percent increase over last year is only 2.8%. The Manager noted that there would be no Ad Valorem tax rate increase.

Major Assumptions Included in the Budget:

- Study and implementation of a Pay Classification Study for the Sheriff's Department effective July 2007 and all other departments, February 2008
- A 15% increase in Health Insurance costs
- A 6.1% increase in Current Spending for the Public Schools
- \$1,868,685 in Capital for the Schools

- \$1,849,205 in Medicaid which reflects no relief from the Legislature
- An increase of 7 Personnel (2 grant related): 3 Sheriff, 2 Paramedics, 1 Social Worker, 1 Environmental Health
- Completion of the Applied Technology Building at BRCC
- Does not include any Lottery funds
- Does not include an Ad Valorem tax rate increase

Major Changes by the Commissioners during the Budget Workshops:

- Board of Commissioners' recommended FY 2007-2008 Budget is \$42,476,320; The Manager's proposed Budget for FY 2007-2008 was \$43,349,541; A difference of \$873,221
- Added hours for PT person in the Board of Elections: \$12,402
- Added monies for Farmland Preservation: \$15,000
- Added monies for School Current Expense: \$60,108
- Added monies for School Capital: \$200,163
- Made Sheriff's Staff Pay Classification effective July 2007: \$155,791
- Jail Cook from FT to PT: -\$8,638
- Capital reductions of 3 vehicles: -\$76,440
- Delay Library Ethernet: -\$13,680
- Reduction of 2 positions recommended by the Manager: -\$97,565
- Increase in Medicaid: \$178,784
- Pay Classification for Tele-communicators: \$18,816
- Not borrow funds for capital, reduction in debt service: -\$1,010,136
- Reduction in transfer to Fund Balance: \$307,826
- Total changes made: -\$873,221

Fire Departments:

- Three Fire Departments Fire Tax Rate to be increased: Sylvan Valley (Brevard) from .0257 to .0301; Connetsee from .0604 to .0649; Lake Toxaway from .0305 to .0323
- Two Fire Departments Fire tax Rate to be lowered: Etowah/Horseshoe from .0305 to .0291; Rosman from .0758 to .0756
- All other Fire Departments Tax Rate stayed the same

General Fund:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • General Government | \$ 6,201,606 |
| • Public Safety | \$ 7,933,883 |
| • Economic & Physical Development | \$ 1,329,791 |
| • Human Services | \$ 9,982,602 |
| • Culture & Recreation | \$ 1,674,065 |
| • Education | \$13,556,298 |
| • Transfer to Other Funds | <u>\$ 173,486</u> |
| Subtotal- Operational Budget | \$40,851,731 |
| • Transfer to Solid Waste for Cell #5 | \$ 850,567 |

• Transfer to Fund Balance	\$ 624,022
• Transfer to Reserve for Econ Develop	<u>\$ 150,000</u>
Total	\$42,476,320

Other funds:

• Law Officer's Separation Fund	\$ 67,741
• Scattered Site Housing Grant	\$ 146,000
• Occupancy Tax	\$ 314,000
• Revaluation	\$ 199,710
• Self-Insurance	\$ 2,650,645
• Fire Districts	\$ 1,783,786
• Solid Waste	\$ 4,051,465
• School Renovations (QZAB's)	\$ 1,200
• Emergency Telephone System	\$ 270,109
• Silvermont	<u>\$ 90,000</u>
Total Other Funds	\$ 9,574,756

• Less Inter-Fund Transfers	<u>\$ 4,018,184</u>
Total All	\$ 48,032,892

The Manager also reported on the Community Development Block Grant. This year \$270,122 will be allocated to the County. It is broken down as follows:

• In-Home Aid Level 1	\$ 20,500
• In-Home Aid Level 2	\$ 71,855
• Congregate Meal Program	\$ 79,622
• Home Delivered Meals	\$ 5,533
• Adult Day Care (Koala)	\$ 20,000
• Adult Day Health (Koala)	\$ 39,000
• General Transportation	\$ 12,628
• Med-Drive	\$ 3,079
• Senior Companion Program	\$ 15,359
• Pisgah Legal	<u>\$ 2,546</u>
Total	\$ 270,122

Chairman Chappell declared the Public Hearing open.

James Keenan: Mr. Keenan noted that the proposed budget does not include the Manager's recommendations for the major capital projects. He asked if the Commissioners plan to complete these projects. Chairman Chappell responded that during its Budget Workshops, the Commissioners voted not to borrow the money needed to complete the capital projects. Commissioner Hogsed added that there are monies already designated for some of the projects.

Mr. Keenan requested that the percentage increase in the budget be expressed in real dollars noting the adjustments for inflation which is 3%. He said after you factor inflation, there may not be an actual increase at all.

Mr. Keenan asked if the County is spending more, less or the same per student, with the figures adjusted for inflation. The Manager responded that Transylvania County ranks fourth in the State in spending per student on capital and debt service.

He asked if there was a plan to close the Recycling Centers and if there was going to be an increase in the fees. Commissioners and the Manager responded that the Recycling Centers were not closing but fees had increased \$0.25 per bag and \$3.00 per ton. Mr. Keenan also commented that the stickers were annoying and did not peel well. The Manager concurred and stated that the County would be getting a credit on some of the bad stickers.

Gail Livingston: Ms. Livingston asked if the monies for the Center for Dialogue were still in the recommended budget. Chairman Chappell informed her that those funds were still in the recommended budget.

Judith West: Ms. West said she hates to see empty buildings and houses and she hopes the Board of Commissioners will get back to the public with a plan for addressing the space needs issue. She said it does not make sense to have empty buildings and overcrowded offices.

There being no further comments from the public regarding the proposed FY 2007-2008 Budget, Chairman Chappell declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:25 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clifford Coggins: Mr. Coggins said he is against all tax increases and encouraged the County to live within its means. He asked the Commissioners to revisit plans for the new Public Safety Facility because he feels it is costing too much money.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

The Clerk announced that the Transylvania County Human Relations Council withdrew their Facilities Use Request.

Commissioner Guice moved to approve the Agenda Modifications, seconded by Commissioner Bullock and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved:

FACILITIES USE REQUESTS

The use of the Courthouse Lawn and Gazebo by the Heart of Brevard on September 1, 2007 for the Cruise-In Classic Car Show and on December 1, 2007 for the Twilight Tour.

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

APPOINTMENTS

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Commissioner Guice moved to appoint Ray Miller, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Hogsed moved to appoint Don Beiger, seconded by Commissioner Bullock. Chairman Chappell moved to appoint Ed Coye, seconded by Commissioner Guice. Ed Coye was appointed to the Library Board of Trustees by a 3 to 2 vote.

NURSING/ADULT CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairman Chappell moved to appoint Steve Hartington, seconded by Commissioner Guice and unanimously approved.

BRCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Commissioner Guice moved to reappoint Jeff McDaris, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

NAMING A SECTION OF US 64 IN HONOR OF MR. JACK BRYANT

The NC Department of Transportation has a program whereby County Commissioners can name sections of roadways for leaders of their communities. Mr. Jack Bryant served as the Transportation Board Member from July 1977 to June 1981 and was the only member ever appointed from Transylvania County. Mr. Bryant was instrumental in getting US 64 constructed. Previously it was recommended that a section of US 64 from Brevard to Rosman could be named after Mr. Bryant but the NCDOT discovered that the section was already named. The NCDOT recommends that US 64 from the Henderson County line to the intersection of US 276 at Pisgah Forest be named in honor of Mr. Jack Bryant.

Commissioner Phillips moved to approve Resolution 50-07, Naming A Section of US 64 in Honor of Mr. Jack Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Bullock and unanimously approved.

Resolution 50-07 attached as part of the minutes.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

The Manager stated that the first grant application for water retention at the new Public Safety Facility was rejected due to the extended construction date. Mr. Eric Caldwell, working with the NCSU Water Quality Group and the grantor, has developed a new grant request for the Public Safety Facility.

Commissioner Bullock moved to approve Resolution 51-07, Requesting Assistance for Water Resources Development Project, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

Resolution 51-07 attached as part of the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported that he has received a draft of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the Commissioners' review. Comments on the draft are due back to Raleigh no later than July 20th. The Manager asked Commissioners to submit their comments by July 9th for Staff to compile and send back to Raleigh by the deadline.

The RFP for Pay Classification Study will be advertised this week and due by July 20th.

The Manager reported work continues on the documents for the Public Safety Facility. He said that the County has hit a snag with the City and the UDO and their requirement regarding sidewalks. He will bring other alternatives and proposals before the Commissioners at the July 9th, 2007 meeting. Staff will bring those forth to City Council on July 16th, 2007.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Guice recognized the efforts of the Tax Offices and tax Collector David Reid. Through their hard work the tax collection rate as of this date 98.92%, a County record. He also thanked the Commissioners and prior Boards of Commissioners for their decision in regards to this office because it has had a positive impact on the community. Chairman Chappell echoed Commissioner Guice's comments. He said has personally seen how hard the staff in those offices work and he appreciates their efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha D. McLeod
Clerk to the Board