

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 8, 2018 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 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* – Derek McKissock

There were approximately 20 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Larry Chapman presiding declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:03 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

Wendy Henderson: Ms. Henderson lives on Hillside Heights. She reported that a resident on Hillside Heights continually parks their vehicle on the street making it hard for other vehicles to travel through. Her concern, along with her neighbors in attendance, is that emergency services vehicles would not be able to pass through if needed. Ms. Henderson noted that others have asked the resident to move their vehicle, but they have refused. The purpose for bringing forth this complaint to the County is to request *No Parking* signs, because until there are signs nothing can be done about this problem.

Wayne Harmon: Mr. Harmon echoed Ms. Henderson's comments. He added that the neighbors parking on the street makes it even more difficult to pass through an already narrow street. He pointed out when the street was first paved, although it is not in writing, residents were told they were not supposed to park on the pavement.

Chairman Chapman encouraged Ms. Henderson and Mr. Harmon to register their complaint with the City of Brevard. He pointed out that although the County does provide emergency services and access is a concern, the County does not control roads and streets. Mr. Harmon shared that they reported their concerns to the Brevard Police Department who directed them to voice their concerns with the County Commissioners at the meeting this morning. The Manager agreed to follow up with NC Department of Transportation staff in the event that Hillside Heights is a State controlled street, as well as with the City of Brevard to let them know about the reported concern. Commissioner Lemel also suggested following up with Planning and Community Development as a resource.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications from Commissioners or staff.

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 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 23, 2018 and following met in closed session in which the minutes were sealed. The minutes from sealed closed session #2 on March 26, 2018 were removed from the April 10, 2018 agenda for approval for further review by the County Attorney. They have been reviewed and are ready for approval. Commissioners approved the minutes of sealed closed session #2 from March 26, 2018 and the April 23, 2018 regular meeting and two sealed closed sessions.

UNSEAL CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Manager, Attorney and Clerk continue to review sealed closed session minutes and will make recommendations for unsealing them when doing such does not frustrate the purpose of the closed session. Staff recommended unsealing closed session minutes from August 24, 2015 and making them available for public inspection. Commissioners unsealed the closed session minutes from the August 24, 2015 meeting and instructed the Clerk to make them available for public inspection.

PROCLAMATION – EMS WEEK

In 1974 President Gerald Ford signed into law the Emergency Medical Services Systems Act of 1973. The third full week of May ever since has been designated as EMS Week. The purpose of EMS Week is to honor the dedication of the EMS personnel who provide day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's front line. The Board of Commissioners is proud of the paid and volunteer EMS staffs that provide this critical lifesaving service to the citizens and visitors of Transylvania County. This year's theme is ***EMS Strong: Stronger Together***. Commissioners approved Proclamation #17-2018 EMS Week which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. Chairman Chapman read aloud the proclamation for the benefit of the public. He presented the proclamation to EMS Director Bobby Cooper and thanked him and his staff for the services they provide to the citizens and visitors of Transylvania County.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Transylvania County Finance Department for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. To receive the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements. The Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. The County's Finance Department has received

this award for over 30 years which speaks to the time and commitment the Director and her staff put into their work and into the financial business of the County. Commissioners recognized and congratulated Finance Director Gay Poor and her staff for being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Chairman Chapman read aloud the official press release from the GFOA. He presented Ms. Poor with the Certificate of Achievement and thanked her and her staff for their hard work and dedication. Ms. Poor thanked her staff, as well as department heads for their hard work and attention to the finances of the County. She also expressed appreciation to Commissioners for their support.

APPOINTMENTS

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The terms of David Carter, Dr. John Folger and Daniel Cobb expire at the end of May. David Carter is not eligible for reappointment in that he has served more than two terms; however, it is the recommendation of Planning and Community Development Director Mark Burrows that he is reappointed because he has been a tremendous asset to this committee. It must also be noted there are not enough applications on file to fill all of the positions if the term limits are not waived and he is not reappointed to serve an additional term. Dr. Folger is eligible and willing to serve another term. Mr. Cobb represents Brevard City Council and his appointment is recommended as well. Brevard City Council will reappoint Daniel Cobb. There is also one vacancy due to the resignation of Norah Davis. Due to an advertisement, the Clerk received one application. Richard Houck did not list the Transportation Advisory Committee as his first preference, but Mr. Burrows interviewed him and he would very much like to fill the vacancy on this committee if the Board so chooses to appoint him.

Commissioner Lemel moved to waive the terms limits and reappoint David Carter, to reappoint Dr. John Folger, and to appoint Richard Houck to fill the vacancy on the Transportation Advisory Committee, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

WCCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There is a vacancy on the WCCA Board of Directors. The Clerk to the Board advertised and received one application. The applicant was interviewed by WCCA staff and her appointment is recommended.

Commissioner Lemel moved to appoint Dawn McCall to fill the vacancy on the WCCA Board of Directors, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

Jerry Stone, a longtime member of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, has been working on recruiting students to fill two vacancies. He has received interest from two students, which has resulted in the application of one student. It is the recommendation of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council to appoint Madeline Dierauf to fill one of the two student vacancies.

Commissioner Lemel moved to appoint Madeline Dierauf to fill one of the two student vacancies on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappell.

Commissioner Chappell was very appreciative of Mr. Stone's efforts to recruit students to serve on this council, as well as Ms. Dierauf's willingness to serve. Chairman Chapman noted that the other student who expressed interest is 15 years old and has yet to receive her driver's license which is a barrier to her attending the meetings at this time. Mr. Stone is working to resolve that issue, but wanted to move forward with the appointment of Ms. Dierauf. Chairman Chapman added that this is a good program and an opportunity for young people to get involved in a positive way. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL ANNUAL COUNTY FUNDING PLAN

The Transylvania County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) requests funding from the NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice on an annual basis and allocates the funding to programs that can best fulfill the needed services. For FY 2018-19, JCPC recommends allocation of funds as follows:

Youth Mediation Services	\$ 26,300
Project Rebound	\$ 39,000
Project Challenge	\$ 20,211
Kids at Work/Aspire	\$ 16,056
<u>Administrative</u>	<u>\$ 2,645</u>
Total	\$104,212

No County funding is required. All matching dollars are made by the receiving agency by either cash match or in-kind match. For FY 2018-19 the matching portion is expected to total \$81,876.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Annual County Funding Plan for FY 2018-19 and to authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary paperwork. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chappell. Commissioner Lemel stated that during her recent Social Services Working Group meeting in Chapel Hill juvenile services and juvenile crime was brought up as a topic of discussion. She pointed out that without proper intervention and redirection into programs such as these, many youth end up in adult protective services programs for the rest of their lives. For this reason, she is very appreciative and supportive of the work of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

VAYA HEALTH 3RD QUARTER FISCAL MONITORING REPORT

Finance Director Gay Poor presented this item. Per NCGS 122C-117 (c), the quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Reports (FMR) for the local managed care organizations must be presented to the Board of Commissioners in person and read into the minutes of the meeting at which it is presented at least twice a year. Ms. Poor reported that for the 3rd quarter Vaya Health recognized revenues totaling \$306,825,000 and expenditures in the amount of \$309,346,000, leaving a deficit of \$2.5 million. Vaya Health will make up the difference from their fund balance which they had already budgeted to appropriate during the year.

Commissioner Lemel pointed out that Vaya Health is a managed care organization and does not provide direct service to counties. Vaya Health contracts with service providers in 23 counties making it the second largest managed care organization in the State. Commissioner Lemel reported that the organization has been supportive of many of Transylvania County's efforts to be proactive in dealing with many issues and concerns facing our community and she assured the public that this is an area in which Commissioners are engaged and are trying to maximize opportunities for Transylvania County in its relationship with Vaya Health. She also informed the public there is a screening kiosk in the lobby of the Social Services Department where people can get a private mental health screening and assessment. If needed following the assessment, resources and referrals are made available. The process is completely confidential.

Commissioner Chappell stated that mental health funding continues to be a topic of importance to the NC General Assembly. In his conversations with the Speaker of the House, he revealed that legislators understand there is no perfect solution, but they continue to look at traditional and nontraditional ways to make improvements. They welcome input from county leaders because mental health funding is a tremendous financial decision that impacts everyone.

Ms. Poor pointed out that the County's portion of funding is less than 1% of Vaya Health's total funding. The majority of their funding comes from State and federal sources.

Commissioner Lemel moved to accept Vaya Health's 3rd Quarter Fiscal Monitoring Report, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.

SCHOOL CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST

The Manager presented this item and sought guidance from Commissioners. She reported that North Carolina statutes require county commissioners to fund facility needs for public schools. The statutes also require that school systems submit their annual budget requests and capital needs to counties by May 15. Staff received a capital needs list from the School System on April 30 and it was included in the Commissioners' agenda packet. Staff requested feedback from Commissioners on any questions they have or additional detail they wanted from the School System in order to help them make an informed decision on the capital request presented. The Manager noted that Administration requested from the School System a prioritized list of capital needs and email correspondence reflects they intend to do so.

The Manager noted that also included in the Board's agenda packet was the following information:

1. Handout-capital needs list from February school tours
2. Email correspondence reference Administration's requests for submittals
3. Capital needs list received April 30
4. Email correspondence with Q&A and additional detail

The Manager reported that School System's request for furniture and equipment expense by ADM reflects higher ADM. The response for the higher ADM calculation is included in the Board's agenda packet. Also, the repayment for the ballfield light at Brevard High School ended in 2017 so this amount can be removed from the capital sheet.

In response to some questions from Commissioners, the Manager collected information about how Transylvania County ranks in the current funding year:

- Transylvania County has ranked 5th highest per student funding in the State for operational spending from County revenues; for FY 18 advanced to 4th
 - Five year average annual increase 5.82% and 5.37% for 9 year average, based on per student funding from County sources
 - Top 25 averaged annual increases of 3.17% for five year and 2.01% for 9 year
- Capital spending per student is 41st highest out of the 100 counties
- Tax rate is at 89th ranked highest to lowest making Transylvania County among the lowest tax rates in the State; 11th lowest

This concluded the Manager's presentation and she sought guidance from them in terms of what other information they wanted from the Board of Education.

For clarification, Commissioner Lemel asked if the capital spending ranking of 41st highest in the State compared to other counties included the debt service of other counties or annual capital allotment only. The Manager responded that the ranking is based on annual capital spending only for all counties.

Commissioner Hawkins noted there are broad items for individual schools that are listed as campus-wide renovations with a large dollar figure associated with them. He asked if the County should be expecting detail from those categories. The Manager said she has requested this information and in the Board's agenda packet is some additional detail. She said it appears the figures are estimates that would need to

go out to bid in order to be refined. Her understanding is the level of detail provided is based on the programming study completed by the architectural firm in 2015.

Chairman Chapman stressed that the County is responsible for school capital funding and has fiduciary accountability to the citizens of Transylvania County. He requested to have as much detail as possible on their proposed capital expenditures. He said that items flagged as critical in one year are showing up as requests in subsequent years and this is concerning to him. While he said he was not interested in micromanaging their spending, he felt that Commissioners need to ensure capital funds are being spent accordingly, especially being that County Commissioners are continuously accused of not supporting the School System even though the data indicate otherwise. Chairman Chapman commented that the County has supported the School System while keeping the tax rate low for citizens, but at a cost of delaying operations and capital projects for County government.

Commissioner Hawkins said it would be helpful for him to see a prioritized list and some level of detail with the categories of system-wide improvements. He reported that the Board of Education's projected capital list for this year is \$5.5 million which is unrealistic. He suggested a path forward being to determine what is workable in the coming fiscal year and then establishing a plan over the next couple of years to take care of the needs they have identified. The Manager was agreeable.

Commissioner Lemel expressed frustration at the State for continuing to shift more and more of the costs of education to the local level. She also informed that other counties are reacting to the presumption that counties are not supporting schools, specifically in capital outlay, by assuming full responsibility of the schools' capital budgets. These counties appropriate the funds for school capital and the monies are held in a line item in the counties' budgets. Dare County is one of these counties that started this practice in order to assure responsible expenditure of the capital funds. Commissioner Lemel commented that communication between the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners has been challenging because both boards appear to be speaking a different language in terms of what should and should not be classified as capital. For this reason, she reviewed the last few years of capital requests and capital productions and struggled to figure out where monies were being spent, all the while being told by that Commissioners are woefully underfunding schools. She assured everyone that the County Commissioners are strong believers in the public school system and they are not going to do anything to jeopardize the quality of education in Transylvania County. Commissioner Lemel pointed out that in 2012, the Board of Education identified \$17 million in capital needs and since that time Transylvania County has provided \$9.4 million in capital support, but she cannot determine where the money was spent. She stated that statutes allow counties to fund capital far more specifically and she is ready to move in that direction because she wants citizens to see big gains in the schools and to understand that the County is funding those items that are priorities.

Commissioner Lemel reported she read a blog from Kara Millonzi with the UNC School of Government, entitled *Top Ten Questions about the Local Public School Budgeting Process* and learned a lot about what counties can request. She revealed that in her five years as County Commissioner she has never been presented with a complete and total school budget. Commissioners have received only their request for local current expense. By statute Commissioners can request their entire budget; therefore she formally requested that the County Commissioners receive the full school budget by May 15. As Chairman Chapman stated earlier, critical projects are being delayed and requested as capital in subsequent years and Commissioners are struggling to determine how County dollars are being spent.

Commissioner Phillips agreed that in his review of the school's budget he is unable to understand how County dollars are being spent. He also agreed with Chairman Chapman that more detail is needed because he is also hearing negative comments from the public and has even been accused of moving forward with building a new courthouse to ensure the school bond does not pass. He stressed it is the

responsibility of the County to understand how taxpayer dollars are being spent; therefore he supported Commissioner Lemel's recommendation to request the full budget from the Board of Education.

Commissioner Hawkins noted that County departments are required to submit individual reports and justification for each capital project requested. He asked if it was within the County's scope of authority to ask the School System to submit a similar format with their capital projects. The Manager responded that Commissioners can ask for additional detail. She pointed out that Blue Ridge Community College does a great job with their requests by submitting pictures and providing a detailed project scope. County Maintenance follows the same format for projects too, along with quotes from contractors to ensure the estimates are as accurate as possible. The Manager stated that staff can request additional detail from the Board of Education, but was skeptical about getting that level of detail between now and May 15. She felt both entities could work toward a submittal of that level for next year.

Commissioner Hawkins asked for clarification from Commissioner Lemel about her desire to tie funding to specific capital projects. He wanted to know if she was referring to every item listed on the Board of Education's capital outlay. Commissioner Lemel said one of the biggest points is the ability to work with the Board of Education and agree on a common language on what items should be defined as capital. She noted that Dare County experienced a similar hardship, but once the two boards came together they were able to agree on common language over capital spending and communicate with one another. Commissioner Lemel added that this has been a compilation of experiences for her because she learned last year that Jackson County has a maintenance team that handles all maintenance for all government buildings, including the municipalities and school system. The real challenge has been finding ways to maximize efficiencies and realize maximum opportunities with limited resources. Commissioner Lemel stated she is very proud of the public schools here in Transylvania County, but she wants to know that every dollar spent is spent well. Commissioner Hawkins responded that he did not disagree with her, but he did not think these issues were going to be resolved with this budget. He suggested a path forward for next year might be that members of both boards meet regularly and discuss capital in a way that makes sense to both parties and addresses the County's concerns, particularly in context with all the needs identified for the bond. He noted that regardless of the outcome of the bond referendum, the needs are still there so it will be critical that there is a structure in place to deal with them.

Commissioner Hawkins pointed out the message that the County is not adequately funding schools is not coming from the Board of Education. He said the Board of Education has repeatedly spoken about the strong level of support from the County.

Commissioner Lemel referred to a section of Ms. Millonzi's blog and asked if Commissioners would be amenable to such action:

6. If a Board of County Commissioners Allocates Funds to its Public Schools by Purpose, Function, or Project, Must the Local School Board Spend the Funds According to the Allocations?

*Generally yes. If a county allocates funds to its local school administrative unit(s) by purpose, function, or project, the school budget resolution must conform to the allocations. **G.S. 115C-432.***

*The local school board, however, may modify up to 25 percent of an allocation for operating expenses. The board of county commissioners may reduce the local school board's discretion to modify allocations if it so specifies in the county budget ordinance, but not to less than 10 percent. **G.S. 115C-433.***

If the board of county commissioners allocates part or all of its capital appropriations by project, the local school board must obtain approval from the county for any changes in the allocation for specific

Category I expenditures—acquisitions of real property for school purposes, and acquisitions, construction, reconstruction, enlargement, renovations, or replacement of buildings and other structures. G.S. 115C-433. However, a local board of education has full discretion to reallocate funds within Categories II and III.

Commissioner Lemel thought at bare minimum Commissioners should ask for the Board of Education to define the items in each category for capital. That would allow the Board to see where most of the capital funds are going and where the capital needs are the greatest. She also read:

7. May a Local Board of Education Use County Funds Appropriated for Capital Outlay to Cover Operating Expenses, or Use County Funds Appropriated for Operating Expenses to Cover Capital Outlay?

Yes, but only under limited circumstances—specifically, if (1) the funds are needed to cover emergency expenditures that were both “unforeseen and unforeseeable” when the school budget resolution was adopted; (2) the local board of education receives approval from the county board of commissioners; and (3) the local board of education follows certain procedural requirements. G.S. 115C-433(d).

Commissioner Hawkins said his interpretation of the statutes as written are convoluted. Commissioner Lemel agreed and then add the fact that counties are told they must adequately fund public education. She said the State has not done anything to help resolve these issues and it contributes to the tension and misunderstanding between boards at the local level.

Commissioner Chappell said it seems to him the comments made today are very similar, but just based on different philosophies. He suggested as a first step a simple request from the County for additional information. He noted that a lot of the confusion comes from the different categories of capital funding so he agreed it would be helpful for the Board of Education to define the categories for capital funding and explain how they are prioritized. He noted that some of the statutes are confusing and some are stricter than others in terms of what the County can ask for specifically.

Chairman Chapman reemphasized the Board of Commissioners would like as much detail as possible with time being of the essence because the County must approve its budget by June 30.

Commissioner Lemel moved to formally request from the Board of Education their complete and entire budget according to NCGS 115C-429 by May 15. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Commissioner Hawkins asked when the County would expect the Board of Education’s budget otherwise. The Manager informed that the County typically receives their budget by May 15. Last year the County received specifically the local funding expense portion along with the capital request. She noted statutes require submittal of the full budget. Commissioner Lemel pointed out the Commissioners have been getting only the local current expense request. Commissioner Hawkins pointed out that May 15 is one week from today. The Manager informed that the Board of Education is required by statutes to have their budget ready by the same deadline of May 15. Commissioner Chappell noted that part of the frustration between boards really stems from the General Assembly. The General Assembly requires boards of education and boards of county commissioners to develop and approve their local budgets by statutory deadlines, while so much of the local budgets are dependent on the State, yet the State does not have a statutory deadline to approve its budget. He asked everyone to keep that in mind. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Commissioner Lemel moved to formally request that we receive the capital request pursuant to the category 1, category 2, and category 3, according to NCGS 115C-433. The motion was seconded by

Commissioner Phillips. Commissioner Hawkins inquired about the prioritization of the categories. In order to properly restate the motion, **Commissioner Lemel withdrew her motion.**

Commissioner Lemel moved to formally request that the Board of Education's capital outlay request be presented to the County Commissioners by categories: category 1, category 2 and category 3, and within each of those categories that the capital outlay requests be prioritized, per NCGS 115C-429, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- CARE Coalition has been invited to present at the Epiphany National Coalitions Retreat in New Orleans in September. Epiphany is the external evaluator firm that handles the mandatory evaluation work for their federally funded work. Congratulations to them for this invitation. In addition, Care Coalition received notification they would be recipient of the Blue Cross Blue Shield funding to help with the opioid crisis. There will be additional information available about this funding in the next few weeks.
- Bond counsel has been selected. The County will be engaging with Parker Poe Adams and Bernstein, LLP. They intend to make a presentation to the Board in June as the County moves forward with the bond referendum process.
- Transylvania County Library has been nominated to be a beta tester for the Institute of Museum and Library Service's new Public Libraries Survey (PLS) Search and Compare tool. As one of only 15 formal testers, the feedback will be compiled into user reports developed for IMLS that will help drive changes to the tool as it is developed over several iterations this summer. Congratulations to the Library. This is another time to note that the Library has a statewide reputation for excellence.
- In an editorial by John Hood of the John Locke Foundation, Transylvania County was praised for being responsive to public records requests showcased by a study conducted in North Carolina on how peer pressure impacts transparency. Transparency is very important to the Board of Commissioners and is part of the strategic plan.
- Today is Primary Election Day. Citizens are encouraged to get out and vote. Local government impacts people's lives every day.
- County wayfinding signs going up. The County is appreciative of the grant funds from Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority and Appalachian Regional Commission.
- This week is National Public Service Week. Citizens are invited to take time thank teachers, emergency and public safety, public health, tax employees, elections workers, solid waste employees, building inspectors, planners, elected officials and all people who choose to serve in local government. The Manager thanked County Commissioners for their service. Many times people forget that elected officials are public servants too and they do not realize the amount of time they put in outside of board meetings into County business. County Commissioners serve above and beyond the call of duty.
- Next meeting is scheduled for May 21 at 7pm (rescheduled from May 29).

Commissioner Hawkins commented on the editorial by John Hood. Transylvania County was one of a few counties that responded in a timely fashion. They sent a second request to the counties that did not respond the first time, noting those counties that had completed it already. They got a much better response the second time when they mentioned that other counties had already completed it.

Commissioner Hawkins thanked staff for the work they put into responding to public records request, but noted they are a significant burden on staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alice Wellborn: Ms. Wellborn is a member of the Transylvania County Board of Education. She stated that the Board of Education appreciates the level of support from the County, noting that the Board of Education is not among those that criticize them. She was disappointed that neither the Board of Education nor School Administration were notified that this item would be on the agenda for discussion. She would appreciate future notification of any school discussion so that school representatives can be in attendance. Ms. Wellborn reported the Board of Education approved its budget last night; however, they are unable to provide a full budget to the County at this time because they are dependent on the State for much of their budget figures. They can provide only the local current expense and capital outlay budget because it's all they have control over. She agreed to the request to categorize the capital outlay. Ms. Wellborn welcomed future dialogue with the Board of Commissioners to discuss the school budget and school budget process. She said she knows the County is interested in the wellbeing of the children of this County, just like the Board of Education.

Chairman Chapman commented that the Board of Commissioners' agenda is posted five days prior to the meeting on the website and in the newspaper and he noted that the School Capital Funding Request was listed on the agenda when posted.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lemel reminded the unaffiliated voters of Transylvania County that they can choose which primary election they wish to vote in and she noted there are primary elections for both parties. She encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

Commissioner Lemel congratulated the County Manager for receiving her credentials through the International City/County Management Association. A press release was recently sent out highlighting her accomplishments. Commissioner Lemel stated that Transylvania County is lucky to have someone of her caliber leading us as County Manager.

Commissioner Lemel reported that she and Chairman Chapman attended the NC Association of County Commissioners District Meeting at Western Carolina University last Thursday. The Association's theme this year is *Reimagine*. They had opportunities to share good news about Transylvania County. There was a lot of discussion about the NC School Bond. It should be clear so that citizens understand that the State is proposing a school bond at the same time as Transylvania County; however, the good news about the State bond is there is no concern about any tax increase associated with it because the State has a large borrowing capacity right now. Therefore, citizens should be encouraged to vote for the State initiated school bond. In addition, Commissioner Lemel was in Chapel Hill on Wednesday attending the Social Services Working Group which was a tremendous opportunity to contribute to the reshaping of social services in the State of North Carolina and she was appreciative of the privilege to serve the citizens in that capacity.

Commissioner Chappell thanked everyone involved with making the wayfinding signs project come to fruition. He said this is something he advocated for a long time when he served on the Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority. He believes the signs will help visitors navigate around the County and encourage them to stay and take advantage of more opportunities here.

Commissioner Chappell announced that he received a letter from Jeff McDaris announcing his resignation from the Workforce Development Board. Dr. McDaris has served on this board representing Transylvania County for 17 years. His leadership on this board has made significant positive impacts on

Transylvania County and Western North Carolina. Commissioner Chappell publicly thanked him for his service.

Chairman Chapman thanked everyone who attended the meeting today. He commented that there has been a lot of discussion today about facts, rumors, accusations, etc. and there is nothing more rampant right now than the issue about the school bond. He said he looks forward to the presentation by the bond counsel. He said there have been accusations that the Board of Commissioners has ulterior motives and he assured the public that is not the case. He said he wants the citizens of this County to know the facts associated with their vote on this bond because there is no issue that is going to impact this County for years to come other than the bond referendum.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Lemel moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously carried.**

Larry L. Chapman, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board