

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 22, 2019 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Monday, April 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in Commissioners Chambers at the County Administration Building, located at 101 S. Broad Street, Brevard, NC.

Commissioners present were Will Cathey, Jason Chappell, Vice-Chairman David Guice, Chairman Mike Hawkins, and Page Lemel. 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 120 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Hawkins presiding declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

WELCOME

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

The comments made by the public represent the individual speaker's opinion or point of view. No attempt was made to vet their statements for accuracy or modify them based on facts.

Grant Bullard: Mr. Bullard and his wife are the owners and operators of Gwynn Valley Camp. He serves as Chair of the Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority (TCTDA). He came before the Board to speak in the interest of the camp community and as someone who understands the economic impact of visitors on the County. Mr. Bullard stated the TCTDA is very much interested in creating a positive experience for visitors to Transylvania County. As a camp owner, cyclist and interested citizen, he believes the bike plan will produce positive results and he expressed his endorsement of the plan. He shared that camp owners continuously see more families' each year extending their stay in Transylvania County and many of those families are accompanied by bicycles on top of their vehicles. Mr. Bullard believes the proposed bike plan provides more incentive for families to stay here, recreate and explore the City and County by bike. The plan's proposed improvements will enhance opportunities and experiences for cyclists of all ages. To him, the health and environmental benefits alone are major reasons to adopt the plan. In addition, the combination of interconnectedness, a network of paved paths, bike lanes and other bike infrastructure will provide safe and alternative transportation routes between neighborhoods, destinations and communities. Mr. Bullard stated he hopes the Board will see the proposed plan as favorable and vote to adopt it.

Clay Sikes: Mr. Sikes is a resident, property owner and business owner in Transylvania County. He pointed out that he has the ability to live anywhere, but he chooses to live here for the quality of life. His business works with companies across the Southeast to solve water and wastewater issues which typically involves dealing with infrastructure. Mr. Sikes felt strongly that Brevard's infrastructure is its terrain and

natural beauty which gives the County a competitive advantage when trying to attract new industry and business. He pointed out former industries, such as Ecusta and Dupont, are part of the County's past and that quality of life will be what fuels future growth. Mr. Sikes felt that the proposed bicycle plan adds to quality of life and enhances the County's attractiveness. He encouraged the Board to support the plan.

Bruce Stewart: Mr. Stewart is the owner of two local restaurants, Lola's and KTCHN. He said he moved back to Brevard from Charlotte to start a business and give back to the community that has given him so much. He expressed gratitude to Commissioner Guice and his family for taking him under their wing when he was a kid. The experience moved him to employ and work with those less fortunate to provide an opportunity for a better life. He shared that biking has saved his life and the lives of so many others. Mr. Stewart felt strongly about the family structure and connecting people to one another and that biking has a positive influence on both. Biking gets people outdoors and reconnects them with what is truly important. For these reasons, he was supportive of the proposed bicycle plan. He pointed to a full audience and informed the Board that the interest and support for this plan are not going away.

John Detillo: Mr. Detillo is a resident of Transylvania County and the founder and ride leader for the Connestee Falls Cycling Club which currently has approximately 60 cyclists on its email distribution list. Their members are older and physically active; however, most can no longer participate in activities like mountain biking due to the risk of injury. About one-third of their members remain willing to ride on roads, but most are uncomfortable with the cycling infrastructure and prefer alternate routes in South Carolina like the Swamp Rabbit and Doodle Trails. Mr. Detillo pointed out these rides are always well attended and they often make a day of it dining and shopping afterwards. They would prefer to stay closer to home and support local businesses. Mr. Detillo reported that many from the Connestee Falls Cycling Club participated in the public input meetings on the bicycle plan. They would like to see improvements along the popular road routes that would minimize negative interaction with motorists and the use of shared use paths for a less stressful and more social cycling experience. Mr. Detillo feels the proposed bicycle plan will benefit both cyclists and non-cyclists. He said while he understands the adoption of this plan is the first step in a very long process, he was confident it would ensure safe cycling infrastructure for the next generation of cyclists, if implemented. He urged the Board of Commissioners to adopt the Transylvania County Bicycle Plan and thanked them for their support of safe cycling and for ensuring a bright future for the community.

John Wayne Hardison: Mr. Hardison stated the bicycle plan is very important to him. Transylvania County is the only place he has lived as an independent adult. Now that he is raising his family here, he is more invested in Transylvania County and its future. He reported that he attended Planning Board meetings at which the bicycle plan was discussed and he was pleased with the process. Although there were differing opinions expressed during those meetings, no one appeared to be against cycling. Some did not necessarily prefer the direction in which Transylvania County was moving and would rather have been discussing industry's moving back into the County. Mr. Hardison reported that the two biggest concerns expressed by participants in the public meetings were financial (economic impact) and safety. To him, safety is a no-brainer and the bicycle plan proposes to make cycling safer in the community for both riders and motorists. He sees the plan as a proactive one that will serve as a resource for how to make roads safer and add bicycle infrastructure when road improvements are made. He pointed out that the economic impact is difficult to measure, but past studies have indicated an economic impact in the hundreds of thousands. Cycling events draw both cyclists and spectators to the County, and cycling itself has attracted businesses like Oskar Blues. Mr. Hardison felt the bicycle plan would be very positive to Transylvania County and he urged the Board to support it.

Sam Salman: Mr. Salman is the owner of the HUB and Pisgah Tavern located at the entrance to the Pisgah National Forest. He felt that the proposed bicycle plan is more of a multi-use plan than a bicycle plan and serves as a framework for great potential in this County. He pointed out the amount of people

who visit Transylvania County to enjoy its natural resources and recreate is beyond imagination. He stressed that the County's future lies in its ability to attract young families, not just retirees. One of the most attractive features to young families is pedestrian and biking infrastructure and the ability to travel freely without a car. Mr. Salman stated the bicycle plan does not require the County to spend money; it simply serves as a resource on how to add biking infrastructure when road improvements are made. He believed strongly that having the framework and plan in place for future growth is a must. Mr. Salman stated his bike shop employs 18+ people at living wage and the business continues to grow. Other bike shops in Transylvania County are similar. Mr. Salman stated that the cycling industry is one of the biggest outdoor industries in the world, noting that local industry in Transylvania County is heavily involved in the bicycle manufacturing processes. He believes the industry will continue to grow. Mr. Salman hopes the Board will adopt the plan and seek dialogue with the cycling community.

Wes Dickson: Mr. Dickson is a native of Transylvania County. He said he got into cycling as a young kid which started him down a path that he really enjoyed. He wants to give children the opportunity to ride their bikes safely anywhere around Transylvania County. He pointed out that cycling has obviously brought many people to Transylvania County. To him personally, having infrastructure available would be the new recreation, not to take anything away from others sports. Mr. Dickson felt cycling needed to be viewed differently in that it is not just an activity for visitors. He stated that cycling and connecting with the outdoors provides huge health benefits. Mr. Dickson reminded everyone of how amazing Transylvania County is and he hoped the Board would view the bicycle plan as favorable and adopt it.

Nick Pearl: Mr. Pearl said he chose to move to Brevard primarily because of access to the wilderness and its beauty. He stated he has a young family so it is very important he finds ways to save money. One of those ways is by biking into town. Unfortunately, the trip can be dangerous traveling on Highway 64 with speeding traffic and blind spots. Mr. Pearl reported he also works at Oskar Blues to support his family. To highlight the economic impact of cycling events, he shared that he made more money bartending for Oskar Blues in one weekend than teaching for one month. Mr. Pearl thanked the Board for considering the proposed bicycle plan. He believes it has the potential to bring jobs and safe infrastructure, thus making Transylvania County a better place to be.

No one else had signed up to speak and the public comment period closed.

Chairman Hawkins explained that tonight Commissioners will hear a presentation on the bicycle plan which will be their first exposure to it. There will be no action taken on the bicycle plan at this meeting, but it will be placed on a future agenda for consideration.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cathy and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Guice moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioners Cathey and Lemel simultaneously and unanimously approved.

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 and following met in closed session in which the minutes were sealed. Commissioners approved the minutes as submitted.

DISCOVERY, RELEASE AND MONTHLY SETTLEMENT REPORT

Per NC General Statute § 105-312 (b), it is the duty of the Tax Administrator to see that all property not properly listed during the regular listing period be listed, assessed and taxed. The Tax Administrator shall file such reports of discoveries with the Board of Commissioners. Per NC General Statute § 105-381 (b), it is the duty of the Tax Administrator to provide a monthly report to the Board of Commissioners of the actions taken by the Tax Administrator on requests for release or refund, which shall be recorded in the minutes. For the month of March 2019, total tax dollars released was \$449.45 and refunds totaled \$677.90. Commissioners approved the Discovery, Release and Monthly Settlement Report for March 2019 as submitted.

GREYSTONE INN INCENTIVES

In November 2017, following a public hearing, the Board of Commissioners approved a performance-based incentive package for Ellis Mountain Management, LLC for the renovation and reopening of an existing historic property located in unincorporated Transylvania County, known as the Greystone Inn. The performance grant was intended to help match the 5% local match requirement for State incentives. The Board of Commissioners earmarked \$17,169.60 for this purpose. However, in January 2019, despite making considerable capital investment and creating full-time and part-time jobs, the Greystone Inn thanked the Board of Commissioners for the offer, but respectfully declined. In the Board's agenda packet, the Manager provided a detailed timeline of the local and State incentive grant process. She asked the Board to release the money earmarked for the Greystone Inn. Commissioners approved the recommendation and acknowledged that the Greystone Inn incentive package approved in 2017 will not be executed.

PROCLAMATION – OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Sylvia Petit with the Department of Social Services chairs the County Council on Aging. Each year the Council on Aging requests that the Board of Commissioners approve a proclamation declaring May as Older Americans Month to recognize the many contributions of senior citizens.

The 2019 Older Americans Month theme is *Connect, Create, Contribute* which encourages older adults and their communities to connect with friends, family, and services that support participation, create by engaging in activities that promote learning, health, and personal enrichment, and contribute time, talent, and life experience to benefit others.

The Council on Aging also requests that one or more County Commissioners read aloud the proclamation during the opening ceremonies of Senior Games scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 26. At least two Senior Representatives of the Council on Aging will be in attendance during opening ceremonies to accept the proclamation.

Commissioners approved Proclamation #10-2019 Older Americans Month 2019.

**Proclamation #10-2019
Older Americans Month 2019**

Whereas, Transylvania County includes a growing number of older Americans who enrich our community through their diverse life experiences; and

Whereas, the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners is committed to strengthening our

community by connecting with and supporting older adults, their families, and caregivers and acknowledging their many valuable contributions to society; and

Whereas, the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of bringing together all generations and engaging in activities that promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being for the benefit of all; and

Whereas, the 2019 Older Americans Month theme is *Connect, Create, Contribute* which encourages older adults and their communities to connect with friends, family, and services that support participation; create by engaging in activities that promote learning, health, and personal enrichment; and contribute time, talent, and life experience to benefit others;

Now therefore, the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County does hereby proclaim May 2019 to be Older Americans Month. We urge every resident to take time during this month to recognize older adults and the people who serve them as essential and valuable members of our community.

Dated this 22nd day of April, 2019.

S: //Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

In 1988, both Houses of Congress adopted legislation declaring the first Thursday in May of each year as National Day of Prayer. Commissioners wished to proclaim May 2, 2019 as “A Day of Prayer in Transylvania County.” This year’s theme is Love One Another.

Commissioners approved Proclamation #11-2019 National Day of Prayer 2019.

PROCLAMATION #11-2019 National Day of Prayer 2019

WHEREAS, National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2019, and the theme will be **Love One Another**, based upon the words of Jesus in John 13:34: *“Love one another. Just as I have loved you.”*; and

WHEREAS, prayer plays a powerful role in the lives of people of all cultures, religions, and backgrounds and serves as a source of moral and spiritual guidance for millions throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, we unite with fellow citizens to exercise our freedom to gather in prayer to seek guidance, provision, protection, and purpose for the benefit of every individual and our nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, National Day of Prayer was first observed by members of the Continental Congress in 1775, and President Truman signed a joint resolution declaring an annual National Day of Prayer in 1952; and

WHEREAS, the 100th United States Congress passed a resolution on May 5, 1988, proclaiming the observance of the National Day of Prayer on the first Thursday of May each year thereafter; and

WHEREAS, National Day of Prayer is recognized by Americans of all religious faiths, and those who participate will join in prayer to reaffirm our course as a democratic nation with the promise of liberty and justice for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County does hereby proclaim May 2, 2019, as “**A DAY OF PRAYER IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY**” and encourages the citizens of Transylvania County to join in prayer, asking for guidance and strength for our people and our leaders so that we may meet the challenges that lie before us with courage, wisdom, and justice.

This the 22nd day of April, 2019.

S: // Mike Hawkins, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

The week of May 12-18, 2019 is National Police Week with Peace Officers Memorial Day designated on May 15. Sheriff Mahoney requested the Board of Commissioners publicly recognize and salute the service of law enforcement officers in our community and in communities across the nation. This is an annual proclamation approved by the Board of Commissioners and is presented to both the Sheriff’s Office and Brevard Police Department.

Commissioners approved Proclamation #12-2019 National Police Week 2019.

**Proclamation #12-2019
National Police Week 2019**

To recognize National Police Week 2019 and to honor the service and sacrifice of those law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty while protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy.

Whereas, there are more than 900,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the 116 dedicated members of the Transylvania County Sheriff’s Office and Brevard Police Department; and

Whereas, since the first recorded death in 1791, more than 23,000 law enforcement officers in the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice and been killed in the line of duty; and

Whereas, the names of these dedicated public servants are engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, this year the names of 371 Fallen Heroes will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial; 158 of these officers died in 2018 and 213 are deaths from previous years; and

Whereas, the service and sacrifice of all officers killed in the line of duty will be honored during the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund’s 31st Annual Candlelight Vigil, on the evening of May 13, 2019; and

Whereas, the Candlelight Vigil is part of National Police Week, which takes place this year on May 12-18; and

Whereas, May 15 is designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day, in honor of all fallen officers and their families and U.S. flags should be flown at half-staff;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County formally designates May 12-18, 2019, as Police Week in Transylvania County, and publicly salutes the service of law enforcement officers in our community and in communities across the nation.

This the 22nd day of April, 2019.

S: //Mike Hawkins, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

**PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK AND
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY EMPLOYEE DAY**

Celebrated the first full week in May, Public Service Recognition Week is a time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees. On May 8, the Human Resources department is planning a County employee appreciation event that will take place during the typical lunch periods. The event will take place from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the County Administration/Board of Elections parking lot. Employees will have lunch and spend some time building comradery with their fellow coworkers.

Commissioners approved Proclamation #13-2019 proclaiming the week of May 5-11 as National Public Service Recognition Week and May 8 as Transylvania County Employee Day.

**PROCLAMATION #13-2019
NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK
AND
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY EMPLOYEE DAY**

WHEREAS, Citizens are served every day by public servants at the city, county, state and federal levels, and these unsung heroes do the work that keeps our nation working; and

WHEREAS, Public employees take not only jobs, but responsibilities, passions and oaths; and

WHEREAS, Many public servants, including military personnel, law enforcement officers, firefighters, healthcare professionals and others, risk their lives each day in service to the people; and

WHEREAS, Public servants include teachers, doctors and nurses, transportation employees, safety inspectors, laborers, computer technicians, social workers and countless other occupations. Day in and day out, they provide the diverse services demanded by the citizens with efficiency and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Without these public servants at every level, delivery of services to the citizens would be impossible;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners to recognize the week of May 5th through 11th as National Public Service Recognition Week and to encourage citizens to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of government employees at all levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to proclaim Wednesday, May 8th as County Employee Day and to thank County Employees for their service to the citizens of our community.

This the 22nd day of April, 2019.

S:// Mike Hawkins, Chair

Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

PROCLAMATION – INTERNATIONAL COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK

The Composting Council Research and Education Foundation has declared May 5-11, 2019 as International Compost Awareness Week. Composting is an effective form of waste reduction and is beneficial to the environment. International Compost Awareness Week is a publicity and education initiative to showcase compost production, demonstrate compost use, and promote its importance for healthy soil and clean water, now and for the future.

Commissioners approved Proclamation #14-2019 International Compost Awareness Week.

Proclamation #14-2019
International Compost Awareness Week May 5-11, 2019

Whereas, the Composting Council Research & Education Foundation, along with Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and other countries have declared May 5-11, 2019 to be the annual International Compost Awareness Week; and,

Whereas, composting is a way of returning organic resources to the soil and is a way of conserving water, reducing non-point pollution, decreasing chemical fertilizers and decreasing erosion; and,

Whereas, composting is an effective form of waste reduction, reuse and recycling; and whereby organic materials such as yard trimmings, vegetable cuttings, biosolids, food scraps, manures and hay shavings have all been composted and converted into a beneficial product known as compost; and,

Whereas, communities can have significant impact on clean water, soil, climate change and landfill diversion by using compost for public projects; and,

Whereas, this week recognizes the efforts of the Composting Council Research and Education Foundation, extension agents, soil conservation stewards, householders, landscapers, farmers, recyclers, public workers, composters, gardeners and plant growers everywhere to preserve our local soils; and,

Whereas, International Compost Awareness Week is a publicity and education initiative to showcase compost production and demonstrate compost use, promoting the importance of compost for healthy soil and clean water, now and for the future;

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed, that the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners does hereby designate May 5-11, 2019 as International Compost Awareness Week in Transylvania County and encourage all County officials, employees, students and residents to learn about local waste diversion activities.

Adopted this the 22nd day of April 2019.

S: //Mike Hawkins, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

2018 COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Health Director Elaine Russell reported that every three years Health Departments in North Carolina are required to conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) to determine the health priorities of their

respective counties. The process is driven by a review of primary data, secondary data, and engagement with key community stakeholders. The key findings guide the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

The cost of the CHA process is covered by the WNC Healthy Impact Project. For Transylvania County, the Health Educator is assigned to manage the process and specific documents. Tara Rybka is the Health Educator for the Transylvania County Health Department and she presented a summary of the CHA.

This is a summary of her presentation:

What is a Community Health Assessment?

- Describes the health status of a community
- Creates a resource for public health, local hospitals, other community organizations
- Provides direction for planning disease prevention and health promotion services and activities

Part of a Multi-Year Cycle of Improvement

- Year 1 – complete Community Health Assessment
- Year 2 – develop Strategic Plan to address needs (currently in Year 2)
- Year 2-3 – implement and evaluate Strategic Plan; create State of the County’s Health reports

Process Summary

- Collect data
 - Secondary data (e.g., Census Bureau, State Center for Health Statistics)
 - Maps by census district
 - Community telephone survey
 - Online key informant survey
 - Additional local data based on specific community questions
- Identify data that “stands out”
 - Impacts
 - Trends
 - Differences
 - Connections
 - Held community workshop to select priorities
- Community workshop to select priorities based on:
 - Relevance
 - Impact
 - Feasibility

Leading Causes of Death

Based on leading causes of death, Transylvania County ranks well. Transylvania County ranks lower than the State average on nine out of the top 12 causes of death. However, for all other unintentional non-motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, Transylvania County ranks worse than the State average. However, unintentional injuries and suicides have improved since the last report in 2016.

Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates (2012-2016)	Transylvania # of Deaths	Transylvania Mortality Rate	Difference from State Rate
Cancer	443	140.4	-26.1
Diseases of Heart	419	122.8	-38.5
All Other Unintentional Injuries	91	45.1	+13.2
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	127	36.7	-8.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	109	32.8	-10.3
Suicide	39	23.9	+11.0
Alzheimer's disease	83	22.3	-9.6
Diabetes Mellitus	45	14.7	-8.3
Pneumonia and Influenza	48	14.0	-3.8
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	34	13.6	+3.3
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Nephrosis	45	13.5	-2.9
Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries	18	9.7	-4.4

Top Morbidity and Mortality Issues

- Overweight / Obesity
- High Blood Pressure
- High Blood Cholesterol
- Mental Health Hospital Visits
- Falls Among Those 65+*
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Stroke
- Digestive Disease
- Asthma
- COPD
- Cancer Mortality
- Diabetes
- Pre-Term Births *
- Alcohol-Related Car Crashes*

*These issues affect a large number of people in a subpopulation.

Top Community Concerns (based on key informant survey)

- Obesity/Nutrition/Physical Activity
- Substance Use
- Infant and Child Health

- Diabetes
- General Mental Health
- Depression/Anxiety/Stress
- Heart Disease/Stroke
- Injury and Violence
- Plus social factors, such as:
 - Housing
 - Early Childhood Education

Top Community Resources

- High resources for:
 - Injury and violence
 - Food insecurity
 - Substance use
 - Early childhood
 - Obesity
 - Physical activity
 - Nutrition
 - Diabetes
- Need resources for:
 - Enough mental health treatment
 - Inpatient substance treatment
 - Mother/child substance treatment
 - Case management
 - Transportation
 - Access to childcare (cost)
 - Birthing center
 - No active coalition around obesity
 - Hard to change lifestyle/choices
 - Access to activity facilities
 - Housing

Other “Standout” Data

- Employment and road maintenance need improvement
- Worries over housing costs
- Limited access to care and health insurance
- Limited physical activity
- Food insecurity, food access, not consuming fruits/vegetables
- Mental health and substance use treatment needs
- Higher rates of binge and excessive drinking
- Life affected by substance use
- High radon levels (400% of the national average)
- Fewer people reported “fair” or “poor” health
- Lower rates of violence and crime
- Lower rates of smoking, vaping, smokeless tobacco

Selected Health Priorities

Based on the above information, community members conducted a process to review all the data collected. They assembled a list of issues to address that would have the biggest impact on citizens, that were feasible, and that had available resources. The two health priorities they wanted to focus on were:

- Mental Health and Substance Abuse
 - Deaths from overdose, suicide, liver disease, lung cancer
 - Hospitalizations and ER visits for mental health
 - Access to social support and mental health care/counseling
 - Tobacco and opiate use among pregnant women
- Healthy Lifestyle
 - Deaths from heart disease, cancer, stroke
 - Rates of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol
 - Lack of physical activity
 - Consumption of fruits and vegetables
 - Access to food, transportation, health insurance, medical care
- Plus: Financial Stability
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Employment
 - These are not health priorities, but they are interconnected to help lead healthy lives

Next Steps

- Better understand story and root causes
- Identify potential strategies that work
 - Evidence-based strategies
 - What is working in other communities?
 - Ideas generated by people who are most affected by the issues
- Select strategies
- Engage with existing and new partners to help implement selected strategies
- Create performance measures
- Evaluate implementation and making changes when needed
- Publish strategies, measures, and results on electronic scorecard

Summary of Phases



This concluded the presentation. No action was required from the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the presentation was informational only.

Chairman Hawkins called for questions and comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Cathey referred to the full report summary and asked if any consideration had been given to the method of increasing the number of paramedic-crewed ambulances because there is not enough coverage throughout the County. Ms. Rybka responded that this issue was not part of the data that came up as a selected health priority, but it certainly ties into access to care. She reported that the group is just getting started with discussions about strategies. Her role as Health Educator is to bring partners together to make decisions about the best strategies, so his suggestion could or could not become a strategy based on those upcoming discussions.

Commissioner Lemel was impressed with the work and level of engagement of the CARE Coalition to address substance abuse. They are considered a “one-stop-shop” for addressing these issues. She was concerned about addressing the issues revealed in the CHA and whether they could be addressed with a similar strategy. Ms. Rybka explained that much of the data collected for the CHA comes from the census or the State Center for Health Statistics and is therefore dated by a couple of years. She preferred to rely on the data collected through the community member surveys because it is the most recent. Another factor to consider is adverse childhood experiences. This factor is telling as to why people choose certain health behaviors and coping mechanisms. It takes a long time to change those behaviors. Ms. Rybka pointed out the CARE Coalition works mostly with policy systems and environmental controls. Instead of helping to change one’s behavior to make better choices, they work toward making the healthier choice the easier choice, e.g. reducing access to alcohol versus teens’ making the choice not

to drink. Addressing issues highlighted in the CHA will take an upstream, prevention-based approach. It sometimes takes years for that approach to make a difference in the data.

Commissioner Lemel asked if the Health Department was able to leverage potential resources through Vaya Health or if further advocacy was needed from the County Commissioner level. Commissioner Lemel serves on the Board of Directors for Vaya Health, as well as their County Commissioner Advisory Council. Ms. Russell felt it was good to remind them of needs in the communities, but also to keep a persistent pressure on them related to mental health, especially with the challenges from the redesign of Medicaid over the last few years.

Commissioner Guice stated he has a great interest in addressing mental health and substance abuse issues in the community. He said bold leadership at all levels of government, as well as funding will be key to addressing the underlying issues that lead to such problems. He felt it was important to create levels of measurement in an evidence-based approach to evaluate whether the approach is making a difference. He commended the Health Department for the exceptional work they do for the community. He was also very appreciative of Commissioner Lemel's leadership at the State level. He stated that the Board of Commissioners is very passionate about addressing these community issues because most people are impacted by them in some way, either directly or indirectly.

Commissioner Lemel pointed out it is critical that agencies throughout the County understand the resources that are available. Many times, people are lost in the crisis of the moment and do not receive needed information about the resources that can help them and their families.

Commissioner Chappell stated the report was very telling to him about the issues facing the County. He referred to sections of the report in which Transylvania County was compared to the region and State. He requested to see comparison data with Transylvania County's peer counties. He felt it was important to look at rural counties with similar demographics and learn how they have successfully approached such issues. Ms. Rybka reported she has the phone survey data for each of the 13 most western NC counties that she can share. The Health Department found that Macon and Jackson Counties were somewhat similar to Transylvania County, but had unique differences in terms of infrastructure and population. She stated for this reason she tends to compare to the regional averages, rather than focusing on comparisons to a specific county.

Commissioner Chappell was concerned about the number of survey responses and stated it is likely that the responses related to food insecurity were underreported. He has found that most people would not want to admit this is a problem for them. Food insecurity has greater impacts than just health. It impacts education, employment, etc. Ms. Rybka pointed out that the survey did not explicitly ask if someone was "food insecure". The survey questions related to food insecurity asked how often the following were true:

1. I worried about whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.
2. The food we bought did not last and we did not have money to buy more.

Ms. Rybka added that the full report contained a lot of data and noted that the poverty rate for children versus the overall poverty rate is very different.

Commissioner Guice stated that data related to food insecurity can likely be found in the number of children receiving free and reduced meals in the School System. He estimated the percentage to be high.

Commissioner Lemel reported the rate to be 54.9%.

Chairman Hawkins was struck by the frequent references to physical challenges related to the lack of activity/exercise and obesity. He pointed out the next presentation is on the proposed bicycle plan and asked if the two issues were connected. Ms. Rybka felt there was a definite connection. She stated the number of survey participants who reported zero physical activity outside of their workday was high. Unfortunately, many people equate physical activity with going to the gym, but physical activity can be in any form, e.g. gardening, walking, vacuuming, etc. In addition, just getting outdoors can help people cope with mental health and stress issues.

Chairman Hawkins stated the report revealed the ways in which one's health is impacted by financial stability, housing, education, employment, food security and access to care. This is important information for elected officials, policy makers, businesses and other community organizations for addressing issues to improve health. Chairman Hawkins thanked the Health Department for emphasizing the integrative nature of these elements for the benefit of the public. Ms. Rybka thanked Chairman Hawkins for acknowledging the connection and for allowing her to present the report. She stated that decisions made at the policy level can have serious impacts on the daily lives of citizens in Transylvania County.

DRAFT TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BICYCLE PLAN

County Planner Joy Fields reported that on October 24, 2016, Commissioners authorized the Planning and Community Development department to apply for a bicycle planning grant through the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the purpose of developing a comprehensive bicycle plan for Transylvania County. The grant was awarded in 2017 and required a local match. The Board of Commissioners appropriated \$10,000 toward the match and another \$5,000 was donated by the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club. In January 2018, NCDOT contracted with Alta Planning for the development of the comprehensive bicycle plan. Planning and Community Development staff assisted with determining the scope of work and getting public participation.

There were several stakeholder meetings held, to include both cyclists and non-cyclists, to determine a vision and goals, review data collection, receive and review public input, and subsequently propose revisions to the draft plan. The final draft plan provided to the Board of Commissioners was recommended for adoption by the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Board, and Transportation Advisory Committee. In addition, the Transportation Advisory Committee recommended that it serve as the proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to ensure the Board of Commissioners receives consistent information.

Steve Bzomoswki, the consultant from Alta Planning, presented a summary of the Bicycle Plan to the Board. This is a summary of his presentation:

Contents

The Transylvania County Bicycle Plan contains four chapters:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Existing Conditions
- Chapter 3: Recommendations
- Chapter 4: Implementation

Chapter 1: Introduction

- Project Background
- Planning Process
- Vision and Goals
- The Value of Bike-able Communities
 - Economic Benefits

- Health Benefits
- Overall Quality of Life

Chapter 2: Existing Conditions

- Plan Review
- Bicycle Level of Comfort (map highlighted roads that are comfortable for cyclists based on traffic volume and speeds and those that are problem areas for cyclists)
- Bicycle Crashes (2007-2015 data)
- Public Input Summary (heard strongly the need for physical separation between automobiles and bicycles)

Chapter 3: Recommendations

- Bicycle Facility Types (specifically infrastructure)
- Projects in Development (mostly in Brevard)
- Priority Network (map highlighted shared use path “spines”, multijurisdictional efforts)
- Comprehensive Network
- Program Recommendations (facility maintenance, bicycle-friendly community elements that highlight infrastructure, in addition to policy considerations to incorporate into development ordinances to be efficient in making decisions in the future)

Chapter 4: Implementation

- Key Steps
- Project Development Opportunities
- Key Partners in Implementation (County and Municipal Partners, NCDOT Division 14, and Land of Sky RPO)
- Performance Measures
- Facility Development Methods

Appendices

- Design Resources (rural multi-modal design guides for infrastructure suitable for Transylvania County; guidance on appropriate facilities for traffic volumes, speed limits, land use context, geometric designs, etc.)
- Funding Resources (compilation of resources from all levels of government; private nonprofit sector opportunities)
- Public Input
- Existing Conditions (additional information)
- Recommendations (to include maps and recommendations for infrastructure)

This concluded the presentation.

For the benefit of the Board of Commissioners and public, Chairman Hawkins asked the Manager to explain how the responsibility for road construction and maintenance is governed in North Carolina. The Manager explained that North Carolina statutes do not allow counties to build or maintain roads, other than driveways to access their own facilities. Roads are constructed and maintained by the NC Department of Transportation or municipalities for the roads within their jurisdictional boundaries. The draft bicycle plan should be revised to clarify this responsibility and so that it is not misleading to the public.

The Manager added that counties are essentially extensions of the State and serve to provide primarily health and human services, public safety and education. Endeavors such as parks and recreation and

libraries are non-mandated services, but counties are wise to provide such services because they contribute to quality of life. There are also some services that the State prohibits counties from providing.

Chairman Hawkins called for comments and questions from Commissioners on the presentation.

Chairman Hawkins referred to the recommendation for creating a priority network and the map referencing mainly the corridor areas. He asked if this recommendation includes requesting NCDOT to widen those roads. He also asked if bike lanes were automatically included any new infrastructure. Mr. Bzomoswki explained that the priority network is broken out into different elements. Shared use paths would be separate from the roadway components. The Highway 64 corridor contains larger rights-of-way thus creating greater opportunities for separation from the roadway; whereas areas like Everett and Crab Creek Roads would require an approval process for improvements and widening. Shared use paths are the ideal facility for average users, but for some of the corridors the best opportunity would be a roadway project to provide paved shoulders.

Chairman Hawkins asked if having 4 ft. shoulders makes it safer for bicyclists. He was concerned they could provide a false sense of security for both motorists and bicyclists. Mr. Bzomoswki responded that wider shoulders do in fact make roads safer, especially for passing.

Commissioner Guice was concerned about sending the wrong message to the public that the County has the ability to address road issues. He said he looks forward to studying the details of the bicycle plan further.

Chairman Hawkins pointed out there are elements of the plan that the County can do, such as keeping the momentum going on projects that are already taking place. He felt it was important to prioritize what the County can do. He noted this is another challenge the County faces.

Chairman Hawkins found interest in the solution to create pull-off areas for cyclists along roadways to alleviate traffic congestion. He asked if there were examples of this already being done or if it was a new initiative. Mr. Bzomoswki said this issue has been discussed frequently during the planning process. It is a solution that the NCDOT cannot currently implement. It is being recommended for further engineering study, but at this time no one has been assigned to conduct the study.

Commissioner Lemel felt that the solution to create pull-off areas was very favorable and she inquired about how to push for a study to be conducted. Mr. Bzomoswki responded that part of the answer involves capacity and funding. He was unsure who would conduct the study, but he suggested starting with contacting key partners such as the NCDOT, Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization and the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club.

The Manager suggested Commissioners identify areas in the plan that would be appropriate for advocacy separately from areas that would fall under their direct control.

Commissioner Cathey asked for confirmation that the proposed bicycle plan requires no condemnation of property. Mr. Bzomoswki confirmed.

Commissioner Chappell found value in the Manager's suggestion, noting it would also give Commissioners time to digest each segment of the plan. His main concern was that the plan places the responsibility for action and dedication of resources on the County.

Commissioner Guice acknowledged the plan as written places great responsibility on the County, but he said in terms of practicality it is not feasible. Mr. Bzomoswki stated there is no expectation that change

will occur overnight. The plan also requires no commitment from the Board of Commissioners. The plan is meant to serve as a resource to determine how to efficiently provide solutions using best practices.

Chairman Hawkins stated he would like to tackle the issue of safety in a substantive way, especially on the major thoroughfares. His understanding of the plan, if adopted, was that the Board would prioritize goals and take specific action based on the priorities. The Board of Commissioners would be the responsible entity for implementation, but it could be in a way that might or might not align with the priorities as adopted. Mr. Bzomoswki confirmed and stated there should be room for flexibility because different opportunities and challenges may arise that were not present at the time of adoption. The plan should be used a building block to help incorporate the Board's priorities when future roadway projects are considered.

Commissioner Lemel favored having a plan in place that prepared the County for opportunities as they presented. She said she operates from a philosophy that democracy takes everyone, so she challenged all those in attendance and in the biking community to help the Board prioritize projects and maintain their enthusiasm to keep up the momentum. She pointed out it is the biking community that understands these issues most. She encouraged them to be organized, make appropriate contacts, forge relationships with entities like the NCDOT, and form a strong coalition to move the plan forward.

Commissioner Cathey asked if the plan estimates how much it would cost citizens to implement. Mr. Bzomowski said there is a discussion of cost in Appendix A depending on the project, facility, etc. To support the plan there is no requirement for the Board of Commissioners to dedicate any local tax dollars.

Commissioner Chappell pointed out one of the key recommendations is for the County to strategically and proactively fund and build the priority network. The priority network includes the property that is privately owned and not owned by the County. He was concerned about endorsing a plan that includes these commitments. Chairman Hawkins responded that Mr. Bzomoswki alludes to the funding coming largely from the State through different mechanisms.

Commissioner Guice stressed the importance of having a clear understanding of exactly what the plan says, as Commissioner Chappell pointed out, before embracing it. He wants to support a plan the County can actually influence. In addition, there are elements of the plan that involve the creation of new trails that warrant further discussion. He felt that the Board should hold a public hearing to receive input from all segments of the population.

Commissioner Cathey inquired about the mechanism anticipated for gaining right-of-way access to the current railroad. Mr. Bzomowski referred to the Ecusta rail trail economic impact study that was completed a few years ago that recommends rail-banking for further information.

Chairman Hawkins suggested as a path forward that 1) Commissioners submit any additional questions for the consultant to the Manager over the next week; 2) Commissioners should have conversations about the best method to get answers to their questions and receive public input; 3) Commissioners should inform staff of a timeframe. He felt it was important to keep the process moving, give the necessary input, and then consider adoption of the plan. Commissioner Chappell reminded Commissioners that their focus over the next couple of months will be the upcoming budget.

The Manager announced staff would make a copy of the plan available at the Library and accessible online on the County website.

Chairman Hawkins called for a 5 minute recess.

Following the presentation, the audience was reduced to approximately 10 people.

APPOINTMENTS

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

John Blythe's term expires April 30, 2019. His position on the Agricultural Advisory Board represents the farming community. Mr. Blythe is eligible and willing to serve another term. During a recent advertisement, the Clerk received an application that will remain on file for two years.

Commissioner Lemel moved to reappoint John Blythe to the Agricultural Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner Cathey and unanimously approved.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The terms of Anne Bullard and Karen Cole will expire on June 30, 2019. Neither are eligible for reappointment. At the regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees on March 21, the membership nominated Jeremy Gibbs and Betsy Jordan to fill these position at the expiration of Ms. Bullard's and Ms. Cole's terms. The nomination process is specified in the Library Board of Trustees' Bylaws, Article III, Section 2. Staff recommended Commissioners fill the two upcoming appointments on the Library Board of Trustees, taking into consideration the recommendation of the current membership.

Commissioner Lemel moved to appoint Jeremy Gibbs and Betsy Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Cathey and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

STATUS REPORT ON THE SCHOOL BOND CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

The purpose of this item was to update Commissioners and County staff on the work of the School Bond Construction Committee. Chairman Hawkins and Commissioner Chappell represent the County on the Committee.

The School Bond Construction Committee was formed by the Board of Education with the purpose of overseeing construction work resulting from last fall's school bond referendum. Members of the Committee include Dr. Jeff McDaris and Norris Barger (TCS administrative staff), Tawny McCoy and Courtney Domokur (Board of Education), Jake Raines (TCS teacher), and Jason Chappell and Mike Hawkins (Board of County Commissioners). The Committee's first business was to interview potential architects and construction managers and make recommendations to the Board of Education.

Over the past few weeks, the Committee met several times and all the meetings were open to the public. The Committee felt it was important to interview each firm in person before narrowing their choices for recommendation particularly because this is the biggest project, size- and dollar-wise, in which the County has ever been involved. Although the process was long, they thought it was a good process. Both Chairman Hawkins and Commissioner Chappell were very pleased with the quality of the firms that submitted proposals.

There were eight architects and five construction managers who presented proposals for the Committee's interview process. The Committee evaluated the firms thoughtfully. The Committee members divided up the proposals for the purpose of contacting references. They were pleased to learn that most of the firms had completed projects in this area and much of their work was available for viewing online. The members then reported to the entire Committee on their findings.

The Committee got consensus on three firms for each to recommend to the Board of Education. They were:

Construction Manager

1. Vannoy Construction (Asheville)
2. Beverly-Grant / Barnhill Contracting (Asheville/Charlotte)
3. Edifice Contractors (Charlotte)

Architect

1. TIE – Clark Nexsen (Asheville) AND PFA Architects / LS3P (Asheville/Charlotte)
3. ADW Architects (Charlotte)

The Committee was charged with making the recommendations, but the final decision rests with the Board of Education.

Chairman Hawkins commented that his service on the Committee allowed him a better understanding of the projects, but he noted that the challenges cannot be overestimated, especially for Rosman High School.

No action was necessary, as this item was for informational purposes.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING SCHEDULE

On February 13, 2017, the Board of Commissioners changed its meeting schedule from two evening meetings to one daytime and one evening meeting. With two new Commissioners being elected last fall, Chairman Hawkins asked that this item be brought back up for discussion to ensure that the meeting schedule is appropriate and workable for each individual Commissioner.

NC General Statute § 153A-40 requires the Board of Commissioners to set their regular meeting schedule by resolution, which must be adopted at least 10 days before the first meeting to which the resolution is to apply. The regular meeting schedule must be filed with the Clerk to the Board per NC General Statute § 143-318.12.

Last year the Board asked staff to gather some data to compare the previous meeting schedule to the new one, particularly with regards to public participation. A preliminary analysis on participation/engagement in meetings comparing 35 meetings where both monthly meetings were at night to 35 meetings following the change to one daytime/one night meeting per month indicated the average attendance went up slightly to 42.1, where previously the average attendance was 38.8. This data was collected by reviewing all the meeting minutes during this timeframe. All cancelled meetings were removed from the data. The data indicated that comments from the public during the two Public Comment periods on the agenda dropped slightly after the schedule change, from 3.94 to 3.14. Staff did not produce data on public hearing participation being that public hearings do not occur during most meetings. Over the past year, the Board has very intentionally held public hearings during evening meetings.

Meetings of the Board of Commissioners are livestreamed and the video recordings are archived on the County's website. This process started when County Administration relocated to the old Library Building more than four years ago. Meetings are also broadcasted through Facebook Live. Information Technology Director Dean Landreth provided a report for 2018 which indicated the following:

- Livestream views: 765
- Facebook Live views: 5,789

- Total views: 6,554

In addition, staff researched the websites for all 100 counties for the posted regular meeting schedules of the Board of Commissioners and found that there is a wide variety of meeting times and days of the week. In general:

- 26 counties have one monthly board meeting
- Of the remaining counties, all held two monthly board meetings with the following breakdown:
 - Both workday meetings: five
 - Both night meetings: 39
 - One workday meeting and one night meeting: 28
 - Other-one agenda workshop starts in workday followed by regular meeting

Staff did not refine the data any further to look for outliers.

Staff sought direction from the Board of Commissioners with consideration of the general statutes required for public notice.

Commissioner Cathey stated that the daytime meetings conflict with his work schedule. His work as attorney could land him in legal trouble for not complying with the wishes and schedule of the court system. In addition, his constituents have expressed negative comments to him about the daytime meetings. He preferred to return to an evening meeting schedule.

Commissioner Lemel said she has been proud to offer citizens options, especially to those older citizens who may not feel comfortable driving at night. In addition, a daytime meeting seems to be a good utilization of staff resources, i.e. no overtime pay and staff does not have to spend additional hours at work beyond their normal working hours.

Commissioner Chappell said he disagreed when the scheduled was changed to include a daytime meeting. One of his concerns remains that it could limit someone's ability to run for elected office. He has a full-time job, but he is fortunate to be able to utilize earned leave time to fulfill his elected official duties. He preferred the meeting be held in the evenings. He commented on the data presented, and said mostly the same people attend the majority of the County Commission meetings. With availability of Facebook Live and livestreaming, the Board meetings are reaching more citizens. He suggested changing the meeting time for both monthly meetings to 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Guice commented that it has been common for Commissioners to change or rearrange their schedules over the years to fulfill their commitments and candidates were aware of the meeting schedule when they signed up to run for office. He said he has had to miss several personal events, such as his grandchildren's sporting events and anniversaries, due to the meeting schedule. Commissioner Guice pointed out the meeting schedule was set to serve all citizens in the community and he was willing to seek compromise on a new meeting schedule that might be suitable for everyone. He suggested keeping a daytime meeting, but moving the time to the afternoon. There is also the benefit of being able to watch Commissioner meetings remotely.

Commissioners discussed the suggestions put forth for modifying the schedule. They also discussed changing the meeting day back to Monday only.

Commissioner Cathey moved to change the Board of Commissioners' meeting schedule to the 2nd Monday at 4:00 p.m. and the 4th Monday at 6:00 p.m. effective July 1, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Chappell moved to update the Board's Rules of Procedure to reflect the new meeting schedule, seconded by Commissioner Cathey and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- Library Director assessments will be taking place in May; 37 candidates applied
- The Children's Advocacy Center will be holding a ribbon cutting grand opening event Monday, April 29 at 2:15 p.m. at 107 S. Johnson Street
- County Employee Appreciation Lunch will be held May 8
- Census 2020 is hiring; citizens interested in a temporary job can apply online at <https://2020census.gov/jobs>; every person counted in the census nets in over \$1,600 in federal dollars that come back to the County
- Staff is working on preliminary plans to present Commissioners with options on a second courtroom in the downtown area; estimated requirement of 5,000 sq. ft. after consulting with the architect and courthouse leadership
- Board of Commissioners will hold a Fire Service Workshop on May 1 at 6 p.m. with Kara Millonzi, UNC School of Government; all Fire Department Chiefs and board members invited, as well as the general public
- Kudos to Parks and Recreation and Manager Brenda Skeffington for Senior Center operations; participation has doubled over the past six months; Senior Services Task Force toured in April and they were excited about the changes
- GET SET update: Manager participated in an interview with Harvard students studying early childhood partnerships, specifically the County's partnership with Sesame Street, last week; received a request to interview with National Association of Counties on developing early childhood initiatives in communities as they develop best practices and resources for communities
- A celebration of Richard Fry's life is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 at 2 p.m. at the Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church and we extend our condolences to his family; Mr. Fry is responsible for most of the beautiful landscaping in the County's parks
- Reminded Commissioners to send Manager comments and questions regarding the bicycle plan
- Lastly, the Manager shared a short video from our partners at Sesame Street

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Morrow: Mr. Morrow commented that some of the Power Point slides are difficult for the audience to read. Mr. Morrow wondered where the construction workers for the school construction projects will stay since there is already an issue with workforce housing. He also suggested there are an adequate number of rain days built into their contract because Charlotte and Asheville do not receive the same amount as Transylvania County does.

Don Surette: Mr. Surette made a suggestion about the proposed bicycle plan. He suggested starting a voluntary collection funding program with the dollars to be passed along to the NCDOT since they are the only agency that can spend monies related to roads. He invited people to contribute to the fund.

Rick Bellini: Mr. Bellini thanked the Board of Commissioners for considering the bike plan and for their time researching other issues on behalf of the County. As a recent retiree, he is able and willing to

participate in County Commission meetings. He understands why it is difficult for citizens to attend meetings when they conflict with their work schedule.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENT

Commissioner Cathey asked everyone to remember the Christians in Sri Lanka who were murdered in their churches.

Commissioner Guice informed staff he had difficulty viewing the Power Point slides during the meeting today.

Commissioner Lemel encouraged the public to visit Silvermont to witness the variety of services being offered to seniors in our community. Brenda Skeffington is doing a phenomenal job. The State of the Seniors Report will be brought forward for the Board's consideration soon. Commissioner Lemel reported she missed the last Board meeting because she was in Raleigh attending a meeting on Medicaid Transformation. The most important thing for citizens to know is there will be a seismic shift in the scope of work between DSS and Medicaid recipients. It will be a hard adjustment for DSS workers and citizens. While in Raleigh, she visited the NC Legislature to share the County's work on early childhood. She shared a story about a new resident who recently moved into our community with a small son. Her first point of contact with the early childhood services community came from the community play groups at the various community centers. The community play groups immediately gave her a sense of a parent-centered community, options for services that could benefit her family, and the feeling that she had found a place that cares about families. The connection to community play groups brought her relief and stability during a difficult transition in her life. She was very impressed with Transylvania County's family friendliness. Commissioner Lemel read an email from the GetSet Coordinator at Smart Start. It said GetSet Transylvania is a true working collaboration that is making life better for young children and families today. Commissioner Lemel said everyone should be very proud of the effort the community is making for children.

Commissioner Guice responded to Mr. Surrence's comments. He said he was not supportive of sending money to the NCDOT. He said they should be sending money to Transylvania County.

Commissioner Chappell expressed his appreciation to all those in emergency services for their work during the recent storms.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Lemel moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously carried.**

Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board