

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in a regular meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Chambers at the County Administration Building, located at 101 S. Broad Street, Brevard, NC.

Commissioners present were Emmett Casciato, Chairman Jason Chappell, Vice-Chairman Jake Dalton, and Teresa McCall. Commissioner Larry Chapman was out of town. Also present were County Manager Jaime Laughter, County Attorney John Kubis, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Kate Hayes. Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan was absent due to illness.

Media: Jon Rich – *The Transylvania Times*

There were approximately 19 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason Chappell presiding declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

WELCOME

Chairman Chappell welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Commissioners and staff in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alice Wellborn: Ms. Wellborn spoke on school capital needs. She stated that based on compiled records of school capital needs, the county is consistently failing to fully fund the schools' requests. The unfunded requests totaled \$11.6 million from 2005-2022. When the county decided to use consultants to study the needs of the schools, they used that to delay the decision on the bond and to kill the projects. Ms. Wellborn stated that although the study was paid for by public funding, the report has not become public despite public information requests that have been denied. There is now another study to assess the building conditions across the school system which was to be paid for by county funds but has been taken from the education capital fund. She asked the Commissioners if they would act based on the report's findings and that any action would require bids and contracts before repairs are made. She stated that the history of the bond projects is that of delay as students wait for adults in the community to act. She stated that she plans to discuss how the school facilities affect the achievements and attendance of students in the schools.

Jeff Brewer: Mr. Brewer spoke on decorum. Mr. Brewer referenced others bearing no responsibility for their words while scolding the Commissioners for not responding to messages. He stated that the Commissioners are not required to dignify those types of communications that are mean-spirited.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications.

Commissioner Dalton moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner McCall, and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Dalton moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Casciato, and unanimously approved.

The following items were approved:

DATE CHANGE FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYEE TRAINING

On August 28, 2023, the Board approved closing the Tax Administration Office on September 22, 2023, for professional development and employee training. The North Carolina Department of Transportation rejected the License Plate Agency closure due to the request not being 30 days in advance. To include all Tax Administration staff to attend the training, which includes the License Plate Agency Specialists, and meet the NCDOT regulations, staff requested the Commissioners approve changing the date of the training to October 13, 2023. The Board of Commissioners approved the request to change the date of the training and instructed staff to post and publish appropriate notice to the public.

REQUEST TO FILM IN SILVERMONT MANSION

A local filmmaker is shooting a film from October 12-19 in Brevard and Asheville and requested to use the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Silvermont Mansion. The filming will not interfere with the Transylvania Heritage Museum operations which are housed in the Silvermont Mansion or PumpkinFest which happens on the grounds. Permission to use county facilities is the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners. If approved, the filming would occur over a two-to-three-day period. The filmmaker will pay \$125 per day to use the facility and they will be offsite by 10:00 p.m. each day. Staff will ask the filmmaker to sign an agreement to cover any liability. The Board of Commissioners approved filming in the Silvermont Mansion as requested and authorized the Manager to sign the liability agreement.

RESOLUTION FOR DONATION OF SURPLUS INMATE UNIFORMS

The Transylvania County Sheriff's Office has surplus striped inmate uniforms no longer in use because they have transitioned to all orange uniforms. Henderson County can utilize these striped uniforms. Statutes allow a governmental unit to donate the surplus to another governmental unit following a five-day posting period. At the previous meeting, the Board authorized staff to post the notice. Staff have met the posting requirements and requested the Commissioners authorize the donation via approval of a resolution. The Board of Commissioners approved Resolution #31-2023 Approving Donation of Surplus Inmate Uniforms to the Henderson County Sheriff's Office.

RESOLUTION # 31-2023

Approving Donation of Surplus Inmate Uniforms to Henderson County Sheriff's Department

WHEREAS, Transylvania County has declared striped inmate uniforms as surplus and they have been removed from service; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager has declared the items surplus and requested the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners convey the striped inmate uniforms to the Henderson County Sheriff's Department at no cost; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §160A-280 allows the County to donate surplus property to a nonprofit incorporated in the United States upon posting public notice at least five days prior to the adoption of a resolution approving the donation; and

WHEREAS, Transylvania County has met the posting requirements outlined in North Carolina General Statute § 160A-280;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County does hereby approve the donation of the striped inmate uniforms to Henderson County Sheriff's Department at no cost.

This the 11th day of September, 2023.

S://Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

PROCLAMATION-9/11 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Today, September 11, 2023, serves as the 22nd anniversary of the unprovoked and senseless act of terrorism on our nation. The Commissioners wished to remember this day and urged all citizens to recognize the heroism of firefighters, rescue and law enforcement personnel, military service members, and the many volunteers who responded to these tragic events with courage, selfless compassion, determination, and skills; and to remember the victims and the innocent lives lost as a result of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Commissioner McCall read the proclamation aloud to the audience. The Board of Commissioners approved Proclamation #32-2023 9/11 Day of Remembrance.

**PROCLAMATION #32-2023
9/11 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**

WHEREAS, in an unprovoked and senseless act of terrorism, four civilian aircraft were hijacked on September 11, 2001, and crashed in New York City, Pennsylvania and the Pentagon, resulting in a momentous loss of innocent U.S. lives of all heritages; and

WHEREAS, while we still continue to recover from the loss of innocent lives, the spirit of the U.S. has been revitalized, giving way to expressions of patriotism; and

WHEREAS, inspired by the heroism of our nation's public service personnel, military service members and countless volunteers, our nation found unity and strength; and

WHEREAS, from the tragedy of September 11 emerged a stronger nation, renewed by the spirit of national pride, and a true love of country; and

WHEREAS, Americans also have fought back against terror by choosing to overcome evil with good by loving their neighbors as they would like to be loved, contributing to relief efforts, and volunteering their time to aid those in need;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2023, as the 22nd Anniversary of the attacks of 9/11 and also the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance in the County of Transylvania and urge our citizens to recognize the heroism of firefighters, rescue and law enforcement personnel, military service members and the many volunteers who responded to these tragic events with courage, selfless compassion, determination and skill; and to remember the victims and innocent lives lost as a result of the tragic events on September 11, 2001.

Adopted this the 11th day of September 2023.

S://Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

PROCLAMATION - CONSTITUTION WEEK

September 17, 2023, begins the national celebration of Constitution Week and a weeklong commemoration of America's most important document. A resolution petitioning Congress to set aside September 17-23 annually to be dedicated to the observance of Constitution Week (submitted by the Daughters of the American Revolution) was signed into Public Law #915 on August 12, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The celebration aims to (1) emphasize citizens' responsibilities for protecting and defending the Constitution, preserving it for posterity; (2) inform people that the Constitution is the basis for America's great heritage and the foundation for our ways of life; and (3) encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787. Commissioner Dalton read the proclamation aloud to the audience. The Board of Commissioners approved Proclamation #33-2023 Proclaiming September 17-23 at Constitution Week.

**PROCLAMATION # 33-2023
CONSTITUTION WEEK 2023**

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government in a republic dedicated to rule by law; and

WHEREAS, September 17, 2023, marks the two hundred and thirty-sixth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS, It is the privilege and duty of the American people to commemorate the two hundred and thirty-sixth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and,

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week;

NOW, THEREFORE the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23 as **CONSTITUTION WEEK** and urges all citizens of Transylvania County to study the Constitution and reflect on the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves.

This the 11th day of September, 2023.

S://Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION DECLARING SEPTEMBER AS PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on August 21st and asked for each county to consider adopting the same. Brunswick County Commissioner Frank Williams serves as the Immediate Past President of the NC Association of County Commissioners. During his presidency, his initiative was "100 Counties Prepared", which focused on Commissioners and other elected officials learning how to effectively lead during emergencies, knowing where the resources are, and establishing relationships with the appropriate emergency management partners. Immediately following the announcement of his initiative, Tropical Storm Fred ravaged WNC. Transylvania County Commissioner Teresa McCall participated on the presidential task force to establish the training program and County Manager Jaime Laughter lent her expertise and experience dealing with emergencies as

well. Brunswick County requested each county forward them an approved copy of their respective resolutions. The Board of Commissioners approved Resolution #34-2023 Declaring September as Preparedness Month in Transylvania County

**RESOLUTION #34-2023
DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2023 AS “PREPAREDNESS MONTH”
IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time; and

WHEREAS, Counties throughout North Carolina have been affected by a variety of emergencies, including mudslides, wildfires, flooding, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the peak period of hurricane season is historically mid-August through October, and September 10 marks the peak of hurricane season; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County Commissioner Frank Williams recently completed his term as President of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, which was focused on the *100 Counties Prepared* initiative; and

WHEREAS, The inaugural *100 Counties Prepared* training focused on training county commissioners on how to effectively lead during emergencies, compiling resources to assist commissioners during emergency situations, and helping commissioners establish relationships with key emergency management partners; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 theme of National Preparedness Month is “Preparing For Older Adults”; and

WHEREAS, Transylvania County has a high percentage of adults over the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners desires that every household, property owner, and business in Transylvania County be prepared for potential emergencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County hereby declares September 2023 as Preparedness Month in Transylvania County and encourages all citizens to provide for and assist with “Preparing for Older Adults” by developing an emergency plan, building an emergency kit, and communicating their emergency plan to all members of their household and/or workplace.

Adopted this the 11th day of September 2023.

S://Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

YEAR-END FUND BALANCE DESIGNATION

To prepare for the FY 23 audit, funds in the General Fund and Solid Waste Fund will need to be designated for specific ongoing projects that could not be completed before the fiscal year ended as this will change the available fund balance. These requests were approved, budgeted for, or encumbered in FY 23 but were not able to be fulfilled or delivered by the end of the fiscal year. These funds will be re-budgeted in FY 24 and will be tied to specific projects.

Projects with an open purchase order may be carried forward without fund balance because those funds have already been encumbered during FY 23. The Board’s agenda packet included documentation detailing the

projects that will need fund balance appropriated, projects with an open purchase order, as well as projects that are offset by assigned revenues such as donations and donation-related expenses that were not able to be completed. Staff documented the Solid Waste project separately. The Board approved the carryforward and fund balance designation as requested by staff.

ACCEPTANCE OF LAND OF SKY GRANT FOR OUTDOOR PUBLIC WIFI PROJECT AND PUBLIC IT UPGRADES AT THE LIBRARY

The Land of Sky Regional Council reached out to the County IT department regarding the availability of Dogwood Trust funds for \$50,000 to help improve public internet access. Staff discussed an outdoor Wi-Fi project that IT staff had been exploring that would improve public internet access around county campuses and recreation facilities utilizing bandwidth that the County received from Vyve. Staff submitted the Wi-Fi coverage maps and location to the Land of Sky for review. The Land of Sky intends to provide the funding for all the equipment. The County must provide the bandwidth that it already has.

At a later date, the Land of Sky advised the County IT department that there was an additional \$25,000 available for other new public access projects. IT has previously explored a Digital Inclusion Plan for the Library through the NCDIT Broadband and Digital Equity group. County staff discussed the possibility of creating a Zoom meeting room that the public could schedule and use for meetings or job interviews and having better ADA accessible public computers in the library. With this money, the County would adapt the Connestee Room into a Zoom meeting room in the library and set up several better ADA accessible workstations with larger keyboards and larger monitors for those with vision issues.

The total grant issue from the Land of Sky is \$75,000 with no match requirement. The funds will be used to purchase the necessary equipment. County IT staff will complete the installation and setup of the equipment. The Board of Commissioners accepted the grant funds for these projects as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED EDUCATION CAPITAL FUND ORDINANCE (CONSISTENT WITH APPROVALS ON JUNE 26 & AUGUST 28)

The Education Capital Fund includes education capital projects approved by the Commissioners greater than \$50,000. The Commissioners approved a reallocation request from the Board of Education and appropriated additional funds for FY 24 for capital at the August 28 meeting. They also allocated funds on June 26 to fund a contract for the maintenance reserve study from the Education Capital Fund. This update covers the maintenance reserve contract and the consultant contracts as agreed to last fall between both Boards and adds them to the Education Capital Reserve. The Board of Commissioners approved the updates to the Education Capital Fund Ordinance as presented.

RESOLUTION TO DECLINE PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY OF BREVARD SOCIAL DISTRICT

On September 8, 2021, North Carolina Session Law 2021-150 was ratified, allowing governments to establish “Social Districts” within their jurisdictions. A social district is an exception to North Carolina’s open container law in a designated area during certain times. These social districts allow for establishments with ABC permits (e.g., bars, breweries, restaurants) to sell alcoholic beverages in designated containers to be taken into common areas for consumption. This applies to privately owned property, including those with and without an ABC permit, and public streets, crosswalks, and parking areas. The act was subsequently amended with Session Law 2022-49, which refined the initial legislation and provided additional details on the operation of social districts.

The City of Brevard Council amended the City Code of Ordinances to create a Downtown Social District on August 21, 2023, with an effective date of October 20, 2023. The district includes county property including the courthouse, gazebo, and former administration building (currently leased to the military museum). The county has a history of not allowing the consumption of alcohol on county property due to the nature of county services and the liability associated.

The City of Brevard social district program is intended to offer signage to properties including those that do not want to participate to indicate to citizens whether they are allowed to bring beverages on site with them in the district. The Board of Commissioners approved Resolution #35-2023 to Decline Participation in the City of Brevard Social District.

**RESOLUTION #35-2023
TO DECLINE PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY OF BREVARD SOCIAL DISTRICT**

Whereas, on September 8, 2021, North Carolina Session Law 2021-150 was ratified, allowing governments to establish “Social Districts” within their jurisdictions. A social district is an exception to North Carolina’s open container law in a designated area during certain times. These social districts allow for establishments with ABC permits (e.g., bars, breweries, restaurants) to sell alcoholic beverages in designated containers to be taken into common areas for consumption. This applies to privately-owned property, including those with and without an ABC permit, and public streets, crosswalks, and parking areas. The act was subsequently amended with Session Law 2022-49, which refined the initial legislation and provides additional details on the operation of social districts, and

Whereas, the City of Brevard amended the City Code of Ordinances in order to create a social district in the downtown area on August 21, 2023, with effective date of October 20, 2023, and

Whereas, Transylvania County owns property within the social district including the courthouse, military museum and gazebo, and

Whereas, Transylvania County does not permit consumption of alcohol on properties due to the nature of services provided therein by county government and the liability associated with permitting public consumption on site;

Now, therefore, the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners confirms that county property, to include buildings and grounds within the Social District will not be participating in the Social District program and directs the county manager to work with the city to post signage stating so in accordance with the program adopted by the City of Brevard. The county manager is further directed to add additional signage as needed to provide sufficient notice to the public to include the courthouse, gazebo, former administration building (currently Military Museum) and associated grounds to include on site sidewalks and lawn spaces.

This the 11th day of September 2023.

S://Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE BY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Planning and Community Development Director Jeffrey Adams presented the update. Mr. Adams stated the presentation marked the kickoff for the Comprehensive Plan update. He recognized his staff and the Planning Board members in attendance in the audience.

The Comprehensive Plan starts with a state statute that has to answer the question “Why do we plan?” The county must have a comprehensive plan to guide the future of the county. Communities surrounding Transylvania County have been updating their plans except for Haywood County because they do not have zoning. Those plan updates allow us to be connected regionally and to work across boundaries and jurisdictions. The county also internally builds plans across departments. Mr. Adams presented two examples

of comprehensive planning. One was the Hyundai EV Plant in Bryan County, Georgia. The county had worked to land the plant and the process did not happen overnight. The county had to work continuously and across agencies to land the project which started with an update of the comprehensive plan and looking at future land use maps along the corridors in the area for industrial zoning. The result was a unified development ordinance (UDO) that partnered economic development around the region.

Mr. Adams' second example of comprehensive planning came from Blaine County, Idaho, where Sun Valley is located. It is the oldest ski resort in North America and the county is made up of 82% public lands similar to constraints in Transylvania County. The county used to be home to mining and shipping, but the transition to a resort area started with a comprehensive plan and identifying workforce and agricultural areas to direct development towards the infrastructure and townsites. An updated land use map resulted from that process that circled areas around the city sites and overlaid them with infrastructure locations for density. A mountain overlay district was also developed to preserve the tourist attraction and minimize wildfire destruction.

A comprehensive plan may take the issues and opportunities of an area and build them into the goals and objectives of a community. The current plan for Transylvania County will meet its planning horizon in 2025 and staff have worked with the Planning Board to define the recommendations on moving forward. The original plan focused on four areas including economic health, environmental health, land use and livability, and culture and equity. Each focus area had a success matrix and was compared to the best practices throughout the region and comparable areas. The Planning Board noticed that the success matrix showed over half of the items were ongoing or showed no movement. The plan update will have meaningful metrics and goals that align with the community so we can monitor and achieve the goals moving forward.

Mr. Adams plans to have a feedback loop to look at annually and report to the Commissioners on how the plan's measures are moving forward. New metrics will be developed based on the vision priorities of the community. Once the new plan is drafted and adopted, the feedback loops will be tracked. Mr. Adams presented an overview of the timeline schedule and shared that the Planning Board has agreed to serve as the stakeholder group for the plan. They will serve the role of an internal consulting team and will gather data from the community as well as build engagement opportunities. Staff have reviewed outreach methods from other plans and will start the process with kickoff events at community centers to design the public survey. The survey would then be sent to the public at large as well as mailed out to ensure a representative sample is selected. Once the community builds priorities, the Planning Board would draft an updated plan to distribute to the Commissioners.

Mr. Adams sought feedback from the Commissioners on his work plan, the timeline, and methods of engagement through the community centers and surveys. The Commissioners agreed that spring would be a better time than winter to begin the public engagement process. The Commissioners also expressed that they would like to see the survey reach a broad audience of community members and touch all areas of the county. Chairman Chappell stated that the ultimate goal of the process is to have a usable document that lists community needs and shows trends to make future decisions. The Commissioners expressed interest in survey questions that ensured people did not complete the survey more than once as well as questions that highlighted what part of the county participants reside.

OLD BUSINESS

INDUSTRIAL PARK PHASE 2 RFQ AWARD

Transylvania County with Transylvania Economic Alliance (TEA) completed the 60,000 sq. ft. Sylvan Valley Industrial Park in 2018. The TEA presented to the Board of Commissioners in January of 2022 the economic development success of the Industrial Park and the desire to move forward with the 40,000 sq. ft. expansion. The County received a \$1.5 million grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation for the expansion. The Board approved a project ordinance of \$5 million with the understanding that any updates

would come back before them for approval. The County is working in tandem with TEA to meet the development needs of the community.

Chairman Chappell reminded the audience that while this is an exciting project, the space represents the last phase of the current space available. Any future projects could have challenges due to lack of product.

With the approval of the Board of Commissioners, the project development team determined it was time to go out with the RFQ to get the Architect of Record for this project. The project site itself comes with many challenges as was learned during the construction of the initial facility. The RFQ brought back four firm responses. Upon review by the team, it was determined the best choice for this expansion would be Architect Richard Worley as he has extensive experience with the site, and the specific needs for the facility to be properly constructed and has an exceptional historical performance of work on Transylvania County projects.

Commissioner McCall moved to approve moving to contract with Rich Worley for Architect of Record for the Industrial Park Phase 2 Expansion and to authorize the County Manager to negotiate the contract, seconded by Commissioner Dalton, and approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2023 4TH QUARTER FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT

The Manager introduced Pam Wortham to present the item. Ms. Wortham has been consulting with the County during the interim period that the county has been without a permanent finance director.

Ms. Wortham stated that the report detailed the end of the year on a cash basis, but the financial statements have not been finalized. As of June 30, the county had collected \$72 million in the general fund. Of that, \$42 million was property taxes which exceeded the budget estimate by half a million dollars based on conservative estimates and a strong collection rate. Sales and use taxes were short of the budget based on nine months of collections, but once July, August, and September are accrued, the total will come in over budget. Occupancy taxes were slightly short of the budget projection, but not by a significant amount. Investment rates have skyrocketed, and the excess will lead towards the fund balance. The County transferred \$2.4 million in ARPA revenue replacement into the general fund. Utility costs were up close to 18% over the prior year. Vehicles that were not delivered by the end of June made some departments appear under budget, but they played a large part in the carry-forward requests approved prior in this meeting. Ms. Wortham continued to present the report stating that personnel costs were up significantly based on the large COLA approved earlier in the year. The county expects approximately \$3.5 million going into the fund balance at the end of the year, but this includes \$2.4 million in capital planning. After the audit, staff will determine what revenue and fund balance will be assigned and committed in the future.

The county's non-major funds include court facilities, the emergency telephone fund, fire district funds, special revenue, as well as the opioid settlement fund. There are three funds that the county has no control over - the representative payee fund through the Department of Social Services, municipal taxes, and Cooperative Extension. Solid Waste represents the only county enterprise fund and while revenues were over budget at the end of the year, the transfer from the general fund did not occur resulting in a deficit of \$110,000. Chairman Chappell and the Manager emphasized that the deficit does not include the cost of ongoing cell construction and the fact that some years we will need to spend more on capital improvements.

The cash balance was \$34 million in the general fund, \$1.1 million in the fire districts (in large part the Sylvan Valley fund balance), \$700,000 in the 911 PSAP fund, \$6.8 million for post-closure costs, \$25.1 million in capital funds, and \$3.7 million, or seven months of expenses in the internal health service fund.

Commissioner Dalton asked about the deadline for the use of the ARPA Funds. The Manager stated the county claimed the funds as revenue replacement to cash-advance the landfill cell for next year. ARPA Funds will need to be committed and spent by the end of 2025.

Commissioner McCall asked for clarification that the capital project funding number referenced above was in addition to the school capital fund. The Manager replied yes.

Chairman Chappell expressed his appreciation to Ms. Wortham for stepping in during the transition. He emphasized that the county estimates sales tax conservatively to avoid budgeting too high across the board. He stated the approach is to take care of the needs while looking forward to the future.

There was no action necessary.

PISGAH HEALTH FOUNDATION GRANT ACCEPTANCE

The Pisgah Health Foundation is interested in supporting services and programs that help the elderly in the community. They have seen the impact that Transylvania in Motion is having in the community by providing necessary transit services for citizens including our elderly population. The foundation is awarding \$30,000 to Transylvania County to be used by TIM to provide transportation services to county residents. The funding is anticipated to be used during the current budget year.

Planning and Community Development staff are working now on a plan to make the best use of the funds and to have the greatest impact. This will be presented at a future meeting.

Chairman Chappell expressed thanks to the Pisgah Health Foundation and the County Manager for her advocacy around present needs.

Commissioner Casciato was concerned about recruiting drivers for the vehicles.

The Manager gave credit to the Transportation staff for putting an article in *The Transylvania Times* to portray the needs to a broader audience.

Commissioner McCall moved to approve receiving of the Pisgah Health Foundation Grant for Transit, to authorize the county manager to sign the grant agreement, and to authorize staff to develop a plan for how to use the funds, seconded by Commissioner Casciato and unanimously approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- The 2023 NCACC County Map book is now available online—this book contains information comparing 100 counties
- Kudos to Kristen Gentry, Becky Harris, and Al Kopak for their work with the re-entry program and presentation at a national conference funded by federal Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSAP) funds. The presentation showed how partners are coming together to leverage existing resources in rural communities—staff are encouraged to innovate to serve the public.
- Kudos to the Social Services Director Amanda Vanderoef for a career fair in economic services. It was a one-day event to try to get creative to enhance success with workforce challenges.
- The Library is hosting mental health learning sessions in partnership with Vaya Health in September.
- The Council on Aging in partnership with Parks and Recreation Senior Center is hosting event sessions on Alzheimer's disease and sharing information and resources for caregivers.

- The Education Capital Study Committee will be meeting during the last week of September.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alan Mercaldo: Mr. Mercaldo spoke about the Commissioners' declining to participate in the Social District. Mr. Mercaldo stated he felt the City of Brevard was doing a disservice by ignoring their own vision and small-town charm and disregarding their duty as elected officials. Mr. Mercaldo was pleased the Board had the sense to be grownups in the town.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Casciato spoke on the Social District. He stated that when he moved to the area, it was because of the small-town charm, and he did not want the area to become little Asheville. He questioned who was responsible for monitoring the drinks and stated that it was not appropriate for children to see adults with alcohol. He was disappointed with the three City Council members who voted for the Social District and questioned if marijuana would be next. He was happy that the Commissioners previously voted against allowing alcohol on county property.

Commissioner McCall spoke about 9/11. She challenged everyone to think back twenty-two years and to think about where they were. She remembered vividly the patriotism that we have somehow lost along the way and asked how we get back to that sense of pride and patriotism. Commissioner McCall then spoke on the Social District and agreed that she was thankful that the county declined participation as she was reminded that the Bible says to not be obstacles to other people. She felt that the festivals in the area were meant to draw families and that the social district could put those children at risk. She hopes law enforcement will take the county's decline seriously to prevent people from consuming alcohol on county property.

Commissioner Dalton gave a shoutout to the Rosman Youth Shelter and the help they are providing to students who need supplies ranging from pens and paper to water bottles and clothing.

Chairman Chappell spoke about the community losing a great individual who had impacted his life and was a fixture and true educator at Rosman Elementary. Chairman Chappell shared a passage from President Bush's speech on 9/11.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Dalton moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Casciato and unanimously carried.**

Jason R. Chappell, Chairman
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board