

**MINUTES  
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 13, 2026 – REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in a regular meeting on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Chambers at the County Administration Building, located at 101 S. Broad Street, Brevard, North Carolina.

Commissioners present were Vice-Chair Larry Chapman, Jason Chappell, Jake Dalton, Chair Teresa McCall, and Chase McKelvey. Also present were County Manager Jaime Laughter, County Attorney John Kubis, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Jennifer Wright.

Media: Jon Rich - *The Brevard Beagle*

There were approximately 17 people in the audience.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Teresa McCall presiding declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**WELCOME**

Chairwoman McCall welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Commissioners and staff in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*The public comments represent the opinions and viewpoints of the speakers.*

Jonathan Rich introduced his Lightning Media company and its local news website, *The Brevard Beagle*.

Doug Powell spoke about the anniversary of the Halifax Resolves and recent commemorative events held in Halifax, North Carolina.

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

There were no agenda modifications.

**Commissioner Dalton moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner McKelvey, and it was unanimously approved.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Dalton, and it was unanimously approved.**

The Board approved the following:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the March 9, 2026, regular meeting.

**PROCLAMATION - HONORING THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE HALIFAX RESOLVES**

The Board recognized the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Halifax Resolves, adopted on April 12, 1776, by North Carolina's Fourth Provincial Congress. This act was the first official call for independence from Great Britain by any American colony and granted North Carolina's delegates authority to support independence in the Continental Congress, paving the way for the Declaration of Independence. The anniversary honors North Carolina's pivotal role in independence and its lasting significance.

Governor Josh Stein announced that the original Halifax Resolves document will be temporarily returned to North Carolina for the state's America 250 commemoration. The document will be displayed at the Halifax State Historic Site visitor center from April 10 through October 6.

The Board adopted Proclamation #16-2026 Honoring the 250th Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves.

**PROCLAMATION # 16 - 2026  
HONORING THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE HALIFAX RESOLVES  
April 12, 1776–2026**

**WHEREAS**, on April 12, 1776, the Fourth Provincial Congress of North Carolina adopted the Halifax Resolves, becoming the first official action by any American colony calling for independence from Great Britain; and

**WHEREAS**, the Halifax Resolves empowered North Carolina's delegates to the Continental Congress to support independence and helped influence other colonies to do the same, paving the way toward the Declaration of Independence three months later; and

**WHEREAS**, the year 2026 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this historic milestone, recognized annually on Halifax Day, and commemorated on North Carolina's state flag bearing the date April 12, 1776; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners values the preservation and recognition of the pivotal events that shaped our nation's founding;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners hereby honors and commemorates the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves, acknowledging North Carolina's leadership in the quest for American independence.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

S://Teresa K. McCall, Chair  
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

**PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**

National Library Week, April 19–25, 2026, recognizes the vital role libraries play in supporting education, literacy, and lifelong learning.

The proclamation highlighted the contributions of the Transylvania County Library in providing access to books, digital resources, technology, educational programming, and community gathering spaces. In a rural community, the library serves as an essential resource for residents seeking opportunities to learn, connect, and grow.

The Board approved Proclamation #14-2026 National Library Week.

**PROCLAMATION # 14-2026**  
**National Library Week**  
**April 19–25, 2026**

WHEREAS, libraries play an essential role in strengthening communities by providing free access to information, resources, and opportunities for lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, public libraries serve as welcoming community spaces where residents of all ages can read, learn, connect, and discover new ideas; and

WHEREAS, in rural communities like Transylvania County, the public library provides critical access to educational resources, technology, and programs that may not otherwise be readily available; and

WHEREAS, the Transylvania County Library offers a wide range of services, including early literacy programs for young children, educational opportunities for students, resources for job seekers and entrepreneurs, and cultural and enrichment programs for residents of all ages; and

WHEREAS, dedicated library staff work tirelessly to ensure that residents have access to books, digital resources, technology, and programs that support learning, creativity, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, National Library Week provides an opportunity to recognize the important contributions libraries make to the quality of life in our community and to celebrate the many ways they inspire curiosity, learning, and connection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes **April 19–25, 2026, as National Library Week** in Transylvania County and encourages all residents to visit their local library, explore its many resources, and celebrate the valuable role the library plays in our community.

ADOPTED this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

S://Teresa K. McCall, Chair  
 Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

National Public Service Recognition Week is observed annually during the first full week of May to honor individuals serving in government at the local, state, and federal levels. The observance recognizes the essential role public employees play in delivering services and supporting the health, safety, and well-being of the community.

The proclamation acknowledged the dedication of Transylvania County employees and their commitment to serving residents with professionalism, integrity, and care.

Human Resources and Administration staff announced plans for an Employee Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, May 6, along with additional activities throughout the week to recognize County employees. Further details will be shared as plans are finalized.

The Board adopted Proclamation #13-2026 National Public Service Recognition Week.

**PROCLAMATION # 13-2026**  
**NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK**  
**MAY 3 – 9, 2026**

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Transylvania County are served each day by dedicated public servants at the local, state, and federal levels who work tirelessly to provide essential services and enhance the quality of life in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, public service is a noble calling, and those who work in local government - whether in administration, emergency services, law enforcement, public health, social services, parks and recreation, transportation, or other vital areas - demonstrate professionalism, dedication, and a strong commitment to serving others; and

**WHEREAS**, the work of local government employees is fundamental to the well-being, safety, and prosperity of Transylvania County and ensures the effective delivery of critical services; and

**WHEREAS**, National Public Service Recognition Week, celebrated annually during the first full week of May, provides an opportunity to recognize and express appreciation for the dedication and contributions of public employees who serve with integrity and excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners encourages all residents to recognize and appreciate the contributions of our public servants, whose daily efforts help make our county a better place to live, work, and visit;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim May 3 – 9, 2026, as **Public Service Recognition Week** in Transylvania County and calls upon all residents to join in celebrating and honoring the service and dedication of our public employees.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

S://Teresa K. McCall, Chair  
 Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

**PROCLAMATION - CLERKS TO THE BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' WEEK**

The Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners serves a critical role in supporting effective local governance by maintaining official records, ensuring transparency, and facilitating communication between the Board, county staff, and the public. As one of the oldest positions in local government, the clerk's responsibilities remain essential to the integrity and continuity of county operations.

The proclamation recognized that North Carolina law requires each board of county commissioners to appoint a clerk to carry out statutory duties, including the preparation, preservation, and accessibility of official records. It also highlighted the importance of ongoing professional development through organizations such as the North Carolina Association of County Clerks, which helps strengthen the professionalism and expertise of clerks across the state.

The Board adopted Proclamation #17-2026 Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners' Week.

**Proclamation #17-2026  
Clerks To The Boards Of County Commissioners Week**

**WHEREAS**, the role of the clerk to the board of county commissioners (clerk) is crucial for maintaining an informed community and facilitating effective local governance through communication among citizens, governing bodies, and administrative departments; and

**WHEREAS**, the position of clerk, one of the oldest in local government, continues to be essential as the official recordkeepers of their counties, with responsibilities that are deeply rooted in history; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina General Statute 153A-111 requires every board of county commissioners to appoint or designate a clerk to the board to perform any duties that may be required by law or the board of commissioners, including, but not limited to, the preparation, filing, and protection of local government records, which are vital for accountability and transparency; and

**WHEREAS**, clerks enhance their professional skills through active participation in the North Carolina Association of County Clerks, which, in partnership with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, offers nationally recognized certification programs and continuous professional education; and

**WHEREAS**, clerks, through their dedication to professional development, not only improve the efficacy of their offices but also bring positive recognition to their counties by participating in advanced education and obtaining profession-related certifications.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners that May 3 through May 9, 2026, will be recognized as “Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners Week” in Transylvania County and extends its appreciation to Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan and Deputy Clerk to the Board Jennifer Wright , and to all county clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the county they represent.

**ADOPTED** this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

S://Teresa K. McCall, Chair  
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

**PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

The National Day of Prayer is observed annually on the first Thursday of May and is designated as a time for individuals of all faiths to come together in prayer and reflection. Established by federal law, the observance provides an opportunity for citizens to seek guidance, express gratitude, and promote compassion and unity within their communities.

The proclamation recognized this nationwide observance as a time to reflect on shared values, encourage community connection, and foster goodwill among residents.

The Board adopted Proclamation #18-2026 National Day of Prayer.

**PROCLAMATION #18 - 2026  
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
MAY 7, 2026**

**WHEREAS**, Throughout the history of America, prayers have been lifted up, seeking the Lord in every generation for direction, protection, and provision, so that God would be glorified and “Bless America,” resulting in America being filled with His glory, grace, and goodness as He has answered our prayers for over 250 years; and

**WHEREAS**, From the first pilgrims’ prayerful covenant with God in the Mayflower Compact to the Declaration of Independence, and in every State Constitution, God is glorified, given reverence and thanks, compelling the prayers of our Continental Congress that formed our nation to continue to flow fervently across America in this generation and in rededication, personally and corporately, to the Creator acknowledged in our Declaration, and placing our “firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence;” and

**WHEREAS**, The National Day of Prayer is a Public Law established in the United States Congress in 1952 approved by a Joint Resolution, signed by President Truman and amended by Congress and President Reagan with Public Law 100-307 in 1988, affirming that it is essential for us as a nation to pray and directs the President of the United States to set aside and proclaim the first Thursday of May annually as a National Day of Prayer; and

**WHEREAS**, In our county and across America the observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026, with the theme, “Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations” based on the verse in 1 Chronicles 16:24, “Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.”

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County does hereby proclaim May 7, 2026, as a DAY OF PRAYER throughout our County, and we commend this observance to our citizens and request that prayers be lifted up throughout our County; with every generation seeking the Lord as we rededicate our lives, city, and nation to the glory of God.

This the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

S://Teresa K. McCall, Chair  
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ADDITION OF MARS HILL AND MARSHALL TO THE ASHEVILLE REGIONAL HOUSING CONSORTIUM**

The Asheville Regional Housing Consortium voted to formally add the Town of Mars Hill and the Town of Marshall as full members. While both municipalities have historically participated in the consortium, the formal process required for full recognition by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development had not previously been completed.

To finalize their inclusion, each cooperating unit is required to:

- Approve a resolution amending the HOME Consortium’s Joint Cooperation Agreement to add both municipalities.
- Execute the updated Joint Cooperation Agreement, which includes a revised Exhibit A listing all participating units and reflects the current certification period through September 30, 2028.

The Board approved Resolution #15-2026 Authorizing the Chair of the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners to Execute an Amended Joint Cooperation Agreement to Add the Town of Mars Hill and the Town of Marshall to the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium.

**RESOLUTION # 15-2026**

**Authorizing the Chair of the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners to Execute an Amended Joint Cooperation Agreement to Add the Town of Mars Hill and the Town of Marshall to the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County, North Carolina, has determined that the health and welfare of its jurisdiction may benefit from increasing the availability of safe, affordable, and standard housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County has determined that providing safe, affordable, and standard housing will benefit workforce productivity and area economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, a cooperative approach to providing housing in the Asheville Regional area will avoid duplication of effort and promote more effective delivery of housing services; and

**WHEREAS**, a consortium of local governments is entitled to receive funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that they would otherwise be unqualified to receive individually; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, makes provisions whereby units of general local government may enter into cooperation agreements and form Consortia to undertake or assist in undertaking affordable housing pursuant to the HOME Investment Partnerships Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Transylvania County is a current member of and, along with the other regional units of general local government members, desires to continue the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium to undertake or assist in undertaking affordable housing under the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Mars Hill and the Town of Marshall each wish to join the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of Transylvania County to admit the Town of Mars Hill and the Town of Marshall as members of the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium; and

**WHEREAS**, Article 20, Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes authorizes units of local government to enter into contracts or agreements with each other in order to execute any undertaking.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County that:

- 1) Transylvania County hereby supports the addition of Mars Hill and Marshall to the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium, and the Chair of the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County is authorized to execute an amended Joint Cooperation Agreement with the other member governments of the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium.

- 2) The Chair is further authorized to sign all contracts, approved by the Transylvania County Attorney, with other Governmental Agencies as may be required to carry out activities of the Cooperation Agreement.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

S://Teresa K. McCall, Chair  
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DONATION OF SURPLUS INFLATABLE SLIDE TO YOUNG LIFE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

The County's Parks and Recreation Department previously purchased an inflatable Santa slide that is no longer in use and has been declared surplus by the County Manager. The item was offered for sale through a recent surplus property auction but was not sold.

Young Life – Transylvania County, a qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, requested the use of the inflatable slide. Under state law, surplus property may be donated to eligible nonprofits following required public notice procedures, which have been completed.

The Board approved Resolution #12-2026 Authorizing the Donation of Surplus Inflatable Slide to Young Life Transylvania County.

**RESOLUTION #12-2026  
AUTHORIZING DONATION OF SURPLUS INFLATABLE SLIDE  
TO YOUNG LIFE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, The Transylvania County Manager has declared an inflatable slide in the Parks and Recreation Department as surplus, and it has been removed from service; and

**WHEREAS**, The item was not sold during a recent auction of surplus personal property; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C.G.S. § 160A-280 allows a county government to donate to another governmental unit or nonprofit entity any personal property that the governing board deems to be surplus, obsolete or unused, following the posting of its intent to donate for a period of 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 N.C.G.S. § 160A-280; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Department recommends the conveyance of the surplus inflatable slide to Young Life Transylvania County, a qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofit, at no cost;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the donation of a surplus inflatable slide to Young Life Transylvania County at no cost.

This the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

S://Teresa K. McCall, Chair  
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

STRIVE NOT TO DRIVE WEEK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LAND OF SKY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Strive Not to Drive Week is an annual regional initiative encouraging residents and visitors to reduce single-occupancy vehicle use by biking, walking, carpooling, or using public transit. Originating in the 1980s

through Asheville-area advocacy, the program now spans the five-county Land of Sky Regional Council region.

For 2026, the event is scheduled for May 15–22, with coordinated activities throughout the week, including:

- May 15: National Bike to Work Day
- May 16: WNC Bike Fest (Bike Valet)
- May 20: Ride of Silence
- May 22: White Squirrel Weekend (Bike Valet)

The Transylvania County Transportation Department will participate by offering free rides on Thursday, May 21, 2026, in support of the regional campaign.

The Board granted permission for the Transportation Department to provide free transit service on May 21, 2026, in partnership with the Land of Sky Regional Council.

#### OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUEST

The Board requires pre-approval for all out-of-state travel. An officer in the Sheriff’s Office requested approval to attend a one-day training course in South Carolina on April 14, 2026. The course, “*Mastering Search and Seizure: Vehicle Stops and Beyond*,” is hosted by the Edgefield County Sheriff’s Office and presented by legal instructor Daniel Foster. The training focuses on applying U.S. Supreme Court and state case law to real-world policing scenarios involving search and seizure. Funds for the training are included in the department’s budget. The Board approved the out-of-state travel request as presented.

### **PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

#### TRANSYLVANIA ECONOMIC ALLIANCE QUARTERLY REPORT

Transylvania Economic Alliance Executive Director Burton Hodges presented the organization’s first quarter report. The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit supported by two staff members and guided by four strategic focus areas: planning, product, people, and pipes.

#### **Planning**

The organization’s strategic planning focuses on product development (properties available for economic development), leadership and internal engagement with local officials, business retention and expansion, and external marketing efforts.

#### **Product**

“Product” refers to developable properties for economic growth, including sites such as the Sylvan Valley Industrial Center and initiatives involving the Rural Development Authority. Discussions are ongoing regarding a potential sale of a portion of the Sylvan Valley Industrial building.

#### **People**

This area emphasizes workforce development and expanding the “Work Local Transylvania County” initiative to connect local graduates with employment opportunities within the county.

#### **Pipes**

“Pipes” refers to infrastructure development, including collaborative efforts to extend water and sewer service to Pisgah Labs.

### **Financial Impact**

Since its establishment in 2014, the Alliance has reported approximately \$153.5 million in announced investments, 521 new jobs, and over 100,000 square feet of publicly controlled industrial real estate. In FY 2025, announced investments totaled \$16.95 million.

### **Board Discussion**

Commissioner Chapman requested that the Rural Development Authority (RDA) provide a future presentation to the Board. Mr. Hodges noted he would be glad to present and directed attendees to additional information on the organization's website.

Commissioner Dalton addressed public misconceptions regarding the former Ecusta property, noting continued development potential at the site.

Commissioner Chappell clarified that the RDA is not a county department, but an independent entity created through special legislation by the North Carolina General Assembly and operates independently with its own funding structure.

### UPDATE ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM HELENE

The Manager provided an update on ongoing response and recovery efforts related to Hurricane/Tropical Storm Helene.

- There were no new updates regarding Hazard Mitigation Grants or Bridge and Road Repair programs.
- A new USDA block grant is available to producers who experienced infrastructure loss, market loss, or future economic loss due to Helene. North Carolina Cooperative Extension is assisting local applicants with sample applications and guidance.
- Debris cleanup cases remain pending FEMA review, with many currently determined to be ineligible.
- The North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Community Revitalization announced a \$40 million funding opportunity through the Renew NC Commercial District Revitalization Program. Funding is available to local governments and nonprofits through a CDBG-DR grant administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Applications opened April 6, 2026, and close August 4, 2026.

### **Board Discussion**

Commissioner Chapman inquired about waterway debris removal, and staff noted these cases remain under FEMA review. Commissioner Chappell referenced increased long-term wildfire risk due to storm debris in forested areas. Chairwoman McCall emphasized the existing burn ban and the importance of continued caution to prevent wildfires.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### LEAD FOR NORTH CAROLINA FELLOW FOR 2026-2027

Lead for North Carolina has contacted Transylvania County regarding participation in an 11-month fellowship program beginning in late summer 2026. The program provides a full-time, paid fellow in local government to support operations and help develop the next generation of public service leaders.

Preliminary planning would assign the fellow to work with the Clerk to the Board, assisting with incomplete projects and supporting efforts to improve administrative efficiency and workflow processes.

The total cost per fellow is approximately \$64,000 for the 11-month term. The County's required contribution has been reduced to \$10,000 due to grant support from the UNC School of Government, with all other personnel costs (including benefits) covered by the program.

Commissioners discussed program logistics and past experience with similar fellowship initiatives. The County Manager noted housing and salary arrangements are handled through the fellowship program.

**Commissioner Chappell moved to authorize participation in Cohort 8 of the program and allocated \$10,000 as the County's share of costs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman and approved unanimously.**

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager provided the following updates:

- April is National County Government Month, a time to increase public awareness of county services, highlight the roles and responsibilities of county government, and recognize the contributions of county employees. The observance provides an opportunity to share the County's work and its impact on residents.
- April is also National Poetry Month. The Mary C. Jenkins Community Center is sponsoring the County's annual poetry contest, which is open to all residents. This year's theme is *Freedom*, in recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary. The submission deadline is April 30.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Chapman shared remarks regarding his attendance at the funeral service of the late Mike Clampitt, recognizing Representative Clampitt's legacy as a firefighter and public servant. He also expressed appreciation to his fellow Commissioners for their support in his effort to be considered for appointment to fill the vacancy, noting the outcome was decided by a single vote.

Chairwoman McCall congratulated Ms. Ferguson on her appointment to the vacant legislative seat and thanked Commissioner Chapman for his continued service and advocacy.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Dalton moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:53 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Chapman and unanimously approved.**

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Teresa K. McCall, Chair  
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board