

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 14, 2019 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Commissioners Chambers at the County Administration Building, located at 101 S. Broad Street, Brevard, NC.

Commissioners present were Jason Chappell, Chairman Mike Hawkins, and Page Lemel. Commissioner Will Cathey was absent. Vice-Chairman David Guice was absent due to a family medical emergency. 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 25 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Hawkins presiding declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

WELCOME

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications from Commissioners or staff.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The Board of Commissioners met in regular meeting on Thursday, November 29, 2018. Commissioners approved the minutes as submitted.

RESOLUTION – REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE OF THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

On April 22, 2019, the Board of Commissioners discussed their regular meeting schedule to ensure it was appropriate and workable for each individual Commissioner. Commissioners voted to change their regular monthly meeting schedule from the 2nd Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. and 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m. to the 2nd Monday at 4:00 p.m. and the 4th Monday at 6:00 p.m., effective July 1, 2019.

Included in the Board's agenda packet was an updated schedule of meeting dates and times, along with deadlines for submitting agenda items. It was noted that one meeting will remain on Tuesday, November 12 since Monday, November 11 is Veterans Day and County offices will be closed.

North Carolina 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 North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.12.

Commissioners approved Resolution # 15-2019 Regular Meeting Schedule of the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners and instructed the Clerk to the Board to publish notice of the new meeting schedule and file in her office to comply with the law.

**RESOLUTION # 15 - 2019
REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE
OF THE
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners currently meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. and the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners wishes to modify its current regular meeting schedule; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 153A-40 requires boards of commissioners to fix the time and place of its regular meetings by resolution which must be published at least 10 days before the first meeting to which the resolution is to apply;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners hereby agrees to hold regular monthly meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m. and on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. effective July 1, 2019 and said meetings shall be held in the Multipurpose Meeting Chamber at Transylvania County Administration, 101 S. Broad Street, Brevard, NC 28712, unless otherwise posted or published;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners that the regular meeting schedule shall be filed with the Clerk to the Board per North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.12 and posted on the County's website.

This the 14th day of May, 2019.

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

VAYA HEALTH FISCAL MONITORING REPORT

Per North Carolina General Statute § 122C-117 (c), the quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Reports (FMR) for the local management entities/managed care organizations must be presented to the Board of County Commissioners. Vaya Health submitted its FMR for the period ending March 31, 2019.

The following information is included in these minutes to comply with the statutory requirement that the report must be read into the minutes of the Board of Commissioners:

Vaya Health reported their current annualized revenues through March 31, 2019 were \$317,087,401 (95.24% of budget) and their current annualized expenditures through March 31, 2019 were \$312,979,781 (94.01% of budget). This equates to a current net income of \$4,107,620 for the first three quarters of the year. However, per North Carolina General Statute § 122C-124.2(e)(3), Vaya Health's current reserve requirement of \$4,984,186 means that the net income/(loss) from their operations represents a loss of \$876,566.

Vaya Health also reported the following fund balances:

- \$42,947,443 restricted for risk reserve
- \$20,943,649 restricted for statute, prepaids and investments in fixed assets
- \$19,225,672 unrestricted

REQUEST TO RELEASE FUNDS FOR NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT

The NC Legislature decertified the Elections Department's current voting equipment (the iVotronic Voting System) effective December 31, 2019. The Board of Elections is mandated to replace the current equipment prior to January 1, 2020 with vendors certified by the North Carolina State Board of Elections. This obligation will require the purchase of voting equipment that will tabulate paper ballots and transitioning election supplies to support the new equipment.

The purchase will need to be implemented in two phases. Phase I entails purchasing the certified equipment and supplies relating to the ES&S DS200 to be used starting with the November 2019 election. Phase II would be allocated for the purchase of new ADA equipment upon certification from the State Board of Elections and testing by the Transylvania County Board of Elections. It would be implemented during the primary in March 2020 after successful testing in the 2019 municipal election.

The money has been earmarked for the pending purchase. The Board of Elections recommended the purchase of the ES&S DS200 model voting tabulators and supporting materials. The system was successfully tested during the 2018 primary in the Brevard #3 precinct. The expected cost for Phase I is \$286,075.

Commissioner approved the release of the funds necessary to purchase the voting equipment for Phase I as requested.

PROCLAMATION – EMS WEEK

In 1974 President Gerald Ford signed into law the Emergency Medical Services Systems Act of 1973. The third full week of May has since been designated as EMS Week. The purpose of EMS Week is to honor the dedication of the EMS personnel who provide day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's front line. Transylvania County is proud of the paid and volunteer EMS staffs that provide this critical lifesaving service to the citizens and visitors of Transylvania County. This year's theme is ***EMS Strong: Beyond the Call***. Chairman Hawkins read aloud Proclamation #16-2019 EMS Week for the benefit of the public. Commissioners personally thanked everyone who serves to keep Transylvanians and visitors safe, while sacrificing time away from their families. Commissioners approved Proclamation #16-2019

EMS Week as presented.

EMS Week Proclamation #16-2019
To designate the Week of May 19 - 25, 2019, as Emergency Medical Services Week

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, law enforcement officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County, in recognition of this event, does hereby proclaim the week of May 19-25, 2019, as **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK**.

With the theme, EMS Strong: Beyond the Call, the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County encourages the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

This the 14th day of May, 2019.

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

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL ANNUAL COUNTY FUNDING PLAN

The Transylvania County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) requests funding from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice on an annual basis and allocates the funding to programs that can best fulfill the needed services. For 2019-20, JCPC recommends the allocation of funds as follows:

Youth Mediation Services	\$ 26,300
Project Rebound/TCS	\$ 41,494
Project Challenge	\$ 17,717
Kids at Work/Aspire	\$ 16,056
<u>Administrative</u>	<u>\$ 2,645</u>
Total	\$104,212

No County funding is required. All matching dollars are made by the receiving agency by either cash match or in-kind match. For FY 2019-20, the matching portion is expected to total \$87,653.

Commissioners approved the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Annual County Funding Plan for 2019-2020 and authorized the Chairman to sign the necessary paperwork.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2019 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – GET SET TRANSYLVANIA EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLECTIVE

Transylvania County is extremely honored and proud to be recognized with the Best in Category Achievement for Children and Youth Programs from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for the Get Set Transylvania Early Childhood Collective Model. Get Set Transylvania stood out among 616 entries from counties across 32 states to be recognized among 18 Best in Show award recipients. NACo will recognize award-winning counties at its 2019 Annual Conference and Exposition July 12-15 in Clark County, Nevada.

Along with announcement of the award, the Manager provided Commissioners and the public an update on Get Set Transylvania's efforts and future plans to continue improving lives of children in Transylvania County. Get Set utilizes the collective impact model which is geared toward having nonprofits, government agencies and businesses come together to work on community problems by leveraging the best out of each sector and partner at the table to try a make a difference in their communities, particularly around social issues. There are more than 22 different Get Set partners representing various nonprofits, government agencies and businesses in Transylvania County.

Get Set has accomplished or is working on the following:

- Developing toolkits for families with young children for next year that will include a monthly bag of resources, a book from Sesame Street and other information on different topics from health to family bonding, slated to roll out in the fall; the following year Get Set will partner with Sesame Workshop to create Comfy Cozy Spaces
- Preschool teacher and parent training opportunities to help access information on different topics and child development with Sesame Workshop materials
- Community Playgroups are active this year providing opportunities for learning and interaction throughout the County
- Library has Batty Bags that include books and resources to check out on different topics
- Parks and Recreation has seen a lot of growth in the preschool indoor play program and is offering preschool age summer camps
- Brevard College starting a B-K Licensure program next fall focusing on outdoor education; Mountain Sun School is hosting new programming for family outdoor play to promote family bonding
- Get Set hosted NC DHHS Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen at the WNC Early Childhood Conference to share the State Early Childhood Action Report
- Workshop included resources from Sesame Workshop and featured Get Set's experience using collective impact model to help other communities begin similar efforts
- Super Grover came to greet kids at Kindergarten Readiness Rally and trainings for parents and teachers
- NC Association of County Commissioners is interested in having a session on this topic this year
- NACo is planning to have Sesame Workshop and a session this year at their annual conference

- UNC School of Government is using Get Set as an example of putting collective impact into action

The Manager stated that it is important to talk about how Get Set is helping to improve lives in the community and how this model can be useful in other communities. Get Set has been in existence for four years and is starting to see better outcomes emerge. The 2020 US Census data will showcase the positive outcomes and provide a roadmap for issues that are not being addressed currently. Get Set is looking forward to continuing its excitement and enthusiasm to improve the lives of families.

Commissioner Lemel announced that this year marks the first anniversary of Get Set's partnership with Sesame Street. Sesame Street will help commemorate the anniversary by attending HalloweenFest and bringing with them another Sesame Street character.

The Manager publicly thanked all the Get Set partners and congratulated them on being the recipient of the NACo award. The partners and organizations put their heart and soul into making improvements in this community.

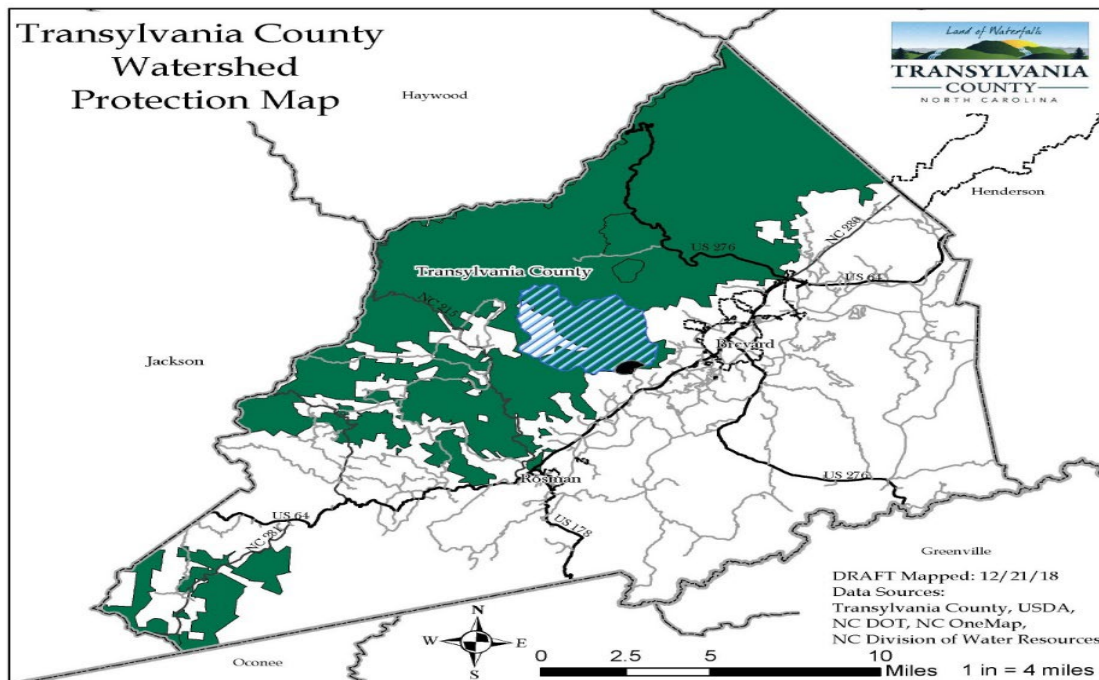
Chairman Hawkins stated that Get Set is a perfect example of how to make a difference at the local level. He thanked everyone who has been involved in making the program a success.

OLD BUSINESS

WATERSHED PROTECTION ORDINANCE OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

County Planner Joy Fields presented this item. The current Watershed Protection Ordinance was adopted in 1993. In 1995, the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission amended their rules; thus the County amended its ordinance in 1997 to address the rule changes. The Watershed Protection Ordinance is intended to keep the water supply clean and protected. There is one watershed that is not in national forestland and is therefore in the jurisdiction of Transylvania County, that being Cathey's Creek watershed that provides the water source for the City of Brevard.

In the map below, the area in dark green is national forestland. The Cathey's Creek Watershed is identified by the hatched blue marks. The black area is considered the critical area which is the first half mile of the watershed that drains to the water intake. This is the area that is most critical to keep protected and clear of contaminants and supported using storm water control measures and proper development.



The NC Department of Water Quality created a model ordinance that the County's Planning Board reviewed and used as a model for the recommended changes to the County's existing ordinance. The public and property owners in or adjacent to the Water Supply Watershed were invited to attend the September 20, 2018 Planning Board meeting. The Planning Board recommended the final proposed changes at their January 17, 2019 regular meeting.

The Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on March 25, 2019 to receive public input on the proposed changes. There were no comments from the public during the public hearing. Staff forwarded the draft ordinance to the NC Division of Environmental Quality for review by the Environmental Management Commission. Staff has since learned that the Environmental Management Commission will allow county governments to amend ordinances as long as they receive a copy of the amended ordinance and a letter from the county manager or county attorney signifying that the ordinance meets general statutes and is not more relaxed than the regulations in place to protect the water supply watershed.

The NC Division of Environmental Quality posed three questions for Transylvania County. Below are the questions and staffs' responses:

1. Does Transylvania County want to include relaxation by a factor greater than five (5) percent of management requirements under high density option? If so, then the definition of Major Variance in Section 1.19.2 should read: "The relaxation, by a factor greater than ten (10) percent, of any management requirement under the low density option *and by a factor of greater than five (5) percent of any management requirement under the high density option.*" Including this would more closely align with the Minor Variance definition and ensure consistency in the Ordinance.

Under the high density option, developers can use engineered storm water control measures to treat more storm water and allow for denser development. However, using the high density option puts the maintenance and operation of the storm water control measures onto the local government. The County's Planning and Community Development Department has no staff engineers and does not currently have the expertise to review storm water control measures. Being that much of the watershed falls on federal lands, the Manager stated it may not make sense to modify the ordinance with the italicized definition. It is only an option and not required.

2. Part of Section 8.1.5 appears to be deleted in error and should read: "8.1.5 Non-residential development, excluding landfills and the use, storage, or manufacture of toxic substances and hazardous materials unless a spill containment plan is implemented". Currently the use, storage and manufacture of toxic substances and hazardous materials are not allowed in the critical area of the watershed. However, it is allowed in the balance of the watershed if a spill containment plan is implemented. This is important for agriculture that may use fertilizer for normal operations. There is agriculture currently in the watershed. Therefore, this is important for the current land use to continue. Adding this language does not significantly change the ordinance because it is reverting to the language of the current ordinance. The amendment is recommended.
3. While the Watershed Administrator shall keep records of all amendments and variances to the Water Supply Watershed Protection Ordinance, the Division of Environmental Quality no longer needs them submitted annually, but does need them upon request. This is a procedural change and Section 17.3 should read: "The Watershed Administrator shall maintain the following records and furnish a copy of these records to the Division upon request:
 - a) a copy of all variance requests and associated documents;
 - b) findings of fact on all variance requests;
 - c) a description of all projects for which the local government has granted a variance to the requirements;
 - d) an accounting of projects approved under the local government's 10/70 Option, (Sections 8.2.2 and 17.5) as applicable; and
 - e) records of inspections of storm water control measures.

Staff requested the Commissioners consider holding a second public hearing. If no public hearing is required and the Ordinance is approved with the minor modifications, staff will take the necessary steps to ensure the Environmental Commission receives the documents noted above.

Commissioners discussed and directed staff to schedule a second public hearing at a future meeting to be followed by the Board's subsequent approval.

NEW BUSINESS

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS BUDGET REQUEST

Superintendent of Transylvania County Schools Dr. Jeff McDaris submitted the local budget request for Transylvania County Schools to the County Manager on April 29. The Board of Education approved the recommendation on April 25, along with a few changes that have been incorporated by School Administration. The budget request is \$582,196 higher than the current year's appropriation

Dr. McDaris presented the details of the budget request noting that without adopted State and federal budgets, the Board of Education utilizes a continuing resolution for operational purposes. In preparing the budget proposal, the Board of Education considers many factors, some of which are known, such as personnel changes, service and supply contracts, and policy goals that require funding. Other factors may be unknown, such as salary and benefit increases, class size, material/services/utility increases, State and federal budget and statutory changes, and Special Education/Exceptional Children costs. The unknowns

make it difficult for the Board of Education to prepare for upcoming fiscal years and underscore the need for a fund balance to mitigate unforeseen circumstances.

Dr. McDaris reported that over the last four years, the Board of Education has identified almost \$750,000 in budget cuts that have allowed them to stay within budgetary constraints, meet statutory requirements, and align their strategic goals. The FY 2020 budget request includes similar cuts to meet lower grade class size requirements.

The Board of Education has identified several increases necessary to maintain a quality education foundation for its students. The request includes:

- An additional English Language Learner (ELL) Instructor of a growing ELL population
- Increases to benefits for locally paid positions due to State budget changes which must be matched
- Increases to the number of teachers required to meet the NC Standard Course of Study and local effort for quality education (new class size ratio mandates)

Dr. McDaris stated the bulk of the increase is due to external factors beyond local control. He suspected the State mandated salary increases will affect many school systems. Prior to this meeting, Dr. McDaris researched what other Boards of Education are requesting from their respective local governments. He reported the following, noting the final budgets have not been adopted:

- Henderson County – requesting \$1 million increase over the amount being proposed by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners
- Buncombe County – requesting more than \$5 million increase
- Asheville City – requesting \$2.09 million increase
- Haywood County – requesting \$12.9 million increase for new central office facility; local current expense unknown
- Cherokee County – requesting more than \$2 million increase

Dr. McDaris pointed out one of the County's peer counties is Ashe County. He felt the comparison was fair on many levels, but noted there are also major differences. He reported on several data points. He stressed that every county is unique and different and therefore has unique needs. He felt the budget request submitted by the Board of Education to the Board of Commissioners is in the best interest for Transylvania County and its students.

Dr. McDaris concluded his presentation. Chairman Hawkins called for comments and questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Lemel sought confirmation that the Board of Education's budget request includes an increase of approximately \$600,000 which represents a 4.78% increase and \$333 per student using current average daily membership (ADM). Dr. McDaris confirmed. He stated that other than the ELL position, the bulk of increases are related to salary and benefits for locally paid positions.

Dr. McDaris stated the Board of Education considers itself being in a competitive world and is constantly trying to prevent counties like Buncombe and Henderson from recruiting Transylvania County Schools' employees. Commissioner Lemel said she understood the challenges, but noted that Transylvania County's supplement is only \$100 less than Henderson County. Dr. McDaris stated that some of the website resources do not include accurate information. For example, he stated the Henderson County Schools Superintendent transparency website is quite frankly not transparent. He noted that the

supplement figures for counties are not always comparable due to the number of new versus veteran teachers.

Commissioner Lemel stated it is the job of the Board of Commissioners to provide the Board of Education with sufficient local funding for Transylvania County Schools to provide a sound basic education. She added that it has been frustrating for the Board of Commissioners to get answers to questions to help them consider budget requests from the School System. She cited several dates in which questions were sent with either no or late responses. Commissioners received responses to some questions just yesterday making it hard to digest the information hours before a County Commission meeting. Commissioner Lemel reported that Transylvania County ranked 4th in the State for per student funding to the School System, behind Dare, Durham and Orange Counties, which tells her that Transylvania County is providing enough dollars for a sound basic education. Dr. McDaris stated it is important to note there are differences of opinion on what constitutes a sound basic education and reminded Commissioners that the Leandro case has been ongoing since 1997 and has yet to be resolved. He appreciated the support from the Board of Commissioners. He stated the Board of Education and School System has a set a standard of excellence for themselves and they expect to provide their students with a variety of education programming. He questioned the State ranking because it is based on a narrow list of measures and indicators.

Commissioner Lemel stated she researched local current expense support from counties beginning in FY 18 and the data proved to her that Transylvania County provides sufficient funding for education. In addition, the passage of the bond will require a 10.5 cents tax increase for FY 20. The School System's FY 20 budget request would require an additional 1 cent on the tax rate to fund. She emphasized the importance of the School System and the pride everyone has in it, but again she felt the ranking proved the funding is sufficient. She said she is having difficulty understanding the requested budget increases year after year that are far above what other counties are spending on education. She could not in good conscience agree to additional tax increases over and above what will be required for the bond. Dr. McDaris pointed out the School System has lowered their number of employees over the last few years while trying to save programming. He stated the Board of Education could lower the programming opportunities for students, but pointed out he would not be in favor of doing so. He reported his conversations with other county school systems have revealed inconsistencies with how funding is recorded (school nurses or school resource officers, for example) and therefore does not provide an appropriate comparison with Transylvania County Schools. When it comes to the budget, he has been unable to make fair comparisons with other counties and thus can recommend only what he feels is in the best interest of Transylvania County students.

Commissioner Chappell thanked Dr. McDaris for his presentation and his service to Transylvania County Schools. He asked for further explanation of the class size mandates and School System's proposal for shifting positions to accommodate the requirements. Dr. McDaris explained the State mandates class size for grades K-3 which cannot be exceeded. One additional student could require a school system to hire another teacher to meet the mandates. Senior Director for Human Resources Dr. Brian Weaver weighed in and explained that in FY 2022, the ratios for teachers and students in grades K-3 will be 1:18 (K), 1:16 (1st), 1:17 (2nd) and 1:17 (3rd). For FY 20, all grades in K-3 are set at 1:19. He reiterated that an additional student at any one of these grade levels would require the hiring of another teacher. The State allows +3 per in a class if the district adheres to the ratio. Chairman Hawkins inquired about the School System's buffer for the different classrooms. Dr. Weaver stated the buffer varies by school and classroom. For the time being, the School System has added two K-3 classroom teachers. Mr. Weaver noted another school is one student from adding another teacher. Part of the challenge is kindergarten enrollment is unpredictable. If a new family moves into the area and the classroom size is exceeded as a result, a new teacher must be hired. Dr. Weaver reported that all superintendents must sign an affidavit that their respective district is adhering to the ratios. This is problematic at many levels. Finance Director

Norris Barger added that the classroom sizes/ratios must be adhered to for the entire school year, not just during enrollment, and the School System does not receive additional funding from the State to fund new hires required to meet the ratios. The School System has proposed the reduction of four teachers in the upper grade levels to fund four additional teachers in the lower grades. They are not asking for more funding from the County to meet the class size ratios. Every year this becomes more challenging and the School System has been handling it by evaluating every position and through attrition. The continued mandates may require the School System to make programmatic changes.

Chairman Hawkins understood there are many variables outside the School System's control and the funding issues around classroom size mandates must be dealt with in some way. The converse of that statement is that the Board of Commissioners has provided funding that ranks Transylvania County 4th in the State while keeping general government level due to the bond. Dr. Weaver stated that Transylvania County is limited in that the School System does not qualify for certain pools of State dollars such as small school or low wealth funding. This fact makes it challenging to compare school systems in an equitable fashion. Chairman Hawkins noted that additional State dollars does not make other school systems whole. His hesitation in supporting the request is because Transylvania County ranks very high in per student funding and the request is significant. He said he understood the challenges faced by the School System but noted that the County endures many of the same challenges over 23 departments. Chairman Hawkins stated his frustration with the unknowns related to classroom size and he stated the School System should use their historical data to make better estimates. With that said, he wanted to put himself in their shoes and take to heart their situation when considering the funding request.

Commissioner Chappell commented that one area the Board of Commissioners could potentially be an advocate for is technical change regarding ADM data and more specificity on the ratio data. There is an opportunity to advocate for using the same marker date as the ADM date which does not change the intent of the lower-class size bill. He felt there would be support in the General Assembly to make these changes. Dr. McDaris was supportive of this advocacy. The Manager stated she would contact the County's delegation today.

Tawny McCoy, Chairwoman of the Board of Education, thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to make the budget presentation. She also expressed appreciation to citizens for voting for the bond referendum because it very much benefits the schools. She understands the County's position of having to implement a tax increase, but stressed that it is the responsibility of the Board of Education to present to the County what they feel is needed to provide the best education for students and the budget request reflects that.

Commissioner Lemel emphasized that both the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners believe strongly in public schools and want them to be successful.

In response to a final question from Chairman Hawkins, Dr. McDaris stated there is an option for the MCJROTC to be taken over by the Department of Defense. The Marine Corps JROTC program offers supplies and materials for free, but the instructor fees are a local cost. Other JROTC programs have no local cost. There is a waiting list to be taken over by the DoD.

Chairman Hawkins thanked Dr. McDaris and the Board of Education for their budget presentation and explained the budget timeline moving forward.

OFFER TO PURCHASE COUNTY PROPERTY

Assistant County Manager David McNeill presented this item. Doug Chick's property is adjacent to the County's Solid Waste Convenience Center on See Off Mountain Road. He has requested to purchase a portion of the County's property in order to square off his lot. The section he wishes to purchase is

sloped and is not used by the County for solid waste or any other purpose. It consists of 0.2 acres and is approximately 20 ft. from his property line. If granted, Mr. Chick has agreed to pay the cost of surveying the property.

If the Board accepts the offer, the property must be disposed of according to NC General Statutes. The Board may sell the property through the advertisement for sealed bids or through the upset bid process.

Mr. Chick has offered to purchase the property for \$500. If accepted, he will cover the cost of surveying. The purchaser should be responsible for closing and attorney costs. Staff asked Commissioners to consider the offer from Mr. Chick and if accepted, direct staff on a disposal method.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the sale of 0.2 acres to Mr. Douglas Chick. The motion died due to lack of a 2nd.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the sale of the 0.2 acres to Mr. Douglas Chick through the statutory upset bid process, seconded by Chappell and unanimously approved.

STATE OF THE SENIORS REPORT

The Senior Services Task Force first convened in June 2017 to explore coordination and collaboration opportunities to better serve the County's senior population. In similar fashion to the collective impact model that Get Set accomplished, the Senior Services Task Force explored data to help better understand the services currently available in the community for seniors along with the gaps or needs that may exist. The State of the Seniors Report is a data-informed examination of seniors utilizing in-house resources through the Transylvania County Planning and Community Development Department.

The Manager presented the final product from the Senior Services Task Force and requested adoption of the report following the presentation of the data. She highlighted the following:

- State projections for Transylvania County reflect an aging population
 - Aging population (65 years+) expected to be over 31% by the year 2035
 - Result of people wanting to move to Transylvania County to retire and aging in place
- Many seniors do not feel comfortable seeking support for food insecurity although there are several resources through local government and nonprofit agencies
 - Department of Social Services Food and Nutrition Services experienced decline in services in 2017; however, services increased at The Sharing House
 - Utility funds through DSS are fully utilized each year
- Lower ratio of health and mental health providers in Transylvania County, except for primary care providers
 - On the positive side, Transylvania County invests more locally than peers in substance abuse and mental health treatment
 - Transylvania County does not have enough specialists practicing in the community that is often required of the senior population
- Leading causes of death compare closely to the State rates for the various causes, except for overdoses which is high locally
- Need for affordable housing impacts ability for people to age in place
- Transportation and recreation demand increases with the number of seniors in the community on the rise
 - Last year Transylvania County took over operations of the Silvermont Senior Center and registration has doubled over the last six months in terms of the number of seniors

participating in the various programs; Silvermont cannot accommodate expansion of programming and this needs to be addressed

- A review of services provided throughout the community indicated a need to have a network of senior services (similar to issues identified with families and children in Get Set)
 - Senior Services Task Force will be determining how to move forward and how to meet service demands in the future

The Manager asked for approval of report, noting that the report can be used by all the different partners for grant opportunities. It also provides a road map to help the Board make better informed decisions using the data about seniors in our community.

Commissioner Lemel moved to approve the State of Seniors Report for Transylvania County, seconded by Commissioner Chappell. Commissioner Lemel was very excited about having the data in order to cultivate our partners. Very similar to the Get Set process, this work does not create a new entity and consists of very active partners within our organization. She pointed out the Land of Sky has been supportive of this work. In addition, staff is doing incredible work at the Silvermont Senior Center. She felt this was a great opportunity for seniors in the community. This also provides a great opportunity for the County's volunteer Council on Aging to ramp up their services. Chairman Hawkins thanked the members of the task force for their work. He stated it is important for the Board of Commissioners get behind this report, noting the issues identified in the report affect more than just seniors, so the work on these issues is critical. **The motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF SCHEDULE FOR BUDGET MEETINGS

The Manager offered the following schedule for submittal and timely approval of the FY 19-20 Budget for Transylvania County:

- County Manager to present the recommended FY 19-20 Budget at a special meeting on Thursday, May 23 at 6pm.; Commissioners to recommend items for discussion during budget workshop
- Tuesday, May 28 at 7pm-Regular Meeting (Monday is Memorial Day holiday); regular business items followed by budget workshop
- If a second budget workshop is needed, Commissioners should select another date that is suitable for everyone's schedule
- Tuesday, June 11 at 9am-Regular Meeting; hold public hearing on budget
- Monday, June 24 at 7pm-Regular Meeting; hold 2nd public hearing on budget; approve FY 19-20 Budget
- If any additional adjustments to budget are needed following June 24 meeting, a special meeting will need to be scheduled to approve the budget

The Manager asked Commissioners to discuss the proposed schedule and approve a schedule so that staff can plan accordingly and advertise public notices to comply with statutes.

Commissioner Chappell reminded Commissioners he will be out of town on June 11.

The Manager noted that as staff shares this information with the public, staff will share the various ways the public can communicate with the Board of Commissioners, not just through a public setting.

Commissioners approved of the proposed schedule.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- Library Director assessments will be taking place in May; 37 candidates applied; staff has narrowed candidates to top four
- 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 through different funding streams and programs.
- Freeandclear.com Mortgage did a nationwide study evaluating housing affordability by examining median home values, median household income, and the median home price based on incomes; evaluated all 3,142 counties nationwide and ranked them based on affordability; Transylvania County ranked 95th (Buncombe County ranked 98th)for affordability for the 100 counties in NC and 2,906th out of all counties in the US
- Connestee solid waste convenience site will be closed for repairs to the retaining wall May 20-25
- Kudos to Joy Fields in Planning and Community Development from Raymond Norris, formerly on the Transportation Advisory Committee, for her meeting agenda and packet preparation promptness
- Kudos to Trisha Hogan, Clerk, from the Board of Commissioners for making sure they had everything for the recent fire workshop
- Kudos to Sherry Reece in Building Permitting from John Dalton for clear and complete answers and a quick response
- Kudos to everyone who helped make Employee Appreciation Day a success!!!
 - Paulette LaBerge, Event Coordinator
 - Human Resources- Sheila Cozart
 - Information Technology – Dean Landreth
 - Board of Elections – Jeff Storey
 - Parks and Recreation – Jared Mull, Chase Lance and Mandy Bentley
 - Emergency Management – Cameron Sexton, Kevin Shook and Kate Hayes
 - EMS – Kim Bailey and Zac Smith
 - Department of Social Services – Darrell Renfroe
 - Health Department – Tara Rybka
 - Sheriff’s Office – Doug Tucker and Brian Barton
 - Blue Smoke BBQ for great food
 - Maintenance Department
 - Library
 - Thank you, Board of Commissioners, for showing your appreciation for the services our employees provide!

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.

Doug Chick: Mr. Chick informed the Board of his availability should they have further questions about his request to purchase 0.2 acres from the County.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Commissioner Chappell congratulated former County Board of Elections Director Karen Brinson Bell on her appointment as Executive Director of State Board of Elections. He also thanked previous Boards of Commissioners for their commitment to funding school resource officers. He was very appreciative of this funding as a parent of students in Transylvania County Schools.

Commissioner Lemel reported she was in Greensboro yesterday wrapping up the recommendations that will be sent to the Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services regarding the future of mental health agencies as they move forward through Medicaid Transformation to provide tailored plans. She was thankful for the opportunity to travel and spend time with her peers and compare notes about overall local government operations. Commissioner Lemel reiterated she is a strong supporter and believer of free public education, but her perspective and responsibility as a County Commissioner is to all citizens of Transylvania County. She pointed out the County has substantial needs throughout and the tax increase to support the bond is going to impact many citizens significantly. Everything the Board of Commissioners must do this year is in light of the context of how it impacts citizens. This makes it hard to address the ongoing needs of seniors, parks and recreation, Social Services, and other very important departments. School funding is only one part of the Commissioners' responsibilities. She questioned how much the County can continue to afford to spend on education when there are so many other needs.

Chairman Hawkins was grateful to live in a community in which governmental entities cooperate and work together and do not use issues as pawns. He also announced that Commissioner Guice's wife had successful surgery this morning and he asked everyone to keep the Guice family in their thoughts and prayers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Lemel moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously carried.**

Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board