

**MINUTES  
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OCTOBER 9, 2023 – REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in a regular meeting on Monday, October 9, 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, Larry Chapman, Chairman Jason Chappell, Vice-Chairman Jake Dalton, and Teresa McCall. Also present were County Manager Jaime Laughter, County Attorney Julie Hooten, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

There were approximately 40 people in the audience.

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Jon Rich

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jason Chappell presiding declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

**WELCOME**

Chairman Chappell welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Commissioners and staff in attendance. The Manager also introduced two staff members who joined Transylvania County today: Jennifer Wright, Budget and Management Analyst, and Meagan O'Neal, Finance Director.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

**AGENDA MODIFICATION**

There were no agenda modifications.

**Commissioner Dalton moved to approve the agenda as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Chapman, and unanimously approved.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

The following items were approved:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Monday, September 26, 2022, and following met in a closed session in which the minutes were sealed. The Board of Commissioners met on Monday, September 25, 2023, and following met in closed session (2) in which the minutes were sealed. The Board of Commissioners approved the minutes as submitted/

## PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

### WILD AND SCENIC DESIGNATION FOR THE SELECTED REACH OF THE NORTH FORK OF THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER - BY TRANSYLVANIA NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

Transylvania Natural Resources Council (TNRC) Chair Owen Carson presented this agenda item to the Board. The TNRC serves as an advisory council that is charged with understanding, interpreting, and making recommendations on policy regarding the natural resources of Transylvania County. The following is a summary of Mr. Carson's presentation and request to the Board.

Mr. Carson stated that the North Fork of the French Broad River is a rugged and wild gorge with a beautiful free-flowing river known for its scenic qualities and recreational benefits. It is also biologically diverse and ecologically significant. It is an economic driver for the County as it attracts whitewater adventurers and anglers for world-class trout and other freshwater fishing.

Mr. Carson reported that the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 is designed to protect free-flowing rivers and their constituent qualities, prevent damming, and help ensure the river quality is not degraded. In 2016, there were the first murmurings of potential support for a wild and scenic designation. At that time, the organization American Rivers identified that the US Forest Service intended to recognize in its upcoming forest plan revision several rivers in Transylvania County as potentially eligible for the wild and scenic designation. The designation requires an act of Congress and requires grassroots support to be legitimized at the congressional level.

The TNRC requested the Board of Commissioners consider a resolution designating a portion of the North Fork of the French Broad River as wild and scenic. The portion is fully contained within US Forest Service property and is thus publicly owned and currently managed by the Forest Service.

The TNRC selected the North Fork of the French Broad River for potential designation to help prevent future damming of the river. Mr. Carson noted that in the past there have been multiple attempts to place dams on the North Fork for either flood control or hydropower purposes, but the efforts were unsuccessful. He said this designation would codify and underline the effort to protect the river by preventing future damming. He said that damming of the river could lead to unintended consequences for the people, the ecology, and the economy.

Mr. Carson pointed out that under the designation, the US Forest Service would continue to manage the property. The designation would unlock better tools for management and still allow for the regular harvesting of timber and other plans that the Forest Service has identified for that area indefinitely into the future. Also under the designation, recreational, agricultural practices, and residential development would continue unfettered. A wild and scenic designation does not affect hunting and fishing, private property development, current or future forest management practices, such as timber harvest or maintenance of river corridors, existing water rights, or the existing jurisdiction of states and the federal government over waters. It does not prohibit development and it does not give the federal government control over private property rights. It also does not trigger state action to change water quality classifications upstream of the designated area.

Mr. Carson reported that TNRC did a lot of work to understand how this designation could potentially affect the community and its residents. The TNRC did not want to propose something that would be detrimental to the communities surrounding the North Fork and upstream of the North Fork, such as Balsam Grove and other small local communities that are already rural, challenged with resources, and slightly isolated from the rest of the larger populace areas in the County. Mr. Carson shared that he, David Whitmire who represents Rosman on the TNRC and is a business owner, helped facilitate a conversation

around the designation such that everyone involved in the conversation could understand what this would and would not mean.

In 2023, once the Forest Service certified that the North Fork of the French Broad River was eligible for the designation, the TNRC formed a subcommittee and reached out to communities, like Balsam Grove, to explain their goal of seeking the wild and scenic designation and get feedback on how it might affect their community. The TNRC held a meeting at the community center in April followed by a public open house in May in which they invited the public to learn and have an open discussion about the wild and scenic designation. Mr. Carson stated there was overwhelming support for the designation with a few comments from attendees wanting clarification on how the designation would affect their private property. The response to them was that the designation would not affect their private property because the designation is proposed solely on public land. The designation also does not extend rights upstream or downstream, so it does not change any property uses. Another question that arose was whether there would be a change in the water quality classification. The subcommittee engaged the NC Department of Water Quality and spoke to representatives about classification so they could understand the situation and learned that the designation is not a trigger for any change in water quality classification, meaning that a designation of wild and scenic on the downstream portion of the North Fork of the French Broad would not change any water quality classifications upstream that might make it more difficult for the people of Balsam Grove to live their lives, conduct their business, or enjoy their property. The TNRC included the language in the proposed resolution.

Following the community meetings, the TNRC revised the resolution and voted to approve it unanimously as a council to move the resolution forward and request to present it to the Board of Commissioners for consideration. He asked for the Commissioners' support of the resolution to move forward with the proposal and ultimately to an act of Congress. He concluded his presentation and responded to the Commissioners' comments and questions.

Chairman Chappell informed the Commissioners that the presentation was for information purposes at this point and suggested that the Board schedule a public hearing to receive public input before taking any official action. He pointed out that when the community discussed potential damming in past years, it was not unanimous. Some groups opposed the damming and others supported it for various reasons, whether for hydroelectric or flood control. This is an issue that will likely have varying opinions, so it will be important to hear from both sides of the issue.

Commissioner Chapman asked if the designation would increase the number of people wanting to visit a wild and scenic river. Mr. Carson responded no, mainly because this section of the North Fork gorge is relatively inaccessible to the public. It runs along Highway 215 and there is no ready access point other than the pull-offs that are known by whitewater boaters and anglers. He stated that wild and scenic designations have not resulted in an explosion in tourism in other areas so the TNRC would not expect that here either especially due to the challenging topography containing the site. If there was a slight increase in tourism, the designation would give the Forest Service better tools to manage and affect change quicker than a regular management agreement.

Commissioner Chapman asked if our local District Ranger Dave Casey supported the designation. Mr. Carson said yes and noted that Mr. Casey had attended all the TNRC meetings. The subcommittee conferred with him multiple times to ensure that the proposed designated area matched the Forest Service's eligibility map.

Chairman Chappell asked if the wild and scenic designation would forbid any dams from ever being built on this section of the river, whether for recreation or hydroelectric. Mr. Carson replied yes. The designation is meant to prevent the damming of free-flowing rivers.

Commissioner Chapman asked how long it would take Congress to act. Mr. Carson said it would likely take between two and five years.

Commissioner McCall agreed with the Chairman's suggestion to hold a public hearing. She also requested attendance by the NC Department of Environmental Quality to answer the Board's questions. She expressed concerns that Transylvania County is already heavily regulated in that 50% of the landmass is State and federal forestland. Commissioner McCall said she was not opposed to damming the river in the future if there was a need for electricity or recreation and she did not think there was an overwhelming march against dams. She also pointed out that the County has yet to determine whether there will be a need for a water authority so a designation could impact that need. For her, there remained several questions that required answers before supporting the designation.

Commissioner Dalton stated it would strengthen the watershed protection if the County had an intake lower on the North Fork. With that said, he was interested in protecting our water for our livelihood. Water is one of Transylvania County's biggest assets. Many reservoirs are going dry throughout the southeastern United States due to the drought. He reiterated Commissioner McCall's comments that the Board is planning for the future for the growth of this County and there will be a need for water and sewer extension.

Chairman Chappell emphasized that there remain several questions about this designation. The Board will discuss how to move forward. He thanked Mr. Carson for the presentation.

## APPOINTMENTS

### APPOINTMENT OF MEAGAN O'NEAL AS FINANCE DIRECTOR FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

N.C.G.S. § 159-24 requires that each county government have a finance officer who is legally responsible for establishing the accounting system, controlling expenditures, managing cash and other assets, and preparing financial reports. The finance director/officer is a critical position for Transylvania County and requires a high level of responsibility, the ability to navigate financial technology systems, complete complex fiscal analyses, and manage ever-increasing audit and regulatory compliance standards.

County Management and Human Resources conducted a professional finance director search following the loss of the previous director and selected Meagan O'Neal as the new Finance Director effective October 9. She comes to Transylvania County with many years of professional experience serving in a variety of finance and accounting roles in cities and counties in North Carolina, most recently as the Financial Systems Administrator for Chatham County.

Meagan is going to be a valuable team member in her mission-critical role as the Finance Director for Transylvania County. Her experience and education are exactly what we need in that position. We all welcome her and her family to Transylvania County and we look forward to what we will accomplish with her.

**Commissioner McCall moved to approve Resolution #37-2023 Appointment of Meagan O'Neal as the Finance Director for Transylvania County, seconded by Commissioner Chapman. The Commissioners welcomed Meagan aboard. The motion was unanimously approved.**

### **RESOLUTION #37 -2023 APPOINTMENT OF MEAGAN O'NEAL AS FINANCE DIRECTOR/OFFICER FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, N.C.G.S. § 159-24 requires that each county government have a finance officer who is legally responsible for establishing the accounting system, controlling expenditures, managing cash and other assets, and preparing financial reports; and

**WHEREAS**, The finance director/officer is a critical position for Transylvania County and requires a high level of responsibility, the ability to navigate financial technology systems, complete complex fiscal analyses, and manage ever-increasing audit and regulatory compliance standards; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 13, 2023, the Board of Commissioners authorized the County Manager to solicit proposals from recruitment firms with experience in hiring finance directors; and

**WHEREAS**, Transylvania County has selected Meagan O’Neal as its new Finance Director/Officer for Transylvania County effective October 9, 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County to appoint Meagan O’Neal as the Finance Director/Officer for Transylvania County, North Carolina effective October 9, 2023.

This the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023.

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

#### TRANSYLVANIA NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

The terms of Eric Caldwell, Kate Hayes, Ken Kinard, and Joel Malefyt expire at the end of September. All are eligible for reappointment. However, Ms. Hayes, while a Transylvania County employee, has moved to Henderson County making her ineligible to serve per the Board's Citizen Advisory Council Policy. Also, Mr. Malefyt does not wish to serve another term at this time.

The Clerk to the Board advertised for the upcoming vacancies and received two applications in addition to the one she had on file. The Board should consider two of the applicants to fill the terms vacated by Kate Hayes and Joel Malefyt.

**Commissioner Chapman moved to reappoint Eric Caldwell and Ken Kinard to the Transylvania Natural Resources Council, seconded by Commissioner Casciato and unanimously approved.**

**Commissioner McCall moved to table the remaining appointments until a future meeting and directed the Clerk to the Board to continue advertising for the vacancies, seconded by Commissioner Dalton and unanimously approved.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### COMMUNITY APPEARANCE INITIATIVE PROPOSAL

Planning and Community Development Director Jeff Adams presented this request to the Board as a final step in reestablishing the Community Appearance Initiative. He reported that included in the Board’s packet was a history of the Community Appearance Initiative, a draft of the new procedures, and a draft of the new agreement.

##### **Background: History of the Program**

The program began in 2007 and ran through 2015 along the scenic corridors of Highways 64, 178, 215, and 280. It is a voluntary program to receive assistance to enhance the appearance of one’s property.

Applicants dwindled over the years, but there has been a renewed interest with an increase in calls to the County regarding appearance concerns. The call was to expand the scope and amend the agreement. The Planning Board reviewed the revised plan in May and June and provided feedback. The County Attorney also reviewed the draft proposal. The budget includes \$20,000 for the program annually over the next three years from the Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority with a match requirement.

### **Background: Past Projects**

Under the previous program, there were more than 40 different properties throughout the County cleaned up by the removal of junk vehicles, mobile homes, etc. along the various corridors. The measure also reached into safety and health aspects.

### **Recommended Revisions to the Program**

Staff recommended the same basic provisions to the program, including the same purpose, goals, and mission. The Planning Board would serve as the citizen advisory committee over this function with the Planning Director serving as the administrator. The County Attorney okayed the proposed structure.

Staff requested to expand the scope of the program to include all property visible from public rights-of-way, not just the corridors. It would take input from the Planning Director, the Building, Permitting and Code Enforcement Director, the Solid Waste Director, and Environmental Health.

The standards of agreement would be required to last 10 years. If someone is putting in the effort to clean up properties, it makes sense that the property owner agrees to certain standards for a period of time. Staff has asked the County Attorney to review the provision to include in the new agreement. The Planning and Community Development Director will make an annual report to the Board of Commissioners on the program.

Mr. Adams noted that he has not received the final draft from the County Attorney, but he expected to have the final draft soon. Nonetheless, he felt comfortable enough with the proposal to bring it before the Board at this meeting.

The program would remain voluntary with an emphasis on the protection of health, safety, and welfare. The agreement includes new language regarding hazardous waste and extends the standards of the agreement to last at least 10 years, with objective standards to maintain properties. The agreement is binding and includes penalties for noncompliance.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The County has budgeted to match TCTDA's contribution of \$20,000 over the next three years. The Planning and Community Development Authority will also report to the TCTDA Board quarterly.

Mr. Adams recommended the Board approve staff moving forward on reestablishing the Community Appearance Initiative Program.

Chairman Chappell stated that he served on the Board of Commissioners that created the initial program. He felt the program was successful at the time because it was completely voluntary. He supported reestablishing the program as long as it remains voluntary.

Commissioner Chapman asked if the tipping fees are waived under this program. The Manager stated the County cannot waive tipping fees. The County will approach each situation on a case-by-case basis to determine the cost of cleaning up the property. The Planning Board will review and prioritize the applications.

Commissioner Chapman asked about the demand for junk car recycling. Solid Waste Director Kenn Webb was in attendance, and he stated that metal markets have been struggling the last few years but seem to be somewhat on the rebound. Scrap automobiles and other metals must be taken to a rail line to start the process of getting them disposed of.

Commissioner McCall stated that the education and awareness of the program is important. She felt many citizens were unaware of the program. She asked staff to publicize it more to the public.

**Chairman Chappell moved to approve the recommended Community Appearance Initiative Policy and Agreement pending receiving the final document from the County Attorney and with annual reports to the Board of Commissioners, seconded by Commissioner Dalton and unanimously approved.**

#### REQUEST FOR FUNDING OF A SAFETY AND SECURITY STUDY FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

The Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners have agreed for the Superintendent and County Manager to work with a retired county manager and retired superintendent to review the results of a building assessment/maintenance reserve study completed by Axias to develop options for the two boards to consider as a path forward to improve school facilities. The workgroup has met with Axias and begun its work. The workgroup felt unanimously that more refined information on safety and security capital needs is warranted to complete the work. The work group requested that the County fund a study so that they can pursue obtaining that information. Axias does not specialize in this area.

The Manager asked the Board to increase funding to \$70,000 and authorize her to collaborate with the workgroup to hire a consultant to provide the additional information. The workgroup will continue to meet to continue reviewing and refining the draft. The workgroup felt strongly that the additional information would provide the most thorough review to help provide options for the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education.

Chairman Chappell said it is important to note that this request comes before the Board as a unanimous request of the workgroup which is made of up representatives from the County and the School System. This is an important next step forward to gather more in-depth information on the safety and security of our public schools.

Commissioner McCall shared that the framework is now in place to begin addressing the critical needs of our schools. Additional study work is necessary to ensure the safety and security portions are not overlooked. She was proud of the work of the workgroup which she contributed to the leadership of the County Manager.

**Commissioner McCall moved to permit the County Manager to work with the Education Capital Study Group to obtain a School Safety and Security Study to provide refined cost information for the group to continue to work with a cost of up to \$70,000, seconded by Commissioner Chapman.** Commissioner Chapman asked for clarification that the \$70,000 would come from the Education Capital Fund. The Manager confirmed. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

#### AMEND PISGAH LABS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

The Board of Commissioners approved incentives for Pisgah Labs in July 2022 at a total value of \$1,870,919.49 following a public hearing. The incentives were calculated using 90% of new annual tax revenue for nine years for the original incentive offer and included real property investments of \$16 million and business personal property investments of \$39 million with business property utilizing standard depreciation. The company anticipated a five-year window to complete investments at that time and committed to creating 57 jobs at an average wage of \$60,088.

Unfortunately, supply chain challenges have resulted in slower progress on the expansion that is currently underway. This amendment proposal allows the company additional time to make the investments while keeping the same assumptions and total incentive amount the same as originally approved while still requiring the same levels of investment and job creation. The original formula with a five-year investment window would have issued the final payment in early 2036. The proposed amendment would make the last payment as late as 2040. The incentive grant is performance-based and would be a grant back of property taxes paid.

Chairman Chappell asked if by changing the length of time a second public hearing was necessary. The Manager replied no and stated that the length of time only impacted the calculations that were presented already during a public hearing.

Chairman Chappell stated that this action shows the County's willingness to work with manufacturers and help them be successful. He said it was appropriate for the Board to take this step to ensure Pisgah Labs remains in Transylvania County for the long term.

**Commissioner Chapman moved to approve amending the economic development agreement proposal to Pisgah Labs to reflect a longer period of time to make promised investments and receive incentive payments within the already approved amount, seconded by Commissioner McCall.** Commissioner McCall clarified that although this action extends the length of time, Pisgah Labs could still complete the performance requirements earlier. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### APPROVAL OF SALE OF UNSOLD FORECLOSED PROPERTIES

Over the last few years, several properties that were foreclosed upon due to unpaid taxes were sold on the steps of the courthouse. However, some of those did not sell and thus came under the ownership of the County. In late 2021, staff received permission from the Board to market those properties for sale so that they could potentially be returned to the County's tax rolls. Staff determined there is no County use for any of these properties.

Over the last year and a half, interested citizens reached out to the County about these properties and three were sold using the upset bid process. The remaining four were auctioned off via GovDeals beginning September 1. The auction closed on September 30 with all four properties having winning bids. The minimum bid amount included the back taxes owed and any attorney fees the County had tied up in the properties.

Staff requested the Board approve the winning bid amounts and direct staff to work with an attorney to finalize the transfer of the property with the buyers paying the closing costs.

- U 1 L059 Off Hwy 281 in Sapphire (PIN 8511-68-7040-000)
  - Minimum bid \$5,400 - Winning bid of \$5,550 by Brett Woodbury
- End of SR 1329 off Israel Road (PIN 8553-67-1396-000)
  - Minimum bid \$7,889 - Winning bid of \$9,651 by Bahaa Ibrahim
- U 23 L 013 Dudisdi Court in Connestee Falls (PIN 8572-98-6204)
  - Minimum bid \$3,379 - Winning bid of \$9,000 from John Laux
- Whitmire Street Extension (PIN 8586-24-5082)
  - Minimum bid \$6,315 - Winning bid of \$11,801 by Brett Woodbury

**Commissioner Dalton moved to approve the sale of four unsold foreclosed properties to the highest bidders and direct staff to work with an attorney to finalize the sale, with the closing costs being the responsibility of the buyers, seconded by Commissioner Casciato and unanimously approved.**

## MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- The Clerk to the Board will host the NC Association of County Clerks Western Regional Conference in Commissioners Chambers on Friday, October 13. Nearly 25 County and Municipal Clerks from WNC (and a couple from the central and eastern parts of the State) will be in attendance, in addition to representatives from the UNC School of Government and State Archives.
- Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce will host a municipal candidate forum in the Rogow Room at the Library on October 18 from 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.
- PumpkinFest is a family-friendly Halloween-themed event at Silvermont and will be held on the grounds every Friday and Saturday in October.
- HalloweenFest is scheduled for Saturday, October 28. Check out the Heart of Brevard website for more information.
- The Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas is hosting a two-day conference event on November 3-4 entitled "A Walk Through History" bringing together best-selling WWII authors and WWII veterans. \$125 per person with proceeds benefiting the Museum.
- Light Up the Night! in Downtown Brevard on Friday, December 1, 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. for the community tree-lighting ceremony and several family-friendly activities.
- The 52<sup>nd</sup> Downtown Brevard Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 2 beginning at 11:00 a.m. This year's theme is "Past, Present, and Future" reflecting the Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce turning 100 years old.
- The Board of Commissioners continues to seek applicants to serve on its citizen advisory councils. More information can be found on the county website or by contacting the Clerk to the Board.
- Tax Administration and the License Plate Agency will be closed on Friday, October 13 for training and professional development.
- Land of Sky is accepting nominations through November 8 for the following awards:
  - Charles H. Campbell Regional Leadership Award – Given only by the LOSRC Executive Committee to a council member who has made a major long-term contribution to the council.
  - Robert G. Parrish Intergovernmental Relations Award – Given to an elected or appointed official who has made significant contributions to improving intergovernmental cooperation in the region.
  - Robert E. Shepherd Excellence in Local Government Award – Presented to a local government professional who has shown great leadership in improving governance and service delivery, especially in the areas of regional cooperation and collaboration.
- Kudos to Chad Owenby, Operations Director for the Safety Program. NCACC Risk Management audited for safety credits and the county received an outstanding score indicating the county is utilizing the best practice tools NCACC Risk Management uses to determine discounts. The county will be able to receive a maximum of a 3% discount on our insurance premiums through the pool.
- Kudos to Brenda Skeffington, Parks and Recreation Programmer at Silvermont. She is the Transylvanian of the Week! Check out more about her work with the Senior Center in this week's news edition.
- A reminder that this room will be used for the second courtroom tomorrow. County functions will need to access the building through the Broad Street side and the court will be accessed through the courtyard.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

## COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Chapman shared that yesterday the repatriated remains of a Vietnam Veteran killed in an airplane crash in circa 1968 were returned home due to the cooperation the United States has with the Vietnamese government. This hero served as a Captain in the Air Force. A service will be held tomorrow in Waynesville. Commissioner Chapman announced that this Saturday at Franklin Park the Girl Scouts will celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The public is invited to attend. There will be several programs for the Girl Scouts. Commissioner Chapman stated that the Operation Green Light for Veterans program sponsored by the National Association of Counties will run from November 6-13. The County Courthouse will be lit up with green lights. He encouraged citizens to replace their front porch light with a green light to recognize our veterans. Commissioner Chapman also shared that the Marine Corps will celebrate its 248<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 10 at Ecusta Brewery at 5:00 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Casciato announced that on October 25 at 3:30 p.m., Colonel Allen West will be speaking at Anchor Baptist Church on the US Constitution. He also announced that on November 11 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Little River Baptist Church will be hosting a breakfast for all veterans. Also, on November 11, the Veterans Day Ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Courthouse Gazebo. Lunch will be provided free to all veterans and their families following the ceremony. The American Legion will be hosting a dance for veterans the same evening. He welcomed all to attend these events in support of our veterans.

Commissioner McCall shared that she was aware of one young man in our community who left for Jordan yesterday and she asked everyone to keep these men and women in our prayers as they head into a terrible situation and country that was ravaged in an unprovoked attack.

Commissioner Dalton shared that he received an email from a urologist in this community who received an unprovoked letter from the hospital administration relieving him of his services in Transylvania County. He recommended the public turn out in mass to the independent monitor on Tuesday, October 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Thomas Concert Hall at the Brevard Music Center. He stated that the urologist was at the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of performance in the nation and one of the best in his profession. Commissioner Dalton said he continues to hear stories about the deteriorating care in the current hospital system. Commissioner Dalton said the Fields of Faith at Rosman High School last Wednesday was an amazing event. There were at least 1,000 people in attendance. Anchor Baptist fed at least 600 people. He said the testimonies were amazing. The guest speaker's message was about being defeated but not giving up. On Friday night, the Rosman High School football team won their first game. He gave a shout-out to the Bumgarner family for planning the Fields of Faith event and to the boys and coaches who worked hard to win their first game.

Chairman Chappell echoed Commissioner Dalton's comments about the Fields of Faith. He noted that the event is student-led. It started as a senior project and continued with student leaders. He said we have some amazing young people in this community. He felt that our County's future is in good hands. He congratulated their parents for raising such amazing young people.

**Chairman Chappell moved to enter into a closed session per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, seconded by Commissioner Dalton, following a 10-minute recess, and unanimously carried.**

## CLOSED SESSION

Per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, a closed session was entered into at 5:38 p.m. Present were

Chairman Chappell, Commissioners Casciato, Chapman, Dalton and McCall, County Manager Jaime Laughter, County Attorney Julie Hooten, Transylvania Economic Alliance Executive Director Burton Hodges, and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

The Board of Commissioners discussed a potential economic development project and directed staff on how to proceed.

**Chairman Chappell moved to leave the closed session, seconded by Commissioner McCall and unanimously carried.**

#### OPEN SESSION

**Chairman Chappell moved to seal the minutes of the closed session until such time that opening the minutes does not frustrate the purpose of the closed session, seconded by Commissioner Dalton and unanimously approved.**

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Chairman Chappell moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Dalton and unanimously approved.**

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Jason R. Chappell, Chairman  
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board