

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes
January 19th, 2016
7:00 PM

I. Call to Order

Chairman Charles Glass called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting was Vice-Chairman Nancy Thrash, Commissioner Bennie Horton, Commissioner Robert Heiney, Commissioner Van Baker, County Administrator Robert Zellner, and County Clerk Carlette Davidson. Attorney Scott Mayfield was absent for the meeting.

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Everyone said the pledge of allegiance. Garth Forster of First Baptist Church of Barnesville gave the invocation.

III. Agenda Approval

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Heiney Seconded the motion.

IV. Minutes Approval

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to approve the following minutes.

- 1) Workshop Meeting-December 15th, 2015
- 2) Regular Business Meeting-December 15th, 2015

Commissioner Baker requested that the word “approximately” be added to the cost quote of \$150,000.00 to build the Lamar County animal shelter. Vice-Chairman Thrash amended her motion to add the change. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Proclamation – Rotary Has Heart

Chairman Glass read a Proclamation entitled “Rotary has Heart” declaring February 14th, 2016 as Rotary has Heart Day in Lamar County. Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Security Update

Chairman Glass stated that a security committee had been formed with members including Sheriff White, Major Baines, Chairman Glass, and Commissioner Heiney. Chairman Glass stated that he would share more information in executive session.

VII. Re-Appointment of Library Board Members

Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve the re-appointment of six board members to the Barnesville-Lamar County Library Board of Trustees. These members are: Mrs. Mary Jane Blalock, Mrs. Diane Harvey, Ms. Octavia Jackson, Mrs. Linda Olivier, Mrs. Lisa Tuttle and Mr. Tim Turner. Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Resolution 2016-01

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to pass Resolution 2016-01 for the purpose of obtaining a line of credit in the sum of \$3,500,000.00 to pay expenses for the County for the calendar year 2016. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Resolution 2016-02

Chairman Glass called for a motion to set the Qualifying fees for the Section 21-2-131 of the Georgia Election Code. Commissioner Horton made a motion to set the qualifying fees as stated below. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Qualifying Fees are as follows.

County Commissioner District 3	\$ 108.00
County Commissioner District 4	\$ 108.00
Member, Board of Education (District 3)	\$ 114.00
Member, Board of Education (District 1)	\$ 138.00
Magistrate Judge	\$ 1392.25
Sheriff	\$ 1616.40
Probate Judge	\$ 1392.25
Clerk of Superior Court	\$ 1392.25
Tax Commissioner	\$ 1392.25
Coroner	\$ 119.08

X. Resolution 2016-03 To Address Properties not suitable for non-judicial tax sales.

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-03 which is a resolution by the Board of Commissioners of Lamar County to not post properties for tax sales because they are small in value. The cost for legal fees, title searches and advertisement is more than the actual value of the property. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Resolution 2016-04 Funding for Recreation Trails

County Administrator Zellner stated that the funding for the Recreational Trails is a grant with the Department of Natural Resources. The Grant is for \$100,000.00 and is an 80/20 match agreement. Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-04 for the purpose of approving the funding from the Recreational Trails Programs. Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Resolution 2016-05 Appointment of County Legislative Coordinator

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-05 for the purpose of appointing a county legislative coordinator for Lamar County. Vice-Chairman Thrash is currently the liaison for the county. Vice-Chairman Thrash agreed to continue in this role. Commissioner Baker stated that Vice-Chairman Thrash has always done a great job in this role. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Thrash abstained from the vote. The vote passed 3-0.

XIII. Rezoning App #2015-03 by Jason Wade Wilson

Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve the Rezoning App # 2015-03 by Jason Wade Wilson. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IXV. Contractor for RFQ-Energy Infrastructure Improvements

Lamar County posted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a contractor to do an energy audit on the infrastructures in the county. The infrastructures include the lighting, insulation, plumbing, windows and heating and air conditioning. There were two responses to the RFQ: one from ABM Building Solutions and the other one from Mallory and Evans and Trane. County Administrator Zellner stated that the RFQ's were basically the same except that Mallory and Evans and Trane are partners with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). The purpose of the project is to reduce operating expenses without going back to the tax payer with savings guaranteed. County Administrator Zellner stated that Mallory and Evans has done projects with Peach Tree City, Evans Memorial Hospital, the City of Chesapeake Virginia and Clayton County Government. He went on to say that they have done lightning, HVAC for the buildings, kitchen work and other work that upgrades the buildings so that you are energy efficient. County Administrator Zellner stated that ABM Building Solutions has done many projects with school systems. These schools include Madison County, Murray County, Jefferson County, Turner County, Chattooga County, Colquitt County Schools, Walker County, and Meriwether County, Upson County, and Troup County School Systems. County Administrator Zellner said that ABM Building Solutions has basically done the same type of work as Mallory and Evans but on the guaranteed annual energy savings they guaranteed 2.9 million and the actual savings was only 1.7 million dollars whereas

Mallory Evans and Trane guaranteed 3.1 million dollars and actually saved 3.2 million dollars. County Administrator Zellner said that Mallory and Evans and Trane's savings panned out a little bit better concerning the differences between the operating cost and the savings guarantee. County Administrator Zellner stated that either way its guaranteed savings and if the county doesn't save the money then the company pays the difference on the payments. County Administrator Zellner said that the savings guarantee is better with Mallory and Evans and Trane than with ABM Building Solutions. County Administrator stated that in the savings they could also include Computer Networking, Phone Communication, and they could also work with the county on the security in the buildings. County Administrator Zellner stated that he had met with a vendor about different locks and security upgrades. Commissioner Baker inquired about cash flow and stated that we always seem to have a problem with cash flow. Commissioner Baker asked, "Once we sign off on this and as the loan and the payments come due, are we going to have a catchup period"? Commissioner Baker then stated that he realized we are going to be out of pocket for a little while. Cameron Griffith with Trane responded that the payments don't start until after the savings begin and once the loan is obtained the savings should offset the payments. If the payment is more than the savings, then Mallory and Evans pays the difference. Mr. Griffith said "the payments do not start until after the savings begin". County Administrator Zellner said that once the contractor for the RFQ is approved, the successful company will write up a proposal for the board to approve. Once the county approves the RFQ, then the energy audit begins. Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve Mallory and Evans and Trane as the consultant to perform the energy audit for infrastructure improvements based on the guaranteed savings and Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XV. Agreement on Funds for Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS)

Chairman Glass stated that he would like a motion to table the agenda item for the agreement on Funds for the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFACS) until February because he doesn't have the letter of agreement. Commissioner Horton made a motion to table the agreement on Funds for the DFACS and Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XVI. Summary of Rain Damage to Roads and Facilities

County Administrator Zellner gave an update on the rain damage that occurred the end of December. He stated that they had four roads that the county ended up closing. These roads were Matbeth, Turner Bridge, Industrial Drive, and Yancey Road. They also replaced the culvert pipes on these roads and started work on all of the dirt roads that were completely washed away. County Administrator reported that the cost of repairing the roads was approximately \$114,500.00. County Administrator Zellner stated that they did get them all back open and this week they are working on the Turner Bridge pipe. The rain washed half of the pipe out and they thought they could put an extension on the pipe. One half was concrete and the other was metal. They ended up replacing the whole

pipe. The damage to some of the facilities includes the courthouse, the District Attorney's office, and the courtroom. The roof on the courthouse was damaged and the tiles in the courtroom were heavily damaged. The courthouse damage cost approximately \$9487.00. The storm damage at the EMA building is about \$245.00. The UGA Extension office had saturated carpet and other damage. The cost to repair this is approximately \$4500.00. The Administration building suffered tile damage and that cost is approximately \$500.00 to repair. The total cost of the rain damage is about \$14,813.00. County Administrator Zellner stated that the Georgia Department of Transportations (GDOT), liaison between the local governments and GDOT, Dane Bishop, contacted him to let him know that there is a possibility of getting some funds for the rain damage. County Administrator Zellner stated that he has already submitted an application to the GDOT. County Administrator Zellner stated that they have also turned in the damage to the buildings on the county insurance.

Chairman Glass stated that he wanted to recognize the employees at the Public Works Department who came out during the Christmas Holidays and into New Years' Eve to repair the road damage. Public Works director James Rigdon worked to let the employees who had children stay at home. Those employees that were single or those that didn't have children came out and worked during this time. Chairman Glass addressed the audience and asked if anyone that lived on dirt roads had seen any improvement. There was some comment from the audience that they appreciated the work that the public works department had done and that they had seen improvement. Chairman Glass stated that there is more work to do but, they are trying to get the big things fixed first. They will be coming back with more gravel to make things better but that they have to get all of the culverts repaired first. Chairman Glass stated that he knows that potholes have popped up all over the place and the base under the roads is getting too soft creating these pot holes but if the citizens know of any specific thing that needs repairing to please contact the Administration Office and they will put in a work order.

XVII. Summary of Meeting with the Department of Transportation

Chairman Glass stated that he meet with the GDOT on January 7, 2016 and the biggest topic of discussion was Industrial Drive. Public Works was able to get it repaired on Tuesday. One of the counties industries, Intercon, had a big shipment that they were trying to make a shipment and they were worried about getting a lowboy trailer across the railroad tracks. They were able to get the shipment out thanks to the Public Works Departments hard work. Chairman Glass stated that if anyone has been out that way it has been rough going across the culvert. He stated that Jordan Lumber and Intercon have both been affected. Chairman Glass stated that the main problem is at the Old Milner Crossing where you come off Hwy 1941 onto Fellowship Drive and where you cross Old Milner and Industrial Drive. The 90 degree turn is hard for trucks to negotiate. The road

is not really wide enough and the radius on the curve is too sharp and the truckers are eating up the ground on either side of the road. They have taken untold numbers of loads of gravel to help fix this problem. Chairman Glass said that they really need to cut the curve in a different radius and do other things to help improve that road. Chairman Glass stated that they are looking into economic grants and federal money. The county needs more businesses to increase the tax base so more work can be done on the roads. Chairman Glass stated that they starting having quarterly meeting, with the GDOT, about a year ago. One of the first things they brought to the GDOT attention was Veterans parkway and the problems with the left turns on 1941 at Redbud and Academy drive. These left turns needed to be fixed and the GDOT agreed to fix this issue by adding in left turns. This work has already begun.

XVIII. Financial Update

County Administrator Zellner stated that as of December 31st, 2015 the county has taken in 1.1 million more in December than the county has spent. For the year, the county has spent \$262,000.00 more than the county took in. County Administrator Zellner stated that a lot of it has to do with the way that the funds are booked into the financial system. He gave an example stating that we had a grant for the early warning sirens and the money we received booked in as a revenue rather than as an expenditure. In the budget this shows that we have overspent. The books show the county received 94.07 percent of the budget and spent 94.68 percent of the budget. County Administrator Zellner gave a report on the Special Local Option Tax (SPLOST) revenues and expenditures and said that for the month of December, the county spent \$15,394.00 and for the year the county spent \$439,000.00. The bulk of this money is for the Fire Department and the payment on the fire trucks which is \$110,000.00 a year. The expenses for the roads and maintenance on bridges is about \$295,000.00. For the recreation department, the expenditures are about \$22,000.00. Currently, the county has in the SPLOST account an amount of \$666,843.11 to go towards the SPLOST projects. The total cash on hand for the county as of January 14 is \$322,286.00. County Administrator Zellner stated that this money is going quickly as administration pays the weekly and monthly bills. County Administrator Zellner stated for the year 2015 we budgeted \$968,000.00. Commissioner Heiney inquired about the total number of years and County Administrator Zellner stated that the SPLOST is for a period of 6 years.

XIX. Administrators Report

County Administrator Zellner read his overview report of County activities as follows.

- 1) Christy Brown of GEMA delivered a check for \$24,403.08. This payment is from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is a reimbursement for the 2014 storm damage. The amount of money that the county received came

from an appeal written by Chairman Glass. Chairman Glass did an excellent job in writing up and winning this appeal.

- 2) Meet with City Manager Kenney Roberts in regards to the upcoming SPLOST and plans to meet with him again to work on a list of projects.
- 3) Received a letter from FEMA about the pre-mitigation plan update and it was approved thru January 2021. The county has received 2 more early warning sirens one that will be placed off of Piedmont Road and the other one will be place off of Chappell Mill at High Falls Road. Vice-Chairman Thrash said that she appreciated all the hard work that Billy Campbell has done for EMA.

XX. Public Comments

Jim Haynes of Oak Haven Lane addressed the board with his concerns about an intersection at the Hwy 36 bypass and Liz Acres Road. This is a triangle and there is a safety issue because as you come around the corner on Liz Acres road you don't see the stop sign. As you come down the hill and go left onto Liz Acres Road it can be dangerous. Mr. Hanes is concerned about the signage and the arrows on the roadway. Mr. Hanes stated that cars and trucks don't know to stop at this intersection and there have been many near miss accidents. Chairman Glass and County Administrator Zellner stated that they would follow up with the GDOT about this issue.

Beverly Eskridge of 130 Holmes Street Barnesville, Georgia addressed the board with an announcement about the brick order deliveries for the Human Society and the fact that they will be delivered tomorrow. She stated that there has to be a minimum order of 56 bricks for the next order. Ms. Eskridge also stated that she would like to see the Lamar County Animal Shelter on the SPLOST ballot. Ms. Eskridge stated that the money for the bricks goes into a special account that she has control of. The money collected will be used only for spaying and neutering.

XXI. Round Table

Vice-Chairman Baker said that obviously the people that came to the meeting tonight are concerned with the government and the world that we live in. Commissioner Baker stated that our world is in a mess and it is real important for people to vote and requested that the citizens study the candidates and get involved and stay involved. He requested that the citizens engage people and make a difference.

Vice-Chairman Thrash stated that she has worked hard with the Commissioners regarding the logging truck issues with being overweight. Vice-Chairman Thrash stated that she has the legislature's attention and they are going to be looking at weight restrictions. Vice-Chairman Thrash stated that she and County Administrator Zellner have a good story that they are going to take to the capital about how the county resurfaced City Pond Road and then the loggers came in and tore up the road at the tax payers expense. Vice-Chairman Thrash stated that she is up for re-election and she is running again.

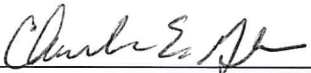
Chairman Glass announced that the County Attorney was absent due to a death in this family and expressed sympathy to him.

Chairman Glass stated that he agrees that we need to vote and he is thankful for Lamar County and all of the citizens in Lamar County. Chairman Glass stated that we need to vote both locally and nationally and hopefully it will make a difference.

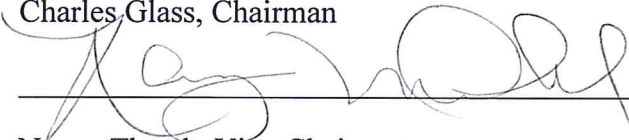
XXII. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:25 p.m. and Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

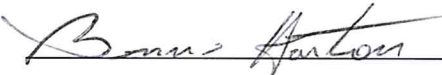
THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Charles Glass, Chairman



Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chairman



Bennie Horton, Commissioner



Robert Heiney, Commissioner



Van Baker, Commissioner

Attest: 

Carlette Davidson, County Clerk