

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
**August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Commissioners Horton, Heiney, Baker, and Thrash, County Administrator Zellner, County Clerk Davidson and County Attorney Mayfield.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Glass called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Everyone said the pledge of Allegiance. Major Leslie Holmes from the Lamar County Sheriff's Office gave the invocation.

**III. Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Horton made a motion to amend the agenda by adding the approval of a County Maintenance Vehicle. Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Minutes Approval**

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to approve the following set of minutes. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Workshop Meeting-July 14th, 2016
- ii. Public Hearing-July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- iii. Regular Business Meeting-July 19th,2016
- iv. Budget Workshop-July 29th, 2016

**V. County Audit Report**

County Auditor Robyn Underwood presented the 2015 Financial Highlights attached to the Minutes. Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the report and Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Storage System Superior Court Clerk**

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to approve a Storage System for the Clerk of Superior Court from American Specialty for a price of \$18,359.15. This system will provide storage capacity for about 7 years' worth of records. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. Ordinance 2016-02-Adoption of Building Codes and Building Regulations**

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to table Ordinance 2016-02 for the Adoption of Building Codes and Building Regulations until the next Regular Business meeting. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Resolution 2016-10 Tax Anticipation Note Extension**

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-10 for the purpose of extending the Tax Anticipation Note from 3.5 million dollars to 3.7 million dollars. Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Resolution 2016-11 BOC Millage Rate**

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-11 setting the millage rate at 11.592 mills for the 2016 tax year. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Resolution 2016-12 LOST Millage Rate**

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-12 whereas as a result of the roll-back, the millage rate for Lamar County shall be reduced by 1.880 mills leaving a net millage rate of 11.592 for 2016. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XI. Resolution 2016-13 BOE Millage Rate**

Commissioner Horton made a motion to acknowledge Resolution 2016-13 which sets the Board of Education Maintenance and Operation millage rate at 16.716 for the 2016 tax year. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XII. Resolution 2016-14 Bond Reduction Millage Rate**

The board discussed the 2 mill increase to cover the debt service for the school system. Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-14 setting the bond reduction to 2.00 mills as presented. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Purchase of County Maintenance Vehicle**

County Administrator Zellner stated that the vehicle that the County Maintenance Supervisor has been driving died and since it has over 350,000.00 miles it would cost more to fix it than it's worth. County Administrator Zellner stated that he has found two used trucks thus far. The first one from Volume Chevrolet in Barnesville for a Chevrolet 2004 Silverado 1500, 2 door, 4 wheel drive, with approximately 120,000.00 miles for \$11,500.00 and another one from Riverside Ford in Macon, a 2006, Ford F150, 4 door, 4 wheel drive

with approximately 150,000 miles for \$12,917.00. The board discussed the pros and cons with buying used versus buying new. County Administrator Zellner stated that they could purchase a brand new truck for around \$22,900.00 because of the company incentives. County Administrator Zellner stated that he also had received two bids on two new trucks. One from Chronic in Griffin and the other from Bellamy Strickland in McDonough. Both of the trucks range from \$33,000.00 to \$34,000.00. The low bid, after company incentives, is from Bellamy Strickland for a cost of around \$22,900.00. Commissioner Baker pointed out that for a \$13,000.00 difference they could have a brand new truck with a warranty and a \$14,000.000 discount. County Administrator Zellner stated that with the warranty you could go at least a year without having any maintenance cost. County Administrator Zellner stated that the new truck will be a 2 wheel drive. Commissioner Horton said that he would love to see the county get something new but felt that \$10,000.00 could go towards something else needed in the county. Commissioner Horton said that the only big items on a truck that might need to be replaced would be a transmission or a motor and if you take care of both you won't have these issues. Vice-Chairman Thrash pointed out that when they did a 10 year study for the county the board agreed that they would replace older equipment with newer equipment that would last longer. Commissioner Heiney agreed with Commissioner Horton and stated that he had had used cars and that you could possibly have \$11,000 to \$12,000 left over and in his case he had personally purchased trucks and cars like this that ended up not having any maintenance cost. Vice-Chairman Thrash pointed out that the mileage and the usage of the maintenance vehicle would be much greater than a personal vehicle. Commissioner Baker made a motion to purchase the low bid on a 2016 truck from Bellamy Strickland not to exceed \$22,900 and Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion. Commissioner Horton opposed the motion. The motion was approved 3-1.

#### **XIV. Public Comments**

Ivan and Wanda Minks of 185 Rocky Branch Road, Barnesville addressed the board as a consulting group from Advocates for Better Communities, Inc. Mr. Minks stated that they had written many grants all over the State of Georgia and other States too. Mr. Minks said he has written grants for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Georgia Environment Finance Authority (GEFA) loans, and water and sewer system grants. The Minks gave the board an unofficial copy of the RFQ for the CDBG Administrative Grant and stated that on Wednesday they would turn in their official RFQ to the county. Mr. Minks stated that Mrs. Minks had worked with the Chamber of Commerce in Blakely County and had worked on various CDBG grants in the State of Georgia and between the two of them they had been involved in grant writing for over 20 years. Mr. Minks stated that before coming to Georgia, he had worked for the USDA in the State of Montana. Mr. Minks stated that together they had funded almost two million dollars. Mr. Minks stated that there is not a whole lot that they can't do regarding grants or loans. They put together packages using either Federal, State or combined Federal and State dollars. One of the other things that they started doing with the DCA is setting up urban redevelopment plans and writing a Revitalization Area Strategy (RAS) which helps the counties to score better against other applicants. They do four to five DCA applications a year along with various other

applications throughout the year for the USDA. Mr. Minks stated that what he had provided to the board will assist them in their Urban Revitalization plan. Mr. Minks stated that you can get up to 20 additional points from DCA on your project. The RAS is renewable. You can apply every year consecutively for three years and it can be renewed. Mr. Minks noted that a county or city could literally continue to apply and get 15 to 20 additional points based on the application, every year, going forward. Mr. Minks stated that the DCA is looking at increasing the amount of applications. For the Cities, it could potentially go up to one million dollars for a multi-activity project but that it has to include a housing component to get the million dollars. Mr. Minks stated that they have a \$500,000.00 cap but by the time you get through with grant engineering fees and all the rest of it there is not a whole lot left for the project therefore the RAS is really good for this because you can continue the project every three years.

Commissioner Baker asked the question, "Typically when you write a grant for a county, how are you paid and is this in the grant?" Mr. Minks responded by saying that some of the dollars are in the grant and some of them are outside of the grant. Some of them, when they do a grant loan combination, may have to pay them to do it but then you get to the grant dollars on the other side, it then becomes a wash. It depends on who the private funders might be as to how those dollars get paid. Commissioner Baker also asked how you know what grants are available. "Mr. Minks stated that they just know because they have over 40 years of combined knowledge but that he is new to Georgia and has only been here for two years. Commissioner Baker inquired about how to start the process? Mr. Minks stated that you sit down and talk about what the county would like to do and the projects that you would like and what the public needs versus a hope and wish dream list. You have to figure out the priority list. They have contacts with other consultants and Mr. Minks says he still calls people from the USDA. Mr. Minks stated that Mrs. Minks has worked all over the State of Georgia.

Vice-Chairman Thrash asked Mr. Minks if they could have a round table discussion with the municipalities and could they hire them to do the underwriting for the grant for those types of things that they are looking for. Mrs. Minks responded by saying that they met with a city last week and when they left they had about five things that they wanted them to do. Mrs. Minks stated that when the communities, that they work with, have a need they provide that service for them. Mrs. Minks thanked the Board for sending them the RFQ and said that they had met with County Administrator Zellner and found out what the project was all about. They also wanted to say as new residents of the county they could provide a discount since they live here now. Mrs. Minks said that they travel a lot for their projects but with this one they wouldn't have to travel as far. Mrs. Minks stated that in her years of writing she made a mistake one time and this RFQ had a mistake. It stated that the purpose of the project is to provide sewer improvements for an expanding industry but it should have stated the purpose

of this project is for the construction of a new Health Department. Mrs. Minks told the board that they would have to republish the grant.

Tracey Alford, City Council woman from Milner gave a report for the City of Milner. Mrs. Alford stated that the following has happened or will happen in the coming month.

1. The City of Milner voted not to raise their millage rate.
2. Work is being done at the Police Department, the EMS and the Fire Department.
3. Three new business have opened up in Milner. A pawn shop, a boutique and a tire shop.
4. Plans are being made to have a Chicken Que, a Fish Fry and a Chili Cook-off.
5. Announced that on September 3<sup>rd</sup> they will have a Veterans Event with free hamburgers.
6. Reported that they have painted some of the buildings and paved the sidewalks.

#### **XV. Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Zellner gave the monthly Administrator's Report.

- 1) Resurfaced Bucksnot and Short Road
- 2) Received an Engineering and Design Cost for Industrial Drive
- 3) Working on a Boundary Survey for Hwy 36 Park
- 4) Completed Security Upgrades at the Recreation Complex on Gordon Road

#### **XVI. Round Table**

Commissioner Horton announced that Mr. Eddie Felton has been appointed as the Chairman for the Lamar County of Veteran Affairs by the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

#### **XVII. Adjournment and Executive Session**

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m. and go into executive session for personnel. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board adjourned the meeting around 9:15 p.m.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Charles Glass, Chairman

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Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chairman

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Bennie Horton, Commissioner

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Robert Heiney, Commissioner

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Van Baker, Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk