

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes
April 21st 2015
7:00 P.M.

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 Van Baker, Commissioner Bennie Horton, Commissioner Robert Heiney, Commissioner Nancy Thrash, County Administrator Robert Zellner, and County Clerk Carlette Davidson. Attorney Scott Mayfield was absent for the meeting.

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

The pledge of allegiance was said by everyone.

III. Invocation

The invocation was given by Terry Holcomb of Williams Funeral Home.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the agenda and. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the March 17th, 2015 Regular Business Meeting minutes and Vice Chairman Baker seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Proclamation-Child Abuse Month

Chairman Glass announced that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and he shared a few a few national statistics about child abuse. Chairman Glass stated that there are approximately 144 cases of child abuse in Lamar County. Commissioner Heiney read and presented a proclamation to the staff and board members of the Lamar County Family and Children Services declaring April 2015 as Child Abuse Prevention Month for Lamar County.

VII. Lawn Care Bid

The board reviewed two Lawn Care Bids, one from Turf Maintenance and the other from Travis Lawn Care. The bid price from Turf Maintenance was for

\$1822.00 per month with 110 bales of pine straw at \$ 605.00. The bid price from Travis Lawn Care was for \$1390.00 per month with 110 bales of pine straw at \$418.00. The board discussed all of the pros and cons of switching from Turf Maintenance and giving it to the lowest bidder, which was Travis Lawn Care. Commissioner Heiney was concerned that saving money did not justify trading companies for someone that had serviced the county for 11 years. Commissioner Heiney asked Mr. Travis about his procedures for service if he gets sick and what kind of service will be provided to the county. Mr. Travis stated that he has more than one person that could help but that he had only been in business for about 3 years and was just getting started. The Board continued their discussion on whether or not to employ a lawn care service or to use other county departments and inmate labor to perform the lawn care duties. Mr. Bryan with Turf Maintenance addressed the board and said that he had been with the county for a long time and that if he lost this contract he would have to lay off some employees. He stated that he is licensed through the University of Georgia System to spray and that he provides additional treatment on the courthouse lawn. Mr. Bryan further stated that he uses good quality long needle pine straw and that he has received many compliments on the courthouse. Mr. Bryan stated that he has 2.5 million dollars' worth of insurance and that his record of service proves itself. Mr. Bryan stated that over a 5-year period he has only gone up 3 percent each year and that there were no increases in the previous years. Mr. Travis then addressed the board and stated that he did not want anyone to lose their job nor did he want Mr. Bryan to lose the contract. He stated that this is his first time to ever bid on a project and that he appreciated the learning experience. Mr. Heiney recognized Mr. Bryan as being an honest man and said he appreciated that fact.

Vice-Chairman Baker made a motion to award the contract bid to Turf Maintenance and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. Commissioner Thrash then made a subsequent motion to investigate and consider what can be done to take over the tasks of the lawn care service within the county internally. Chairman Glass then called for a motion to approve both motions and the motions passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thrash requested that County Administrator Zellner report back on this issue.

VIII. Code Enforcement Vehicle Bid

The Board reviewed three bids for a vehicle to be used by Code Enforcement. The bids included Volume Chevrolet, Cronin Chevrolet, and Bellamy Strickland. The bid price for Volume Chevrolet was \$24,800; Cronin Chevrolet was \$26,075.00 and Bellamy Strickland was for \$24,470.00. The bid was awarded to the local vendor Volume Chevrolet for a bid price of \$24,800, which was within the 5 % margin for local vendors. Commissioner Horton made a motion to

approve the bid of \$24,800 and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Resolution 2015-03 Budget Amendment

Vice-Chairman Baker made a motion to approve Budget Resolution 2015-03 Budget Amendment and Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The resolution is attached to the minutes.

X. Lamar County Animal Shelter Mission Statement

Vice-Chairman Baker read and made a motion to approve a mission statement compiled by the Lamar County Animal Shelter committee, “The Lamar County Animal Shelter will be committed to protect the health and safety of each resident within our county while promoting humane treatment to animals. We will make every effort to adopt out healthy, non-aggressive animals to families and individuals who qualify to our standards or to approved animal rescue organizations. To reduce the number of homeless animals, we will spay or neuter every dog or cat prior to adoption. The Lamar County Animal Shelter has a designated fund with The Community Foundation of Central Georgia, a 501(c) 3 organization through which we receive donations and grants”. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Administrator’s Report

County Administrator Zellner gave an overview report of County activities as follows.

- 1) LMIG: We will have the pre-bid meeting April 22 with the bids received by May 15. We will have the bids evaluated with a recommendation at the May 19 meeting.
- 2) The Public Works building has been delivered and the crew is expected to begin erecting the second week of May. The weather has been the reason for all the delays. Cook and Sons from Monticello, Georgia has the contract and they were here to unload the building.
- 3) The tennis courts have been repaired and are in good shape. We repaired or replaced everything except for the surface.
- 4) We have received from GDOT over 6,000 ft. of guardrails that we are planning to replace at the “overpass” north of Milner on Old Hwy 41. Everything was picked up except for the bolts.
- 5) GDOT has re-marked and created a turning lane in front of Heritage Inn. It is not very long so you have to pay attention to see it.
- 6) Last week we had two more Early Warning Sirens installed. One was installed at our fire station at Morgan Dairy Road and the other was installed behind the Public Works Office at the end of Grove Street. We are currently searching for two more sites for possible future grants.

- 7) Josh attended a meeting with GDOT on the replacement of the bridge on Ruffner Road. There were two bridges in our area that are scheduled for Replacement, one is in Pike County and the other is on Ruffner Rd. They discussed the planning process along with other state agencies that need to weigh in.
- 8) Bad news from Public Works...the engine on the bush cutter is making a noise and looks like we might have to replace the engine. James thinks it will cost in the neighborhood of \$30,000. He has someone coming to check it out next week.
- 9) Jones Road is in the works to start paving as soon as we get some good weather.

XIII. Public Comments

Beverly Eskridge of 138 Holmes Street, addressed the board stating that she learned that there are help groups for trapping, neutering and releasing (TNR). Ms. Eskridge also stated that there are grants for feral cats and that Hardee's is being patient about the move from their facility to the Balamo facility.

Preston Thompson of 225 Hwy 36 East, Milner, Georgia addressed the board with several issues, the sign for Flying J Truck Stop to let the trucks know where to turn, his concerns about the stop sign issue at Hwy 36 and Morgan Dairy Road and his concerns about the animal shelter being a no kill center. Also, Mr. Thompson stated that he went to United Bank and started a campaign called "Cans for Canines." Mr. Thompson stated that he had already received a load of beer cans from Brutz English, his neighbors and those cans he has found on the side of the road. Mr. Thompson stated that so far he has deposited \$115.00 into the Cans for Canines account.

Fern Gentes of 108 Cedar Ridge Road Jackson Georgia addressed the board about the problems that she and her neighbors are having in regards to emergency access to their property. Ms. Gentes stated that she would like the county to keep her up-dated on what is being done to help their situation with emergency personnel being able to access them. Ms. Gentes stated that she would like to receive the services for which they are being taxed. Ms. Gentes requested that their area be patrolled by the Sheriff's Department because some of the people need to see the presence of the law. Ms. Gentes explained that they have loose, barking dogs running around and they need some form of animal control. Mrs. Lisa Sayers of 123 Willow Way Jackson Georgia addressed the board with her concerns about having emergency services in their area. Mrs. Sayers described an instance where she called 911 after she heard people screaming and gunshots being fired. Mrs. Sayers said that she never received a call back and she hid under her house for an hour and a half. Mrs. Sayers stated that she had contacted the Sheriff's Department and they told her that they could not find their location. Mrs. Sayers implored the board to help them receive emergency services for their subdivision.

IX. Round Table

Chairman Glass stated that the board had discussed with the Georgia Department of Transportation about the Morgan Dairy sign issue and they are continuing to work on this issue. Chairman Glass that he appreciated the effort from Mr. Thompson for getting the Cans for Canines started and said that not only is he helping out with the dogs but also with the litter.

Vice-Chairman Baker addressed the no kill issue with the animal shelter and stated that the shelter will not be a no kill shelter and stated that the committee never said it would be a no kill shelter.

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m. Vice Chairman Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Van Baker, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Nancy M. Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____
Carlette Davidson, County Clerk