

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Workshop Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2011
10:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Jimmy Hearn called the workshop to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. Present for the meeting were Vice Chairman Jimmy Hearn, Commissioner Bennie Horton, Commissioner Charles Glass, Carlette Davidson, Cheryl Idol, Jennifer Day and Sheriff Larry Waller.

II. BUDGET UPDATE

Cheryl Idol gave a year to date amounts with a goal of April 15th to have everything completed. Cheryl reported that thru February expenditure exceed revenues by approximately \$473,000. Cheryl stated that this is no unusual since the County's revenues are weighted heavily in October, November and December. Revenues through February were approximately \$791,000. Expenditure 1, 264,000.00 we got through the 1st Quarter of the year without borrowing any money on a line of credit. We are now monitoring budget line items. There are some items in the budget such as prison inmate medical and meals that we have to pay regardless as to what the amounts are making it hard to budget. The 2010 audit is in process and should be completed soon.

Administrative Analyst Jennifer Day reported that the medical for the inmates is at their yearly budgeted amount. She stated they are going to come up with some type of proposal for more money being added to the Law Enforcement budget. One contributing factor is that there have been two inmates in the hospital as well as monthly prescription drugs and regular medical checkups. The meals are also going to go over budget but they do sell food to Pinewoods for revenue and receive reimbursement that goes directly into the Sheriff's miscellaneous revenue account. Currently the Sheriff's office is looking into taking a reimbursement to apply to that line item with the overage going to the revenue.

Another line item within the budget that Jennifer reported on was gasoline and the fact that gas prices are increasing. The departments that will need help include Public Works, Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department. Also, Natural Gas has gone up and most departments are at their budgeted amount for the year so these line items will need to be monitored.

Analyst Day reported that Chairman Matthews had requested that we contact ACCG about an inmate medical reimbursement program. If we turn our medical bills over to them they will pay for it. Financial Analyst Carlette Davidson reported that she was awaiting a return call back from ACCG in regards to the inmate medical reimbursement program. Commissioner Glass stated that he attended a recent training and that Lamar County was on an ACCG Map as an active participant in this program.

Commissioner Glass asked about the funds collected from the inmates and whether or not we are putting the funds into those accounts for reimbursement of medical and dental fees. Analyst Day stated that the inmates have to have a minimum of \$15.00 before we can charge them \$5.00 with the total charge being \$40.00 leaving a \$35.00 dollar balance to be paid.

III. Report from Sherriff Larry Waller

Sherriff Larry Waller reported that he has bill for \$12,000 where a juvenile for an inmate and is in the process of negotiating with the Department of Juvenile Justice. Currently there are 81 inmates and he can usually house up to 150 inmates. Sherriff reported that they charge for everything. He gave an example that if a band aid is bought they charge \$5.00. If an inmate goes to the dentist they only can have extractions done. Attached to the minutes are statistics presented by the Sheriff in regards to Inmate Meal Cost Projections, Inmate Housing Revenues, Fuel Cost Projection, and 2011 Budgeted Salaries.

IV. 2011 BUDGET PACKETS

Jennifer Day reported that she distributed the budget packets to the constitutional officers, department heads, and outside departments. The workshop packet included December 2010 Budget Comparison Report, March 2011 Budget Comparison Report, Budget Worksheet for FY 2012 and Extra Budget Worksheets to record adjustments. Budget packets are due May 2nd, 2011 and budget workshops are scheduled, in 15 minute increments, will be held June 6-8, 2011. Commissioner Glass asked if guidance had been offered such as increase in salaries, increase in budgets. Analyst Day stated that she told them thank you for keeping the cost low and to expect to keep their budget the same as last year unless they need to ask for more money such as Natural Gas. Analyst Day stated that both she and Financial Analyst Carlette Davidson are available if anyone wants to come in and talk about their budget. Jennifer stated that they have a month to work on it.

V. FIRE/AMBULANCE FEES and TAX ASSESSMENT

Vice Chairman Hearn requested Jeannie Haddock report on Tax Assessment and Fire and Ambulance Fees. Tax Assessor Haddock stated that any fees that need to be included on the assessments would need to be included on estimated taxes. She can include last year's fire fees but her computer system doesn't have a way to pull out the various exemptions that have been granted. An insert could be included in the assessments regarding fire and ambulance fees for an extra .01 a piece. This would need to be approved by May 1st, 2011. Tax Assessor Haddock stated that with the approval of House Bill 346 this now requires tax assessors to include estimated taxes on assessments but if the millage rate goes up the estimated tax will change. Vice-Chairman Hearn stated that there is a possibility that the fire and ambulance fee can actually be placed on the property tax bill that goes out in October. Commissioner Horton wanted to know the part the Board of Equalization would play if they have to go to court. The Clerk of Courts now who has to handle this. Commissioner Glass wanted to know if they could include information about the fire and ambulance fee on the assessment and Tax Assessor Haddock stated that she could not put anything on the assessment about fire and ambulance but she can do the insert. Commissioner Hearn stated that the insert page would be most informative as to the 2010 fees that have not been paid. If we decide to do 2011 we can include this as well. Commissioner Hearn stated that the fee system was the fairest way to go but the owners of the mobile homes are paying for their renters. Tax Assessor Haddock asked if a millage rate increase was a possibility and Commissioner Hearn said it would be looked at within the next 30 days. Commissioner Hearn stated that we definitely want the insert to go out. Commissioner Glass stated that we are looking at a little better than 55% expected to pay. Commissioner Hearn

stated the office staff are putting in a tremendous amount of time with this and a millage rate would be the easiest. Commissioner Hearn stated the budget would not permit it to just go away either a fee system or a millage rate would have to be implemented. Commissioner Horton stated that a lot of time has gone in to the fee system but with all the problems such as work load and misunderstandings with vacant land, he personally feels we should go ahead and raise the millage rate unless we restructure the fee system.

VI. ROUND TABLE

Commissioner Horton praised everyone for working with the fire and ambulance fees. Commissioner Glass gave praise to the Public Work Department stating the roads are in better shape than they have been in past years and for the hard work done during the bad weather and he also gave kudos to the rec department for organizing opening day and to all of the teams that participated.

VI. ADJOURN

Vice-Chairman Hearn made a motion to go into executive session to discuss litigation and personnel at approximately 11:20 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Glass and passed unanimously. The Vice-Chairman and the Commissioners returned out of executive session at approximately 12:00 p.m. and adjourned the meeting.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jay Matthews, Chairman

Bennie Horton, Vice-Chairman

Jimmy Hearn, Member

Charles Glass, Member

Nancy M. Thrash, Member

Attest:

Financial Analyst