

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Budget Workshop Minutes
August 3rd, 2011
10:00 A.M

I. Call to Order

Chairman Matthews called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. Present for the meeting were Chairman Matthews, Vice-Chairman Hearn, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Glass, Commissioner Thrash, Officer Manager Davidson and CPA Cheryl Idol.

II. Discussion

a. Blighted Property

Building and Zoning Director Danny Gunter addressed his concerns in regards to Blighted Property and necessary cleanup procedures in and for Lamar County. Chairman Matthews stated that he would need to understand the State definition to Blighted Property before any tax penalties could be imposed. Gunter read an article from the Griffin Daily News in which the City of Griffin raised the blight tax. (See attached copy). Commissioner Glass requested for Gunter to obtain the State Ordinance for blighted properties. Gunter stated that blighted means uninhabitable. Chairman Matthews stated that the citizens would need to have a timeline to make corrections before any taxes could be imposed. The issue was tabled until which time requested documentation and information could be produced.

b. Budget Version 9

CPA Idol recapped the Budget Worksheet for the Commissioners stating that since the last budget workshop there were some changes notably made including \$500,000 in Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax to pay down the debt and .86 millage increase, addition of the library fund of \$50,000, and adding back in the employee benefits. The bottom line budget is now at \$8,371,816.00 with \$ 118,000 in discretionary fund and no Fire and Ambulance Fees for 2011. The Industrial Development Authority had an increase of \$5,000 added to their budget line item and after Commissioner Thrash spoke to Judge Fears and increase of \$5,000 for the drug court was placed back into their budget line item.

Chairman Matthews stated that the budget doesn't have to be officially adopted until December 31st, 2011 but they would continue to review the budget and make a formal adoption sometime in October.

c. BOE Millage Rate

Chairman Matthews stated that due to an advertising time issue with the Lamar County Board of Education the millage adoption of the BOE millage rate would need to be re-adopted after the BOE re-advertised their 2012 millage rate. The State requires a 14 day

time frame between when the millage rate is advertised and then formerly adopted. This timeline was not met by the Lamar County Board of Education. The Lamar County Board of Education plans to re-advertise and re-adopt on the 23rd of August with the Lamar County Board of Commissioners re-adopting the previously adopted resolutions on August 24th, 2011.

d. County Administrator

Chairman Matthews stated that interview process for hiring the County Administrator would begin on August 16th with the possibility of 4 interviews and then 4 more interviews on August 17th.

e. Fire and Ambulance

CPA Idol and Officer Manager Davidson stated with the lost of Account Payable Officer Jennifer Day and three people out on vacations in June and July that the review process for expenses, bank reconciliations, and SPLOST will be met before the end of August. The Fire and Ambulance fees are still being addressed to determine who has paid and who has not paid before collection letters are mailed out. Chairman Matthews requested for himself and the Commissioners to see a list of all those who have not paid before any collections letters are sent out.

III. Adjournment

Commissioner Glass made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hearn and passed 4-0.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jay Matthews, Chairman

Jimmy Hearn, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Member

Charles Glass, Member

Nancy M. Thrash-Member

Attest:

Carlette Davidson, County Clerk