

**LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes**  
**March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Matthews called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting was Chairman Matthews, Vice-Chairman Thrash, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Glass, Commissioner Hearn, County Administrator Zellner, Financial Analyst Davidson and Attorney Mayfield.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by everyone. Jeff Morgan of Antioch Baptist Church gave the invocation.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Matthews requested that the agenda be amended with the addition of the Mutual Aid Agreement. Commissioner Glass made the motion to amend the agenda and Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**IV. Discussions**

- a) Chairman Matthews called for the approval of the following minutes. Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the following minutes and Commissioner Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.
- i. Special Called Meeting-January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012
  - ii. Public Hearing Meeting-January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012
  - iii. Regular Board Meeting-January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012
  - iv. Special Called Meeting-January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012
  - v. Public Hearing January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012
  - vi. Special Called Meeting-January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- b) Commissioner Hearn made a motion to appoint Jean Buchanan and Judy Edwards to the Senior Center Board. Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.
- c) Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to appoint Mildred Merchant to the Board of Appeals. Commissioner Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.
- d) The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2012-01 changing the definition of “administrative officer” was read by County Building and Zoning Administrator Dan Gunter. Gunter summarized the Ordinance. Commissioner Glass made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Ordinance 2012-01 and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion.
- e) County Administrator read Resolution 12-01 authorizing the county administrator to execute the equipment lease/purchase agreement between the Lamar County Board of Commissioners and Municipal Leasing Credit Corporation regarding the

Lease/Purchase of Two (2) Fire Trucks. Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to approve the Resolution as read and Commissioner Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

- f) The Summer Feeding Program was tabled until a later meeting date.
- g) Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the site engineering contract with Scanlon Engineering Services, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000 for the project titled HWY 36 Fire & Rescue Headquarters, Lamar County, Georgia. Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

The Scope of Work includes the following professional services.

1. Surveying Fees
  2. Engineering Design
  3. Permit Processing Fees
- h) The Commissioners reviewed The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) grant which will be used for debris removal to relieve hazards created by the April 2011 tornado event. County Administrator Zellner explained that this grant is needed to clean stream beds of roads that could cause possible damage through flooding from the down trees. We can go 200-ft off the right of way and there are designated streams that need to be cleaned based on the map provided by the Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS). Commissioner Glass stated that property owners have to approve anything that is on their property before any cleaning can be done. He stated that he hoped the property owner would agree as it protects their properties. Glass further stated that the main purpose of the clean-up is to protect the culverts and the overpasses. County Administrator Zellner added that under Federal Government laws we have many restrictions and regulations to follow and we have to be careful about not letting any equipment get into the stream beds. The total approved state match award is \$ 9, 175.70 which is based on ten percent of the total estimated project cost provided by NRCS.

The estimated Funding is as following:

1. Federal-\$ 68,817.75
2. State-\$ 9,175.70
3. Local Match: \$ 13,763.00

Commissioner Hearn made a motion to approve the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) grant. Commissioner Glass seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

- i) Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve a contract with NoMOLDAtlanta for the purpose of removing the mold at the Health Department. County Administrator Zellner stated that he had reviewed 3 contracts. One of the companies wanted \$175.00 to look at the mold and then provide a quote and the other company wanted \$800.00 to come down and re-test mold before quoting a price. The health department had it tested by Carroll County. Their test satisfied the NoMOLDAtlanta testing requirements. County Administrator Zellner stated that the total contract will be a little over \$15,000 to complete the entire mold removal process. This includes a ten year warranty. The quote from NoMOLDAtlanta is as follows:

1. Total for Remediation of Designated Work Space at approx. 5600 sq. ft. \$12,700.00
2. Rebuild Sheetrock and Install Ceiling Tiles & Insulation: Approx. 8 sheets of drywall, 30 ceiling tiles & 2500 sq. ft. of insulation

\$2,650.00

3. Rebuild sheetrock and install ceiling tiles & insulation: Approx. 8 sheets of drywall, 700 ceiling tiles, & 5600 sq. ft. of insulation

\$7,900

- j) County Administrator Zellner brought to the Chairman and the Commissioners a proposal from Sound and Video Solutions in regards to installing a projector, a screen and 3 LCD TV monitors to improve the sound and the visualization of meetings in the Grand Jury room of the courthouse. Chairman Matthews addressed the citizens in regards to installing this type of system. There was much opposition from the citizens present in the meeting. Commissioner Hearn made a motion to table the decision and then withdrew his motion. Chairman Matthews called for a motion to deny the audiovisual equipment system. Commissioner Glass made a motion to deny the proposed audiovisual equipment for the Grand Jury room and Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.
- k) Chairman stated that they approved to replace the ceiling tiles in the courthouse annex and requested that County Administrator Zellner and Department Head Tripp Morgan get quotes to replace the ceiling tiles.
- l) Chairman Matthews requested that Public Works Director James Rigdon check the roads for road signs that are down or missing. Vice-Chairman requested that Rigdon ride the roads in the county and update the lists according to the Ordinance in the code book. Commissioner Hearn requested that the citizens report any missing signs including speed limit signs. Commissioner Hearn also noted that metal signs are being stolen and that we are trying to go back to a plastic type of sign.
- m) County Administrator Zellner spoke on the Mutual Aid Agreement being updated between the Fire Departments of Lamar County and Yatesville, Rock Hill, Monroe, Spalding County, Bibb County and the City of Barnesville. The agreements have expired and just need to be updated. Commissioner Horton made a motion to update the agreements and Commissioner Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

## V. Public Comments

- a) Sandra Puckett of 638 Yatesville Road, Barnesville requested that under the T-SPLOST that Yatesville Road be re-paved. Puckett addressed the Commissioners about the bump in the road near Freeman Road. She also requested that the road near Mitch's Garage where the water stands be fixed. She also requested that a sign be placed where the blind spot is on the road. She stated that the signs that read children at play, the speed limit and blind drive are all on one pole.
- b) Emily Johnson of 606 Spencer Street, Barnesville stated that she has to travel this road for business and takes the long way around to avoid traveling down Yatesville Road.
- c) Ray Chambers of 265 Steele Road Milner, Georgia addressed the Commissioners about the Fire and Ambulance Fee. He stated that the reason he quite the fire department is because of the fee. He stated that he isn't planning on paying and that you can garnish his wages or put him in jail but he is not paying the fire and ambulance fee.

- d) James Scott addressed the Commissioners about his concerns with the Fire and Ambulance and Chairman Matthews explained to him that the fee was implemented because of the contract we pay to keep the ambulance service in Barnesville and is not related to the transport fee the ambulance company charges for their service.
- e) The audience addressed the Commissioners and wanted to know how many people had not paid their fire and ambulance fee. They stated they heard of people who had paid their fire and ambulance bill but got a letter stating that they had not paid their fire and ambulance bill. Chairman Matthews stated that he did not have that figure.

## **VI. Round Table**

Commissioner Horton stated that if we don't collect the fire and ambulance fees from everyone then he wants his money back.

Commissioner Glass stated that the CodeRed community notification enrollment process would be available soon for citizens to fill out in case of a hazardous weather.

Commissioner Hearn apologized to the citizens for the way the fire and ambulance fee system was handled. He stated that it was a good concept but it was not initiated properly. He stated that the County needed money but did not want to go up on the millage rate. Hearn stated that it was overwhelming and the process just got larger. Commissioner Hearn stated currently that there were about 2000 parcels that have not been paid. He stated that the Commissioners' had to make a decision and provide the best services for the county. He stated that it was for the Public Safety and that the Fire Department and the Sheriff Department had to have money. He again apologized it was not working but it took about \$600,000 dollars a month to operate the County. Chairman Matthews stated that it's a real challenge when someone rights "Go to Hell" on a Fire and Ambulance check.

Vice-Chairman Nancy Thrash had no comment.

## **VII. Executive Session and Adjournment**

Chairman Matthews called for a motion to go into executive session at approximately 8:17 p.m. to discuss Real Estate. Commissioner Glass made a motion to discuss Real Estate and Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion. The Chairman and the Commissioners returned out of executive session at approximately 9.00 p.m. with no action taken and adjourned the meeting.

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Jay Matthews, Chairman

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Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chairman

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Bennie Horton, Member

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Charles Glass, Member

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Jimmy Hearn-Member

Attest:

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Robert Zellner, County Administrator