

**LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Special Called Meeting Minutes**  
**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**8:00 A.M**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Matthews called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m. Present for the meeting was Chairman Matthews, Vice-Chairman Hearn, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Glass, Commissioner Thrash, Financial Analyst Davidson and Attorney Scott Mayfield.

**II. Resolution 2011-5- Natural Disaster**

Chairman Matthews read Resolution 2011-5 vesting the Board of Commissioners with certain powers beyond day to day powers in the event of a Natural Disaster. As a result of the widespread damage and destruction caused by the tornadoes, Lamar County has been declared a disaster area by both the Governor and the President authorizing the county to certain state and federal assistance. The resolution calls for a single point of contact for the County and in its best interest gives authorization of this duty to the Chairman. Vice-Chairman Hearn called for a motion to approve this resolution and Commissioner Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**III. CodeRED Emergency Notification System**

Commissioner Thrash attended a special called meeting for the City of Milner. It was requested that the county look into a weather warning system. The CodeRed Emergency Notification is a reverse 911 system. It will contact every person in the county asking if you want to be added to the list. When there is impending weather it will call your phone number and every citizen signed up will get a phone call. It will also call for other issues such as a missing child. Harold Wilson with the City of Milner obtained a quote based on 18,000 people of \$3,500.00 for the first year. After the first year, the price goes up to \$7,000.00. Chairman Matthews noted that this is well worth looking into and stated that there is probably grant money out there that can be used for this type of system.

**IV. DISASTER DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Thrash asked Chairman Matthews if there would be briefings going forward and how they would communicate. Chairman Matthews stated that this could be accomplished thru called workshops or called meetings. Chairman Matthews also noted that a memorandum could be put in their boxes of what is going on. Chairman Matthews assigned Jimmy Hearn to act as a liaison between the Board of Commissioners and the Chamber of Commerce during this time of

disaster. Commissioner Thrash pointed out that in order to meet with FEMA you have to pre-register by calling the 1-800 number or online. Commissioner Glass noted that they could use the computer at the Health Department to pre-register online and it was also stated that the computers at the School Board, the Chamber and the Library could also be utilized.

Commissioner Glass stated that FEMA is taking 2 approaches to assistance.

1. Public Assistance
  - a) Clearing the Right of Way
  - b) Repairing Road and Bridges
  - c) Building Damages
2. Individual Assistance
  - a) Home Owners
  - b) Property Owners

Commissioner Glass stated that they have to account for everything and lots of paperwork will need to be kept in order to obtain reimbursement from FEMA. Commissioner Glass stated that he is keeping a notebook in his office with all of the necessary paperwork.

Commissioner Glass stated that they would meet with FEMA Friday or Saturday to go over debris removal. He stated that you can't mix household debris with vegetative debris because then it is no longer eligible for coverage under FEMA assistance. Chairman Matthews stated that lots of wooded material has been taken out to the Public Works facilities. They are also hauling to the landfill construction and demolition (C& D) and household goods called "White Trash"- stoves, refrigerators, etc. Chairman Matthews stated that before taking to the landfill, these items should be separated out. Chairman Matthews spoke with GEMA and obtained approval to set dumpsters on a person's property so that the owner can separate and load the debris themselves instead of taking it to the right of way in which the county would then be responsible for loading and hauling off the debris.

Commissioner Hearn stated that he had Code Enforcer, Wimpy Vaughn to put big signs on the dumpsters stating no debris in dumpsters. Sheri Ellison stated that there are not enough signs on roads such as Old Atlanta Road and Hwy 36 to let you know the roads have big puddles or other issues on the roadway.

Commissioner Glass stated that he would brief the department heads in the department head meeting on Thursday on the FEMA information in the absence of Danny Gunter. He also stated that he would like to have information in all of the employee's hands and also consider periodic press releases. FEMA requires lots of pictures and documentations for reimbursement.

Commissioner Hearn asked how to handle hiring the contractors and means of payment. Chairman Matthews stated that the county pays the contractors and we

are reimbursed from FEMA. The contractor has to keep up with his time in the form of a log along with where he works and where he takes the loads etc.

Commissioner Glass stated that insurance companies want you to take measures to be safe but you aren't to begin repairs until the adjusters come on sight to review the damage. Chairman Matthews stated that hazardous removal is allowed. Commissioner Glass brought up price gouging and Chairman Matthews stated that all vendors are to register with Building/Zoning to obtain a license to do business in the county. Volunteers register with the Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Matthews called for a motion to waive permit fees. Commissioner Glass motioned to waive the permit fee for those affected by the tornado disaster until the next regular Board of Commissioners meeting scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Thrash praised Chairman Matthews for his hard work during the disaster as he went above and beyond his daily job duties making decisions for everyone during this time of crisis. Chairman Matthews also praised Commissioner Glass and all the Commissioners for everything that they have done and are doing. Also, Chairman Matthews praised all the departments, the churches, the volunteers and everyone for all that they have done and are doing.

Chairman Matthews called for memo's and email conversation over the next weeks that can be sent to the news. Commissioner Glass stated that he would work on a flyer with pertinent information for those affected by the disaster.

Chairman Matthews turned the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Hearn as he had to leave to attend court.

Commissioner Thrash stated that Kathy Martin could turn her staff over the middle of the week to assist with whatever needed to be done.

Commissioner Thrash stated that they would be meeting with GEMA at 1:00pm on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for clarification on what can be brought into the landfill and waiving the 4000 lb. limit. Commissioner Thrash stated that whatever they could do to help the citizens needed to be done.

Commissioner Horton asked where clothes, food, furniture or other things should be taken. Commissioner Hearn stated that the Nazarene Church was the location and the drop off point for these types of donations.

Commissioner Glass stated that those that didn't have a place to stay could speak to the Chamber of Commerce for guidance and also assistance with reimbursement.

## **V. Adjournment**

Vice-Chairman Hearn called for a motion to adjourn at approximately 8:57 a.m. Commissioner Glass made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Thrash. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Jay Matthews, Chairman

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Jimmy Hearn, Vice-Chairman

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Bennie Horton, Member

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Charles Glass, Member

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Nancy M. Thrash-Member

Attest:

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Carlette Davidson, Financial Analyst