

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes
November 15th, 2011
7:00 p.m.

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 Hearn, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Glass, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Zellner, Office Manager Davidson and Attorney Scott Mayfield.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by everyone. Rev. Garth Forester of First Baptist Church gave the invocation.

III. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Matthews requested that the agenda be amended with the addition of the 2011 Audit Proposal and The paving of Eady Creek Road. Commissioner Horton made the motion to amend the agenda and Vice-Chairman Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Vice-Chairman Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

IV. Discussions

- a) Commissioner Glass made a motion to table the approval of the minutes until some additional corrections could be made. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.
- b) The 1st reading of Ordinance 2011-6 Blighted Property was read by County Building and Zoning Administrator Dan Gunter. This Ordinance would impose an ad valorem tax by applying a factor of six to the millage rate if the property is determined to be blighted. Gunter read the State definition of blighted which means unsafe, unsanitary, uninhabitable or abandoned. Gunter stated that it would take five complaints to the County Administrator before inspection of the property. Commissioner Thrash asked about condemning the property rather than imposing a blighted tax. Her concern is what will happen if people don't pay the tax. The Zoning Administrator explained that eventually the property will be sold under the tax law. Commissioner Glass made a motion to accept the 1st reading of the Ordinance 2011-6 and Vice-Chairman Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

V. Proclamation-IDA

Commissioner Glass presented the Barnesville-Lamar County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) with a proclamation to recognize their outstanding achievements. Among their many accomplishments, the IDA facilitated the location of a new power plant in Lamar County to be owned and operated by Piedmont Green Power. The Lamar County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of all of Lamar County, recognized, commended, and congratulated the IDA and its executive director, Missy Kendrick, for being awarded the outstanding achievement in the location/expansion of business in Georgia from the Georgia Economic Developers Association.

VI. 2011 Audit Proposal

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve J. Robyn Underwood as the 2011 County Auditor. Commissioner Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

VII. More Discussions

- a) The Commissioners discussed the paving of Eady Creek Road and voted to accept the low bid of \$ 29,648.00 from Quality Asphalt Paving. Vice-Chairman Hearn made a motion to accept the low bid and Commissioner Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.
- b) County Administrator Zellner stated to the Commissioners that the Emergency Medical Services–Ambulance Zone Board had not been updated since Upson Regional Ambulance Service had the contract. There was a discussion of the reappointment of Dr. Robert Cox and the appointment of fire-fighter Douglas Matthews to the emergency Medical Services Ambulance Zone West Georgia EMS Council. Commissioner Glass called for a motion to approve the appointments and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.
- c) County Administrator Zellner presented the Wild Fire Protection Plan from the Georgia Forestry Commission to the Chairman and the Commissioners. This State-Mandated educational program will help with mitigation in case of a wild fire in the county. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the plan and Vice-Chairman Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

VIII. Public Comments

Julia Heidbrink of Hwy 36 West, Barnesville, Georgia gave her opinion on the Blighted Tax ordinance. She stated that if we go up on their taxes that the citizen could take a tax credit on their state and federal income taxes. She gave examples of her own hardships and how out of pocket repairs could be a problem for some people. She did recognize that there are some areas where condemnation of the property might be necessary.

IX. Round Table

Commissioner Glass gave a report on two blood drives in which 60 pints of blood were donated in the community.

Commissioner Thrash stated that the North Lamar County Association cleaned up High Falls Park Rd. They started at HWY 36 and covered the road all the way to the Interstate/County line.

X. Proclamation-Veteran's Day

Commissioner Thrash read a Proclamation honoring the many Veterans that gave the ultimate sacrifice. In the absence of the Veterans that had been invited Commissioner Thrash presented the Proclamation to Building and Zoning Director Dan Gunter. She also encouraged Veterans in the audience to stand. Veterans in attendance were Preston Thompson, Wimpy Vaughn and Dan Gunter.

XI. Executive Sessions and Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to go into executive session to discuss litigation and real estate at approximately 7:43 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Glass and passed unanimously. The Chairman and the Commissioners returned out of executive session at approximately 8:15 p.m. with no action taken and adjourned the meeting.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jay Matthews, Chairman

Jimmy Hearn, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Member

Charles Glass, Member

Nancy M. Thrash-Member

Attest:

Robert Zellner, County Administrator

