

**LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes**  
**October 20th, 2015**  
**7:00 PM**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Charles Glass called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting was Vice-Chairman Van Baker, Commissioner Bennie Horton, Commissioner Nancy Thrash, County Administrator Robert Zellner, County Clerk Carlette Davidson and Attorney Scott Mayfield. Absent for the meeting was Commissioner Robert Heiney.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Everyone said the pledge of allegiance. Pastor James C. Marable from Bethel Baptist Church gave the invocation.

**III. Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the agenda with a change to the agenda moving the Charge off/Charge On from 3) g. to 3) b. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion with the change to the agenda. The motion was unanimous.

**IV. Minutes Approval**

- a) Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the following minutes.
    - i. September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Workshop
    - ii. Regular Business Meeting September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Charge on Charge off –Tax Commissioner**

Tax Commissioner Andrea Anthony gave a Charge on Charge off report. The County Property Charge Off is \$170,884.36 with a total charge off \$464,832.65 and the County Property Charge on is \$23,213.74 with a total charge on of \$60,507.06. The difference for the county is \$147,670.62 with a total difference of \$404,325.59. Tax Commissioner Anthony stated that the overall figures are much higher than last year's report due to the sizeable change in value and refund for Piedmont Green Power, LLC. (PGP). PGP settled their case and over a period of 5 years, the personal property's fair market value is fixed at \$107,000,000.00 for tax years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Vice-Chairman Baker made a motion to approve the report as presented and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion to approve the Charge on Charge Off report from the Tax Commissioner. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. LMIG Project**

The board discussed the upcoming Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Project and which roads should be paved with the funds from this grant. Commissioner Thrash stated that she would like to remove Eady Creek from the list of roads and add Silver Dollar Road, Fellowship or Roger Brown Road. County Administrator Zellner stated that they will receive approximately \$282,000.00 from LMIG and that there is approximately \$490,000.00 in the SPLOST account. The Chairman listed all the roads submitted to him from the Board that are in need of paving including Abbott Road, Fredonia Church Road, Wilmot Road, Silver Dollar Road and Brent Road. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to send this priority list to the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Lamar County LMIG project. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The priority list of roads is as follows.

1. Silver Dollar-First Phase
2. Fredonia Church Road
3. Abbott Road
4. Silver Dollar Road-Second Phase
5. Silver Dollar Road-Third Phase
6. Wilmot Road
7. Abbott Road

## **VII. SPLOST III Projects**

Chairman Glass stated that the board has been brain storming about ideas for the next SPLOST project. The current SPLOST runs through December 31, 2017. The next SPLOST project, with an election sometime in 2017, will run from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2023. The citizens will have the opportunity to post other ideas for SPLOST projects on the Lamar County website in the coming weeks. The following list are project ideas from the board.

1. Replace Courthouse Windows
2. Storage System or Superior Court Clerk
3. Improved Internet Access
4. Heat and Air Conditioning at the Jail Building.
5. New security and communications center at Jail.
6. 3200 sq. ft. for Health Department (New or refurbished).
7. Fellowship Dr. ( curve ) improvements
8. Rec Department fields on HWY 36
9. Animal Shelter
10. New Office Center (behind Admin Building or Courthouse)
11. Booker School Property
12. Projects to help sell Lamar County
13. Spec Building for the IDA
14. Sheriff's Cars (two new cars per year).

### **VIII. Baggerly Property**

Vice-Chairman Baker made a motion to table the discussion of the Baggerly Property until the next meeting due to not having any new information. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **IX. DFACS Budget 2016**

Chairman Glass presented three requests from the Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS). They requested the following.

1. \$15,000 for the fiscal year 2015 with a monthly amount set at \$1250.00.
2. Requested that they be allowed to spend the budget at the discretion of the County Director up to \$500.00 without Board Approval. Expenditures \$500.00 and over will require Board Approval.
3. Requested that they be allowed to keep any unused funds (if any) at the end of The fiscal year 2016. These funds will roll over into the next fiscal years Budget.

Chairman Glass stated that these are funds used to purchase diapers, pajamas, cloths, toiletries, and other items for children taken from their homes. The board discussed the 5 percent cut to all divisions in the county, which would lower the DFACS budget to \$14,250.00. Vice-Chairman Baker stated that he did not understand the issue with unused funds and stated that they should request a lower amount in their budget if they are not going to use all of the funds. Chairman Glass explained that they do not know the exact amount that they will actually need and they estimate their request based on prior history. There was discussion about other divisions such as the Health Department that receive funds from the county and at the end of the year have unused funds. The board agreed to table the DFACS request until they can review the DFACS budgeting process further. Vice-Chairman Baker made a motion to disapprove the DFACS budget requests and Commissioner Trash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **X. Purchase Lawn Mower Recreation Department**

County Administrator Robert Zellner presented the board with two bids for a lawn mower for the Recreation Department. The first bid was from John Deere Ag-pro in Macon Georgia for \$18,500.00 and the second bid was from John Deere SunSouth for \$18,618.60 in Barnesville Georgia. Commissioner Horton stated that he had researched several lawn mowers and found that some of these commercial mowers can run as high as \$24,000.00. Commissioner Thrash asked if this lawn mower could be used to cut the grass for other departments in the county. County Administrator Zellner stated that this is a commercial mower that will be used to cut the soccer, softball, football and fields out on Hwy 36. Commissioner Thrash stated that she is concerned about the lawn care contract for the county and feels that other avenues need to be taken for this service. Commissioner Thrash stated that she has never been in favor of the lawn care contract and feels that inmates should be put on mowers to cut the grass for the

county. County Administrator Zellner explained to the board that the money for the mower would come out of the SPLOST fund because the money for the mower is slated for the Recreation Department out of Equipment in SPLOST. Commissioner Thrash agreed that if the money, earmarked out of SPLOST, and the money is there for that purpose, it would be ok to purchase the mower. Commissioner Thrash stated that the Recreation Department took the biggest budget cut in 2010. Commissioner Thrash stated that she still feels like the inmates can cut the grass for the county. The board continued a discussion about the lawn care service and the purchase of a new lawn mower for the Recreation Department. Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the purchase of a lawn mower for the Recreation Department with the bid going to Sun South in Barnesville Ga for \$18,618.60. This meets the 5 percent local threshold. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion, because the Recreation Department had already suffered past cuts to their budget. The motion passed unanimously. After the Board approved the purchase, Vice-Chairman Baker and Commissioner Thrash began more discussion about the lawnmower purchase and the lawn care service. Commissioner Horton joined the conversation. Commissioner Horton made a motion to withdraw his motion to approve the purchase of the lawn mower. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. Commissioner Thrash then made a motion to table the purchase of the lawnmower. Vice-Chairman Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **XI. Ordinance 2015-01 Health Ordinance**

The board discussed the changes to the Health Ordinance including adding body art studios and changing the code regulations. Vice-Chairman Baker made a motion to approve the second reading of Health ordinance 2015-01 and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **XII. Ordinance 2015-02 Alcohol Ordinance**

The board discussed an alcohol ordinance in which a \$100.00 application fee be implemented along with new provisions for catering and special events and a single permit good for three consecutive days. Also added to the Alcohol Ordinance were annual background checks, finger printing, deed requirements, and renewal fee changes. There were two changes to the second draft of the Alcohol Ordinance. The addition of malt beverage and/or wine for a fee of \$500.00 and the fee for a renewal application changed from \$50.00 to \$100.00. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the second reading of Alcohol Ordinance 2015-02 with the two changes and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Attached to the minutes is the Second Reading of the Alcohol Ordinance.

**XIII. Financial/Status Review**

County Administrator Zellner shared a Financial Projection Report showing expenses and revenues for the remainder of the year. The projected revenues projected at \$5,567,501.00 and the expenses projected at 5,257,982.54 with a positive balance of \$309,518.46.

**Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Zellner read his overview report of County activities as follows.

**XIV. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**XV. Round Table**

Vice-Chairman Baker recognized the children of Rachel McDaniel with the Pike County Press who sat in the audience with quite behavior. He also recognized two members from the 2015 Lamar Leadership, Antron Allen from the Verizon store in Barnesville, Georgia and Precious Pennyman from the Lamar County School System.

**XVI. Adjournment**

Commissioner Horton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m. and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Charles Glass, Chairman

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Van Baker, Vice-Chairman

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Bennie Horton, Commissioner

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Robert Heiney, Commissioner

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Nancy M. Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carlette Davidson, County Clerk