

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

I. Call to Order

Chairman Matthews called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by everyone. Clifford B. Barber gave the invocation.

III. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Matthews requested that the agenda be amended with the motion to add Proclamation's for Career and Technical Education Month, and Clifford B. Barber and the Mt. Sinai CME Church Black History Month; Resolution for E-911 Budget, Expedited Payment Process of Invoices without Commissioners approval; and the December 1st Workshop Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Glass proposed that we add the use of the court house for the Republican Party Convention on March 1st, 2011. Commissioner Glass made the motion to amend the agenda and Commissioner Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

IV. Presentation of Proclamation's

Chairman Jay Matthews read the Proclamation for Career and Technical Month and presented the Proclamation to Clifford B. Barber and Mt. Sinai CME Church for Black History Month service. Commissioner Horton made the motion to approve the Proclamations and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

V. Board Appointments

Commissioner Nancy Thrash made a motion to nominate Lou Ann Ramsey to the vacant position on the Tax Assessor's board. Chairman Matthews motioned to appoint Lou Ann Ramsey and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

VI. Fire and Ambulance

Commissioner Glass presented several items of assessment for the fire and ambulance fees. Commissioner Glass made motion to amend exemption # 3. Chairman Matthews motioned to approve and Commissioner Thrash seconded the

motion. The motion passed 4-0.

1. Allowable exemption #3: Property owners that have a dwelling in another county with an adjoining parcel of another county but part of that parcel runs into another county will be exempt from the fire and ambulance fees (this ties into their 911 service coming from another county).

Commissioner Glass explained to the commissioners that there are around 1200 Fire and Ambulance Fee bills that still need to be mailed out. Deadline for payment is March 1st, 2011. Chairman Glass made the motion to give these citizens 30 days from mail out to pay their bills. Chairman Matthews made a motion to approve and Commissioner Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

VII. Resolution 2011-01 E-911 Budget

Chairman Matthews read the resolution 2011-02 for approving the E-911 budget. The proposed 2011 fiscal year E-911 budget totals \$158,000. Chairman Matthews called for a motion of approval. Commissioner Horton motioned to approve and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

VIII. Resolution 2011-01 Budget Amendment

Chairman Matthews read the resolution 2011-01 for amending the 2011 budget by \$7,214.00. The total 2011 budget remains at \$8,030,220.50. Chairman Matthews called for a motion of approval. Commissioner Hearn motioned to approve and Commissioner Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

- IX.** Chairman Matthews read a proposal for to approve an expedited payment process that removes the requirement for Commissioners' signature before certain invoices can be paid. These invoices include all utility bills and employee benefits. A motion to approve the proposed procedure was made by Commissioner Horton and seconded by Commissioner Hearn. The motion passed 4-0.

X. Ordinance 2011-1 Animal Burial

Chairman Matthews read Ordinance 2011-1 Chapter 2-4, Article I a second time amending the policy of burying animals in the county. The Chairman moved the ordinance be approved. Commissioner Horton motioned to approve and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

XI. Approval of Minutes

Chairman called for the motion to approve the regular business meeting minutes dated January 18th, 2011, the workshop meeting minutes dated February 1st, 2011 and the December 1st, 2010 workshop meeting minutes. Commissioner Hearn

motioned to approve and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

XII. REPUBLICAN PARTY ANNUAL CONVENTION 2011

Chairman Glass made a motion to for the Republican Party to hold their annual county convention at the court house on March 1st, 2011. Chairman Matthews made a motion to approve and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

XIII. Public Comments

George Brown of High Falls Road, Jackson, Ga. addressed the board asking if they had instructed the county attorney to go to civil court to cover the \$7000 taken from a former county employee. Chairman Matthews refrained from responding to the question. He also addressed the commissioners with concerns about SPLOST and an article posted by the Barnesville Dispatch on November 29th revealing an ongoing investigation from the Sheriff's office into county finances dating back to 2005 with a subpoena being issued to former First National Bank and United Bank. Chairman Matthews referred Mr. Brown to the Sherriff.

Preston Thompson of Milner, Ga. offered his services in regards to monitoring and advising the commissioners with ways to fix the budget.

Beverly Eskridge of Holmes Street, Barnesville, Ga. voiced concerns about being on the citizen's advisory committee and using SPLOST to create a new animal shelter. She voiced her opinions about SPLOST and made it be known that she would not be voting for SPLOST.

Dr. Kessler spoke to the commissioners about bringing industry to Barnesville in the way of mass producing. He voiced his concerns to the commissioners on being an active board and a model for Lamar County when creating new jobs.

Brenda Ross spoke to the commissioners about the overall debt and using SPLOST funds to pay down the debt.

Charles Muise addressed the board with questions about the Fire and Ambulance fees being a user fee as opposed to a service fee.

A citizen who did not provide his name addressed the board about those who have foreclosed and asked whose responsibility it is to pay the fire and ambulance fee. Chairman Matthews stated that the owner of the parcel is ultimately responsible for the paying the Fire and Ambulance fee.

XIV. Adjournment and Executive Session

Chairman Matthews motioned for adjournment at approximately 8:15 p.m. and Commissioner Thrash called for a motion to go into executive session to discuss litigation and personnel at approximately 8:17 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hearn and passed unanimously. The Chairman and the Commissioners adjourned the executive session at approximately 8:43 p.m.

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, Financial Analyst