

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes
June 16th, 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 Robert Heiney, Commissioner Nancy Thrash, County Administrator Robert Zellner, County Clerk Carlette Davidson, and Attorney Scott Mayfield.

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Everyone said the pledge of allegiance. Reverend Eddie Collier gave the invocation.

III. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the agenda and Vice Chairman Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the May 19, 2015 Regular Business Meeting minutes and Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Board Appointments

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Patsy Mann to the Lamar County Family and Children Services Board and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Baker made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Katherine McHan to the Regional 6 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Board and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Juvenile Court Cases Conflict

Commissioner Thrash read a letter requesting that the Public Defender Standard Council represent conflict cases in the Juvenile Court. The previous contract was with Bettis and Howard. The new contract will allow the Public Defenders Standard Council to appoint attorneys to represent delinquent cases identified as conflicts.

The agreement will require the forfeiture of local control over the assignment of local attorney's. Commissioner Thrash explained that the money for such conflicts would now come from the state as opposed to the local county budget. The effective date will be 6-16-2015. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the request of the Public Defender Standard Council. Vice-Chairman Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Bush Cutter

County Administrator presented to the board a quote from John Deere for a bush cutter for the Public Works Department. The total estimated cost is \$122,639.81. County Administrator Zellner explained to the board that the bush cutter would not be available until sometime in October. Public Works Director James Rigdon stated that the department is behind in cutting due to not having a mower. County Administrator Zellner explained that Pike County has recently purchased two new bush cutters and are planning to contract out services to other counties. The board requested that the county look into contracting with Pike County for services. Commissioner Thrash stated that she would be meeting with the Georgia Department of Transportation in the upcoming week and would inquire about potential solutions from the Georgia Department of Transportation. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the purchase of a bush cutter from John Deere and Vice-Chairman Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Collier Property

County Administrator read Resolution 2015-04 accepting the donation of real estate property from the estate of Virginia Collier Dennis. The property is located on Piedmont road. County Administrator Zellner stated that the executor of the estate would like to see a park, with picnic tables, built on the site because there is a lot of bicycle and motorcycle traffic on this road. The Resolution states that the county will accept the donation of the Property and use it for public purposes. Vice-Chairman Baker made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-04 accepting the donation of real estate property from the estate of Virginia Collier Dennis subject to a clear title and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. National Association of Commissioners (NACO)

The board decided to table the National Association of Commissioners (NACO) until someone from the organization could come and speak to them. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to table the discussion of NACO and Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Farmers Home Administration for a Preservation Grant

Chairman Glass explained that the purpose of the Housing Preservation Grant program is to provide grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or

rehabilitation of low-income housing. The region was not approved for the grant and they need each county in the region to sign a letter stating that the county is in favor of this grant. If the grant is approved, Mrs. Gwen Moore will be the local administrator of the grant. Commissioner Heiney found out that the grant requested is around \$40,000.00 and they split the money between 10 counties. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve a letter of recommendation to support an application to the Farmers Home Administration for a Preservation Grant to include Lamar County. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. Commissioner Heiney abstained from the vote. The vote passed 3-0.

XI. ACCG Legislative Session Voting Delegate

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve Commissioner Thrash to be the ACCG Legislative Session Voting Delegate for Lamar County and Vice-Chairman Baker seconded the motion. Commissioner Thrash abstained. The vote passed 3-0.

XII. Administrator's Report

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

1. He has been working with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the re-alignment at the intersection of Hwy 36.
2. The Public Works Building is coming along well. The building is 100 % complete and they are working on the dry wall, sheet rock, electrical, and the plumbing is complete except for the inside fixtures. They started moving the fence back behind the building and the parking will be in the front of the building. County Administrator Zellner reported that \$ 150,796.00 have been spent on the Public Works Facility to date.

XII. Public Comments

Beverly Eskridge of 138 Holmes Street addressed the board with a monthly report from the human society. Ms. Eskridge showed samples of the memorial bricks for purchase from the Barnesville-Lamar County Humane Society, Inc. The personalized bricks are \$30.00 per brick. All proceeds will benefit the cost for spaying and neutering as well as the Jake and Edna Brown Animal Rescue. The forms are available at the Barnesville-Lamar County Library and Commissioner Thrash said that forms would be available at the Lamar County Administration Building.

Preston Thompson of 225 Hwy 36 East, Milner, Georgia addressed the board thanking them for the cut through access to the property on Hwy 36 so that he can walk his dog. Mr. Thompson is collecting aluminum cans in support of the animal shelter. He has an account setup at United Bank called "Kans for Kanines". He

said that he has had several phone calls regarding support for just dogs and he told them that the money collected is going toward feeding all types of animals' not just dogs and any type of animal that comes into the animal center.

Mr. Thompson reported that he has also received trashcan donations from Johnny Poore. As of to date, Mr. Thompson stated that he has \$191.00 balance and stated that price of aluminum is currently down.

Joyce Farmer of 159 Yatesville Road addressed the board stating that she had received a call from someone wanting to do a T.V. show on her called "Hoarding Animals". Ms. Farmer wanted it known that she has no interest in doing the show and she does not hoard animals. Ms. Farmer stated that she takes animals to Pet Smart for adoption and looks after about 30 animals.

XIII. Round Table

Vice-Chairman Baker stated that they are continuing to work on donations for the animal shelter. He stated that he and Commissioner Thrash meet with Preston Nixon, who is the director of the Georgia Department of Corrections and who oversaw the re-make of Tift College and construction of the new Lamar County Fire Station Headquarters. They reviewed the plans for the shelter and went over an estimated cost per square foot. Vice-Chairman Baker stated that Preston Thompson is ahead of the game with his collections and feels that with the community working together they can make the animal shelter work. Vice-Chairman Baker stated that they are going to send out a letter in the next couple of weeks called "Founders Donations" so that people can give large donations. In the fall, they will do actual parties and fund-raisers. Vice-Chairman Baker stated that they should have a report by the end of the year with some solid numbers and a nice amount of money to report.

Commissioner Thrash stated that she hopes Lamar County will have a large showing at the 2015 Summer Regional Meeting in Spalding County on June 23, 2015 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Chairman Glass projected on the smart board a picture of Vice-Chairman Baker's first granddaughter who was born on June 8, 2015. Everyone congratulated Vice-Chairman Baker.

IX. Adjournment and Executive Session

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:47 p.m. and Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Van Baker, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Nancy M. Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____
Carlette Davidson, County Clerk