

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes
May 19th, 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. Dr. John Shipp, Assistant Principal of Lamar County Comprehensive High School, gave the invocation.

III. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the agenda and Vice Chairman Baker seconded the motion. Commissioner Heiney made a subsequent motion to add the purchase of an E911 Communication recorder to the agenda and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the April 21, 2015 Regular Business Meeting minutes and Vice Chairman Baker seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

V. West Georgia Emergency Medical Services Council

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Dr. Robert Cox and Mr. Douglas Matthews to the West Georgia Emergency Medical Services Council and Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Three Rivers Regional Commission and the 2016 Department of Transportation Contract

The board discussed the public transportation services within the county and the number of passenger trips per month. The contract agreement for FY 2016 is in the amount of \$5,250.00 and the purpose of the contract is for transit operations and program administration services. Vice-Chairman Baker made a motion to approve

the contract with the Three Rivers Regional Commission and the Department of Transportation (DOT). Commissioner Thrash opposed the motion based on the amount of the contract. The motion passed 3-1.

VII. LMIG BID

The Board reviewed two bids for the resurfacing of Yatesville Road, one from C.W. Matthews and one from Georgia Asphalt. Administrator Zellner stated that both of the vendors attended the pre-bid conference and the bid-opening day and they both meet the mandatory bid qualifications. The bid for C.W. Matthews was for \$263,339.52 and the bid for Georgia Asphalt was \$ 242,809.62. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the low bid of \$242,809.62 using Georgia Asphalt to complete the LMIG project on Yatesville Road and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

VIII. Towaliga Circuit Budget

Vice-Chairman Baker and Commissioner Thrash explained about the new laws regarding the Juvenile Court expenditures for the county stating that not all of the allocations are legislative. Commissioner Thrash said that the state and not the taxpayer should fund the burden of some of these expenditures. Commissioner Thrash stated that the board still has many questions about where and how the money has been spent. The board agreed to continue the FY 2014-2015 funding level with an increase in the FY 2015-2016 caseload funding. Chairman Glass stated that the budget that they finally approve could be lower than last year's budget. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the FY 2016 budget based on the 2015 budget amounts and the current caseloads split between three counties. The motion passed unanimously. Vice-Chairman Baker made a motion to change the financial circuit agent from Chris Daniel, CPA firm to the Butts County Financial Group and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. IDA Board Appointment

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the appointment of Sandra Puckett to the Lamar County Industrial Authority (IDA) Board filling the unexpired term of Mrs. Cheryl Idol and Commissioner Thrash seconded the appointment. The motion passed unanimously.

- X.** Chairman Glass called for a motion to approve the purchase of a communication recorder for the E911 dispatch center. The E911 Committee received a bid of \$16,508.75 from Macon Communications. Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the bid from Macon Communications of \$16,508.75 based on the E911 Committee's recommendation and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Administrator's Report

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

1. Chairman Glass and I met with a couple of State DOT engineers about a couple of intersection improvements that we had asked the DOT Commissioner to help us. They explained a couple of examples of designs they thought could help with the safety issues. We also discussed some of the traffic counts on various highways and how they affected some of these improvements.
2. The Public Works Bldg. is coming along well. The building is approx. 98% erected with only the awnings gutter and down spouts left to install. We will have someone start the inside framing of offices within the next week. As of today, we spent \$104,237 and the only remaining is framing, electrical, inside plumbing (fixtures, etc.), septic tank, and moving the fence. Barring any unforeseen problems, we should come in at or under budget. A big Thanks goes to Wimpy for doing a great job keeping on top of everything and watching the costs.
3. Buddy and I are working on the plans for the new Recreation Complex on Hwy 36. We met with the engineer today and went over some changes to the overall layout and design.
4. We have received a quote on the repair of our Bush cutter. The engine in knocking and James indicated that he was afraid to put it on the road and have the engine throw a rod. The tractor is around 7 or 8 years old with approx. 10,000 hard hours. The quote was for the replacement of the engine and remove and rework (cleanout and flush) radiator. All the labor and material cost is \$36,180. in addition, it needs \$8,000 worth of tires and a side glass for \$6800. James has received a bid from John Deere, which is on State Contract, for a tractor and mower at \$122,639.81 it is used by most of the counties in the state. The only problem is it will not be in until October. Fayette County and Butts County just bought one.
5. I have been contacted by the Executor of the Virginia Collier Dennis Estate in regards to a one-acre tract of land on Piedmont Road. He knew of the history of the Piedmont area and the part that the Collier played in it and the forming of Lamar County. He felt it fitting to ask if the county would be interested in accepting this tract, "with no strings attached," but with the hopes that the county would use it as a rural roadside park in recognition of and as memorial to, as he put it "one of the most important communities in the early history of Lamar County. The Collier Family started what later became William Carter Co in Barnesville.
6. The E911 Committee met and discussed the need for the replacement of the main recorder for the 911 calls and dispatches. It was voted on accepted the bid from Macon Communication of \$16,508.75. This will be purchased with funds from the E911 Fund, which has a balance of \$62,658.02.

XII. Public Comments

Beverly Eskridge of 138 Holmes Street addressed the board with a monthly report from the human society. Ms. Eskridge stated that they made three trips to Fort Valley and had 21 animals spayed or neutered. Three of the 21 animals were Hardee's cats. They were able to take care of the Hardee's cats because of the grant that the help group for trapping, neutering and releasing (TNR) out of Newnan, Georgia received and shared with the Lamar County Human Society. Ms. Eskridge reported that three of the 10 puppies that they previously rescued have been adopted.

Preston Thompson of 225 Hwy 36 East, Milner, Georgia addressed the board inquiring about how he can have access to the property on Hwy 36 so that he can walk his dog. Chairman Glass told Mr. Thompson that they would speak about the access issue after the meeting.

XIII. Round Table

Chairman Glass reminded everyone the reason for the Memorial Holiday is because someone died for our freedom while serving our country in the armed forces. Chairman Glass stated that he personally had the honor of knowing some of those people who died for our freedom and who willingly served our country. Chairman Glass requested that we keep those people in our hearts and minds while we celebrate by eating a hot dog, a cold beverage, a pool party or just watching television.

IX. Adjournment and Executive Session

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to recess into executive session for pending litigation at approximately 7:50 p.m., Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The executive session was called to order at approximately 7:58 p.m. and the board came out of executive session at approximately 8:38 with no action taken.

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

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