

**LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes**  
**December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Agenda Approval**

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

**III. Minutes Approval**

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the following minutes. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. October 16th, 2014 –Workshop Minutes
- ii. November 18th, 2014-Regular Commissioner Meeting
- iii. December 2nd, 2014 –Workshop Minutes

**IV. 2014 Budget Amendments-Resolution 2014-15-18**

Chairman Matthews called for a motion to table the budget amendments pending backup review.

**V. Board Appointments**

- i. Vice-Chairman Glass made a motion to approve Commissioner Baker to serve as the Vice-Chairman for the year 2015. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- ii. Vice-Chairman Glass made a motion to appointment Commissioner Baker to the Solid Waste Board for a term of four years. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- iii. Vice-Chairman Glass made a motion to appointment Robert Heiney to the E911 Committee for a term of one year. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- iv. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to appointment Mildred Merchant to the Board of Appeals for a term of three years. Vice-Chairman Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- v. Vice-Chairman Glass made a motion to appoint Tammy Merritt to the Tax Assessor Board for a term of four years. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- vi. Vice-Chairman Glass made a motion to acknowledge the appointment of Robert Becker, for the City Milner, to the Board of Elections for a term of four years. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- vii. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to appoint Irvin Trice to the Three Rivers Regional Commission as a non-public member for a term of one year. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- viii. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to appoint Smith, Welch, Webb and White and Scott Mayfield as the County Attorney for the year 2015. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- ix. Commissioner Horton made a motion to appoint Woodall, Wilson and Manley as the County Physician for the year 2015. Vice Chairman Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. 2015 Beer and Wine Licenses**

- i. For District 1, Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve Packaged Beer Sales which includes Dender Distributing and Jackson Beverages, the American Legion Post 577 for Beer Sales by the Package and Drink and C&B Convenience Store for Beer and Wine Sales by the Package. Vice-Chairman Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- ii. For District II, Vice- Chairman Glass made a motion to approve Beer and Wines by the Package and Drink for Hortons' Rendezvous. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Commissioner Horton abstained from the vote due to his interest with Hortons' Rendezvous.
- iii. Vice-Chairman Glass made a motion to approve Beer Sales by the Package and Drink for Deer Trail Country Club which is also in District II. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- iv. For District III, Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve Beer and Wine Sales by the Drink for the Catfish Hole and Beer and Wine Sales by the Package for RamDoot D.B.A. T&J Outfitters. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- v. For District IV, Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Beer Sales by the Package and Drink for the VFW Post 6542. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. Peddler License Ordinance 2014-01–Second Reading**

Vice-Chairman Glass made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2014-01. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Community Foundation Contract Approval for the Lamar County Animal Shelter Designation.**

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the contract for The Lamar County Animal Shelter Fund. Vice-Chairman Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Bob Warren**

Mr. Warren addressed the board by stating that he had been thinking about the past eight years and how it started and how it has ended. Mr. Warren quoted the poet Walt Whitman “Behold I do not give lectures or a little charity when I give I give myself.” Mr. Warren addressed the Chairman saying he thought about the financial situation that he inherited in 2007. Mr. Warren stated that he had inquired about the orthodoxies being used to ensure that they were collecting all of the monies owed to the county and that they were paying the vendors in a timely manner. Mr. Warren indicated that he spoke to the Board eight years ago and that he thought that the reception that he received that night was surreal. Mr. Warren indicated that it would take weeks and months for the Chairman to understand how to reconcile the mess he had inherited. Mr. Warren stated that the Chairman was facing two problems. The first being that the Administration position was vacant and second being that there were vendors that were not being paid. Mr. Warren then complimented the Chairman on his wisdom and foresight to request that Mr. Johnny Poore act as Interim Administrator until the problems could be resolved. Mr. Warren requested a moment of personal preference towards Mr. Poore. Mr. Warren told the audience that Mr. Poore has done an outstanding job as the Solid Waste Authority Director. Mr. Warren mentioned the comprehensive review that was written on Mr. Poore in the Barnesville Herald Gazette. Mr. Warren indicated that the landfill can be used for the next 100 years and that one day it will be a profit center. Mr. Warren said that Mr. Poore is a great public servant and that the citizens of Lamar County are very fortunate to have people of his caliber in a leadership position in this county. Mr. Warren thanked Mr. Poore and the audience gave Mr. Poore a round of applause. Mr. Warren then turned his attention back to the financial issues of the county in the year 2007. Mr. Warren stated that it took the county another 3 to 6 months after Chairman Matthews was elected to reconcile the bills. Mr. Warren said that there was about \$750,000.00 worth of bills that had not been paid. Mr. Warren stated that a 12 month budget had been approved but there was still 15 months of bills that had not been paid. Mr. Warren stated that in 2007 they still needed about 2 and a quarters worth of ad valorem tax just to break even. Mr. Warren declared

that the record speaks loud and clear to the true ownership for correcting this dilemma. Mr. Warren went on to say that one day in the future the Chairman will tell his grandchildren about an event and it will not be with a gleam in his eye but with a heavy heart. Mr. Warren then referred to the 2011 Tornado that struck Lamar County and praised the work of the fire department, emergency rescue teams, police department, and citizens of all stripes who were all bound by a common goal to bring forth aid and comfort to friends and neighbors who were in distress. Mr. Warren stated that the Chairman's performance during this time of crisis was outstanding. Mr. Warren advised the Chairman that when he tells his grandchildren about this event that he stress upon them the importance of community involvement. Mr. Warren went on to say that in the eight years that Chairman Matthews served as Chairman that there were many crises and that some were real and some were imagined but that they all required time and effort. Mr. Warren then said but, in the end they paled in comparison to a barn yard cat named majesty and that event was a teachable moment. Mr. Warren thanked the Chairman for a job well done and stated that it was an honor and a pleasure to work with Chairman Matthews and considered him to be a great leader because he was a good listener. Mr. Warren then told the Chairman that he should walk away from this position with his chest held high. Mr. Warren concluded his tribute and wished Chairman Matthew's family well and said that the he is always welcome on Parker Branch.

Chairman Matthews responded to Mr. Warren by saying that he appreciated his thoughts but, that it was not just a one man show but a team effort.

**X. Judge Thomas-Presentation**

County Administrator Zellner presented a plaque for 10 years of dedicated service to Judge Thomas in appreciation for serving the county as Chief Magistrate Court Judge.

**XI. Chairman Matthews Presentations**

Commissioner Baker presented the Chairman with an accommodation from Governor Nathan Deal thanking him for his dedication and admirable service to the Lamar County citizens whereby he diligently worked to improve Lamar County over the past eight years. Chairman Matthews was able to steer Lamar County during hard economic times while avoiding reductions in staff, unbalanced budgets and millage increases. His resourcefulness allowed the county to expand the infrastructure in services without increasing tax burdens on the citizens of Lamar County. Chairman Matthews contributed to numerous boards and civic organizations for the last eight years including the Regional Solid Waste Authority where he played a vital role in the successful waste to energy project that forever changed the face of the county. Whereas Chairman Matthews hard work and devotion to improving the community, home county and State are deserving of recognition and praise for his eight years of distinguished service

and has set a strong example which will continue to inspire others who wish to contribute their respected communities for years to come.

Commissioner Thrash presented Chairman Matthews with a letter of recognition from Congressman Lynn Westmoreland for his many years of service to the Lamar County citizens over the last eight years. The letter praised Chairman Matthews for his time and effort and his loyal commitment included serving the people during the two tornadoes that hit Lamar County. The letter mentioned that during the time of recession there were no lay-offs, no reduction in staff, and the fact that the county budget was able to be balanced with no millage increase. The community built a new fire station, purchased new fire equipment and vehicles. Also, the letter praised his efforts for being able to give the employees of Lamar County a raise. In addition to all of the above, Congressman Westmoreland's letter thanked him for serving on the Solid Waste Authority Board and for the impact that he made to the authority. Congressman Westmoreland concluded his letter by thanking Chairman Matthews for all he has done for Lamar County and for his friendship wishing him all the best.

Commissioner Horton presented Chairman Matthews with a proclamation for serving the people of Lamar County as Chairman from January 1, 2007 until December 31, 2014. The Proclamation recognized Chairman Matthews for being a solid leader demonstrating the ability to effectively juggle many compelling priorities. The Proclamation recognized Chairman Matthews for serving on numerous boards including the Lamar County Regional Solid Waste Management Authority playing a vital role in a waste to energy project that will forever change the face of Lamar County. Chairman Matthews has sacrificed personal and family time to serve as Chairman and under Chairman Matthew's leadership, Lamar County survived one of the worst recessions in history while balancing the budget and avoiding employee work loss. The Citizens recognized and appreciated the leadership of Chairman Matthews and honored Chairman Jay Matthews for his leadership and direction as Chairman thanking him for his unflinching commitment to this County.

Vice-Chairman Glass presented Chairman Matthews with a gavel for his time and service to the citizens.

Chairman Matthews thanked the Board and stated that it had been an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Lamar County.

Administrator Zellner addressed the Chairman stating that it was an honor and a pleasure to work with him and that he had done a fine job for the county.

## **XII. Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Robert Zellner gave an overview report of county activities to the Board. The report included the following:

1. Storm Damage: Recap of the tornado damage.
  - A. Vehicle damage of \$14,444.51 and a total lost to the pole barn and the shop building.
  - B. Gas pump damage from the storm damaged and will be repaired.
  - C. The pole barn will not be rebuilt. The old shop building will be used as the pole barn to park all equipment and vehicles out of the weather. The new construction will be for a shop and an office.
2. Notice for RFP has been advertised and the specs are being written and mailed to prospective contractors. December 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a pre-bid meeting with all interested contractors. January 5<sup>th</sup> bids will be received and opened. Bids will be reviewed and evaluated as to the best quote and presented to the Board at the Regular Business Meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **XIII. Public Comments**

Beverly Eskridge of 138 Holmes Street Barnesville, Georgia stated that although the Chairman and she did not always see eye to eye he treated her with respect and never belittled her. Ms. Eskridge thanked the Board for voting on the Animal Shelter and mentioned that she would like to see the shelter have heated floors in the winter and cool floors in the summer like a facility she saw in Tennessee. Ms. Eskridge said that the Humane Society is still selling the memorial pet bricks. Ms. Eskridge concluded her comments and said that she thought that Chairman Matthews had been good neighbor years ago and that he always gave the citizens a right to voice their opinions.

### **IX. Round Table**

Commissioner Glass announced that there would be a mass swearing in for himself and Commissioner Robert Heiney and Commissioner Horton on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the main courthouse room with Light Refreshments being served.

Commissioner Baker wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Thrash congratulated Judge Thomas on his retirement.

Chairman Matthews stated that he always gave the citizens an opportunity to agree to disagree. Chairman Matthews thanked Vice-Chairman Glass for being the new Chairman and Robert Heiney for running. The Chairman also thanked the Sheriff for his service. In conclusion the Chairman said that he appreciated the great county and all of the staff.

**XX. Adjournment**

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Jay Matthews, Chairman

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Bennie Horton, Vice-Chairman

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Charles Glass, Commissioner

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Van Baker, Commissioner

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Nancy M. Thrash, Commissioner

Attest:

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Robert Zellner, County Administrator