

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes
February 18th, 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. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

The pledge of allegiance was said by everyone. Commissioner Thrash gave the invocation.

III. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

Vice-Chairman Glass made a motion to approve the January 21st, 2014 Public Hearing Minutes and the January 21st, 2014 Regular Business Minutes. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Proclamations

Commissioner Horton read a Proclamation declaring February as Black History Month encouraging all civic organizations, churches, schools, private groups, organizations, businesses, and industries to promote activities and to create an awareness of the important roles black citizens have had in the history of our County, State, and Nation.

Chairman Matthews read a Proclamation supporting the Lamar County College and Career Academy who is celebrating Career and Technical Education in the Month of February.

VI. Resolution 2014-04-Commending the Association County Commissioners of Georgia on the Occasion of its Centennial.

Commissioner Thrash read Resolution 2014-04 commending the service of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) for 100 years of dedicated services to the counties of Georgia.

Commissioner Thrash also presented a flag from ACCG that was dedicated to the citizens of Lamar County.

VII. Approval of Proclamations and Resolutions.

Chairman Matthews called for the approval of the Proclamations and the Resolutions read. Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the Proclamations and the Resolutions as read. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Miller Milling

Commissioner Thrash stated that she had met with Tax Assessor Jeannie Haddock and County Attorney Scott Mayfield in regards to the tax refund. It was determined that the errors made were ones that the company had made and not the County. Commissioner Baker stated that because the county acted in good faith, they felt that the request for the tax refund should be denied. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to deny the tax refund requests and Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Attorney Mayfield stated that Milner Milling would have to be notified of this decision in writing and Attorney Mayfield asked if anyone from Milner Milling was present. There was no one who responded for Milner Milling therefore it was determined that no one was present for Milner Milling. Chairman Matthews requested that Attorney Mayfield notify Milner Milling of the decision to deny the tax refund.

IX. Radar List

County Administrator Zellner stated that he had received a letter from the Georgia Department of Transportation outlining all of the roads in the county that have been inventoried in and through the Lamar County road system showing the mile marking beginning and ending and what the posted speed limit is. Administrator Zellner stated that this is something that the Commissioners will need to act on giving permission for the speed limits to be posted so that cases can be made if anyone speeds. This authorizes the Sheriff's Office to run radar on any of these roads. The Board discussed the distance from one speed limit to another speed limit sign on the same road. Administrator Zellner stated that Building and Zoning Director, Dan Gunter keeps inventory of roads There was discussion on the accuracy of the list from the Board. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to table the approval of the radar list for Lamar County until the March meeting. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Animal Shelter Report

Commissioner Baker stated that he had done a lot of behind the scenes work on the animal shelter. Commissioner Baker stated that a Town Hall meeting is planned for March 10th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. The Town Hall meeting will give the citizens of Lamar County an opportunity to speak on having an animal shelter. Commissioner Baker stated that the animal shelter project will not work without a lot of volunteers and support. Commissioner Baker stated that he had also heard from lots of people that do not want this facility. Commissioner Baker also stated that a lot of counties do not participate in a county animal shelter but they do have animal shelters that are supported by a humane society or some type of privately funded organization. Commissioner Horton asked about the City of Barnesville being involved in the animal shelter project. Commissioner Baker stated that they could combine resources with the City if this is something that the City of Barnesville would like to do.

XI. Administrator's Report

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

1. LMIG List: Clipped the shoulders on Crawford Road and are now waiting for warmer weather to send out bid request for resurfacing.
2. Work is still going on with the C3 Wireless Mesh Network.
3. Received the speed sign and installed the software but they are having trouble with the computer communicating with the speed sign.
4. Had two volunteer crews from the CERT program, during the ice storm, to come out and help clear trees and limbs from the road. Public Works Department worked all Wednesday night clearing the roads. They had a total of 180.5 man hours, 24 estimated volunteer man hours, spread 40 tons of M10 screening and 60 tons of #89 Rocks on roadways and bridges. They used the 924 rubber tire loader, and MT 525 bush cutter, the Code Enforcement's 4 wheel drive truck, the Tax Assessor's 4 wheel drive truck, the spreader truck and the public works pickup trucks. They used 149 gallons of diesel fuel and 192 gallons of gasoline. Billy Campbell, Becky Martin and the EMA staff did a great job working with the county and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) in getting us declared a Local State of Emergency. We are currently working with GEMA to receive any Federal or State assistance.
5. Received word from the Department of Community Affairs that our Short Term Work Program update has been approved and that we have been awarded qualified local government status.
6. Received a letter from the Lamar County Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS) requesting that the allowed budget amount of \$15,000.00 for the fiscal year 2014 be sent to them on a monthly basis rather than quarterly. They also requested that at the end of the fiscal year 2014 that any unused funds are rolled over into the next fiscal year.

XII. Public Comments

Beverly Eskridge of 138 Holmes Street Barnesville, Georgia addressed the board stating that it is time for dogs and cats to be spayed and neutered. Miss Eskridge stated that it is National World Spay Day on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 and that the month of February is Spay/Neuter Awareness Month. Ms. Eskridge addressed the Board stating that the Human Society continues to carry dogs and cats to Pet Smart in hopes of having the animals adopted.

Patricia Peurifoy of 856 Fredonia Church Road Barnesville, Georgia addressed the board encouraging citizens to spay and neuter their animals. Ms. Peurifoy is with Dolly Good Puppy and stated that they are also Local Ambassadors for the Atlanta Humane Society. Ms. Peurifoy stated that they host a mobile clinic known as a Surgical Utility Vehicle (SUV) located in the the parking lot of the Nazarene Church. They also help citizens with spaying and neutering of animals using monies from their budget. Ms. Peurifoy also wanted to make the citizens aware of the National World Spay Day on Tuesday, February 25, 2014.

Dorothy Carter of 122 Westgate Plaza, Barnesville, Georgia addressed the board with a report on the Lamar County Family Connection Collaborative organization (LCFCC). Ms. Carter stated that Kathy Self is the chairperson and that Vice-Chairman Glass is also on the board. LCFCC was started in 1998 and is a private non-profit organization. They receive funds from the State of Georgia whereby all 159 counties receive the same amount of funds. This year they received \$45,000.00. LCFCC uses the monies for programs such as low birth weight prevention, red ribbon week, teaching adults to read, and black history celebrations. Ms. Carter encouraged the Board and the citizens of Lamar County to come to the collaborative table and serve the community.

XIII. Round Table

Commissioner Horton stated that he appreciated all of the support and prayers during his recent illness.

Vice-Chairman Glass thanked the Public Works Department, the Sheriff's Office, the Fire Department, the CERT team, and all of the volunteers that worked during the recent ice and snow storm to keep the roads clear.

Commissioner Baker said that he is proud to live in Lamar County and appreciates all the work everyone did to keep the power running in Lamar County.

Commissioner Thrash thanked everyone for their hard work during the ice storm. Commissioner Thrash praised Milner for being the outstanding host city of the Three Rivers Area for senior services.

XIV. Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at approximately 7:54 p.m. Vice-Chairman Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jay Matthews, Chairman

Charles Glass, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Van Baker, Commissioner

Nancy M. Thrash, Commissioner

Attest:

Carlette Davidson, County Clerk