

**LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes**  
**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**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 Nancy Thrash, Commissioner Robert Heiney, 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. Garth Forster of First Baptist Church in Barnesville gave the invocation.

**III. Recess for Public Hearing**

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to recess for a Public Hearing on the Rezoning App # 2015-01 by Dr. Basil Kong and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Reconvene Regular Meeting**

Vice Chairman Baker made a motion to reconvene the regular business meeting at approximately 7:46 p.m. and Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Agenda Approval**

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

**VI. Minutes Approval**

Vice Chairman Baker made a motion to approve the Regular Business Meeting held on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and the Special Called Meeting held on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. UGA Extension Service-Walk Georgia**

Keisha Faulk with the UGA Extension Service representing the North West District and supporting Family and Consumer Sciences presented the Walk Georgia Campaign. Ms. Faulk said that she had spoken to Commissioner Thrash recently

about bringing health opportunities to Lamar County and stated that one wellness program is called Walk Georgia. Ms. Faulk stated that through a \$1 million, three-year grant, Walk Georgia is partnering with The Coca-Cola Foundation to achieve the goal of growing to 100,000 participants over the next three years as well as working to decrease obesity in each Georgia county by 5 percent. The grant will provide for an enhanced website, improved Walk Georgia services and foster growth of the program at the local level. Ms. Faulk stated that this is a great opportunity to bring healthy opportunities to the work place. Ms. Faulk stated that local governments are looking for ways to reduce the insurance cost without increasing the expense. Ms. Faulk stated that this program is a great complement for this. Mrs. Faulk said that Walk Georgia is internet based and is catered to the individual. The employees' can move at their own pace and you do not have to walk to participate in Walk Georgia, you just have to get out and keep moving. There are over 60 activities to choose from in the Walk Georgia System. Ms. Faulk explained that after you do an activity, you list the activity on a phone or tablet and record how long you have done the activity; it will then convert the activity to miles and help you track your goals. The program is backed by the University of Georgia and the activities are work force friendly which may lead to lower insurance costs.

Octavia Jackson, the County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development in Lamar County, addressed the board stating that Walk Georgia is one of their premier programs and they have been doing some things in Lamar County about getting active. They have been a part of Health Fairs, Community Expos, and other activities. Ms. Jackson stated that they would be promoting Walk Georgia at the Battle of the Bones Festival that is held in May. Ms. Jackson said that attached to this festival is a 5K run called 'The Color of the Pig'. The UGA Extension is working with the Barnesville Chamber of Commerce, the Health Department, and the Recreation Department to sponsor the run. They are also sponsoring an activity at the Lamar County Elementary School in April called "The Spring Fling" where they will engage the children in physical activities through the Walk Georgia program.

Commissioner Thrash recognized Parks and Receptions Director Buddy Lanier and Human Resource Officer Susan Helms for volunteering to help promote a wellness program for Lamar County. Commissioner Thrash stated that there would be a Health Fair for Lamar County employees in conjunction with the Lamar County Health Department and initiatives for the employees to begin a wellness program in Lamar County.

### **VIII. Lamar County Health Department Update**

Sherry Farr, County Nurse Manager, gave a power point presentation in regards to the services that the Lamar County Health Department offers to the residents of Lamar County. Mrs. Farr stated that Public Health is about protecting lives and from the slide show she presented, read that the Institute of Medicine 1988 says "What we do collectively as a society to assure the conditions in which people can

stay healthy.” Mrs. Farr shared some facts about the Lamar County Health Department stating that the staff has more than 100 years of combined public health experience, a dental clinic, a low birthrate initiative, and a school based health center. Mrs. Farr said that a Grant In Aid (GIA) is given by the state to supplement the monies provided by the county. The state requires counties to allocate matching funds but building facilities and rent are not counted as part of the local match. The operating budget comes from the grant funding, county contributions, and minimal and variable fees charged for services. Ms. Farr shared with the board about the rising cost of the services versus the revenues that have to be collected. Core services are threatened with more extensive cuts. This affects overall economic development ability and they are unable to offer competitive salaries compared to the private sector. The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has set their goals for 2015. The goals are quality service, innovative services, and positive cash flow with a focus on increasing revenue and improvements to the facility. Ms. Farr recognized a staff member Kay Payton and two of board members, Vice-Chairman Baker and Martha Holloway that were present for the meeting.

Dr. Olugbenga Obasanjo, the District 4 Public Health Director, addressed the board stating that Sherry Farr and the Lamar County Health Department is the shining star of District 4 in terms of performance. Dr. Obasanjo stated that in order to keep pace with the rising cost they use medical residents to help cut costs. Dr. Obasanjo stated that funding for state, federal and county levels depends on accreditation. They receive no funds if they are not accredited. They are working to increase funds by partnering with third party vendors such as Blue Cross Blue Shield, United Health and Aetna. Dr. Obasanjo stated that the first step in receiving accreditation is to improve community health and increase revenue. Vice-Chairman Baker stated that there is a community health assessment survey that is online and takes about 5 minute to complete. This survey will help with the accreditation process because it helps them determine what they need to do to improve the health of the community and offer services that are meeting the needs of the public.

**IX. Rezoning App. # 2015-01 by Dr. Basil W. Kong**

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to deny the Rezoning App. # 2015-01 by Dr. Basil W. Kong and Vice-Chairman Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Administrator’s Report**

County Administrator Zellner gave a report to the Board on the following matters.

- LMIG: RFP for the resurfacing of Yatesville Road.\ Pre Bid Meeting on April 22 with bids received by May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Public Works Building: Plumbing in place and the concrete slab poured. Delivery of the building moved from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup>
- Repairing and Replacing the nets and braces on the tennis courts at the Recreation Complex.
- Received plans for the box culvert headwall repair from GDOT for repair on Parker Branch Road and Grove Street.

## **XI. Public Comments**

Fern Gentes of 108 Cedar Ridge Road addressed the Board about the problems that she and her neighbors are having in regards to access to their property. Ms. Gentes thanked Commissioner Heiney for coming on Saturday evening to speak to the residents about the issue. Ms. Gentes stated that emergency personnel cannot get to them because of the creek. Ms. Gentes mentioned issues with unstable people in the area, barking dogs, and their overall safety.

Beverly Eskridge of 130 Holmes Street addressed the board about comments that she had read in the Barnesville Herald-Gazette regarding the feral cats. Ms. Eskridge was upset about the comments and asked that someone reply back to the person in defense of the feral cats. Ms. Eskridge stated that trapping, spay/neutering and releasing (TNR) works.

Joyce Farmer of 159 Yatesville Road addressed the board with her concerns about the feral cats being killed at Hardees. Ms. Farmer stated that those that think that trap, spay/neuter and release doesn't work is wrong and that it does work. Ms. Farmer stated that without cats we would be overrun with mice.

Danielle Lewis of 110 Cedar Ridge Road addressed the board with her concerns about the creek and said that she has to cross the creek to get to her property. Ms. Lewis stated that she has had lots of damage to her car over the years. Ms. Lewis stated that the emergency personnel cannot get to them and that no one can google their address. Ms. Lewis stated that they pay property tax and would like for someone in the county to come and help fix the creek crossing.

Wanda Brothers of 350 Redbud Drive addressed the board with her concerns about a cross traffic sign on Roberta Drive. Ms. Rose would like for the county to put up a sign that reads "cross traffic does not stop."

## **XII. Round Table**

Commissioner Heiney stated that he spent a few hours on Cedar Ridge Road on Saturday visiting with the neighbors but at the current time did not have the answer to their situation because the driveway to their property is private and not county

owned. The creek runs across the driveway. Commissioner Heiney stated that he sympathized with the owners and suggested that they form a home owners association.

Vice-Chairman Baker stated that this is the time of year when the weather changes and that speeders and litters are in full force. Vice-Chairman Baker said that we need to slow down and stop throwing out trash.

Commissioner Thrash announced that the opening day for the Recreation Department would be Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and requested that everyone come out in support of the children and the Recreation Department. Commissioner Thrash stated that Recreation Director Buddy Lanier is doing a great job with the department.

**XIII. Adjournment and Executive Session**

Commissioner Horton made a motion to adjourn the meeting to go into executive session at approximately 8:30 p.m. to discuss real estate and personnel. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The Board returned at 9:02 p.m. with no action taken. Vice-Chairman Baker made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Glass, Chairman

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Van Baker, Vice-Chairman

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Bennie Horton, Commissioner

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Robert Heiney, Commissioner

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Nancy M. Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carlette Davidson, County Clerk