

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes
March 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, County Administrator Robert Zellner, County Clerk Carlette Davidson and County Attorney Scott Mayfield. Absent for the meeting was Commissioner Nancy Thrash due to illness in her family.

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

The pledge of allegiance was said by everyone. Chairman Matthews gave the invocation.

III Radar List

The Board discussed the posting of speed limit signs on the county maintained roads. The list has to be approved and sent back to the department of transportation. The county is responsible for proper speed zone sign placement on non-state route roadways and the list has to correspond to the advisory speed warning signs before any tickets can be administered for speeding. Ord. No. 897-171, 9-2-97 lists all of the speed zones established in 1997 that should be reflected on the county roadways. Vice-Chairman Glass made a motion to adjust the radar list from the Georgia Department of Transportation to reflect the current ordinance. Commissioners Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Animal Shelter Report

Commissioner Baker reported on the Town Hall meeting which took place on March 10th, 2014. The Tall Hall meeting gave the citizens of Lamar County an opportunity to speak on the pros and cons of having an animal shelter. Commissioner Baker stated that the overall consensus of the crowd was in favor of the animal shelter. Representatives from Dolly Good Puppy, the Barnesville-Lamar County Humane Society and a veterinarian were in attendance. Commissioner Baker stated that it would take several more meetings before the Board could vote on the animal shelter project.

V. Minutes Approval

Vice-Chairman Glass made a motion to approve the February 18th, 2014 regular business minutes. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Proclamations

Commissioner Horton read a Proclamation recognizing and congratulating New Hope Missionary Baptist Church on its 143 year anniversary celebration. The Board acknowledged the church and its ministers for their spiritual service to the community and for serving God.

VII. Storm Damage Clean Up Bid

County Administrator Zellner stated that the bid for storm damage cleanup was advertised for two weeks in the Barnesville Herald Gazette. Only one bid was received and that the bid came from Southern Pride Tree Care owned by Ricci Lynn Jones. They offered their services for an hourly rate of \$175 per hour for the cleanup of the Lamar County Right of way. The equipment offered includes an ariel lift bucket truck, brush chipper, bob cat skid loader, Stihl chainsaws, experienced storm damaged tree crew, bucket man, grounds men, and a chipper operator. Vice-Chairman Glass made a motion to approve the bid from Southern Pride Tree Care. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. DFACS Fiscal Year 2014 Budget

The Board discussed the request from the Department of Family and Children Services expressing the desire to keep any unused funds left over from the 2014 fiscal year budgeted \$15,000.00 dollars. Commissioner Baker made a motion to deny the rollover request for carryover funds. Vice-Chairman Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Administrator's Report

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

1. McNeely Road Bridget Repair: Repairs were made on the bridge last week with a total cost for material of \$2,301.51 and a total of 160 man hours. The public works department was able to do this job in house saving the county at least \$100,000.00
2. Walters Road: Public Works replaced the 6' culvert at the creek with a new 40' along with 2.15' 40' cross drain pipes. The project was

completed and Administrator Zellner stated that he would have the total cost at the next Commissioners meeting. Administrator Zellner stated that they tried to dig up the rock at the beginning of the road so that they wouldn't have to put in a ditch but the rock was too big to break up with their equipment. The plan is to rent a backhoe with a jack hammer and see if they can break up the rock this way.

3. Administrator Zellner stated that he met with Chris Daniel and the Butts County Manager to discuss the Towaliga Circuit budget. The new public defender has increased his staff to 4 attorneys with an increase in their salaries. The public defender also wants to hire an additional attorney and administrative assistance for next year. The plan is to serve the public defender for the Juvenile Court at no extra cost and that would eliminate any other bills the county is receiving from the Juvenile Court. The county paid one attorney over \$40,000.00 last year. Mr. Daniel said that with the new law the District Attorney and Public Defender will have to pay an additional \$300,000.00 just for Juvenile Court.
4. Johnstonville Road: The warning speed sign on Johnstonville Road has been installed and data was collected from February 27th thru March 13th. The speed limit on Johnstonville Road is 45 mile per hour with the average speed showing 46 mile per hour. There were a total of 5,074 cars using Johnstonville Road going toward I-75. The busiest days were Mondays and Wednesdays. The data collected showed that 50 percent of the cars were speeding with the highest speed collected showing 57 miles per hour.

X. Public Comments

Beverly Eskridge of 138 Holmes Street Barnesville, Georgia addressed the board stating that they had adopted out two of the puppies but that the puppies had been returned. Ms. Eskridge also stated that Ms. Fern Gentis had brought Kirby for everyone to see after the meeting.

Joyce Farmer of 159 Yatesville Road Barnesville, Georgia addressed the board stated that the 2 boy puppies that had been adopted were returned because the couple who had adopted them said that they had snapped at their nephew and others in the household. Mrs. Farmer stated that she doesn't like to let people with children adopt dogs and that she did not realize that the puppies were going to be around children. Mrs. Farmer will continue to look for a home for the two puppies. Mrs. Farmer reminded everyone about taking dogs and cats to Fort Valley to be spayed and neutered. Prices range from \$45.00 to \$85.00 depending on the type of animal and the weight of the animal.

Preston Thompson of Hwy 36 East, Milner, Georgia asked the board to consider the consequences when changing the speed limits in the county. He stated that sometimes when you a lower the speed in once place on a road the law will find a good spot on the road to setup a speed trap. He went on to say that some roads are

impossible to do the speed limit due to the pot holes or other conditions of the roadway. Mr. Thompson apologized for getting emotional about animals at the Town Hall Meeting on the animal shelter. Mr. Thompson also thanked the public works department for clearing the trees during the ice storm.

XI. Round Table

Commissioner Horton thanked the citizens for their support.

XII. Adjournment

Commissioner Horton 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