

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes
May 20th, 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. Mr. Johnny Poore gave the invocation.

III. Reconvene Regular Business Meeting

Chairman Matthews reconvened the regular business meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m.

IV. Agenda Amendment

Chairman Matthews called for an amendment to the agenda with the addition of Solid Waste report from Johnny Poore, Cottage Road closing and the re-zoning application 2014-01 (by Joel Glen Brown). Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions and Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

V. Proclamation

Vice-Chairman Glass congratulated the Lamar County Trojans Track Team for winning the Class AA state championship. Vice-Chairman Glass also congratulated the Lady Trojans for being the region champions in the Elite 8 round of the soccer playoffs. Vice-Chairman Glass presented the Track Team a proclamation acknowledging the outstanding season of the teams.

VI. Purchase of E911 Equipment (Sheriff White)

Sheriff Brad White presented three bids to the Board of Commissioners for a voice over IP system to be used by the E911 dispatch. The bids submitted were Radio One, Transcomm and Macon Communications, a Motorola provider. Radio One's total system cost was \$30,794.00 with additional charges to be billed after a period of 6 months. Macon Communications total system cost was

\$31,794.00 including labor charges. Transcomm did not total their items but the individualized items were substantially higher. Macon Sheriff White stated that Macon Communications had done work for the Sheriff's Department in the past and that the service had been a success. Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve Macon Communications for the voice over IP system. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Minutes Approval

Vice-Chairman Glass made a motion to approve the April 15, 2014 regular business meeting minutes and the April 30, 2014 workshop meeting minutes. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Deborah Marshall-Woodland Circle

Deborah Marshall of Woodland Circle spoke to the County Clerk and Ms. Marshall stated that she would not be attending the meeting.

IX. Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget

County Administrator Zellner presented the Towaliga Judicial Circuit fiscal year budget which runs from July 2014 to June 2015. The total requested budget is \$476,572.00 dollars. The Board discussed the public defenders portion of the budget. Commissioner Thrash stated that since we already have a contract with the public defender she did not want the tax payers paying for additional lawyers. An additional \$14,400.00 was budgeted for the attorney for indigent parents in dependency cases. The Board continued discussion on approving the Towaliga Judicial Circuit budget. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the budget request from the Towaliga Judicial Circuit for Lamar County minus the additional \$14,400.00 that was budgeted for the attorney for indigent parents in dependency cases. The breakdown is attached to the minutes. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Contract Award (Crawford Road Resurfacing)

County Administrator Zellner presented three bids for the resurfacing of Crawford Road. The bids were advertised in the Barnesville Herald Gazette on April 8th and April 15th, 2014. The top three bids were GA Asphalt with a bid of \$460,904.47, C.W. Matthews with a bid of \$443,819.00, and Blount Construction with a bid of \$539,298.05. The proposed bid is for the leveling and resurfacing of 3.8 miles of Crawford Road. The Board discussed the resurfacing project and the means of funding the project. The revenues that support this project are \$287,003.94 from GDOT for the 2014 LMIG Disbursement along with \$156,815.17 coming out of the SPLOST fund account. Commissioner Glass pointed out that if they spend this much money on this one project it will take away from the funds we have to complete other resurfacing projects in the county. The Board decided to

approve the project based on the proposed specs and award the bid to the lowest bidder, C.W. Matthews for a price of \$443,819.11. Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the bid and Vice-Chairman Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Widening of 36 Hwy

The Board discussed the aspects and the effect of widening Hwy 36. Vice-Chairman Glass stated that it is at least 15 to 20 years down the road before any action will be taken regarding the widening of Hwy 36. There was discussion about sending a Resolution or Proclamation to the Georgia Department of Transportation referencing the widening of Hwy 36. Building and Zoning Administrator Dan Gunter stated that a long range planning survey had been done on the widening of Hwy 36 and that the responses showed favored improvement for easier access to I-75. Originally there were plans to four-lane Highway 36 through Lamar County from I-75 to Thomaston. Vice-Chairman Glass said that the plans changed with the economic crash of 2009. Representatives of Lamar, Barnesville, Milner and the Industrial Authority met in April to discuss the change in plans to four-lane Highway 36. Commissioner Horton stated that he would be in favor of passing lanes on Highway 36. Vice-Chairman Glass stated that the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is doing a regional study on the region because there are plans to widen the harbor in Savannah meaning more truck traffic on Hwy 36. Commissioner Thrash stated that she was not prepared to vote for a resolution and wanted to hear what her constituents have to say in this matter. Commissioner Baker stated that the GDOT wouldn't do anything until they have the funding and until they are ready to do something. Commissioner Thrash alleged the resolution would give the GDOT carte blanche to do anything that they want to do. Vice-Chairman Glass responded that the proposed resolution would ask the GDOT to raise the priority of 4 laning the hwy. Chairman Matthews stated that a town hall meeting should be scheduled to hear the citizen's comments on the matter and to define the improvements. No action was taken.

XII. Cottage Road Closing

After hearing from members of the public, and after a discussion was held by the Board of Commissioners, a motion was made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Thrash and it was unanimously voted that Cottage Road be abandoned.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 32-7-2(b)(1), a plat or sketch identifying the portion of Cottage Road being abandoned is attached hereto to these minutes as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein, said portion being identified in red.

XIII. Re-Zoning Application 2014-01 (by Joel Glen Brown to rezone approximately 2.0 acres from A-R (Agricultural-Residential to M1 (Manufacturing-Light))

After hearing from members of the public, and after a discussion was held by the Board of Commissioners, a motion was made by Commissioner Horton and seconded by Commissioner Thrash to approve the re-zoning application 2014-01 by Joel Glenn Brown to rezone approximately 2.0 acres from A-R (Agricultural-Residential to M1 (Manufacturing-Light)).

IV. Cedar Grove Waste to Energy Project –Johnny Poore

Mr. Johnny Poore, Executive Director of the Lamar County Regional Solid Waste Authority gave an update on the Waste to Fuels Project. The Board approved support of a 44 million dollar bond subject to third party review. However, Mr. Poore reported that the Solid Waste Board had decided to complete the project in phases. The first phase would cost \$27 million dollars and Phase II would cost the remaining \$17 million dollars. Mr. Poore reported that they have continued to test the technology and it has been successful. They interviewed four firms and they selected three actual firms. They selected SCS Engineers out of Long Beach California. They are a national company and one of most highly recommended companies with 63 offices nationwide. They contracted them the first of January and SCS has commissioned their team and they have made one site visit to look at the technology inside and out. They have sent their interim report and they have found no flaws or faults. SCS will come back for another look into the equipment once it cools down. Southern Rivers performed an Energy Audit and audited the pyrolysis system at temperature while operating. The audit showed that it consumed 80 kilowatts in an hour. Mr. Poore said that it would cost more to shred the material than it would be to run through the pyrolysis system. If they make their own power it will cost about \$4.00 an hour to run the pyrolysis. It oscillates on and off just as an HVAC does. Commissioner Baker wanted to know about the ovens and Mr. Poore stated that they downsized from 8 to 4 ovens that are capable of processing about 200 tons of waste per day. Mr. Poore stated that the bottom line had not changed but that site work, road work, utilities, and paving of parking lots will still have to be completed. Mr. Poore stated that they met with four companies that want to purchase their gas products. Mr. Poore stated that they also met with some representatives from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) and they had heard about the pyrolysis project from someone within the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Mr. Poore presented the pyrolysis project presentation to them and explained about the bond issue for the project. Mr. Poore stated that GEFA offered financing options to them and they requested that Mr. Poore to submit an application. After reviewing the application, the Solid Waste Authority was approved for a 27.5 million dollar loan at a 3.31 percent interest rate for 30 years rather than a 3.5 to 4 percent interest rate with the bond issue. Mr. Poore stated that this doesn't mean they have started the project because they still have contracts to review including third party engineering and third party financial reviews. Mr. Poore stated that the State

underwriters have approved the project and they believe in the project. At this point the pyrolysis project is another step closer. Mr. Poore stated that he will meet with the EPD tomorrow to review their plans and hand-deliver the application. Mr. Poore stated that he never dreamed he would have funding before everything else for the project was lined up. Chairman Matthews stated that this speaks to years of hard work.

V. Animal Control Shelter Update

Fred Morris stated that the committee had visited Meriwether and Upson County looking at their animal shelter facilities. They have found out that there are lots of things involving an animal shelter that they need to explore further. These things include the availability of dog food and the facilities that they use to dispose of their animals. Mr. Morris stated that they are in the process stage and that they have done everything that they could think of to do up to this point. Mr. Morris stated that they need to visit some more places to get further ideas. The committee had plans drawn up by Mr. Todd Albritton, an architect in Thomaston, Georgia.

Commissioner Baker stated that as a committee of two, himself and Commissioner Thrash, the initial charge was to look into the study of whether or not Lamar County needed an animal shelter. Commissioner Baker stated that they had spent a lot of time on this and the recommendation from the animal shelter committee is that they do feel like they need a county facility. At this point, the committee would like, with the Boards permission, to continue to look at how the county would fund the shelter and the location of the shelter. Commissioner Baker stated they are not putting the shelter to a vote but responding to moving forward with the initial project.

VI. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Zellner gave a report to the Commissioners including the following items.

1. Resurfacing of 1.273 miles of roads.
2. Replacement of a 6' culvert and cross drain pipes.
3. Towaligia Circuit Budget meeting discussion
4. Johnstonville Road speed limit data update reporting 5,074 cars with an average speed of 46 MPH reported.
5. Paving of Bottoms Road.
6. Ruffner Road Bridge repair.

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VIII. Round Table

Commissioner Glass stated that the Rotary Club of Barnesville has planned a special tribute to recognize the Korean War Veterans on May 31, 2014 at the Lamar County Fine Arts Center at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Thrash thanked Johnny and Beverly Poore and stated that she was proud of their accomplishments. Everyone applauded.

IV. Adjournment

Commissioner Horton made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at approximately 8:45 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