

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Workshop
September 7th, 2011
10:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Matthews called the meeting to order at approximately 10:06 a.m. Present for the meeting were Chairman Matthews, Vice-Chairman Hearn, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Glass, Commissioner Thrash, Officer Manager Davidson and CPA Cheryl Idol.

II. Discussion

a. BUDGET ACTUALS

Chairman Matthews and the Commissioners discussed the actual fire and ambulance collections, the proposed reduction to the 2011 budget and the fact that they have not voted at this time to amend the 2011 budget. Commissioner Glass brought up that the 2011 Local Option Sales Taxes (LOST) was lower compared to the 2010 LOST budget in July. He also wanted to know why the Drug Court and Towaligia Expenses were higher than the 2010 budget. Commissioner Glass and Thrash volunteered to meet with Will Simmons to discuss the increase in the invoices. Commissioner Thrash questioned the Summer Food Grant and the 107 percent to actual budget. It was determined that all of the figures were based on two thirds of the year.

b. BLIGHTED PROPERTY

Dan Gunter presented information to the Chairman and the Commissioners regarding the ordinance for Blighted Property. He presented the definition of Blighted Property according to 2010 Georgia Code Title 22 –Eminent Domain Chapter 1-General Provisions O.C.G.A 22 1-1 (2010). Blighted means any urbanized or developed property which presents two or more of the following conditions:

- 1) Uninhabitable, unsafe or abandoned structures:
- 2) Inadequate provisions for ventilation, light, air or sanitation
- 3) An imminent harm or life or other property caused by natural or unnatural catastrophe disasters.
- 4) See attached 2010 Georgia Code for further conditions.

Building and Zoning Director Dan Gunter presented the Commissioners with the Griffin Ordinance and sited other r agencies within the State. Currently there are approximately 16 properties that are considered to be blighted including homes that have burned but have not been torn down. The Commissioners discussed applying a possible seven to

15 millage rated being applied to the Blighted Property that is not cleaned up. The further discussed getting the Tax Commissioner on board with the calculation of charges and the fair applications to the law. The Commissioners requested that Building and Zoning Director Gunter write the Blighted Property Ordinance that would apply to Lamar County. Gunter also stated that after many phone calls from his department that there are currently no Business Licenses for Lamar County that have not been renewed.

c. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Sergeant Ross with the Georgia State Defense Force addressed the Commissioners with a need for a facility. He stated they are under the director of Colonel Worthington and currently there are 75 fulltime volunteers in the 5th Brigade that could enhance Lamar County by providing training to the volunteer fire fighters, the CERT Team and bringing the EMA Team to a higher level of qualifications. He also stated that if we could find a facility for them within the Lamar County area this would enhance the ability to provide extra response to emergencies during local festivals such as Buggy Days. Sergeant Ross stated that in order for them to be stationed here they would need a secure location and fencing for their trucks, trailer, Humvees and computers which contain GBI and homeland security data. Sergeant Ross stated that have been looking at the Early Release Building or Vacant Fire Stations as a proposed location for their defense team. Chairman Matthews stated that Fire Stations may not be secure enough and that the Early Release Center would be a better option but it doesn't belong to the County but to the State. Commissioner Thrash went on record as stating that she 100% percent supports this proposal. Chairman Matthews and Vice-Chairman Hearn agreed to pursue this request and contact the City of Barnesville and the Sheriff's Department.

d. ROUND TABLE

There were no comments from the Chairman or the Commissioners during the Round Table discussion.

e. EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS

Insurance Broker Wendell Strickland presented the Commissioners with proposals from Blue Cross Blue Shield and United Health Care. His focus was on providing insurance savings in which the employees would have to participate in a wellness type program. Local Broker Al Adamson with Main Street Advisors presented proposals from United Health Care and Blue Cross Blue Shield. His main focus was on United Health Care presenting the Chairman and the Commissioners with several plans that would potentially save the County roughly \$13,000 dollars. The employees would have a choice in regards to two plans, a Base Plan and Buy up Plan. The last presentation was heard by longtime Insurance Broker Mike Pearson proposing no change for the 2012 year with the current Aetna policy but a probable 16% increase for the next year along with other quotes from Blue Cross Blue Shield and United Health Care. Each representative provided

documentation for review (available upon request) which the Commissioners agreed to review and meet back on September 9th for further discussion.

III Adjournment

Commissioner Glass made a motion to adjourn the workshop at 3:20 p.m. and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jay Matthews, Chairman

Jimmy Hearn, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Member

Charles Glass, Member

Nancy M. Thrash-Member

Attest:

Carlette Davidson, County Clerk