

Lamar County Commissioners Special Called Meeting
January 29th, 2014
9:00 a.m.

The Lamar County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting on Thursday, January 29th at 9:00 a.m. Present for the meeting were Chairman Charles Glass, Vice-Chairman Van Baker, Commissioner Bennie Horton, Commissioner Robert Heiney, Commissioner Nancy Thrash, County Administrator Robert Zellner, County Clerk Carlette Davidson and Attorney Scott Mayfield.

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

Public Works Building Replacement

The Chairman and the Commissioners discussed the Public Works contract with Goodman Construction. According to Attorney Mayfield, any bid over \$100,000.00 would have to have a bid bond. The winner of the bid, Goodman Construction, for the Public Works facility did meet the local bid requirements because the proposal did not request a bid bond. However, the state code requires a bid bond. Goodman Construction had not obtained a bid bond nor had the company qualified with the Immigration Compliance program (E-Verify) or registered with the Federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program. Attorney Mayfield stated that if the board decided to stand by their bid process they would need to award the bid to the lowest bidder that meets the requirements and criteria established by the state code. Goodman Construction was not the lowest bidder. The Board discussed the pros and cons of awarding the public works construction bid to the lowest bidder. Attorney Mayfield stated that they had three choices. The board could re-bid, stay with the current bid process and award the bid to the lowest bidder or build the public works facility in-house, subcontracting work that is under \$100,000.00. The board decided to reject the bid based on the Attorney's recommendation that the bid process was flawed. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to revoke the bid based on the Attorney's recommendation and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The board decided that it would cost less to build the Public Works facility in house using Wimpy Vaughan as the construction supervisor. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to allow the county to build the Public Works facility and Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Attorney Mayfield advised the board to send a letter to all bidders explaining the decision.

Planning and Maintenance for County Roads

The Board reviewed the roads in their respective districts and talked about the roads that are in need of paving and resurfacing. Public Works Director James Rigdon stated that an inch and a half of black asphalt cost \$19,626,894.06 to do every road in the county. Mr. Rigdon presented the board with a list of roads so that they could determine what roads need to be paved or resurfaced. Mr. Rigdon showed the board what each road in the county would cost based on the

type of treatment each road would need. The list included paving of dirt roads, Graded Aggregate Base (GAB) on dirt roads, surface treatment on dirt roads, and Repavement cost for paved roads. Administrator Zellner stated that the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) money received from the State for 2014 was used to pave Crawford Road and that the 2015 LMIG money is slated to be used for Yatesville Road. Mr. Rigdon stated that currently the county is able to pave approximately 3 miles of road each year.

Commissioner Thrash told the board that a new transportation funding bill was scheduled to be dropped into the hopper by the end of the week. Commissioner Thrash read the bill to the board stating that about half of the money it intends to raise would come from a new 6-cents-per-gallon local excise tax on gasoline, subject to public votes in cities and counties. The tax would replace the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) once those taxes expire. The bill calls for replacing the various components that make up the state gasoline tax with a straight excise tax of 29.2 cents per gallon, a figure based on the average in combined state and local sales and excise taxes Georgians have been paying at the pump during the last four years. Commissioner Thrash stated that another area of concern is how the legislative budget writers would replace the \$175 million a year the state's general fund currently receives from the fourth penny of the state sales tax on gasoline for such purposes as education and public safety. That fourth penny, along with the rest of the sales tax, would be replaced by the proposed excise tax. The LOST, SPLOST and ESPLOST collected on the sale of motor fuel will terminate once the current tax expires. Commissioner Thrash stated that this will be an increase in revenue for the transportation department but a decrease in revenue to local government. The Board discussed the short term issues with this type of tax. Commissioner Thrash stated that when you need more money you will have to collect a 3 cent per gallon excise tax from the citizens with a possible increase to 6 cents per gallon if approved in a local referendum. The bill states that the local motor fuel excise tax revenue must be dedicated to transportation purposes. Motor fuel is exempt from state sales tax and the state excise tax on motor fuel is increased from 7.5 cents per gallon to 29.2 cents per gallon. The increased state revenue on motor fuel will increase the amount of LMIG Funds available to local governments. Commissioner Thrash agreed to find out more information on the transportation bill and stated that she would speak for the Commissioners in regards to their stand on the transportation bill. The board decided that once the bill drops into the hopper that she would let the legislatures know that the Commissioners don't want SPLOST taken away but they are in favor of (LMIG) money being increased.

Mr. Rigdon led a discussion about bridges in the county and the fact that if the department of transportation determines a bridge is unsafe then they will close the bridge until the county repairs it. The board talked about the infrastructure of bridges and determined that age is a contributing element for bridges needing to be repaired.

Chairman Glass requested that each district turn in a priority list of their top 5 Roads in need of paving and resurfacing within the next two weeks. Chairman Glass requested that they turn in the list to Administrator Zellner so that he and Mr. Rigdon can determine the top 3 roads that will need to be repaired over the next two years.

Round Table

There were no comments from Commissioner Horton and Commissioner Heiney.

Commissioner Baker gave an update on the Lamar County Animal Shelter. Commissioner Baker stated that they have collected \$2150.00 in donations in the first month. The committee has given tasks to people in regards to finding funds. Chairman Glass stated that the Lamar County Animal Shelters information, in regards to donations, had been placed on the Lamar County website. Commissioner Thrash suggested that they go outside of Lamar County for donations.

Administrator Zellner stated that they are in the process of laying down new carpet in the Grand Jury room and that the new IT director will begin work on Friday.

Commissioner Thrash gave an update on the drug court stating that the Accountability Court didn't get the grant that they had planned to use for expansion. Commissioner Thrash also stated that Larry Waller is still out with medical issues and that Patricia Gavel had been appointed to serve as interim manager.

Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Special Called Meeting and Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jay Matthews, Chairman

Bennie Horton, Vice-Chairman

Charles Glass, Commissioner

Van Baker, Commissioner

Nancy M. Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk