

Lamar County Commissioners Meeting
July 13, 2010
7:00 P.M.

The Lamar County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Lamar, State of Georgia, held a Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Chairman Jay Matthews, Voce-Chairman Bennie Horton, Commissioner George R. Brown, Commissioner Jimmy Hearn, and Commissioner Nancy M. Thrash. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Matthews.

The pledge of allegiance was said by everyone.

The invocation was said by Rev. Mic Savage of the First Assembly of God Church.

The agenda was amended to add Ordinance Number 2010-11 Purchasing Policy amendments, Ordinance Number 2010-12 Travel Policy amendments, Ordinance Number 2010-13 Administration amendments, the M.O.U. Dental Clinic with a motion by Commissioner George R. Brown. Commissioner Jimmy Hearn seconded the motion. Commissioner Nancy M. Thrash made a motion to amend the agenda to add the process to follow when consulting with the county attorney for legal opinions and engagements. Commissioner Bennie Horton seconded the motion. Commissioner George R. Brown made a motion to approve the agenda with all of the added amendments. Commissioner Bennie Horton seconded the motion. The motions passed by a unanimous decision.

Tax Commissioner Andrea Anthony presented the amount of charge on and charge offs totals through the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. There are many reasons for these error/releases and they are wrong value, incorrect homesteads, years support, bankruptcy, double charge out of business, moved, wrong owner, deceased, record cleanups, uncollectible and cannot locate property owner. The total for the charge off is \$244,598.96 and the amount of the charge on is \$45,959.84 giving a difference in the amount of \$198,639.12. Commissioner Jimmy Hearn made a motion to accept the amount of charge on and charge off difference. Commissioner Bennie Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous decision.

Commissioner George R Brown read Resolution Number 2010-08 for the Lamar County Regional Solid Waste Authority to amend their agreement with the County for their employees insurance and other benefits that are the same as the County employees. Commissioner George R. Brown made a motion to accept Resolution 2010-08. Commissioner Jimmy Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous decision Resolution 2010-09 for the Lamar County Regional Water Authority's agreement which states the same thing for their employees to be entitled to the insurance and benefits with the county was read by Office Manager Gretchen Ellerby. Commissioner George R. Brown made a motion to approve this resolution. Commissioner Jimmy Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous decision.

Chairman Jay Matthews read the amount of Budget cuts that they were decided upon in the budget workshop meetings totaling \$ 523,416.00. He stated that these are the first of many more cuts to come. Commissioner George R. Brown made a motion to accept these cuts. Commissioner Bennie Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous decision.

Commissioner George R Brown made a motion to accept the appointment of Robbie Tenney to Butts, Henry, Lamar, and Spalding Joint Development Authority. Commissioner Nancy M. Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous decision.

Chairman Jay Matthews began discussing the legal engagements for calling on the county attorney. He read what was stated in the code book which says that legal opinions are to go through the Board of Commissioners or a member thereof, by request made at a meeting of the board of commissioners; by any county officer or employee, by filing a written request with the county administrator. The administrator shall forward the written request to the county attorney. Chairman Matthews stated that they should talk first then consult the attorney so that they will all be on the same page. There was a lot of detailed discussion on this topic. Commissioner Nancy M. Thrash suggested that they go through the Code Book to spell out the legal information for clarity purposes. It was suggested by the Chairman to think about this and bring it back to the next meeting on the legal engagements.

A motion was made for the first reading of Ordinance Number 2010-11 to change the Purchasing Policy amount from \$15,000.00 to \$7,500.00 was

made by Commissioner George R. Brown. Commissioner Brown stated that they want to open up the sealed bids and get the lowest price to save the county money. Commissioner Jimmy Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous decision.

Commissioner George R. Brown read and made a motion for the first reading of Ordinance 2010-12 amending the Travel Policy for meals and one day travel trips to be reimbursed for lunch in the amount of \$20.00 if an employee leaves before 7:00 a.m. for training. Also, changed in this ordinance is the amount of \$40.00 can be spent for meals in one day instead of being broken down by breakfast \$8.00, lunch \$12.00 and dinner \$20.00. Commissioner Bennie Horton seconded. Chairman Matthews wanted the minutes to reflect that he is opposed to this change. The motion passed by a unanimous decision.

Commissioner George R. Brown read and made the motion to amend Ordinance number 2010-13 for the Personnel Policy and procedure to strip the county administrator of his hiring and firing authority. Commissioner Jimmy Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed three commissioners were in favor with the Chairman and Commissioner Nancy M. Thrash opposed. The motion passed for the first reading. The discussion climaxed to include that all of the commissioners have not been informed about what is going on in the county. They agreed to say that they have received several phone calls about personnel and purchases after it has happened and they want to be informed before it happens. It was stated that the commissioner want to have weekly meetings to be informed about what is going on in the commissioners' office. The commissioners agreed to meet on July 27, 2010 to discuss the millage rate and further cuts to the budget.

Ms. Beverly Eskridge of 130 Holmes Street commented that she will not discuss Majesty the cat any more. She informed everyone that there is a feral colony on Cannafax Road. Spay and neuter day is on Thursday, July 15, 2010. There being no further business to discuss Commissioner George R. Brown made a motion for the meeting to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JAY MATTHEWS, CHAIRMAN

BENNIE HORTON, VICE-CHAIRMAN

GEORGE R. BROWN, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JIMMY HEARN, MEMBER

WAYNE PATTERSON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

NANCY M. THRASH, MEMBER