

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MINUTES

March 16th, 2017

1:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. on March 16th, 2017. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Thrash, and County Clerk Davidson. Absent for the meeting was Commissioner Heiney and County Administrator Robert Zellner.

Public Hearing Discussion- Rezoning App. # 2017-01 by Village Developers LLC

Building and Zoning Director Dan Gunter presented to the board a map of parcels located off of Cannafax Road in the previously approved Needleleaf subdivision. Mr. Gunter explained that the purpose of the rezoning was to go from A-R (Agricultural-Residential) to R-3 (Single-Family Residential). The property is located at Needleleaf Drive off of Cannafax Road, in Land Lot 12, 21, 22 of the Land District, as shown on Tax Map 037 Parcel 071; and recorded in Plat Book 15, page369-370, and in Deed Book 481, Page 225.

Agenda Discussion

- 1) Reviewed two sets of minutes.
 - i. Workshop Meeting-February 16th , 2017
 - ii. Regular Business Meeting-February 21st, 2017
- 2) Reviewed and revised a Proclamation for the Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- 3) Reviewed two proposals for the purchase of a dump truck. One from MHC Kenworth for \$132,998.75 with a payment of \$2,430.57 and a rate of 3.686 percent and the other from Daimler Truck Financial for \$132,633.00 with a payment of \$2,445.63 and a rate of 4.05 percent. The board requested that BB&T be contacted for an additional quote with a lower interest rate.

Round Table Discussion

- 1) Chairman Glass reported that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is worth \$750,000.00 and it will cost a little over 1 million dollars to build the new Health Department. Chairman Glass stated that after the in kind funds from the City of Barnesville and the Town of Aldora are received (this includes electrical, water, sewer permits, etc.) there will be \$200,000.00 left to pay. The Georgia Department of Public Health (District has agreed to fund \$35,000.00 which leaves \$152,000.00 for Lamar County to absorb over a two year period. Chairman Glass said that the Community Foundation Grant for\$25,000.00, which the Lamar County Health Department applied for, was not received. The board discussed other means of funding including donations from other counties and other hospitals in the area. Commissioner Traylor stated that WellStar Health System may be willing to contribute in an effort to keep down re-admittance to the emergency room.

- 2) Chairman Glass stated that the Health Insurance report from Shaw Hankins shows that the county spent more than was paid in premiums. Chairman Glass reported that 163 people had early voted for the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) election and that there were 190 absentee ballots sent out. Chairman Glass reported that SPLOST flyers had been passed out in an effort to educate people about what the revenue from the SPLOST funds will allow county and cities to do.
- 3) Chairman Glass reported that he is working to setup a meeting with the Georgia Department of Transportation regarding Industrial Drive. Chairman Glass stated that there has been an increase in traffic due to company expansions in the Industrial Park.
- 4) Commissioner Thrash gave a Legislative Report to the board.
 - a) Reported that Senate Bill 222 creates the Local Government E911 Authority which will bring a substantial increase of revenues to the counties. Commissioner Thrash said that 200 million dollars in pre-paid phone fees are currently not being collected. This bill will also address issues with the E-911 calls centers and the inadequacy of addresses.
 - b) Reported that House Bill 146, the Firefighters Supplemental Cancer Insurance, passed the Senate and the House which requires supplemental cancer insurance coverage for all firefighters, including volunteers. There is no measurement tool for the types of cancer a firefighter can claim. Commissioner Thrash said that a firefighter could receive a \$25,000.00 lump sum benefit along with a monthly benefit which could be 60 percent of their current salary. Commissioner Thrash also reported that if a firefighter quits, there is a limited time before they can come back to the county as a firefighter.
 - c) Reported that Senate Bill 2 passed and mandates that cities and counties which either charge any regulatory fees (license or permit fees), or have any regulatory requirements, must establish a schedule for those fees and requirements. Counties are penalized 10 percent if they do not meet the deadline for acting on the application.
 - d) Reported that House Bill 181 provides a mechanism by which the governing authority of a county or municipality can access sales and use tax information from the Department of Revenue (DOR). Present law prohibits DOR from disclosing tax information even to other governments.
 - e) Reported that House bill 340 makes substantial changes to the calculation and distribution of the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) on motor vehicles. The buy now pay later dealers will have to pay the same TAVT. Chairman Glass explained that for the first four years the county and the schools received funds based upon the 2012 tax year ad valorem collections minus the amount of ad valorem tax collected in the current month. The true-up formula allowed for the remaining amount to be split between the state and local governments. Following the phase in period, all vehicle ad valorem taxes and TAVT proceeds are split 30 percent to the State and 70 percent to local government. During the phase in period, the distribution of local TAVT proceeds among counties, schools, and cities remains the same as at present. Chairman Glass noted that the split over the next three years will be as follows:
2018 80/20
2019 60/40
2020 50/50
 - f) Commissioner Thrash reported that at the recent National Association of Counties (NACO) conference there was much discussion regarding mental health expenses

within the jails and prisons. Approximately 70 billion dollars a year are being spent on mental health issues.

- g) Commissioner Thrash reported that ACCG is working on a bill that would address the Internet Sales Tax. Approximately 26 billion dollars is being spent over the internet and counties are missing out on over 220 million dollars of revenues. Currently Amazon is collecting the sales tax and distributing the tax to the State. All of the money goes straight to the State's General Fund.
- h) Commissioner Traylor praised the deputy with the Sheriff's Office for spotting a trespasser on his property and for noticing a fire that was burning on his property. The person was fishing and had setup a small campfire. Deputy Henson who was in the area noticed the trespasser and also saw smoke on his property. The Fire Department was dispatched and was able to use a back pack blower to contain the fire around the exterior area of the property, which was about a 60 x 70 ft. area. Commissioner Traylor praised the Fire Department for this type of procedure which saved his property.
- i) Vice-Chairman Horton announced that Lanier Boatwright with McIntosh Trail is retiring.

Vice Chairman Horton made a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting at 2:45 p.m. and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Bennie Horton, Vice-Chairman

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk