

Lamar County Commissioners Special Called Meeting
January 31st, 2017
10:00 A.M.

The Lamar County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting on Wednesday, January 31st, 2017. Present for the meeting were Chairman Charles Glass, Vice-Chairman Bennie Horton, Commissioner Ryran Traylor, Commissioner Nancy Thrash, County Clerk Carlette Davidson, and County Administrator Robert Zellner. Absent for the meeting was Commissioner Heiney.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Glass called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

II. Executive Session

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to go into executive session at approximately 10:01 a.m. to discuss the Lamar County Fire Chief Position. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The Board came out of executive session at approximately 10:15 a.m. and reconvened the Special Called Meeting.

III. Fire Chief Approval

Chairman Glass stated that three candidates were selected and published for the Lamar County Fire Chief. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Douglas Matthews as the permanent Fire Chief. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Chairman Glass submitted a Press Release that is attached to the minutes.

IV. Purchase Equipment -Motor Grader

County Administrator presented four options to the board regarding financing a Motor Grader for the Public Works Department. The cost of the Motor Grader is \$ 217,736.00. The finance options are as follows:

Company	Interest Rate	Month	Payment	Buyout
Yancey	3.20	72	\$ 2046.55	\$148,765.00
Yancey	3.20	72	\$ 1992.77	\$135,176.00
Yancey	3.20	60	\$ 3981.00	
BB&T	2.47	72	\$ 3249.00	

The board discussed the various payment options and the cost of repairs and equipment. The warranty for the motor grader includes everything but Tires and Blades.

County Administrator explained to the board that along with the financing for the Motor Grader he would like to include financing for a Senior Center vehicle. He stated that this is the vehicle that is used for the Meals on Wheels program and that the Ford Focus that they were driving can no longer be driven. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that it needs a new transmission and it would cost more for the transmission to be fixed than the car is actually worth. Public Works Director agreed to delay the purchase of Dump Truck and Motor Grader so that the county could use the funds for the Meals on Wheels vehicle. County Administrator Zellner stated that he had looked at a new van from Alan Vigil for a cost of around \$22,000.00. County Administrator Zellner stated that he would like to blend the two purchases under one lease because otherwise, the money for the Senior Center vehicle will have to come from another source. Currently, the employee from the Senior Center is driving the Constable's car assigned to the Magistrate Court. Commissioner Thrash asked if there was another department in the county that has a vehicle available and County Administrator Zellner stated that all of the vehicles have high mileage and are in need of repair. A replacement car might be worse. The board compared the numbers and continued discussion on the pros and cons of all the financial options given. County Clerk Davidson shared with the Board that Southern Rivers has an "Operation Round up Grant" that can be used to purchase a Meals on Wheels vehicle if awarded. Applications for the grant must be received by February 22nd, 2017. The maximum amount of the grant is \$10,000, 00. County Administrator Zellner stated that if they go with the 60 month lease they could turn the equipment back in and start a new lease. Commissioner Traylor pointed out that if they went with the 72 month lease for a rate of 2.47 percent then at the end of the 72 months they could set aside \$30,000.00 after five years. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to table the purchase of the Senior Center Vehicle and purchase the Motor Grader using the Finance Option from BB&T for a term of 72 months and a rate of 2.47 percent. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:10 a.m. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Press Release
January 31st, 2017

Subject: New County Fire Chief

It is with great pleasure that we announce Douglas Matthews as the new Lamar County Fire Chief. Douglas has been serving as interim Fire Chief so the new title is effective immediately.

Several very well qualified individuals applied for the position. We were surprised by the amount of interest and impressed with the quality of the applicants. All had relevant experience and it was a very difficult decision to select just one person.

Chief Matthews is a native of Lamar County and lives here with his wife and two children. He served and trained under Chief Steve Andrews for over ten years and took over as interim Chief upon his passing. Chief Matthews has shown that he can manage the people and operations of the Fire Department, improve the training and equipment of the fire fighters, create plans for certification/accreditation as well as emergency plans of all types, and manage the day-to-day operations and the emergency incidents as they arise.

The Fire Chief is a critical position for our community. The primary responsibility is helping ensure the safety of our community and our citizens. He also manages the people and equipment of the Fire Department and works on planning for disasters, accidents, hazardous material incidents, and mass casualty situations. The Fire Chief leads the department not only fighting fires but also in rescue operations, assisting emergency medical services, and often serving as on-scene commander during emergencies. The Fire Chief must ensure the fire fighters are well trained and equipped so that the responses are timely, efficient, and effective. He ensures the fire fighters and the department maintain certification and appropriate levels of accreditation. His primary responsibility is always saving lives but preparation is vital to being able to make the save in emergency situations.

We look forward to the future with Chief Matthews as our Fire Chief. We anticipate a very smooth transition but ask the citizens to bear with us if there are any transition issues. We assure you that Chief Matthews, the Commissioners, and the fire fighters are all working together to best serve the public. We thank Chief Matthews and the fire fighters for their dedication and commitment to our safety. We hope you will join us by saying thanks whenever you see any of them in the community.