

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Budget Workshop Minutes

June 13th, 2017

9:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Traylor, and Commissioner Thrash. County Administrator Zellner, County Clerk Davidson. Commissioner Heiney and County Attorney Mayfield were absent for the meeting.

The board discussed the following issues prior to beginning the budget workshop with various Department Heads and Constitutional Officers.

Chairman Glass reported that the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program is a five year plan for State Road and runs from 2018 to 2021. Chairman Glass stated that the board needs to set up a consultation with the Georgia Department of Transportation office in Thomaston, Georgia. Chairman Glass stated that in the past five years there has been nothing related to State Roads for Lamar County other than the passing lanes on Hwy 18 going towards Forsyth, Georgia.

Chairman Glass reported that there would be a Public Hearing in July regarding a Special Exception App. #2017-01 by Verizon Wireless to allow for the rooftop location of an antenna on the Grain Craft Flour Mill.

Chairman Glass reported that a detailed study concerning 103 graves had been given to the board. A Public Hearing has been advertised in the legal organ and that the City of Barnesville can't identify any descendants and a Public Hearing will be conducted to consider a Burial Disturbance permit application submitted by the City of Barnesville. Chairman Glass stated that the City of Barnesville is paying for everything except the cost to advertise for the Public Hearing meeting.

Chairman Glass reported that the Property and Liability Insurance Premium for the Association of County of Commissioners (ACCG) Interlocal Risk Management Agency (IRMA) for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 was \$222,307.00 and with a safety credit dividend of \$10,000.00 and a dividend credit of \$30,871.00 the total amount owed for the Property and Liability is \$193,747.00. The insurance premium is up by 37 percent from 2016-2017 due to high claims on new vehicles and equipment.

County Administrator Zellner reported that the Film Industry has come to Barnesville, Georgia and that he is working on a permit fee process so that appropriate fees can be charged. The application fee would be based on low and high impact fees with the low impact fee being 14 days on location and the high impact fee being 15 or more days consecutively. There also would be a deputy cost imposed for road closures and written permissions from residents. County Administrator Zellner reported that there had been an incident on 5 Points Road where the film company had laid a fire hose across the road

and travelers on the road were unaware as well as the City of Barnesville. If a permit is in place the production company that is making the film will have to obtain a permit before this sort of thing can happen.

County Administrator Zellner reported that the deadline to evict the Nipper's on Aldora Street was this past Thursday at 6:00 p.m. A contract with McLeRoy Inc. to evict the tenant, test for asbestos, demo and dispose of the house and the foundation, fencing, accessory building, dispose of yard debris and grade all disturbed areas flat for a cost of \$10,000.00 will need to be approved at the next business meeting.

County Administrator Zellner reported that it will cost \$9,800.00 for the utility relocation on Industrial Road. It is on the county right of way but the City of Barnesville has the easement from 1984 so the county will have to pay for the job. The contract is with Southern Rivers.

1.) **Departmental Budget Discussion**

Sheriff Budget

The Sheriff was detained due to the escaped inmate issue in Putnam County so the Chairman reviewed the following request from the Sheriff's Office.

1. Requested \$40,000.00 plus FICA and Medicare for the Sheriff and the Jail.
2. Submitted \$60,000.00 for vehicles.

Public Works

1. Increased Salaries by two percent.
2. Increased Attorney Fees from zero dollars to \$500.00.
3. Increased Drug Screening from \$500.00 to \$750.00.
4. Increased Lawn Maintenance Care from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00.
5. Increased Heating/Air/Electric/Plumbing from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00.
6. Increased Rental Equipment from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00
7. Increased Schools/Meetings/Training from \$2,500.00 to \$3,500.00.
8. Increased M&R Motor Vehicles from \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00.
9. Increased Uniforms from \$9,000 to \$10,000 due to a company change.

Chairman Glass reported that he had received compliments regarding the right-of way and how good they look. County Administrator Zellner stated that his wife and a group of ladies walk out in Redbone and one day while the Public Works Department was cutting grass along the right of way they actually stopped and let them pass. County Administrator Zellner stated that this meant a lot to them and him and that the whole department does great work.

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff White was able to join the workshop with his request. Sheriff White reported that Deputy Davis that had been in an accident was in good spirits even though he had rods and plates put in his ankle. Sheriff White reported that he will have to undergo therapy but is not looking at doing Worker's Compensation because he is anxious to return to work.

1. Sheriff White requested that the board give them a \$40,000.00 salary raise that was cut in his budget in 2017.
2. Increased the Purchase-Vehicles from zero dollars to \$60,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing two new cars. Sheriff White stated that he was approved for 4 cars in SPLOST and he will not need new cars in 2019.

Sheriff White stated to the board that he is making changes in Deputies and Investigators due to personnel issues. Sheriff White addressed the board stating that he would like for the 911 dispatch center to be separate from his office because they receive all of the calls from their office. Sheriff White touched on issues with having to wait on the State Patrol to respond to accidents and the fact that they have a shortage of deputies when they have wrecks, funerals, and robberies in the community. Sheriff White stated that they have fund raisers to help with funding.

Recreation

1. Increased Salaries by two percent.
2. Decreased Security/Contract Services from \$10,000.00 to \$7,500.00.
3. Decreased Uniforms from \$2,127 to zero dollars.
4. Added Assistant Director with a salary cost of \$ 36,000.00 plus FICA and Medicare. Offered job to Tiffany Lowe.

The board gave kudos and congratulations to Director Lanier and the Recreation Department for the job that they are doing. Director Lanier stated that they have 2 lawn mowers running every day. He stated that they re-did the Tennis Courts, worked on the grounds, and re-seeded bare spots. They put up a chain link fence around the track. The board discussed the high liability that the Recreation Department faces with skateboards and trick bikes. Director Lanier stated that if they ban the kids from doing it there they will find somewhere else to do it and that may not be as safe. Director Lanier reported that the lights don't run after 11:00 p.m. Director Lanier reported that they have clear cut the property on Hwy 36 and are tied up with getting fields ready for all of the tournaments. Director Lanier reported that his staff have accumulated many hours of comp time which were built up during baseball season and he is having to work around

schedules as his staff uses those hours. He has 8 fields running and his staff is spread out somewhere on one of the fields along with hired security officers. The security officers are there so as to address any problems at the start. Director Lanier explained that they can do a better job of scheduling once the Assistant Director comes on board. He stated that they have anywhere from 600 to 800 people in the park over the weekend. Director Lanier explained that he would like to add Adult League Softball, Middle School Volleyball, Track and Swimming to the program schedule. Currently they charge \$65.00 per kid but this doesn't cover the cost for everything. The board discussed the fact that other counties charge considerably more and as much as \$250.00 per kid. Commissioner Traylor stated that he used to complain before he became a Commissioner and now when he goes to other fields and sees their fields he is proud of what Lamar has. He stated that we have better fields. Overall the sod may not be better but they don't maintain it the way that Director Lanier and his staff do. Director Lanier stated that the playground area is not a quick fix but that Josh Sappington had assisted with fixing some things in the park. Commissioner Traylor stated that his daughter loves to practice at the Recreation Department. Commissioner Thrash stated that it is good to hear good things and stated that Director Lanier and his staff are doing a great job and she appreciates it. Citizens see this every day it makes for a good reputation.

Board of Elections

1. Increased Salaries by two percent.
2. Requesting more funds for Part-Time.
3. Increased Attorney Fees to \$200.00.
4. Decreased M&R Office Equipment from \$1,914.00 to \$1,400.00.
5. Increase Postage from \$1,800.00 to \$2,000.00.
6. Increased Rent Building from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00.
7. Increased Dues and Fees from \$200.00 to \$375.00.
8. Increased Schools Meetings and Trainings from \$15,000.00 to \$16,000.00.
This covers all board members and personnel
9. Increased Poll Holders from \$12,000.00 to \$35,000.00.
10. Increased Election Expenses from \$10,000.00 to \$25,000.00.
11. Decreased Capital Outlay from \$16,185 to zero dollars.

Elections Superintendent Reid addressed the board stating that she feels like the First Baptist Church of Barnesville does not want to be a polling place for voters. Ms. Reid stated that she has a problem with the secretary who she says acts like they don't want them to be there. Ms. Reid stated that she has taken them flowers and tried to pay them for their services. First Baptist Church of Barnesville has declined any funds. Ms. Reid said if First Baptist Church of Barnesville doesn't want them there they will find another

location. Ms. Reid reported that the new polling machines had been ordered and the paperwork is finalized but there is no estimated time of shipping. The machines will go to Kennesaw for programming and then the Board of Equalization picks them up. Ms. Reid stated that they are up to date on training and they are actually hooked up to the server but that they can't use the old one because they can't mix and match. Ms. Reid stated that eventually the old machines will be obsolete.

Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

1. Increased the M&R Vehicles from \$100.00 to \$200.00.
2. Increased the M&R Other Equipment from \$3,900.00 to \$5,200.00.
3. Increased Communications from \$1,600 to \$1,800.00
4. Increased School Meeting and Training from \$3,000.00 to \$4,500.00.
5. Decreased the PPA Grant from \$2,164.00 to \$1,555.00.
6. Decreased the LEPC Grant from \$4,000.00 to zero dollars.

EMA Director Campbell discussed the changes with the LEPC Grant and stated that \$4,000.00 is not reimbursable. The Grant only covers the Hazard Mitigation Exercise Drill which consist of Evacuation and Isolation. Chairman Glass and EMA Director Campbell both agreed that this drill is not necessary and agreed to decrease the LEPC Grant line item to zero dollars. The Grant for Weather Sirens is a 25 percent matching Grant therefore he increased the M&R Other Equipment line item so as to obtain more Weather Sirens.

Code Enforcement

1. Increased Salaries by two percent.
2. Discussed the budget for the Disposal Cleanup line item of \$2,200.00. The board agreed to keep the proposed amount. The board discussed blighted property issues in Lamar County and enforcement issues with the established codes. The board discussed adopting a Resolution for Code Enforcement clarity. The board set an August target date for a first reading.
3. Decreased Tire and Tubes from \$800.00 to zero dollars.

Code Enforcement Officer Vaughn stated that tires and tubes can be decreased to zero dollars because they bought new vehicles and they shouldn't need new tires. The board discussed hiring and training a part-time person to replace the Code Enforcement Officer who plans to retire in the year 2019. Code Enforcement Officer Vaughan stated that it takes 2 years to get your Code Enforcement Certification and he needs someone in place to learn the job. Someone who could

work around 32 hours a week and then move into full time once he retires. Code Enforcement Officer Vaughan stated that the economy is getting better and that revenues from inspections is going up. The board raised the permit and zoning fees in 2016 but surrounding counties still charge more. County Administrator Zellner stated that they need to hire someone so that they can work with the Code Enforcer and get to know the position and establish a relationship with the builders. Code Enforcement Officer Vaughan stated that they are continuously picking up stray animals but that there is not enough room to house them all. The board heard a report from Commissioner Thrash regarding a request from Pat Peurifoy asking to spay and neuter mama dogs and also having a willingness to pick up the puppies. Code Enforcement Officer Vaughan stated that Charlie Peters with the Animal Control Department gives out her cards but when they call her no one answers the phone.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the workshop at 11:44 and Commissioner Traylor 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