

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
October 18th, 2016**

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Commissioners Horton, Heiney, Baker, and Thrash, County Administrator Zellner, and County Clerk Davidson. Absent for the meeting was County Attorney Mayfield.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Glass called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Everyone said the pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Allen Newman gave the invocation.

III. Agenda Approval

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to approve the following set of minutes. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Workshop Meeting-September 15th, 2016
- ii. Regular Business Meeting-September 20th, 2016

V. Industrial Drive Engineering Bid

County Administrator presented the Industrial Drive Engineering bids to the board. This project is for the purpose of designing the curve and resurfacing Industrial Drive. There were five bids received including Vaughn & Melton, Falcon Design Consultants, Moreland Altobelli Associates, Goodwin, Mills and Cawood and EMC Engineering. County Administrator Zellner recommended Goodwin, Mills and Cawood based on their qualifications, project experience and design reputation. They have been awarded several projects in Barnesville including the Legacy Park, the City Park and the Water and Sewer project. County Administrator Zellner stated that he has also worked with Goodwin, Mills and Cawood in other cities and counties that he previously worked in. Commissioner Horton made a motion to award the bid to Goodwin, Mills and Cawood and Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Recreation Department Park HWY 36 Engineering Services

County Administrator Zellner presented an agreement for Phase I of the Recreation Department Hwy 36 Engineering Services. This agreement desires to have professional engineering services and consultation performed relative to the preparation of plans and

specifications for the construction of Phase I of the project. The total cost for Phase I of the project is \$87,832.00 and the monies to fund Phase I of the project will come from the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Commissioner Baker made a motion approve and award the bid to Goodwin, Mills and Cawood and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Administrative & Related Grant Services Bids, Health Department

County Administrator presented to the board 3 bids that were submitted to Lamar County for The Administrative & Related Grant Services Bid for the Health Department. These bids include; Allen-Smith Consulting, Advocates for Better Communities and BluLynx Solutions. County Administrator Zellner presented a recommendation from the Administrative Staff based on the history of the firm, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Experience, including other DCA grant projects, key personnel and qualifications, current workload, scope and level of service provided, experience with similar projects and references, fees associated with grant administration if the project is funded, statement of qualification form, and a DCA Section 3 certification form. The Administrative Staff recommended to the board that Allen-Smith Consulting would best meet the necessary requirements. Allen-Smith Consulting has worked with over 485 projects with a concentration with CDBG projects along with administrating over \$243,598,450.00 grants since 1994. Their Fees and/or Percentages are 6 percent of the total grant amount. If the contract is not signed 60 days prior to the grant submittal deadline, the fee for grant application preparation will increase on all types of applications to \$10,000.00.

Commissioner Baker reviewed all of the bids and stated that he was concerned with the application fees from Allen-Smith Consulting. County Administrator Zellner explained that if the contract is not signed 60 days prior to the grant submittal deadline then the county would have to pay an additional \$10,000.00. Commissioner Baker stated that he had learned his lesson in prior months with not awarded bids to local vendors. Vice-Chairman Thrash agreed with Commissioner Baker and stated that she felt like that Advocates for Better Communities, Inc. had a better inside connection with Federal Programs. Commissioner Heiney stated that Allen-Smith Consulting, Inc. has over 485 projects with a concentration in CDBG projects. Mr. Ivan Minks stated from the audience that with their combined years in business, they had over 2 billion dollars' worth of experience. Mrs. Wanda Minks stated that even though Allen-Smith is a larger firm they are a local company because they live in Barnesville, Georgia. Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to approve Advocates for Better Communications, Inc. and Commissioners Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed Unanimously.

VIII. SPLOST III Project List

The board agreed to decrease the Roads Maintenance and Construction from \$2,758,553.00 to \$2,754,550.00. They decreased the Public Works Equipment for two dump trucks from \$600,000.00 to \$379,000.00. They reduced the County Vehicles from \$144,000.00 to \$112, 000, 00. The total amount of the SPLOST III project list is a total of \$9,366,409.00.

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the SPLOST III Project list for a total of \$9,366,409.00. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. Commissioner Heiney was against the vote of the SPLOST III Project list. The motion passed 3-1.

IX. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Zellner gave an Administrator's Report as follows.

1. Resurfaced Willis Road
2. Paved the parking lot at the top of hill at the Recreation Department
3. Replaced the pipe on Cauthen Road
4. Resurfaced Cauthen Road
5. Replaced the Pipe on Industrial Road
6. Reported that notification had been received regarding \$91,000.00 from FEMA for the Rain Storm Flood back in December of 2015.

Public Comments

Tom Wellner of 271 Eady Creek Road stated that he was in approval of the funding for the Lamar County Animal Shelter project and was happy that the board voted for putting the animal shelter on the SPLOST III Project list.

Fred Morris thanked the board for putting the animal shelter on the SPLOST III Project list and stated that he would like to see the Lamar County Shelter brought up to the level of the Lamar County High School, and the Industrial Park. Mr. Morris also stated that you can't operate a shelter with no funds. Mr. Morris stated that he had seen some shelters built and then the money was wasted because they had no operating fund. Mr. Morris said he would like to see us get the most bang for the buck. Mr. Morris stated that Lamar County couldn't have supported all of the animals without the likes of Dolly Goodpuppy, and the rescue centers that have been adopting dogs because the current animal shelter is full. Mr. Morris stated that with new animal shelter he would like to see no healthy animal put down.

Linda Littiken thanked the board and stated that their efforts towards the animal shelter had not been in vain. Ms. Littiken stated that they had made over \$600.00 in the sale of calendars that will go towards the Lamar County Animal Shelter. Ms. Littiken gave each of the Board of Commissioners a calendar in appreciation.

Ms. Beverly Eskridge of 130 Holmes Street Barnesville, Georgia stated that she and Mrs. Joyce Farmer have worked tirelessly for 30 years and it was their mission to see that dogs and cats were spayed and neutered. Ms. Eskridge thanked the board for adding the Lamar County Animal Shelter to the SPLOST III Project list. Ms. Eskridge stated that she works hard for the animals and she believes that animals have a soul.

Fern Gentis of 108 Cedar Ridge Road brought her dog Kirby to the Board of Commissioners meeting so that everyone heard about his rescue and the number of years that he has brought joy to her home. Ms. Gentis now resides in Douglasville, Georgia with her son but she has been able to keep her dog Kirby. He is trained with the commands that she has taught him over the years. He provides company to her.

X. Round Table

Commissioner Horton thanked all those that came out in support of the Lamar County Animal Shelter and said that they went after what they wanted and it paid off in the end. Commissioner Horton stated that no matter if you are happy or angry the board should not let personal issues get in the way of what the people want and they shouldn't forget to what they can do to help the tax payers. Commissioner Horton stated that we all live here and we are all Lamar County citizens.

Commissioner Heiney stated that as a Commissioner he is elected to support Roads, Fire Protection, and Law Enforcement and since we have plenty of money he would like to have a fully paid staff at the Parker Branch Fire Department so that the Northside of the County has fire protection.

Commissioner Baker stated that he was glad that Lamar County has finally made it into the 21st century and that this is just the beginning. Commissioner Baker said that he was proud to have been a part of this team and thanked all of the volunteers for their time and thanked everyone who had made donations towards the Lamar County Animal Shelter Project. Commissioner Baker stated that he doesn't just want to stop with this but would like to see all of the volunteers to buy-in to this project along with other citizens in the county. Commissioner Baker and several Board members gave Mr. Morris a round of applause for his efforts with the Lamar County Animal Shelter.

Vice-Chairman Thrash said that she is excited about the future of Lamar County along with the leadership, the planning, and spending of the county money. Vice-Chairman thanked County Administrator Zellner for his leadership.

Kimberly Smith of 628 Wolf Creek Road in Jenkinsburg, Georgia introduced the board to a new Engineering Firm called Construction Materials Services, Inc. (CMS). They specialize in Geotechnical Engineering, Environmental Site Assessment, Pavement Engineering, Concrete, Soils, Asphalt Material Inspection and Testing, Project Management and Engineering Consulting.

Preston Thompson of 2025 Hwy 36 East thank the board for having plenty of money and Requested that they pave the end of Morgan Dairy Road located at the Railroad Track. County Administrator Zellner stated that he would submit a work order for this request.

XI. Adjournment and Executive Session

Vice-Chairman made a motion to go into executive session to discuss litigation at 7:57 p.m. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The board came out of executive session and adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Van Baker, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk