

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Workshop Minutes

August 21st, 2017

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Heiney Commissioner Traylor, and Commissioner Thrash and County Administrator Zellner. County Clerk Davidson was absent from the meeting.

The board discussed the Animal Control Ordinance and agreed to table the discussion until the September workshop. The board discussed getting more people involved and the pros and cons of forming a committee. Commissioner Traylor stated that they need a variety of people with different personalities and backgrounds. Commissioner Thrash suggested that get feedback from local veterinarians and former Commissioner Van Baker who spear headed the formation of the Animal Shelter. The board agreed that the committee, once formed, would need to report back to the Lamar County Board of Commissioners.

The board discussed the 2018 budget and Vice-Chairman Horton suggested that they give a one percent raise rather than a two percent raise which could save approximately \$37,000.00 but \$189,000.00 is still needed to balance the budget. Commissioner Traylor suggested that resources be shared for vacant positions. County Administrator Zellner and the board discussed the Code Enforcement position going to contracted services once the Code Enforcement Officer Vaughn retires.

The board discussed the fact that County Administrator Zellner will be retiring at the end of the year. Vice-Chairman Horton suggested that in order to save money that the board utilize the resources they already have in house. Chairman Glass stated to replace the County Administrator with someone as experienced as County Administrator Zellner will be much more expensive. Commissioner Thrash stated that it would be better to hire outside the office.

The board discussed contracting out for the cutting of the right of ways as a way to save money. Commissioner Traylor suggested that they receive anonymous tips from all departments regarding saving money. Vice-Chairman Horton suggested that they contract prisoners to cut the right of ways and County Administrator Zellner stated that it would be \$38,000.00.

Commissioner Thrash announced that she will be lobbying at the Capital for the Criminal Justice Reform because the mandates from the State are no longer sustainable.

The board discussed cutting their travel and schools meetings and trainings except for newly elected board member Commissioner Traylor who has to complete his core training. Chairman Glass suggested that the other board members pay for their own training unless something is required for certification. Commissioner Thrash stated that as an ACCG board member she has to attend at least 2 mandatory trainings and she can't afford to pay for this personally. As a Commissioner she only receives .57 cents an hour. Commissioner Thrash stated that she spends many hours and lots of her own money to lobby for the County at the State Capital.

Commissioner Traylor suggested that the board go up another half mill. Commissioner Thrash stated that she is going to speak to the judges about fees and fines that are not being collected.

Commissioner Heiney and Commissioner Thrash both stated that they would like to see what ideas that Financial Director Townsend has regarding the budget. They requested that he review the revenues versus the expenses.

The board discussed the possibility of raising registration fees for elections but learned that this is set at three percent by the State.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m. to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Heiney made a motion to adjourn the executive session at approximately 11:30 and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board reconvened the meeting at approximately 11:32 a.m.

Commissioner Thrash stated she was planning to meet with the judges. Chairman Glass stated that he had invited public officials to a forum at the College and Career Academy on August 31, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. and Commissioner Heiney 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