

**LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
12:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 12:23 p.m. on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, County Administrator Zellner and County Clerk Davidson. Commissioner Thrash was absent for the meeting.

**Corporate Health Partners**

Corporate Health Partners did not show up for the meeting. The original plan was for them to meet with the board to discuss services that they could offer the employees.

**Legislative Priorities**

Commissioner Thrash was absent for the meeting due to being in court. Chairman Glass stated that ACCG sent out their Legislative Priorities packet and it is broken down by several different categories. He stated that several members from the board had meet with Representatives David Knight and Johnny Caldwell and one of the things that they wanted to look at was Tax Ad Valorem (TAVT) changes. One of the original issues with the TAVT was that it took money out of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST), Education Local Options Sales Tax (ESPLOST) revenues and he thought that they would fix this in the coming year. Chairman Glass stated that the other issue is the split between the State, the counties and the locals. It is still heavily in favor of the State and the State is getting the windfall of all of the growth and all of the counties are suffering because they are not getting any windfall. Representative Knight stated that he would look into this. Chairman Glass stated that he submitted some specific information amount Lamar County's TAVT revenue and they plan to get together again before the session begins. The E911 Senate Bill 222 (SB 222) passed both the House and the Senate. SB 222 is the bill that would have changed some of the fees on the pre-paid phone cards. All of the money would have gone to the E911 Commission and the E911 Commission would send it back out to the public-safety answering point (PSAP). Lamar County is a PSAP and in some cases a PSAP is a region. This is the group that the phone companies send the checks to. The idea was that the phone companies would send all of the money into the States E911 Commission and then they would turn around and send it back out to the different PSAPS. It created a lot of administrative burdens for the phone companies. They also gave up their administrative fee which was .45 cents out of \$1.50 which was a 30% increase in the amount of revenue that could come into the system. The Governor vetoed this bill. Representative Caldwell said he wasn't aware of this and said that he would find out what happened. Chairman Glass stated that the Governor didn't have enough control over this bill. The board was primarily made up of local representatives. There was a Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) representative, a communications representative, one from the Senate, one from the House of Representatives, one from industry, and three or four from local 911 boards. Chairman Glass stated that, in general, that they pointed

out that the unfunded mandates are piling up on Lamar County and that the Juvenile Justice is one of them. There were other mandates mentioned, including Mental Health, that is being semi treated in the jail system. Chairman Glass stated that the meeting was productive because they got to speak to the Representatives and they had their attention for a couple of hours and were able to get their points across. September is a good time to meet with them because this is before the General Session begins. Chairman Glass encouraged the board to look at the priorities before the Legislative Leadership Conference in October.

### **Agenda Discussion**

- 1) Reviewed the following minutes.
  - i. Public Hearing-August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017
  - ii. Public Hearing-August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017
  - iii. Workshop Meeting-August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017
  - iv. Public Hearing-August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017
  - v. Regular Business Meeting-August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017
  - vi. Workshop Meeting-August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017
- 2) Reviewed the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board. Chairman Glass stated that Jeffery Stephens is interested in this position on the board and had spoken to McIntosh Director Mike Hubbard. Ashley Gilles and Jeffery Stephens both met and interviewed with Mr. Hubbard and agreed that Mr. Stephens was the better fit. Chairman Glass stated that Mr. Stephens has two years of credits towards a Psychology degree.
- 3) Reviewed the re-appointment to the Board of Health and heard that Lee Woodall and Robert Taylor are both interested in being re-appointed to the board. County Clerk Davidson reported that about four to five years ago there were two positions that were swapped. The position that Robert Taylor serves on which is “A consumer who will represent the needy underprivileged or elderly” was served by Martha Holloway and “A consumer or a licensed nurse interested in promoting public health” was served by Robert Taylor. According to Debbi Heard the position that Robert Taylor and Martha Holloway are serving currently will not switch back. The position that Martha Holloway serves on is appointed by the City.
- 4) County Clerk Davidson reported that the 2017 Legislative Leadership Delegate Appointee would need to be approved by the board. Commissioner Thrash currently serves as this delegate.
- 5) Chairman Glass reported that he had questions from the County Attorney regarding the Board of Education Bond Resolution. The Board of Education has authorized the issuance of \$24,000,000.00 in bonds to build the new High School. This is partially funded by ESPLOST, partially funded by money coming from the State, and partially funded by property taxes. Chairman Glass directed the board to review the last section of the Resolution (attached to the minutes) regarding the recommending authority and the approving authority and the difference between the two. Commissioner Heiney stated that if the board is approving and property taxes were exposed on this it wouldn't make the Commissioners look very good. Commissioner Heiney asked how much of an effect it would have on property taxes. Chairman Glass stated that he didn't know what the payment schedule was. Chairman Glass stated that it would be about 7.6 million dollars out of ESPLOST and that at one time it had heard 13 million from the State. Vice-Chairman Horton stated that they had got in the same sort of situation with the Water Authority and thankfully the City of Barnesville took

that over. He said that this is part of the government structure that needs to be revised and if it doesn't work out it falls back on the County. Commissioner Heiney said that the County is the levying authority. Chairman Glass said that the County signs off on the millage rate and the Board of Education is bundled in with the County for approval. Commissioner Heiney stated that even if the board didn't have any authority they are still exposed, even if the funding source did fall short. The last ESPLOST paid for the Fine Arts Center, the Lamar County Stadium and the College and Career Academy and when the revenue fell short they implemented a 2-mill debt service. Chairman Glass stated that they didn't approve this type of Resolution for the last ESPLOST so he wondered why they are having to approve it now Chairman Glass said that it could be because it is \$24,000,000.00 and they know it's going to exceed the ESPLOST. Chairman Glass stated that he is concerned about the millage rate approval and having to bundle it into the County.

- 6) Commissioner Heiney stated that Fred Morris from the Animal Shelter committee had requested that the board postpone the Animal Control Ordinance until after the first of the year. The board agreed to leave on the agenda so that they could table officially.
- 7) The board discussed the Media Ordinance and the Georgia's Camera-Ready Communities Program. Chairman Glass understood that the City of Barnesville did not have a permit fee for the making of the HBO film "Sharp Objects" but they invoiced them for certain cost. The City of Barnesville did have one point of contact. The producers encourage a one point of contact for the county and the city when making a film. Chairman Glass stated that they need something in writing. There was discussion regarding being Georgia Film Ready and the Pinewood Atlanta Studios located in Fayetteville Georgia. This facility is a full-service film and entertainment studio complex comprised of 18 sound stages on 700 acres. It has a Home Depot, it supplies set design and has 27 vendors on site. It is a one stop shopping type site. Approximately 80 percent of the people that work there are Georgia residents. There was discussion about how many movies are being made in Georgia. Pinewood Atlanta allows producers to access attractive fiscal incentives from the State of Georgia but you have to be Georgia Film Ready for either television or movie. If 30 percent of your total budget is spent here in Georgia then you are able to receive tax credits. A lot of States visit Georgia to see what Georgia does that makes it so attractive. There are sound mixers, engineers, make-up, set design, and film schooling. Everything is located in one place so they don't have to go back to Hollywood to make a movie. There are all kinds of scenes that can be found. Industrial, Classical, Modern. You don't have to go all over the country to find different scenes. County Administrator Zellner pointed out that the variable weather in Georgia is also a positive. Chairman Glass stated that in the Industrial Authority (IDA) meeting they discussed the fact that the IDA website is being updated to include Camera Ready information which shows the places identified to use. The film industry likes farms, barns, thrift stores, lumber stores, including dimensional lumber, and hardware stores where they can purchase paint and other supplies. Chairman Glass stated that the IDA and the Barnesville Chamber of Commerce attended a meeting in Atlanta and Senoia Georgia regarding lessons learned. Chairman Glass stated that an Ordinance of some kind is needed. An Ordinance that will work with the community and some type of Ordinance with the City and the County that will name a joint liaison for each project. Also a permit fee that will show an actual cost for the permit. The board agreed to table the Media Ordinance until the October meeting.
- 8) The board discussed the Railroad closing for Yancey Road. County Administrator Zellner stated that the only thing he had heard was that the Railroad was going to give the County

some money in the amount of \$25,000.00 which would be unrestricted and \$7,500.00 to be used to improve transportation safety. One of the requisitions for Yancey Road was that the height of the pole would need to be 2500 feet about ground level. Southern Rivers has implied that this is not in their territory so Georgia Power went out and looked at the pole and stated that it looked fine. County Administrator Zellner stated he had received nothing in writing. The board will need to approve the Rail Road crossing closure at Old Hwy 41 and Weldon Lake Road and the improvement for the Rail Road crossing at Old Hwy 41 and Yancey Road.

- 9) Chairman Glass announced that Ivan and Wanda Minks would be present to give an update on the County receiving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the construction of a new Health Department.
- 10) Vice-Chairman Horton announced that the Three Rivers Regional board is in the final stages of selecting a director.
- 11) The board discussed the storm damage from Hurricane Irma. County Administrator Zellner reported that a roof at the Recreation Department was damaged. There was minimal damage to a few Sheriff Office vehicles. The debris cleanup with the roads is being decided between the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the Core of Engineers but he had heard from GEMA that if you had a contract you could go ahead and start with the debris removal cleanup. The clearing process is from white line to white line and you can go ahead and clean everything up. If the Core of Engineers does get involved, then GEMA will figure out how to get with them. Chairman Glass stated that the County did not have a contract. County Administrator Zellner stated that we have a standard contract with a tree service that we use during normal operations and GEMA told County Administrator Zellner that this would be fine. Chairman Glass stated that they are going to run into the issue of doing it by weight, cubic yard or by the hour. Chairman Glass stated that a contract was necessary to show how we are paying and the amount. County Administrator Zellner stated that the contract that the County has with Southern Pride is for \$175.00 per hour but that they will only charge \$150.00 per hour. Chairman Glass remembered that this process had been done with the Tornado in 2011 and that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) came in and stated that this was not correct and threatened to send Chairman Glass to jail if they didn't cease what they were doing, regarding cutting trees and limbs, because it was not being done correctly according to their standards. Chairman Glass requested that they bid out the contract for the debris cleanup. County Administrator Zellner said that all 159 counties are under the Emergency Declaration and read the initial notice that states, "You are authorized to provide Individual Assistance, assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B) under the Public Assistance program in the designated areas, Hazard Mitigation throughout the State, and other forms of assistance under the Stafford Act that you deem appropriate subject to completion of Preliminary Damage Assessments. Direct Federal assistance is authorized."
- 12) Chairman Glass reported that he will be meeting with the Georgia Department of Transportation to discuss Industrial Road.
- 13) Commissioner Heiney requested a pyrolysis update from Commissioner Traylor, who is on the Solid Waste Authority board. Commissioner Traylor said that the garbage that comes out of the landfill is being converted to char. Commissioner Traylor reported that the conversion to gas is being placed on hold because the return in investment is better. Chairman Glass stated that the landfill has a potential for a 90-year life span.

- 14) Chairman Glass reported that the Statewide Transportation Improvement (STIP) is up for re-improvement and it is Georgia's four-year transportation and capital improvements program widening the 74 East/West Connector.
- 15) Chairman Glass reported that the current Service Delivery Strategy ends in 2019 and is 18 months away from renewal. The County needs to submit their plan early so they have time to make any corrections.
- 16) The board discussed the Informational Technology position for the County. Commissioner Heiney suggested that they defer purchases for capital improvement such as computers and electronics for at least a year. The board discussed keeping the IT position in house as opposed to contracting out with an IT company. Commissioner Traylor and Commissioner Heiney both agreed that a contractor could provide knowledge, abilities and resources that an individual IT person can't provide. Chairman Glass requested that the board decide on this position by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
- 17) The board decided to hold a Special Called meeting to discuss the Service Delivery Plan and the Budget on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Vice Chairman Horton made a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting at 2:05 p.m. and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Charles Glass, Chairman

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Bennie Horton, Vice-Chairman

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Robert Heiney, Commissioner

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Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

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Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ County Clerk