

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Called Meeting Minutes
September 28th, 2017
2:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. on September 28th, 2017. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Zellner, and County Clerk Davidson. County Attorney Mayfield was absent to the meeting.

2018 Budget

Financial Director Townsend presented the board with an updated projected revenue over expenses for the 2018 budget. The projected revenue for 2018 is \$9,630,000.00 and the requested expenditures for 2018 is \$9,798,872.00. The cuts that are needed to balance the budget are \$168,872.00. Financial Director Townsend stated that at the end of year the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) II will end and the excess funds can be carried over into the General Fund once debt service is paid off. Financial Director Townsend presented a breakdown of the SPLOST II expenses from 2012 to 2017 (attached to the minutes). The only expenses left for 2017 is with the Public Works Department for a cost of \$35,000.00. This expense falls under the category for Roads and Bridges. Chairman Glass stated that all of the SPLOST II projects have been completed except for Roads and Bridges. Financial Director Townsend stated that at the end of year there should be a current net position of \$1,487,784.01 with \$650,000.00 left to move to the Capital Project Fund. The \$650,000.00 is slated for the Recreation Park and the Industrial Park as shown in the attachment. This leaves a balance of \$837,784.01 that can be transferred over into the General Fund. Financial Director Townsend stated that by State law all debt service has to be paid off. The motor grader, the Public Works facility and a dump truck financed through BB&T have a remaining total balance of \$452,818.73. Once this is paid off, the total SPLOST II transfer to General Fund will equal approximately \$384,965.28. Financial Director Townsend stated that \$132,663.00 of excess SPLOST II funds can be used to reduce the county debt leaving the new requested expenditure for 2018 at \$9,666,209.00 and approximately \$36,209.00 balance for cuts needed to balance the budget. Once the \$36,209.00 is applied to the cuts, the balance left to transfer to the General Fund is \$348,756.00. Also, included is an additional \$268,000.00 increase in expenditures that is earmarked for the matching portion of the recently awarded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the purpose of building a new Health Department. Financial Director Townsend stated that there will be \$80,756.00 added to the contingency line item leaving the balanced budget at \$10,014,965.00.

Chairman Glass stated that when they hire a new County Administrator that the salary line item may increase by \$20,000.00.

Chairman Glass stated that the SPLOST III will be approximately 9.3 million dollars and that once Aldora and Milner are paid out of the first incoming distributions then the original percentages to pay the City of Barnesville and Lamar County will resume. Financial Director Townsend and County Clerk Davidson reported that the SPLOST and LOST

distributions came in higher than in the past months of 2017. SPLOST came in at approximately \$145,000.00 and LOST came in at approximately \$80,000.00. The SPLOST distribution is normally around \$130,000.00 and LOST is normally around \$70,000.00 and below. County Clerk Davidson reported that factors contributed to this could include the recent movie project and in October there could be excess funds from Hurricane Irma. Chairman Glass reported that the collections of the SPLOST III distributions should be seamless. Chairman Glass stated that the first check goes to the Town of Aldora and the next check goes to the City of Milner. The funds for the projects slated in SPLOST III can be used once the funds are received. The funds to buy a new patrol car could be available in April or May of 2018 depending on the amount of the distributions. County Administrator Zellner stated that they may have to borrow from the General Fund for this expense and then pay SPLOST III back once the funds are received into the SPLOST III fund account. You can borrow from the General Fund account but not from the SPLOST account.

Commissioner Thrash inquired if there had been any changes to the Department line items. Financial Director Townsend stated that there had been no changes. Chairman Glass stated that everything is the same including the two percent raise. Chairman Glass stated that the budget has to be approved by December 31st, 2017. The budget will be a balanced budget. Chairman Glass suggested that they approve the budget in November. Chairman Glass suggested that Financial Director Townsend contact the Department Heads and the Constitutional Officers to make sure that nothing has changed. One Public Hearing will need to be held prior to the approval of the budget.

County Clerk Davidson announced that she and Human Resource Officer Kilchriss recently attended a Wellness Training in Macon, Georgia and received \$500.00 towards a \$1000.00 Wellness Grant from the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). Human Resource Officer Kilchriss ordered pedometers for every county employee so that they can participate in the Challenge Runner contest that will be held from October 9th to November 5th, 2017. Commissioner Traylor stated that Gordon State is participating in a similar type event and they actually have teams that compete in their challenge walk.

Service Delivery Planning

Chairman Glass stated that the Service Delivery Agreement is online at the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) website. The only changes that he saw was a name change from Barnesville to Lamar with the Library and some changes regarding the Water Authority. The Water Authority should be listed as Barnesville and not Lamar County. Chairman Glass said that one area that could use some work is the agreement with the Fire Department between the City and the County. This includes the automatic backup with the calls in the City and maybe something could be blended with the Ambulance Service. Chairman Glass said that usually the County Fire Department goes with the Ambulance on a call to help with the lift and maybe an agreement with the City Fire Department needs to be established so that they cover this. The Fire Department agreement is the one that make take some negotiating but the other agreements are pretty straight forward. Chairman Glass stated that there are other services that should be listed that are not included. Chairman Glass stated that he would like to review the DeKalb County's Fire Department agreement. The Service Delivery

Agreement that is currently in place started in 2004. Chairman Glass stated that he would like to put a plan together so that they can have it completed six months prior to the due date which is February 28th, 2018. The Comprehensive Plan for Lamar County is also due February 28th, 2018. If they submit the plans six months ahead of time, then they have time to make corrections if necessary. All of the municipalities will need to sign off on the plans including the Town of Aldora, the City of Milner, the City of Barnesville, and Lamar County. Chairman Glass suggested that they review the DeKalb County plans for some suggested services. Chairman Glass stated that the goal is to review the plan in the next 30 days so that they can look at what other services can be included. County Administrator Zellner suggested that they review the Animal Control agreement. Commissioner Thrash announced that she has come off the committee and that Commissioner Heiney is taking her place. Chairman Glass suggested that they notify the municipalities and have them send in their list of services. Chairman Glass stated that they will need to determine who will be on the negotiating committee. There has to be two Commissioners from the County and 2 Council members from the City. Chairman Glass stated that Building and Zoning Director Gunter is working on the Comprehensive Plan for Lamar County. County Administrator Zellner suggested that they review the development standards. Chairman Glass stated that this could include subdivisions, sidewalks and true active public spaces. The board discussed and agreed that they need to spend time reviewing a strategy for the growth in Lamar County.

Hurricane Irma Debris Cleanup Bid Approval

County Administrator Zellner stated that three bids had been sent out for the Debris Cleanup. The bids were received with everything included. The bid per unit price was for the vegetative storm debris pickup at the designated work zone, hauled to, weighted, and dumped at the temporary storage and relocation site at the Public Works facility located at 730 Grove Street. The bids are as follows:

- 1) South Central Timber Harvesting & Land Clearing LLC
\$81.00 per ton.
- 2) Vaughn's Tree Service Inc.
\$ 78.00 per ton.
- 3) Southern Pride Tree Care & Removal, Inc.
\$72.00 per ton.

All three companies had Commercial General Liability and Automobile Liability. Southern Pride Tree Care & Removal, Inc. has Worker's Compensation Liability.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Southern Pride Tree Care & Removal, Inc. with the lowest bid of \$72.00 per ton. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

County Administrator Zellner stated that the Public Works Department would be required to monitor the debris removal and that this could be time consuming and cost prohibitive for

this department. County Administrator Zellner suggested that they contract out the monitoring services. County Administrator Zellner stated that the monitoring service fees are eligible for reimbursement through FEMA. Chairman Glass suggested that County Administrator Zellner and Public Works Director Rigdon get bids for this service following Lamar County's Purchasing Policy and then the board could vote on this at a Special Called Meeting. County Administrator Zellner stated that Southern Pride Tree Care & Removal, Inc. can't start the debris removal cleanup until the monitoring service is in place. County Administrator Zellner stated that Public Works Director Rigdon had attended the first FEMA meeting in Forsyth today.

Round Table

Commissioner Heiney stated that he would like to know if the County could purchase some equipment to do road striping. He requested that County Administrator Zellner look into this. County Administrator Zellner stated that Two Rivers used to do this for the County. Commissioner Heiney stated that people are driving too fast on County roads and road striping may help with this. Commissioner Heiney also stated that the one section, where the road is not paved, on Crawford Road needs to be paved. County Administrator Zellner stated that the problem with paving this road is the rock and that you can't build it up because it is cost prohibitive but that he would be glad to get an estimate. Commissioner Traylor inquired about how much this would cost and Chairman Glass stated that it might cost a quarter million dollars a mile but that road would have to be built up because of the rock. Chairman Glass stated that it cost \$131,000.00 a mile to resurface a road and you still have to have right of way and base prep. County Administrator Zellner stated that he would get a cost estimate for the next meeting.

Commissioner Traylor reported that there was a legislative update in Spalding County last week at the Spalding County Senior Center sponsored by the Region 6 Health Department. Representative Johnny Caldwell, Board of Health board members Samantha Bishop and Commissioner Traylor and two Commissioners from Spalding County were in attendance. Commissioner Traylor stated that they the goal is to solicit legislators to come out and educate them on what the Health Department does, the services that are available and what they have to offer. Commissioner Traylor announced that there should be another meeting before the end of the year.

Commissioner Traylor stated that he knows that the goal is to build up the contingency but they still need to look at ways to reduce spending. Commissioner Traylor stated that the Information Technology (IT) position could be contracted out which could help decrease the expenses in the 2018 budget. Chairman Glass stated that if they going to end the position on December 31st, 2017 then a decision will need to be made soon. Financial Director Townsend reported that the proposed salary for this position is \$52,656. The cost of the former IT contractor was around \$18,000.00. The total budget for the department is \$117,231.00. Chairman Glass and County Administrator Zellner pointed out that the IT Director does other things that the IT contractor doesn't do such as the IT director is on the Building Committee.

Chairman Glass requested that they have a Special Called meeting on October 9th at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the IT position, the Monitoring Approval for the debris removal, the Beer and Wine License approval for Honey Wood Farms, the Striping Equipment Estimate requested by Commissioner Heiney and the Regular Meeting Discussion. The board also reviewed dates for holding a Public Hearing to approve the budget.

Commissioner Thrash gave a legislative update from her recent ACCG Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) board meeting. These items included Transit and Government Funding, Broad Band under General Government, Jail Diversion Programs for Mental Health, including Involuntary Commitment for persons with mental health issues without committing a crime, 911 Fees for Public Safety in the Courts, Sales Tax Reform, Excise Tax fees, and Property Tax bill fees. Commissioner Heiney inquired about the mentally ill who exhibit mental ill behavior whereby you can involuntarily commit someone for 72 hours. Commissioner Heiney stated that this sounded a bit extreme. Chairman Glass stated that the EMT's would contact the doctor and describe the situation to the doctor who would make that decision about committal instead of calling a law enforcement officer. Commissioner Thrash stated that under public safety, ACCG is advocating this. Commissioner Thrash stated that under the Federal Policy committee they are pushing for the E-Fairness bill regarding the internet sales tax but there is not a lot of Federal support. Georgia is potentially missing 28 million dollars a year off of sales tax and the larger companies are fighting this. Commissioner Thrash stated that the Tax Exempt Municipal Bonds, in President Trump's tax reform, is on the cutting block. Commissioner Heiney interjected that the property tax and local sales tax are also on the chopping block. The truck weight increase is still an issue and the large trucking companies are pushing this. ACCG is fighting against this. ACCG is pushing for Broad Band in rural areas and they have received a lot of support from this. Commissioner Thrash stated that if the FCC gets involved with this then this effects the right of ways. Chairman Glass said that local control is needed between the counties so that permit rules are the same when crossing county lines. Commissioner Heiney and Commissioner Thrash discussed the need for vendors to incur expenses for laying fiber optics.

Commissioner Thrash stated that they are starting the construction on the buildings at the Solid Waste Department and there should be a ground breaking around the first of the year. This is for the Char System and is part of the Phase I of the project.

Commissioner Thrash stated that the Milner Library has had some changes with inmate labor and there is a new director. They pulled the crew while the heating and air was being installed and hopefully it will start back up and be finished by March.

Chairman Glass stated that the Director for the Lamar County Library Kelly Hughes wants to complete their punch list for the new Lamar County Library by late November and be opened for business by Thanksgiving. Then the first of the year they plan on having a grand re-opening.

Chairman Glass stated that there would be a pre-construction bid for Industrial Drive on October 3rd, 2017. Chairman Glass announced that a retirement party for County Extension agent Wes Smith would be October 5th, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center in Upson

County. Chairman Glass said that the closeout deadline for Give 365 would be October 5th, 2017 and 150 people had signed up. The goal is 200 people.

The board discussed meeting with the State Senator Marty Harbin and Representative Johnny Caldwell in the near future.

Commissioner Heiney stated that he would like to know how much The Solid Waste Authority borrowed from GEFA.

The board discussed the dates for advertising the Public Hearing for the 2018 budget. County Administrator Zellner read that at least one week prior to the meeting of the governing authority at which adoption of the budget ordinance or resolution will be considered, the governing authority shall conduct a public hearing, at which time any persons wishing to be heard on the budget may appear. The board decided to hold the Public Hearing on November 14th at 1:30 p.m. The Board can approve the budget at the November 21st, Regular Business Meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Special Called Meeting at approximately 3:30 p.m. and Vice-Chairman Horton 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 M. Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk