

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
**January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Heiney, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Zellner, County Clerk Davidson and 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. Major Leslie Holmes with the Lamar County Sheriff's Office gave the invocation.

**III. Agenda Approval**

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

**IV. Minutes Approval**

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the following two sets of minutes and Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Workshop Meeting-December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- ii. Regular Business Meeting-December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**V. Resolution 2018-01 Qualifying Fees**

The Qualifying Fee Resolution 2017-20 listed the County Commissioner Chair with a fee of \$203.44 and the fee should have been \$126.00. The fee for District 1 was listed as \$194.20 and the fee for District 2 was listed as \$132.41. Both the District 1 and District 2 positions should have been \$108.00. The previous fees were listed as three percent of the gross salary instead of three percent of the base salary. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-01 Qualifying Fees and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Resolution 2018-02 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)**

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-02 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) in the amount of 3.5 million dollars for 2018 and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. Board Appointments**

- i. Commissioner Horton made a motion to appoint Commissioner Heiney as the 2018 Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- ii. Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Smith, Welch, Webb and White as the County Attorney for 2018 and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- iii. Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to approve the following County Physicians for 2018. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  - a. Dr. Wilson Woodall and Manley
  - b. Dr. Aaron Buice
- iv. Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve James Butler as the County Surveyor. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- v. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Attorney Mayfield as the Open Records Custodian for 2018. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. Resolution 2018-03 Tax Assessor Board Appointment-Tammy Cannon**

Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-03 appointing Tammy Cannon to the Tax Assessors board for a six-year term starting on 1/1/2018 and expiring on 12/31/2023. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **IX. Brenda Ross-Wadsworth Cemetery**

Brenda Ross of 386 Ingram Road addressed the Board along with her husband Michael Ross regarding County Ordinances. Mrs. Ross said, "The County has Ordinances for what is and is not permitted on M2 zoned land. The M2 is heavy manufacturing. According to the Ordinances and Permitting usage Lamar County's Code of Ordinances Part 2 Appendix 1 Zoning Article 19 M2 Manufactured General, livestock is not a permitted use. However, on the land that is owned by the City of Barnesville, the Meadows Railroad Industrial Park, in which the Wadsworth-Clayton Cemetery is located, there are cows. The cows have been on the land for about 20 years desecrating the cemetery. All though a fence was erected, recently, the cows will still try to go to reach greener pastures. I understand that Code Enforcement is based on complaints. We are formally complaining to you on the Pasturing of Livestock on M2 land surrounding the cemetery."

Chairman Glass requested to answer Mrs. Ross on this issue. He said, "You are permitted continued use of whatever you have there when it is re-zoned. If it was A-R zoned to M2 as long as they are continuing the same use they are permitted to keep live stock there. That applies to whatever the zoning code was changed to."

Mrs. Ross continued and said, "We asked the County to enforce the code and remove the cows from there." Chairman Glass responded and said, "The code allows them continued use. As long as they have continued that use they will be allowed to have live stock. If they stop this then they won't." Commissioner Thrash said, "It is called non-conforming use." Mr. Ross said, "If you have something re-zoned for a specific purpose then you change it from Agriculture Residential to M-2." Chairman Glass said, "The prior Commissioners changed that zoning and current use is continued after you change the zoning and it is grandfathered in. At the last two meetings we were talking about changing a lot of parcels and whatever they are doing now they are allowed to continue doing it. If they were A-R with a small parcel and the proposed change was with R1 or R2 and they have livestock on it then they are allowed to continue to keep the livestock. This is not a violation of the zoning code. If they cease having livestock or if they sell the property then they would enforce it as R1 or R2." Mr. Ross said, "This seems like you all enacted a zoning change and they were already practicing this whereas the City of Barnesville requested the zoning change." Chairman Glass said, "Continued use applies to anybody." Mr. Ross said, "He didn't know how they could continue to use this as A-R." Chairman Glass said, "They can until they sell it or cease or change the use of it."

Mr. Ross said, I have an item that I want to bring before the board where I recently requested an Open Record Request from Lamar County for the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for a voice recording from the June 20<sup>th</sup> and the July 13<sup>th</sup> County Commissioner Public Hearing meetings. This was for a Court Case that I am involved with. I received a response from the County Attorney Records Custodian Scott Mayfield stating that once the minutes have been approved the records are deleted. On January 25<sup>th</sup> I sent this to my lawyer, and I told him about the request and the response I received. He was astonished and responded that it would never happen in Newton County. I believe that with today's technology, I think the County can economically record and store these important meetings. As a concerned citizen, I am asking the board to research this matter and bring it before discussion and vote on it at the next regular scheduled meeting. This is an honest request and should be looked into." Chairman Glass responded that he would consider this.

## **X. Round Table**

Commissioner Horton stated that Executive Director Kirk Fjelstul from Three Rivers Regional Commission will be in Lamar County this week but it will depend on the weather as to whether or not he will re-schedule.

Vice-Chairman Heiney stated that he had been looking at the photos of John Greene's House and it was a real disaster. Mr. Greene had been living in his car. Vice-Chairman Heiney

stated that he just wanted to recognize Mr. Eddie Felton, some of the others and those that took their time to renovate the house. Donations were generated on a Go Fund Me Page. Vice-Chairman Heiney stated that the house is now beautiful and announced that on this upcoming Saturday at 1:00 p.m. there will be a house warming and a ribbon cutting ceremony. Vice-Chairman Heiney stated that he hoped to see everyone there and that he expected to be there himself. Vice-Chairman Heiney requested that people bring a house warming gift for Mr. Greene. Vice-Chairman Heiney stated that this is why living in this community is a blessing. County Administrator Zellner stated that there was an article in the paper regarding this showing before and after pictures. Vice-Chairman Heiney concluded by saying thanks to the community and that we live in an awesome community.

Commissioner Traylor stated that at the Workshop meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> the board was presented information about the Wellness Program that is being done for the employees. Commissioner Traylor thanked all the employees that have participated in the program. Commissioner Traylor said that with his healthcare background he personally knows how important it is to be screened but once you are put in a situation, where once you have the information, you can act on it and it started with our employees participating in the Wellness Program. Commissioner Traylor stated that he wanted to go on record by requesting that Walter Geiger, with the Herald Gazette, put this in the paper to thank the County employees for participating in this wellness coaching and for taking the time to listen and try to better their health.

Commissioner Thrash stated that the Legislative Session is off and running. Commissioner Thrash stated that there is a bill that is related to Elections and they are contemplating changing the voting machines and having actual paper print outs. The changes that are coming are recommended and will cost the tax payers about two hundred million dollars. This is about a million dollars alone for Lamar County. Commissioner Thrash said that the County can't afford this. Commissioner Thrash said that once again another unfunded mandate that the State is placing on the County and we can no longer afford to do this. Commissioner Thrash said that the Commissioners are really good and they speak to the legislators and give them their opinions about things and they definitely hear from Lamar County. Commissioner Thrash said that she will be reaching out to citizens to speak to the legislators.

County Administrator Zellner presented a cash flow graph to the board. These are attached to the minutes. County Administrator Zellner emphasized that this is subject to change with all of the end of year changes and journal entries that have to be done. County Administrator Zellner stated that we have done really well with the money and the cash flow. County Administrator Zellner said that for the month of December we received from the Local Options Sale Tax \$69,006.54, we received from SPLOST II \$126,371.63, we sent \$93,664.00

to the Town of Aldora which takes care of their obligation and next month we will start paying the City of Milner. County Administrator Zellner reported the following.

1. Public Works
  - i. Picked up 27 bags of trash on Jackson Hwy and 17 bags of trash on Grove Street and Barnesville Avenue. Public Works Director Rigdon will have a couple of crews going out into the County and picking up trash. County Administrator Zellner reported that Commissioner Thrash had given him an area that they need to concentrate on.
2. Fire Department End of Year Report for 2017
  - i. 207 Fire Calls
  - ii. 23 Building and House Fires
  - iii. 17 Vehicle Fires
  - iv. 73 Brush Fires
  - v. 34 Fire Alarm Activations
  - vi. 3 Hazmat's.
  - vii. 431 Medical Calls.
3. The average response time for the ambulance calls was 6.49 minutes in November and 7.19 minutes in December. The rate for October was 74 and the transport rate for November was 207 which was 75 percent. Chairman Glass stated that he thought for the year it was around 75 percent.

Chairman Glass reported that the Barnesville Lamar County Library Grand Re-Opening is scheduled for Friday at 10:00 a.m. and said that if you have not seen the Library it is really a big change on the inside. Chairman Glass stated that there was an article in the paper regarding the Library and that he had been in there several times and he had seen the progress and he thinks that everybody is going to be impressed. Chairman Glass said that libraries are critical to the community. Chairman Glass also reported that there will be a blood drive on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the First Methodist Church and that the Women's League supplies homemade cookies. Chairman Glass stated that the Flu Season is preventing people from being eligible to give. Chairman Glass requested that everyone be safe in the weather and that hopefully the County Employees won't have to deal with the mess related to the ice and the snow. County Administrator Zellner stated that Public Works Director Rigdon has the dump trucks loaded with sand and they are ready to roll.

## **XI. Public Comments**

Joyce Farmer of 159 Yatesville Road stated on November 11<sup>th</sup> her house caught on fire and she was not home but she came back and when she got close to the house she heard a noise and went into the house and there was smoke and fire in the kitchen. Ms. Farmer stated that next to her husband passing away this is the most devastating thing she has ever happened to

her. Ms. Farmer stated that she couldn't breathe. She put her coat on and she got her husband Wayne's animals out of the living room. In the meantime, Ms. Farmer said she called Karen and since she was hysterical she came on over. Ms. Farmer said that she got a new phone and she couldn't find the dial pad. She said that she finally dialed 911 and the lady said you need to calm down and Ms. Farmer told her that she could not because her house was on fire and she had to get her animals out. The fireman came and was handing her dogs out of the window. Ms. Farmer said that she had a ramp for her dogs that was locked because she didn't want them to go out of it because it was too cold but she managed to get it unlocked and shewed them out first. Ms. Farmer said that the Fire Department wanted her to come out but she wouldn't until she got all of her animals out. The smoke was pouring out and fire was burning. They practically got it out in the kitchen. Ms. Farmer stated that she got all of her animals out and one little cat. Ms. Farmer said she climbed out of the window. The house didn't burn down but the kitchen and dining and living room was messed up. They are working on it now and it will look better than it did before. Ms. Farmer stated that there would be no more dogs in the house. Ms. Farmer stated that if she had gotten home later, and her dogs had been burned up, she wouldn't be here today because that would have just killed her. Ms. Farmer thanked the Fire Department because they came right on out. Ms. Farmer stated that they tried to drive in her yard but they had to come through the gate. They brought the fire hose in and put out the fire.

## **XII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 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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Robert Heiney, Vice-Chairman

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Bennie Horton, Commissioner

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Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

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Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk