

**LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MINUTES
March 14th, 2018
11:00 A.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m. on March 14th, 2018. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Thrash, and County Clerk Davidson. Absent for the meeting was Commissioner Heiney and County Administrator Robert Zellner.

Agenda Discussion

- 1) Reviewed two sets of minutes.
 - i. Workshop Meeting-February 15th, 2018
 - ii. Regular Business February 20th, 2018
- 2) Added a board appointment nomination, Erin Cook, to fill the unexpired term of Raleigh Henry.
- 3) Reviewed two Rezoning Applications
 - i. Rezoning App.# 2018-01 by Patrick Brown
 - ii. Rezoning App# 2018-02 by Kevin FabianBuilding and Zoning Director Gunter addressed the board with their questions concerning the rezoning applications. He stated that 800 square feet is the minimum requirement for R-4 zoning. Patrick Brown is requesting to rezone approximately 1.00 acre from A-R (Agricultural-Residential) to R-4 (Residential 4) to allow a 900 square foot house to be moved on the property. Kevin Fabian is requesting to rezone approximately 2.01 acres from R-3 (Residential 3) to R-4 (Residential 4) to allow an 800 square foot modular home to be moved on the property. The proposed use is for elderly parents.
- 4) Discussed adding a Supplemental Lease Agreement for the new Sheriff's Vehicles. County Administrator Zellner stated that he is working with Attorney Mayfield and United Bank. County Administrator Zellner stated that he has the invoices from Allen Vigil but that he doesn't have the invoices for the equipment. Sheriff White told him that there has been a problem with cages and they are backordered. County Administrator Zellner stated that they should have the Supplemental Lease Agreement by Tuesday to approve. County Administrator Zellner stated that Sheriff White had also ordered new Dodge Chargers for the Sheriff's Office and that they had been taken to Transcom to install the equipment. County Administrator Zellner stated that they will need to approve a second Supplemental Lease Agreement for the Dodge Chargers and that they will probably need to have a Special Called Meeting prior to the April Regular Business meeting.
- 5) The board discussed approving two Endeavor Card Applications. One for Probate Judge Martin and the other for the Lamar County Board of Commissioners. County Administrator Zellner stated that the interest rate for the Endeavor card is better than the Mastercard rate. Chairman Glass instructed County Administrator Zellner to review the County's credit card policy.

Administrator's Report

County Administrator Zellner reported that Jordan Forest Products, LLC had the best quote out of three bids for the timber harvesting on Hwy 36. The board will need to approve the Forest Products Sales Agreement contract with John W. Mixon and Associates at the March Regular

Business meeting. County Administrator Zellner also reported that there is a cemetery next to the Hwy 36 property and that Recreation Director Lanier and himself spoke to the owners about cleaning up the grave site and putting a fence around the cemetery. The graves are dated back to 1802.

County Administrator Zellner reported that he and Sheriff White visited the Oconee County Sheriff's Office and that Sheriff White liked the way that their office and jail was setup.

County Administrator Zellner reported that A&B Heating and Cooling had done an air conditioning inventory at the Courthouse and that there are approximately 8 units on the ground and 12 units on the top of the building. The dates of the units range from 1992-1998 and a couple of the units are completely rotted. The estimated cost to replace the air conditioning units is \$12,000.00 and this doesn't include the engineering for the duct work.

County Administrator Zellner stated that all of the buildings in the County are in bad shape. County Administrator Zellner said that he had spoken with Carmen Westerfield with the National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) who stated that she pays \$4,000.00 a month to rent their office space. The Division of Family and Children Service (DFACS) pays \$7,000.00 to rent their office space. County Administrator Zellner stated that both the NRCS and DFACS could rent from Lamar County and the combined total of \$11,000.00 could possibly go towards the debt service of a new building. Commissioner Horton and the board agreed that they should move forward with this process of building a new facility. Commissioner Thrash stated that there is not a better time than now to do this and Commissioner Horton said that sooner or later there won't be a choice. Chairman Glass recommended that they get an estimate with and without rent from NRCS and DFACS. County Administrator Zellner suggested that they had previously discussed building on the parking lot behind the Courthouse and there was also discussion about having a parking deck. County Administrator Zellner stated that he would call a meeting with the building facility committee. Chairman Glass suggested that they have a Special Called meeting to approve the next set of vehicles for the Sheriff's Office and to also hear an update from the building facility committee. Chairman Glass stated that if they are thinking about putting it on the referendum they need to get someone to process the bond.

County Administrator Zellner reported that the contract from Two Rivers for the road striping is \$315 per mile per line if they use their qualified operators. They have had an issue with finding qualified drivers. They have a contract with Spalding County and they are in the process of training an operator. They will be striping for Spalding County until August. If Lamar County provides the operator it will be \$275 per mile per line which is a \$40.00 discount.

County Administrator Zellner stated that he spoke to Sheriff White regarding the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) planning list and one of the things on the list was the Radio Tower and how it came about. Sheriff White said that we paid Transcom for the Radio Tower. There are two Radio Towers and the City of Barnesville may own one of them. In 1983, there was a new Radio System purchased for the Public Works Department and the Sheriff Office. Jacks Two Way Radio from Thomaston, Georgia came over and built them a tower. They split it three ways between the City of Barnesville, Lamar County and Jacks Two Way Radio. Jack's Two-Way Radio has since sold out to Transcom. Commissioner Thrash stated that in 2013, several thousands of dollars were spent on the repeater system. Chairman Glass stated that it was to install a mesh network system. County Administrator Zellner stated that he and Sheriff White talked about the 911 dispatch. The City of Barnesville does the local dispatching during the day. After hours, all of the 911 calls go to the Sheriff's Office. Also, the Sheriff's Office handles all of the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC). This includes criminal and driving records.

The City doesn't have the appropriate machine. County Administrator Zellner said that he and Sheriff White also discussed the Jail Agreement with the City of Barnesville. The agreement says that Lamar County will not charge the City of Barnesville for housing city prisoners. Sheriff White stated to County Administrator Zellner that he didn't understand the agreement with the City of Barnesville. They discussed the fact that Upson County charges \$35.00 at book in per day for inmates plus medical. Currently the City of Barnesville doesn't pay anything to house the prisoners or the medical. Sheriff White is proposing that they charge the City of Barnesville \$25.00 a day at book in plus medical. County Administrator Zellner suggested that they could go as low as \$15.00 a day. Sheriff White stated to County Administrator Zellner that he is going to write another contract with the City of Barnesville.

County Administrator Zellner stated that he had received an email from the board regarding purchasing another radar sign. The cost for one radar sign is about \$1,800 to \$2,500 apiece. Chairman Glass stated that we need to use the one we have rather than buying another one since there have been no calls for its usage.

Commissioner Horton reported that Recreation Director Lanier had approached Three Rivers for donations due to the shortfall from the Town of Aldora and said that he needs about \$25,000 to help with the entry fees. Commissioner Horton stated that they had a productive meeting and that they are setting up planning and budget committees. Commissioner Horton is on the planning committee. Commissioner Horton stated that they are going to see great things from Three Rivers under the direction of Mr. Fjelstul because he has a lot of knowledge and contacts to bring to the table.

County Administrator Zellner spoke to Director Fjelstul about a Hwy Grant from Three Rivers. They can't get this grant for Industrial Road because they are too far along with it. So, he mentioned Bottoms Road as the next project but Director Fjelstul said that the grant is geared more towards commercial development and fixing up bridges. County Administrator Zellner reported that a bridge on Ethridge Mill Road needs to be repaired. At one time, they had to get a diver to go in to inspect that bridge and they came back and said that there were problems with that bridge that will need to be addressed. They went ahead and lowered the weight limit but the issue with that was if you get it too low the school busses can't go over the bridge. County Administrator Zellner stated that Public Works Director Rigdon mentioned the bridge on Zebulon Road needed to be repaired so he had been looking at the inspection records that were on file from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

County Administrator Zellner stated that there had been complaints at the Courthouse regarding the striping. Sheriff White reported that people don't know where to park so they park anywhere. He received a quote from Wade Head with Quality Paving for \$6,500.00. The quote includes sealing and striping the parking lot. Chairman Glass stated that this was within the threshold of the County Administrators approval and he could make this decision.

Commissioner Thrash reported on the National Association of County Commissioners (NACO) meeting that she recently attended. The Secretary of Transportation provided them with a copy of President Trumps tax plans and she has a copy for the board members to review. The two main issues discussed at the meeting were the opioid usage and mental health. Some of the counties are filing lawsuits against the manufactures of the opioids to try and recoup some of the cost. Commissioner Thrash stated that counties are spending lots of money on incarcerating mental health people and several Resolutions were passed regarding this. Commissioner Thrash said that she recently met with Congressman Drew Ferguson and Senator Johnny Isakson and talked about the Waste to Energy Project and said that she did a little presentation. She said that

they are going to be coming to Lamar County to see the Waste to Energy Project because he has heard a lot of good things about Lamar County. Billy Kirkland, Assistant to President Trump, spoke at the board meeting and gave a shout out to Lamar County. Commissioner Thrash said that Lamar County is known in Washington.

Commissioner Traylor reported on the Guthrie property on Midway Road. He stated that he met with Building and Zoning Director Gunter and their attorney and basically, they are wanting to have an entrance from Hwy 36. Their plans are to sell property within their own family in order to get car access and make it feasible. Commissioner Traylor stated that at the next Board of Commissioners workshop he wants to invite Ken Rivers, a Commissioner in Jackson, Georgia, to talk about their animal shelter. Commissioner Traylor and Fred Morris went to the Butts County Animal Shelter and met with Mr. Rivers, Butts County Sheriff Doyle and the President of Butts Mutts. They toured the facility and found it pretty interesting. Commissioner Traylor stated that he went over there with an attitude of “Let’s get this done” and walked away with an attitude of “Wow”. In the beginning there was not a lot of support from their Board of Commissioners and now everyone has gotten excited about it. They are so behind it that the Sheriff has taken over the operations of the Animal Shelter. The Butt’s County Sheriff is very progressive and he has big plans. They are now in the process of taking over something else. They took a recycling building and turned it into an animal shelter. The inmates are building a new entrance into the facility. They had a very high kill rate and they have dropped the kill rate. Chairman Glass said that part of the reason is because they are marketing the animals to be taken up North. He asked if they can do it there, why doesn’t Lamar County do this here and why don’t we focus on this instead of a new building. Commissioner Traylor stated that they took a metal building and now they have a walk-up stoop. They changed the whole process of getting animals adopted out. They saw the need to get the façade looking better so that they could adopt out more animals. Commissioner Traylor said it was a very good presentation. Chairman Glass said that animals are sent to other areas, regions or agencies and Fred Morris seems to think that we need a store front for an animal shelter. Commissioner Traylor stated that Fred Morris had never been to Butts County before and his conversation with the Commissioner from Butts County was that he had a change of heart once he got involved with the animal shelter.

Chairman Glass reported that the Special Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) portion for the City of Milner had been paid off. The Junior’s Reserve Officer’s Training Camp (JROTC) is having their annual Cadet Ball on March 24th, 2018. Chairman Glass announced that the blood drive sponsored by the Barnesville Rotary Club was in honor of Dr. Lee Woodall and his brother Bob Woodall.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting at 12:34 p.m. and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Robert Heiney, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk