

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Budget Workshop Minutes

June 13th, 2018

1:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Heiney, Commissioner Horton, and Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Zellner, County Clerk Davidson.

The board meet with allotted departments to discuss the proposed 2019 budget Based on the actuals line items the proposed budget for 2019 either increased, decreased or remained the same.

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

Board of Equalization

Clerk of Superior Court Judge Caleb Tyson addressed the board. Commissioner Thrash inquired about the increase in the Board of Equalization appeals. Judge Tyson stated that he reviewed what was spent last year and what is in the current budget. He said that there will be an increase in the pay for Board of Equalization members because they are expecting multiple weeks of hearings. They are paid \$50.00 for a day of service. Judge Tyson said that you have to have three members on the board to meet and sometimes there is an alternate slated to attend. Last year they only had 3 days of meetings. Each board member is paid when they attend trainings. Judge Tyson said that the budget for Schools/Meetings and Trainings line item will not have to be increased in 2019. Judge Tyson said that due to a mandatory law that is going into effect, all civil files must be e-filed. This is for all civil cases, even it is a divorce case. The person can either file at home on their own computer or they would need to come into his office. He said that needs to have a way for them to e-file the documents in his office. Judge Tyson stated that he needs a very simple computer and scanner to do this that is not connected to the secure network. All of the secure network connections in his office are provided by the Clerk's Authority but this computer and scanner for e-filing is supposed to be provided by the County. The computers that are located in the deed room are Clerk's Authority equipment and should not be connected to an unsecure network. Judge Tyson reported that there is an additional amount that will be collected for the pre-trial diversion programs in the amount of \$5.00 per case. This will begin July 1st, 2018. This is for drug court. Judge Tyson reported that the new storage filing system is about a one quarter full and is going well. Judge Tyson stated that he would love for his judges to desire more technology in the court room so that he wouldn't have to have a hardcopy of the case, especially with the mandatory e-filing for civil cases is coming about. Judge Tyson said that he would like for them to use electronic data so that he could review the case files on his computer.

Clerk of Superior Court Judge Tyson made the following budget requests.

1. Decreased Schools/Meetings/Trainings from \$3,0000 to \$2,500.00
2. Increased Fees for the Board of Equalization from \$1,500 to \$2,000

EMA

Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director Billy Campbell and Becky Martin attended the meeting. EMA Director Campbell and County Administrator Zellner both stated that they had the money in the budget for the last 2 sirens but that they weren't approved. If they approve 2 sirens for 2019 the 2018 portion will be gone. EMA Director Campbell stated that the deadline for him to run in his paperwork was June 30th, 2017. The EMA office was told that they were working on the sirens in January of 2018 and when the EMA office called back Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in April of 2018 they were told that they were being impatient. EMA Director Campbell said that the deadline was a year ago and nothing has happened with the budgeted sirens. Ms. Martin said that FEMA is normally slow but not this slow. EMA director Campbell said that the siren will be located on Brooks and Bottoms Road. EMA Director Campbell said that a lot of people fish at City Pond and they really need a siren on Brooks and Bottoms Road so they can get them off the lake if there is inclement weather. They would like to put the second siren at Forsyth-Yatesville and Ramah Church road. EMA Director Campbell said that the price for the new sirens in 2019 will not be the same price as quoted in 2017. The budgeted money for 2017 is gone. Currently, Lamar County has 13 sirens and he would like to have 2 more. EMA Director Campbell reported that the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) team is pretty active and that they are having a car show fund raiser on September 8th, 2018. Chairman Glass inquired about hazmat drills and EMA Director Campbell stated that they don't do these anymore. EMA Director Campbell said that he is retiring in 22 months and he has a person that is interested in the job. There is a lot of training that has to be done for a director to come on board and they have to be certified. It takes two years to get certified. Ms. Martin stated that she plans on staying with the EMA.

EMA Director Campbell made the following budget requests.

3. Increased Schools/Meetings/Trainings from \$3,912.00 to \$4,000.00
4. Increased M&R Office Equipment to \$100.00
5. Increased M&R Vehicles from \$134.00 to \$400.00
6. Increased M&R Other Equipment from \$3,918.00 to \$5,200.00
7. Decreased Communications from \$2,102.00 to \$1,800.00
8. Increased Stamps/Postage to \$200.00
9. Increased Dues and Fees from \$50.00 to \$100.00
10. Increased Printing Office Supplies from \$245.00 to \$525.00
11. Increased the CERT Training Grant from \$595.00 to \$1,100

12. Decreased the Early Warning System Grant from \$53,127.00 to \$52,108.00
13. Decreased the PPA Grant from \$209.00 to \$1,555.00
14. Increased Gasoline/Diesel from \$478.00 to \$600.00

MAGISTRATE COURT

Magistrate Judge Jackson went over contract services and expressed her desire to have a better scanner and copier. After the contract is up, she said that she didn't want to use Athena. She stated that JTS requested was \$3,420.00 and the Westlaw Next Legal Subscription requests needed to be increased from \$101.10 a month to \$116.00. The court interpreters for court uses is \$1,000.00. Judge Jackson stated that she has to fund the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) interpreters in the court room. She has had deaf, deaf and mute and non-speaking felons in her courtroom. Judge Jackson stated that with all of the new technology she needs a new smart Television and DVD where she can review digital type evidence. She is requesting a 28' to 32' TV with built in DVD player which can be used as a computer monitor. The phone equipment in her courtroom was from the 1990's and she was able to get this replaced with refurbished phones for a cost of \$350.00. She replaced 4 phones and line installation for the courtroom and she was also able to get a phone for the bench. Judge Jackson would also like security doors to limit access to the bench and is working on getting quotes for this. There are no changes to her staff and she stated that Chuck Keadle with the Sheriff's Office is doing a great job serving papers. There are no fines and forfeitures fees collected in the Magistrate Court, only misdemeanors. Chairman Glass noted that the revenues for the Magistrate Court has increase by \$2,000.00 each year. Judge Jackson reported that she used to get revenue from deposit fraud but people aren't writing checks anymore. There have been no County ordinance violations or citations that made it to trial. Judge Jackson stated that the Magistrate Court is not a revenue source for the County because the cost for the courts is minimal. Judge Jackson requested a raise for the Magistrate Clerk, Jennifer Sewell and stated that she has over 15 years of experience. She handles the public of Lamar County in a courteous way and Judge Jackson stated that she needs to be compensated.

Judge Jackson made the following budget requests.

1. Increased Contract Services from \$7,000.00 to \$8,000.00
2. Increased Communications from \$2,300.00 to \$2,400.00

Chairman Glass requested that the board take a five-minute recess at approximately 2:15 p.m. The Board reconvened the budget workshop at 2:20 p.m.

Senior Center

Senior Center Director Stuart gave a report on her part-time workers and stated that Carol Yeoman, the Meals on Wheels driver, is only making \$7.25 an hour and she is very dependable and usually works more than 20 hours a week without pay. Senior Center Director Stuart requested that she receive a raise of \$8.50 an hour. Senior Center Director Stuart reported that they do not have an

exercise or dance instructor and is requesting \$10.00 a day to allow for one or two instructors to teach these classes. There is \$2,600 allotted in the budget for this. The Senior Center rentals is handled by Julia Hosley and guestimates that her salary is based on rentals which is \$1,350.00. Mary Allen, the bus driver for the Joy Club and the Happy Days Travel Club actually pays the County back for her hours. This is \$2,400.00. Sharon Farrell, the Water Aerobics Instructor is paid \$105.00. They have two receptionists provided by the Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging (TRAAA) and if they end up having to pay for one of these positions it could \$8320.00 a year. Senior Center Director Stuart stated that she travels to Franklin for TRAAA meetings. Senior Center Director Stuart stated that she needs funds to buy craft supplies, party supplies, food for special holidays, seasonal table decorations and more. They do the birthday cakes for the Rotary Club, doughnuts for Dad, muffins for mom, and all of these expenses take away from the supplies budget. They play bingo on Wednesday and Friday. Many of the members are old and frail and the age range is from 80 to 90 years old. Senior Center Director Stuart says that she also need a 3-compartment sink and a wall faucet with a sprayer. She is estimating the cost for this will be \$1,500.00. Senior Center Director Stuart said that the floors in the Senior Center facility needs stripping and waxing yearly and they need this done right now. Senior Center Director Stuart reported that the air conditioner is out and that the roof on the building needs to be repaired. She said that she needs new or used furniture, 2 sofas, 2 club chairs and a table for the facility. She has spoken with TRAAA concerning the available funds for furniture but they are not allowed to help with this. She also said that the Meals on Wheels vehicle needs to be replaced.

Senior Center Director Stuart made the following budget requests.

1. Increased Schools/Meetings and Trainings from \$200.00 to \$350.00.
2. Increased Printing Office Supplies from \$750.00 to \$1,400.00
3. Increased the Senior Citizen Activities from \$ \$1,200.00 to \$2,400.00
4. Increased Gasoline/Diesel from \$1,000.00 to \$1,800.00

Barnesville Library

The Barnesville Lamar County Library Office Manager Kelly Hughes and two members from the Library Board, Britt Lifsey, and Mary Blalock addressed the Board of Commissioners. They are requested an increase in their budget for 2019 due to insurance needs for 2 more employees and the rise in employer rates for Teacher Retirement. The rate went from 16.81% to 20.90%. During the meeting it was determined that one of the employees will start their insurance coverage in 2019-2020 instead of 2018-2019. The board discussed the retirement plan and determined that there has actually been a 25 percent increase. Officer Manager Hughes stated that the utilities for the new library has gone down due to the new LED lightning. There has been a lot of volume since the doors opened to the new library and they have had lots of activities and programs. There were 210 participates in the Summer Reading program and services have greatly increased. People are still complimenting her on the library and the services that are offered there. There is a large

meeting room and people are using this room for after hour functions. The cost is \$150.00 and the deposit of \$50.00 is reimbursable. The seating capacity in the meeting room is 145. There is a projector, television and a cart available for someone to use. There is a full kitchenette that can be used, just no red liquids. Office Manager Hughes stated that the room stays reserved. After deducting the insurance for Katina and adding in the extra retirement the requested budget amount for the Barnesville Lamar County Library is \$264,019 plus \$1,100.00 bringing the total to \$265,119.

Adjournment

Commissioner Horton made a motion to adjourn the workshop at 3:30 p.m. and Commissioner Traylor 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