

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MINUTES
June 13th, 2019
1:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 1:27 p.m. p.m. on June 13th, 2019. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Traylor, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson.

Planning and Zoning

Planning and Zoning Director Buice gave a report regarding the Special Exception App.# 2019-01 by Brian Abreu to allow the property to be used for agritourism, to host marriage ceremonies, luncheons, and such related events. The property is 20 acres, located at 150 Freeman Circle in Land Lots 49 of the 7th Land District, as shown on Tax Map 039 parcel 092: and recorded in Deed Book 890, Page 151. The Board of Appeals recommended approval with the conditions that the number of guests be limited to 150; to limit the end time of events Sunday through Thursday to 8:00 p.m. and to limit the end time of events on Friday and Saturday to Midnight; to limit the number of events per month to 6; to maintain the existing buffer of hardwood trees around the property and supplement with new hardwoods as needed due to damage or disease; to discontinue the use of the property for fee based events if found guilty by any court authority of any violations of these conditions, or of any local, state or federal regulations pertaining to this business. The board discussed agritourism in the County and the issues with the noise ordinance not being enforced. Chairman Glass noted that the Sheriff's office is the point of contact for noise ordinance issues. Commissioner Heiney was concerned with the other agritourism events related to noise. The board discussed the differences between alcohol licenses, Bring Your Own Bottle (BYOB), and coverage charges related to when and when not to charge for an alcohol license or a permit. Planning and Zoning Director Buice stated that she would research these differences and also speak to the County Attorney regarding this issue.

Regular Meeting Discussion

- 1) County Clerk Davidson reported that Craig Ogletree with Greater Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church is scheduled to give the invocation.
- 2) The board reviewed the following 3 sets of minutes.
 - Workshop Meeting-May 16th, 2019
 - Public Hearing-May 21st, 2019
 - Regular Business Meeting-May 21st, 2019
- 3) The board reviewed a request from the American Red Cross Central Midwest Georgia to publicly thank Chairman Glass, the Lamar County Fire Department, and the Georgia Power Community Representative Craig Ogletree for the recent installation of the smoke alarms.
- 4) The board reviewed a request from Tyrone Smith regarding the 2020 Census.
- 5) The board heard a report on the S.R. 36 Park bid tabulation from County Administrator Townsend who recommended that they get an extension on the bid. He said he had reached out to Jack Reed, an engineer with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), who

requested that they resubmit the application. Chairman Glass reported that the action from the May Regular Business meeting was to negotiate the cost with the contractor. Chairman Glass stated that there was nothing that could be cut out of the project in Phase I and even though they did cut Phase II from the project, it will still cost over a million dollars. County Administrator Townsend explained to the board that he showed a spreadsheet to Mr. Reed on how everything was budgeted and how the bids came in. County Administrator Townsend reported that they will meet with GDOT's Thomaston staff the week of the 24th to hear their recommendations and also to request more funds. County Administrator Townsend stated that he had spoken with Mr. Reed and Mr. Bishop, with GDOT, and said that they both understood that because GDOT had changed the specifications for the decel lane, this is what caused the increased quotes on the bids. Chairman Glass stated that \$450,000.00 was originally budgeted for the entire park and then GDOT required a decel lane and then later on, they required a left turn lane and the cost keeps going up. Chairman Glass said that originally the Public Works Department was going to work on the decel lane but it was just too dangerous. Chairman Glass stated that the cost continues to grow and said that GDOT had offered to give \$150,000.00 to help with the project but based on the quotes given, this is not enough money and help is still needed. Chairman Glass said that they may have to meet with the GDOT Commissioner, Russell McMurray, but suggested that he and County Administrator Townsend meet with the Thomaston Staff to make sure this is what they should be doing. Chairman Glass suggested that they amend the project to \$300,000.00 because they can't approve the bid if there aren't enough funds to support it. Chairman Glass suggested that the board ask for a 30-day extension on the bid and procure more funds towards the project. Commissioner Thrash wanted to know if it was feasible for the project to move forward. Commissioner Glass responded that the board could reject all of the bids. Chairman Glass said that they haven't done anything at this point to make it a park and if they can't handle the funding for the project then they would have to turn it back over to the Federal Government and ask them permission to sell it to a private company. Chairman Glass said he didn't want to give the park up but it was never in the plan to have a million dollar entrance. County Administrator Townsend reported that there is about \$759,000.00 budgeted for the project and that they are about \$300,00.00 off. There was around \$97,000.00 spent on engineering. There was \$103,000.00 received from Jordan, for the trees that were cut. County Administrator Townsend recommended that at the end of SPLOST III they keep that money in SPLOST and when then approve the next SPLOST they could roll that money into recreation. There was discussion regarding GDOT putting in passing lanes on Highway 36 or some type of roundabout.

- 6) The board reviewed two board appointments for the Department of Family and Children Services:
 - a. Eddie Collier-June 30th, 2019
 - b. Olivia Banks-June 30th, 2019
- 7) The board reviewed the Three Rivers Regional Commission Public Transportation Services. Chairman Glass reported that they have a new auditor and they don't agree with the way they are using the Grant money for transportation services. Chairman Glass suggested that the board not renew the contract, because they don't know what amount to renew the contract for but requested that the money allotted for the transportation services be left in the budget.
- 8) The board reviewed two requests for the Safety Refund from the Association of County

Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). The first request was for carpet in the Administration building and the Courthouse. The Carpet bids included three vendors. The bids included those from Cleveland Carpets at a cost of \$ 20,571.82; Doyle's Flooring at a cost of \$13,813.00; and Zebulon Flooring at a cost of \$22,292.21. The Staff recommended the low bid from Doyle's Flooring. The second request was for Automated External Defibrillators (AED) units that are needed for seven County buildings. The bids included AEP Superstore for a cost of \$7,428.40; American AED for a cost of \$8,358.00; Phillips Heartsmart for a cost of \$7,105.00. Fire Chief Matthews recommended the Phillips Heartsmart.

- 9) The board reviewed one bid for 3 Heating and Cooling units for the Courthouse that was received in the form of a sealed bid. The bid was received from Central Georgia Heating and Cooling, Inc. The bid was for \$15,000.00 and the staff recommendation was to approve the sole bid. The includes one-year labor, one-year parts, and 5 years compressor.
- 10) The board reviewed three bids for fire equipment for the new fire truck. The bids included TEN 8 for a cost of \$11,537.09; Fireline for a cost of \$ 13,022.75; and MES who did not meet the requirements. The staff recommendation was to approve the lowest bid from TEN 8. The board also reviewed a request from Georgia Fire and Rescue Supply for GFARS Demo Homatro for a cost of \$10,963.70 which is valued over \$30,000.00.
- 11) The board reviewed a surplus request for a 1982 Fire Truck belonging to the County with the Vin# 1FDWR80CVA51003. The proceeds from the surplus fire truck will go into the General Fund and a budget amendment for the Fire Department will be done through a Resolution.
- 12) Chairman Glass gave a report on the Towaliga Circuit Court Budget meeting. He said that the Public Defender has agreed to not fund another attorney this year but instead he is requesting the funds through the State. The extra \$6,000.00 will also not be in his supplement this year. They found a \$16,000 rental cost that was in the budget that was slated for Monroe County but since Lamar County provides them a place, they took it out from the budget. Chairman Glass stated that all three counties; Butts, Monroe and Lamar agreed on the amounts in the budget. The total budget amount of \$1,678,093.15 will need to be approved. The current proposal is a modified population split. Instead of a 27% share for Lamar County, traditionally Lamar County has been 21% to 22% of the budget, based on caseloads, the judge's recommendation would be 26%. If they went with a pure population split, it would be 27% for Lamar County. Lamar County's percentage for this year will be 23% and 25% next year. Monroe County will still be at 41%. The impact is between Lamar County and Butts County. They reviewed the revenues from fines over the last 12 months to see about allocating those based on the same splits. Butts County's revenues from fines were \$120,000.00, Lamar County had about \$41,000.00 and Monroe County had about \$88,00.00. Chairman Glass explained that they are closely looking at the line items in the budget including the rent cost of \$16,000.00. Chairman Glass stated that by doing this, they can bring the numbers down and then they have momentum to go to the State and say that this is out of control. Chairman Glass stated that the Justice Reform is out of control too. Commissioner Thrash stated that there is an issue with the Business Court and that will have to be funded as well and this is not sustainable for the tax payers. Chairman Glass stated that he met with Senator Harbin regarding the DRIVE system and said that \$14,000.00 doesn't seem that much compared to the Towaliga Circuit budget or compared to the State budget. The State budget this year is 27.5 billion dollars compared to Lamar County's budget which is 9.9 million. This is a ratio of 2.778. He said that Lamar County's cost for the DRIVE's system is \$16,4648.00 and this is like 46 million for the State. Chairman Glass stated that the \$21,000.00 that it will cost Lamar County for the 5%

raise for the Constitutional officers is 58.43 million for the State. Chairman Glass stated that Butts and Monroe County's Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) and the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is higher than Lamar County's due to I-75 and a larger tax base. He said that among the three counties, LOST is collected at 100% and Lamar County received 13.6%, Butts County received 38.7% and Monroe County received 47.7% percent. Chairman Glass stated that with the total operating budget, Lamar County received 17.2%, Monroe received 48% and Butts County received 35%. Chairman Glass stated that Lamar County is carrying a lot of the court cost case load but Lamar County doesn't have the same resources.

- 13) The board reviewed the Resolution 2019-06 for the Special Exception application 2019-01 for Brian Abreu.
- 14) The board reviewed Ordinance 2019-07 Posting of Posting of Numerals for New Construction Homes.
- 15) The board reviewed Ordinance 2019-08 Specification for Roads.
- 16) The board reviewed Ordinance 2019-09 Amending the Zoning Ordinance for Lamar County
- 17) The board reviewed Ordinance 2019-10 Rezoning by Bankston Properties

Other Discussion

Chairman Glass stated that the audit for 2018 is supposed to be on the June agenda for approval and is due by June 30th, 2019 but the auditor is waiting on the Clerk of Superior Court's and the Solid Waste Authority's financial reports to complete the audit. The board discussed the fact that Superior Court Clerk Tyson has had family and software system issues that have contributed to the audit being late. The board discussed time line issues with Superior Court Clerk Tyson and Chairman Glass stated that he was put on the audit committee last year. Chairman Glass stated that Superior Court Clerk Tyson promised the audit would be done two months ago, but he has not provided the audit as of today. Chairman Glass stated that if the audit is late it jeopardizes any Grant money that the County has received or is going to receive. County Administrator Townsend stated that there were also issues with payments to retirement funds with the Superior Court Clerk Tyson and there were a lot of red flags with his office. Chairman Glass requested that Superior Court Clerk Tyson and County Auditor Underwood join the meeting. Chairman Glass stated that the Administrative staff had offered to assist Superior Court Clerk Tyson but he has refused any type of assistance. Chairman Glass reported that Superior Court Clerk Tyson had told him he had issues at home that prevented him from getting the audit done.

Chairman Glass reported that the Boys and Girls Club is going to go beside the Lamar County Elementary school and that the City of Barnesville will be providing the building. There is no road and it is 50 to 75 ft. from the parking lot. Chairman Glass said that if they use County equipment they could possibly push some dirt around. This is not County business but a help to the community.

County Administrator Townsend reported that there were old iPad's available for use that the Public Works Department was using but they aren't able to be updated. He recommended if the board is going to use iPad's then they need to purchase new ones. Vice-Chairman Traylor stated that these would be helpful for when they attend business meetings, conferences and training classes and it would save money on paper as well. Commissioner Heiney stated that he could put the information on his computer. County Administrator Townsend reported

that according to County Clerk Davidson, this was a big topic of discussion among the Georgia County Clerk's Association and their Commissioner's using the iPad's.

Superior Court Clerk Tyson joined the meeting. Chairman Glass stated that the board would like to approve the audit at the Regular Business meeting but they needed his financial reports to complete the audit. Superior Court Clerk Tyson stated that he would have the November and December 2018 disbursements to the County by Friday at noon and then all of the financial reports to County Auditor Underwood by Monday morning.

County Auditor Underwood joined the meeting and stated that she would be at the Recreation Department today but would need the financial reports from Superior Court Clerk Tyson. She stated that she had not done the financials because she needed both the Solid Waste Authority's and the Superior Court's financial reports. County Auditor Underwood reported that she could have the audit ready provided that she has all of the financial reports. She said she has 5 days after June 30th, 2019 and she could upload the audit report to the State via email. The board discussed a tentative date of July 2nd, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. for a Special Called meeting.

Commissioner Horton made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel at 3:31 p.m. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board came out of executive session and resumed the Workshop meeting at approximately 3:50 p.m.

ROUND TABLE

Vice-Chairman Traylor reported that there would be an Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Task Force, for both Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) and Service Delivery Strategy (SDS), meetings around the State and that they would host one in Barnesville on September 4th, 2019. Vice-Chairman Traylor said that Gordon State President Dr. Knooks suggested having all of the City and County government officials within the 14 County region for a question and answer session along with the Task Force meeting at Gordon State College. The board discussed show casing Lamar County including the Fine Arts Center and the Milner Library. The board suggested that topic of discussion could include Behavioral Health, Rural Broadband, Federal Legislative updates, and Advocates for Better Communities, Inc to discuss the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) related to water and sewer services.

County Administrator Townsend reported that the County is \$167,000.00 in the good.

County Clerk Davidson reported that Nurse Manager Sherry Farr inquired about the grading for the grounds around the new building, a barrier of some sort between the building and the house behind it, and the Public Works Department assisting them with the move.

County Clerk Davidson reported that the renewal proposal for the 2019-20 Intergovernmental Risk Management proposal had been received for a net contribution of \$221,028.00 with a \$2,500.00 deductible for reported claims. The safety credit is \$12,659.00 and the dividend

credit is \$32,897.00.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Traylor made a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting at approximately 4:05 p.m. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Ryran Traylor, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk