

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MINUTES
October 10th, 2019
12:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m. on October 10th, 2019. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Traylor, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson. Commissioner Heiney was absent for the meeting.

CYBER SECURITY

Chairman Glass discussed issues with Cyber Security. Chairman Glass stated that there had been a good bit in the news regarding hospitals, businesses and small government agencies that are being attacked and held ransom. The responses were to pay the ransom or recreate everything afterwards which is the more expensive choice. He said that the City of Atlanta was attacked and it cost them 20 million dollars to try and recover their data. Currently, there isn't a best solution for when it happens, but a lot of places pay the ransom and keep going. The best solution is to try to prevent it from happening. Chairman Glass debated the difference between contracting with a company to do Cyber Security to protect Lamar County's system and the users or take a chance on being ransomed. Commissioner Thrash said that statistically smaller counties aren't affected but if the attackers can get \$5,000.00, they will go after \$5,000.00 therefore Lamar County isn't exempt from being attacked. Commissioner Thrash noted that Facebook and other sites are wide open on the computers in Lamar County. Chairman Glass said that a lot of the issues come from phishing emails. Chairman Glass stated that the first line of defense is to train people on this type of issue. Chairman Glass reported that he had received several of these types of emails from DocuSign and from someone requesting that he fill out an award acceptance. County Clerk Davidson reported that all of the systems used are web driven and said that they don't currently have a server in the Administration Office. The Financial and Payroll system is hosted by Tyler Tech, the Email system is hosted by Network Solutions and the Work Order system is hosted by Facility Dude and all of these are web-based applications. The Financial system that Lamar County uses is called Incode and the access used to retrieve the data is on a hosted site owned by Tyler Tech. They have a team that is looks for breaches and the data is monitored 24-7. The servers are in real time and at any time the data can be retrieved from servers that are manned in two places in the United States. There are also virtual servers that are mirror images of the hosted servers that are maintained by Tyler Tech. Chairman Glass noted that the other systems such as the Email, the Work order system or other systems in the County may take as long as two weeks for the data to be retrieved. County Clerk Davidson stated that legitimate emails that have been going to spam are an issue that she is addressing. Vice-Chairman Traylor inquired about internal processes that are in place regarding opening suspicious emails or other safe guards that are in place regarding losing data. County Administrator Townsend stated that all of the Departments and Constitutional Officers had been advised about suspicious emails. He said that four companies had run virus scans and other checks on each computer. They all reported that that the County is wide open but they didn't find anything suspicious. County Administrator Townsend agreed that all of the systems are all offsite. He said that the Clerk of Superior Court's system is offsite as well. County

Administrator Townsend stated that the Sheriff's Office may have onsite backups but he would need to check on this. Janzen Shivers, the contracted IT vendor, has also been working on issues to keep the County safe. Chairman Glass pointed out that word documents and excel files on each computer may be at risk. Commissioner Thrash requested that a meeting for all employees be setup to go over proper computer usage including phishing emails. County Administrator Townsend reported that there is a black box in the Administration Building where no one has access to it including passwords. It is a computer where all of the IP addresses are stored. Mr. Shivers plans are to update this black box. County Clerk Davidson suggested that Mr. Shivers give a short presentation with a handout for the employees at the annual Thanksgiving breakfast. County Clerk Davidson pointed out that since the County is not networked, employees are able to login to Facebook and other sites where viruses could possibly be generated and not just from emails. Chairman Glass and the board agreed to have Mr. Shivers provide some information to the employees at the Thanksgiving breakfast with the top three to five ways on how to protect their files and data.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Commissioner Thrash gave a legislative update from her recent Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Legislative Leadership Conference.

Commissioner Thrash first congratulated Vice-Chairman Traylor on being selected to serve on the committee named the 'Lifelong Learning Committee' that is appointed annually by the ACCG President. The committee is designed to serve as an advisory panel for planning and implementation of the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy (LLA), as well as other education objectives that ACCG might endeavor to undertake. Vice-Chairman Traylor also serves on the Service Delivery Strategy/Local Option Sales Tax Force.

Commissioner Thrash stated that the membership voted on one priority which was to "Require Online Platforms to Collect Sales Tax", also referred to as Marketplace Facilitator Tax Collection, as the Legislative Priority.

There were ten top priorities selected by the Chairman including the Marketplace Facilitator Tax Collections. These include: Bridge Improvement Program; Service Delivery Strategies (SDS) and Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) Negotiations; Modify Legal Organ Notice Requirements; Limit Charges for All Inmate Medical Services to Medicaid Rates; Fees on Property Tax Bills; Redirection of Dedicated Fees; Increase Add-On to Criminal and Quasi Criminal Fines to Fund the Peace Officer Annuity and Benefit Fund (POAB0); Support Policy and Rule Changes by the Department of Public Health (DPH) to Increase Transparency in relation to EMS Zone Services; Public Notification of Tax Increase; and Location of Taxable Transactions.

Commissioner Thrash stated they discussed bridge improvements and learned that 97% of these bridges are on local roads and counties have to pay a matching portion. ACCG is asking that counties not be required to pay the matching fee so they are asking the legislators to take a 100 percent of the match.

Commissioner Thrash stated that on the modification of the legal organ notice requirements, counties should be allowed to post legal notices on their county website or common statewide websites in addition to the required paid post in the county's legal organ. She said should the legal organ fail to post the notice, the publication on the county website or common statewide website should serve as adequate notice to the public. She said that in smaller rural counties, who advertised their millage rate increase, where the paper never published it, people have challenged this saying that what the Commissioners did was illegal.

Commissioner Thrash stated that it looks like the Policy staff is going to be focusing on the online sales because the State of Georgia could be missing as much as 90 million dollars.

Commissioner Thrash stated that on the Federal side NACO is really pushing the broadband development. They are also pushing the home rule.

Commissioner Thrash stated that when people are incarcerated, they lose their Medicare benefits and the responsibility falls on the local jurisdictions for medical and drug expenses. ACCG is proposing that the State and Federal take this on until a person is formally charged.

Commissioner Thrash suggested that the board have a round table breakfast or lunch with the legislators before the session ends.

Regular Meeting Discussion

The board discussed the Regular Meeting agenda for October 15th, 2019

- 1) The board reviewed the Public Hearing for a fee schedule for Occupation Tax Permits
- 2) The board reviewed and added to the agenda 3 sets of minutes. One for the Workshop held on September 12th, the Public Hearing meeting held on September 17th, and the Regular Business meeting held on September 17th, 2019.
- 3) The board discussed adding the board appointment of Jere Moore to the Tax Assessors board, due to the resignation of Tammy Cannon. There was discussion about him being the Uncle of a tax assessor employee. The board agreed that if they appoint Jere Moore to this board then anytime an issue with this employee comes up, that he recuses himself from the discussion or vote.
- 4) The board discussed Ordinance 2019-13 Alcohol Beverage Ordinance and heard from Planning and Zoning Director Buice that the word "beer" had been removed from the Ordinance. The board added the 2nd reading of the Alcohol Ordinance 2019-13 Alcohol to the agenda.
- 5) The board reviewed and added to the agenda a new fee schedule for alcohol fees. The application fee is currently \$100.00 and the proposed fee is \$150.00. The renewal fee is \$100.00 and the proposed fee is \$150.00. The fee for a malt beverage by the package license is currently \$500.00. The proposed fee for a malt beverage by the package license is \$500.00.

The fee for a malt beverage pouring license is currently \$500.00. The proposed fee for a malt beverage pouring license is \$750.00. The farm winery, and/or a brewery license is proposed at \$500.00. The proposed fee for a brew pub license is \$250.00. The license for catered events is currently \$100.00 and the proposed fee is set at \$50.00 instead of the current fee of \$100.00 because this fee is set by the State. The proposed fee for a manufacturer and/or a wholesale/distributor license is \$1,000.00.

- 6) The board discussed with Planning and Zoning Director Buice about modifying the Media Permit Ordinance. There was discussion about fees and decided that those would be handled internally within the Administration Office. Since the changes were very few, the board decided against modification.
- 7) The board reviewed a request from the Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS) requesting the usual allowed budget amount of \$15,000.00 for the fiscal year 2019. They also requested that they be allowed to keep any unused funds at the end of the fiscal year. These funds are used for children who are removed from their homes in the middle of the night and they need cloths, or shoes before any monies can be retrieved from the State.
- 8) The board reviewed a priority list of roads to be funded by the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG). The amount received in 2018 was around \$394,000.00. Chairman Glass explained that the match is around 20 percent and said that they should plan to send a list of roads that total around ½ million to ¾ million dollars that needs paving. The roads include: Berry Road to Cannafax-Williams Road, High Falls Road to Hwy 36-Chappell Mill, Chappel Mill Road to Hwy 36, Chappell Mill Road to Van Buren and High Falls Road, Crawford Road to Johnstonville to Northridge Road, Crawford Road to Howards to Johnstonville Road, Five Points Road (3500 ft. that is in a bad area), Deerfield Trace, to Fellowship to the Dead End, Jackson Road to the 36 bypass to the City-Limits, Johnstonville Road to the City Limits-Brooks Road, McCollum Road to Abbott Road to Country Kitchen Road, McLean Road to Ethridge Mill to County Line Road and Rogers Circle to Cannafax Road to Warner Road. County Administrator Townsend stated that he would have Public Works Director Rigdon work on a top three priority list of roads for approval at the Regular Business meeting.
- 9) The board discussed approving the 2018 County audit. Commissioner Thrash inquired about the Solid Waste being in the audit and County Administrator Townsend stated that it was not required to be in the audit. County Administrator Townsend stated that the actions are in place that were sited in the audit and he has sent a letter to the State stating such. The SPLOST closeout is not ready to be approved due to incomplete invoices so the board decided to take this off of the agenda. County Administrator Townsend stated that a Resolution would be necessary to approve the SPLOST closeout as required by the State.
- 10) The board discussed the Sales Tax Vendor List and since this is confidential information, Commissioner Thrash suggested that the Board of Commissioners appoint a Commissioner plus the Chairman to work with County Administrator Townsend on this list.

Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend presented an Administrator's Report. He said that the Request for Proposal for a new County Auditor would be ready by Friday to be advertised in the legal organ. The bids are due by November 12, 2019.

Other Discussion

County Clerk Davidson stated that the Old Jail Museum had been awarded a Grant from the Georgia Historical Grants Advisory Council with the Georgia Archives. Old Jail Museum Director Shanna English had submitted a list of items which included archival photographic materials for sensitive records and photographs. Chairman Glass reported that the City of Barnesville is repairing the roof on the shed over the stairwell and the County covered the cost of the materials. The City of Barnesville will host a haunted house and other activities such as a bouncy house for the children at the Old Jail Museum on Halloween night.

Chairman Glass reported on an event to introduce the Boys and Girls Club that will be held at the Barnesville Civic Center on October 24th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. The National President of the Boys and Girls club will be in attendance who is also a product of the Boys and Girls Club. Bob Mackey with the North Central Georgia Region of the Boys and Girls Club will also be in attendance. Chairman Glass also stated that the African American Male Initiative (AAMI) will also be in attendance. The City of Barnesville is putting up the building for the Boys and Girls Club behind the primary school. They are currently working on the interior of the building and they should have the interior walls completed by next week. Chairman Glass stated that on the outside there is some pretty steep ground and it needs to be leveled out. The County provided the dirt from across the street beside the bus barn and said that there is plans to get some more. Chairman Glass stated that James Blackmon from the City of Barnesville left it in great shape and it is pad ready. Chairman Glass reported that the fund raising is off to a good start and there is \$45,000.00 in corporate grants. There is another \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 pledged from corporations. There is \$70,000.00 in match money and the goal is \$250,000.00 for the first year. The payback from the Boys and Girls Club historically has been zero teen pregnancies, higher graduation rates, and those going on to some form of secondary education. Vice-Chairman Traylor said that he is the Chairperson for the individual giving and his focus has been on identifying and recognizing people who make some type of donation including elected officials. Vice-Chairman Traylor stated that this is the Founders Campaign and recognized Chairman Glass for being an important contributor.

Chairman Glass reported that there would be a blood drive on October 24th, 2019. He said that it was originally set for October 17th, 2019 but the team from the Red Cross, that was supposed to support the blood drive, had a reputation for being painful stickers and they left bruises so they got a better team of stickers.

Mr. Morgan addressed the board and said that John Kennedy said back in 1963 that "A mistake does not become an error until you fail to correct it". Mr. Morgan addressed the board and said that he is putting the Board of Commissioners on notice. He said that he gave the board 30 documents and none of the board had read it. He said that they had totally ignored it. Chairman Glass advised Mr. Morgan not to threaten the board. Mr. Morgan suggested that the board come

up with \$300.00 to purchase a cornet meter to measure the radiation that was coming from the smartphones on the table. He said that this would be a smart thing to do. Mr. Morgan said that he brought a solution that will take one hour and he said he brought plenty of Bibles. He said that Jesus is the Savior and if you don't include Jesus in the conversation at the Commissioners meeting then you don't have anything. He said that if you choose Jesus to participate that would be a good thing. Mr. Morgan said he didn't know how much time the board spent looking at his documents but said that he spent hours writing them. He said he realized that they are busy people and said that everyone is busy. He said that everyone's day has 24 hours in it. He said that he has one hour and plenty of bibles. Mr. Morgan said that it would cover the book of Isaiah, Chapters 40, 42, 61, and 66. He said that this is recorded on 6 tons of creation that are Gods' healing frequencies. Mr. Morgan told the board that they didn't come to the Mountain so the Mountain came to them. He said that it would take one hour of their time to hear and read it for themselves. He said it would be the most important Bible study of their life. Chairman Glass responded to Mr. Morgan that he can't force anyone to participate in this but appreciated him making it available.

Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting at approximately 1:55 p.m. Vice-Chairman Traylor 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