

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Business Meeting  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Traylor, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Zellner, and County Attorney Mayfield. County Clerk Davidson was absent for the meeting.

**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. Reverend Kevin Thomas from the Church of the Nazarene gave the invocation.

**III. Recess for Public Hearing**

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to recess for a Public Hearing. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Reconvene Regular Business Meeting**

Commissioner Horton made a motion to reconvene the Regular Business meeting and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the agenda with one deletion from the agenda, which was for Mr. Floyd Moye, who was to address the board regarding the paving of Community House Road. Vice-Chairman Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Minutes Approval**

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

- i. February 14th, 2019 Workshop Meeting
- ii. February 19th, 2019 Regular Business Meeting

**VII. Proclamation**

Commissioner Thrash presented a proclamation to the Towaliga Judicial Circuit office of the District Attorney and attending law enforcement, Lamar County Sheriff Brad White,

Barnesville Police Chief Craig Cooper, Sheriff Deputy Jeremy Haire, Lamar County's Victim's Advocate Suzanne Cooper, Towaliga Circuit Interim District Attorney Elizabeth Bobbitt, Lamar County Victim Advocate Katelyn Raybon, and Towaliga Victim Services Director Lorraine Bunn, proclaiming the week of April 7-13, 2019 as "Crime Victim's Rights Week", affirming Lamar County's commitment to assisting all crime victims throughout the year, expressing our appreciation to our providers and professionals who are committed to this service seeking justice and offering support to these victims every day.

### **VIII. Branding Logo for the County**

County Clerk Davidson presented the new branding slogan and the new Logo. She stated that Chairman Glass approached the board last January regarding having a unique Branding Logo design along with a new County slogan because many counties are getting away from the traditional Courthouse Logo and going with something that reflects the County and the environment that they live in. A Branding Slogan committee was formed to help with this endeavor. They met and brainstormed various "Ideas of Inspiration" regarding a slogan that could officially be adopted for Lamar County. The committee studied the following questions. What do you think about when you think of Lamar County? What does Lamar County mean to you? County Clerk Davidson stated that the Barnesville-Lamar County Chamber of Commerce has the business and industry side covered already with slogans and promotions. Gordon State College has their own target audience that stretches well outside of Lamar County. The cities have their own unique qualities and focus. This slogan was supposed to be designed for the citizens of the County. County Clerk Davidson explained that they had a contest for the employees. The inspiration would be turned into the new Branding Slogan for Lamar County. She provided some examples to the committee of surrounding Counties and Cities that had recently adopted a branding slogan and a Logo. After many conversations and much discussion, they took the three slogans that were chosen by the committee to the Lamar County Comprehensive Planning committee and from there they chose two more slogans that were suggested from the Lamar County Comprehensive Planning committee. At this point in the process, they had 5 slogans to choose from. A team from the committee setup a survey using "Survey Monkey" as the tool for people to use to vote for the best slogan. This was sent out to the board, employees, the paper, the website, and word of mouth. The questions asked on the survey were as follows, "What do people think about when they think of Lamar County, Georgia?" and "What does Lamar County mean to you?" "Home is just Better Here" was the branding slogan winner. Once the results came back, the ideas were presented to the board and the committee. The slogan was adopted, and an artist was then hired to come up with a Logo to go along with the new slogan, "Home is Just Better Here!" The committee worked with the Industrial Development Authority, the County Administrator and the Department Heads, and of course with the artist to create a Logo that could all be agreed on. There was much discussion about graphics, color and theme. The committee talked, met, and emailed each other many times. The committee thought about the industries in Lamar County and they thought about

what you see when you tour Lamar County. They thought about pigs, cows, horses, chickens, homes and trees and to be specific; pine trees, long needle pine trees and two pine cones. In the end, everyone agreed on the new Lamar County slogan/Logo Commissioner Thrash asked if the letter head would be changed to reflect the new Logo and Chairman Glass stated that it could be. Commissioner Thrash inquired about how much this would cost the County and County Administrator Zellner stated that we create the letterhead in house on our copier machine. Commissioner Thrash asked if the Logo would be changed on the vehicles of the County. Chairman Glass and County Clerk Davidson both explained that some Counties change everything whereas some of them change the Logo on their website and on individual emails. Chairman Glass and the board agreed that the Logo could be changed on vehicles and shirts in a slow manner. Commissioner Horton made a motion to change the County slogan/Logo as necessary and Vice-Chairman Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Budget Amendment-Magistrate Court**

County Administrator Zellner reported that the Magistrate Court had a need for an additional computer for their office. The purpose for this computer is to allow the officers to login and enter their accusation requesting a warrant. The computer will be available to the officer' s 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The projected cost of an upgrade to the court system will be a one-time charge of \$1,600 and a monthly maintenance fee increase of \$75.00. County Administrator Zellner stated that the purpose of the budge amendment was to move money around so that the Magistrate Court could make this purchase.

**X. Ordinance 2019-05 Rezoning Application 2019-04 by SLR Properties**

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-05 Rezoning Application 2019-04 by SLR Properties with conditions that the applicant must restore and maintain tree buffers along the berm after construction, and correct any misplaced and misdirected lights. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XI. Ordinance 2019-06 Sub Division App # 2019-01 by Gary Adams**

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-06 for the Sub-Division App # 2019-01 by Gary Adams. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XII. Resolution 2019-04 Supporting H.R. 530 of the U.S. House of Representatives**

Commissioner Thrash stated that the board expresses its full support of Resolution 2019-04 supporting H.R. 530 of the U.S. House of Representatives and encourages Representative Drew Ferguson to co-sponsor H.R. 530 and to give his full support as well. This Resolution is entitled “Accelerating broadband development by empowering local communities act of 2019” and seeks to return power to the County and all local communities that was usurped by recent rulings of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Commissioner Thrash explained

that this bill supports giving local authorities home rule authority. Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-04 supporting H.R. 530 of the U.S. House of Representatives. Vice-Chairman Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **XIII. Fire Truck Purchase**

County Administrator Zellner reported that 3 bids were sent out and received for a new fire truck. Enko Emergency Equipment did not bid. The second bid was from HME Ahrens-Fox for an HME custom four door cab & chassis in the amount of \$342,324.00. The third bid was from Freedom Fire Equipment for a freightliner M2-106 four doors cab in the amount of \$315,000.00. Chief Matthews addressed the board and stated the HME fire truck is for a three-year bumper to bumper warranty. It is a one-year warranty with an additional three years. He said that the specifications sent to the bidders were 66 pages and matched the current freight liner engine. The specifications were designed to meet their current needs which keeps their equipment with the same compartments keeping continuity in case of an emergency. The specification was designed to keep the same layout and allows all of the equipment to be moved and carried to the same location. He said that Freedom Fire Equipment's specifications doesn't meet their specifications nor does the placement of the ladders. He said that they are on the right side of the truck and they asked for a rear mount. He said that the ladder placement eliminates approximately 45 sq. ft. of compartment space for equipment storage. Fire Chief Matthews stated that since the fire truck bid from Freedom Fire Equipment doesn't meet the required specifications, he is requesting that the board approve the higher bid of \$342,324.00 from HME Ahrens-Fox. Fire Chief Matthews stated that \$500,000.00 had been allotted in the SPLOST III funds for Fire Equipment. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the request and the bid for the HME custom four door cab & chassis in the amount of \$342,324.00 from HME Ahrens-Fox. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **XIV. Financing for the Fire Truck**

County Administrator Zellner reported that United Bank provided an amortization schedule for review. On a \$360,000 loan the fees are as follows:

\$ 1,000- attorney  
\$ 21.75- title  
\$ 20.00-uccl  
\$ 155.00 UB fee doc

The rate is 4.734%, with 3 payments with the first one starting on 12-31-19.

ACCG/BB&T provided a rate of 3.25 for 36 months. There was no amortization schedule as they are reviewing information from the 2017 audit. The board agreed to table the approval for the financing of the Fire Truck until the April meeting.

### **XIV. Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Zellner reported the following:

- Shared a financial trend and revealed that the finances for the County are in line with the budget.
- He stated that the Request for Proposal (RFP) had been sent to C.W. Matthews, Blount Construction, and Mid Ga. Asphalt for the Liberty Park turning lanes on Hwy 36.
- The Courthouse windows in the back have been boarded up and the contractor is working to replace all of the windows in the back and upstairs of the Courthouse.
- There was a leak in the basement of the Courthouse that is being repaired and a local certified mold remediation company is working to remove the mold in the basement of the courthouse. There are fans and dehumidifiers in the basement used to dry up the water. All records and shelving have been removed from the basement.

**XV. Round Table**

Commissioner Thrash announced that County Clerk Davidson had completed her Master’s Certificate for the Georgia County Clerk’s Association.

Chairman Glass announced that there would be a blood drive on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the First Methodist Church and that the Women’s League would be providing cookies.

**XVI. Adjournment**

Commissioner Horton made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting and go into executive session at approximately 8:25 p.m. Vice Chairman Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board came out of executive session at 9:45 p.m. Commissioner Horton made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at 9:47 p.m. and Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Charles Glass, Chairman

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Ryran Traylor, Vice-Chairman

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Bennie Horton, Commissioner

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Robert Heiney, Commissioner

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Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

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