

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
February 18th, 2020**

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

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. The Invocation was given by Clifford Barber.

III. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the following four sets of minutes Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Public Hearing Meeting-December 20th, 2019
- ii. Workshop Meeting-January 17th, 2020
- iii. Public Hearing-January 21st, 2020
- iv. Regular Business Meeting-January 21st, 2020

VI. Proclamation-Black History Month

Commissioner Horton read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of February as Black History Month whereas 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) which gave the right of black men to vote following the Civil War. It also marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. The 2020 theme, "African Americans and the Vote", recognizes the struggle for voting rights among both black men and women throughout American history.

VII. Resolution 2020-03 Second Amendment Sanctuary County

Vice-Chair Thrash read the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution 2020-03. Commissioner Traylor made a motion to adopt and accept Resolution 2020-03 Second Amendment Sanctuary County. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Purchase of Recreation Playground Equipment

Recreation Director Lowe stated that they removed the old playground equipment back in November, 2019 at the Recreation Department because it was a safety concern. It was 20 plus years old and since it was out of code, they removed it. They are in the process of purchasing new playground equipment that will meet all of the safety requirements. Chairman Glass said that there were three bids submitted and the lowest bid was from Young Creek Recreational, LLC. Recreation Director Lowe stated that her suggestion was to approve Miracle Recreation Equipment, Co. Recreation Director Lowe stated that the old equipment was also made by Miracle Recreation Equipment, Co. and they know that their products last a long time. Recreation Director Lowe said that they are working on a grant from Kaboom and if they receive the grant, they would have to use one of the preferred vendors. She said that Miracle Recreation Equipment, Co. is already a vendor and if the grant is approved, they already have this requirement in place. Recreation Director Lowe said that if the grant isn't approved then Miracle Recreation Equipment, Co. prices are still competitive with Young Creek Recreational, LLC. The bids included Gametime for a total cost of \$35,123.00, Miracle Recreation Equipment, Co. for a total cost of \$24,853.00. and Young Creek Recreational, LLC for a total cost of \$22,819.66. Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the purchase of playground equipment for the Recreation Department from Miracle Recreation Equipment, Co. for a total cost of \$24,853.00. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Purchase of Vehicles and Equipment

Chairman Glass reported that the purchase of the following vehicles and equipment was approved in the budget. This includes the following:

Public Works	\$29,460.00	2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500
Sheriff	\$57,332.00	(2) Dodge Durango SSV
Sheriff	\$12,358.00	Light & Equipment (2) 2020 Durango SSV
Sheriff	\$9,640.00	Camera for (2) 2020 Durango SSV
Fire	\$272,106.28	(2) Kenworth T370 Tandem Tanker 4000 gallons
Fire	\$4,399.00	Folding Tank w/ aluminum Frame
Senior Center	\$18,051.00	2019 Nissan Rogue
Recreation	\$18,766.40	(2) 72" Model 335 Grasshoppers
		\$ 422,112.68

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the individualized bids for each vehicle and equipment totaling \$442,112.68. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Bid for Vehicles and Equipment-Debt Service

County Administrator Townsend stated that they had received three quotes from several banks

for the bid for the vehicles and equipment purchase. He reported that the staff recommends BB&T for \$442,791.51 with an interest rate of 2.43 percent and a difference of \$7,424.92. The first payment will be for \$149,806.69 and will be due on 3/4/2021. The other bids included Lease One Magnolia with an interest rate of 3.15 percent and a total cost of \$449,420.07 with the first payment due on 3/4/2021; United Bank with an interest rate of 3.385 percent for a total cost of \$450,216.43 with the first payment due on 12/31/2020. Vice-Chair Thrash recommended that they approve the low bid from BB&T with an interest rate of 2.43 percent for a total cost of \$442,791.51. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Bid for Right of Way Mowing

County Administrator Townsend reported that the staff recommends BCLS with the low bid of \$260.00 per mile (3) mowings and (3) litter pickups for a total cost of \$212,940.00. County Administrator Townsend reported that this is for 273 miles of paved roads. NGL & Erosion submitted a bid for \$239,967.00 and Yellowstone Landscape submitted a bid for \$286,650.00. Chairman Glass stated that \$208,000.00 was budgeted for mowing and litter pickup. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that this was the first time they have had a mowing contract in the County and this is a trial basis to see how it works. Chairman Glass said that the State has had a mowing contract for several years. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve BCLS with the low bids of \$260.00 per mile (3) mowing's and (3) litter pickups for a total cost of \$212,940.00. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Surplus of Board of Elections Equipment

Chairman Glass reported that the Board of Elections had equipment to be surplused which are the touch screens that the County purchased approximately two years ago. He said that they were purchased from San Diego, California with County funds. Chairman Glass stated that by law they had to be surplused so that they can do something with them. He said that there is a State Court order where the State is supposed to save all old election machines until the case is decided. Chairman Glass stated that they can't be thrown away and there is no market for them. He said that the machines will not be used again. Chairman Glass said that the equipment is listed by serial number and said that once the equipment is surplused, the plan is to turn them over to the State. Commissioner Traylor made a motion to surplus the Board of Elections equipment. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Surplus of Public Work's Copiers

County Administrator Townsend reported that 7 copiers, located at the Public Works Department, from various departments, needed to be surplused before they can be moved. County Administrator Townsend stated that he knows someone who may be willing to purchase the copiers instead of taking them to the landfill. He said that this person may be able to purchase them at a reasonable price and then donate them to different churches. Commissioner Horton made a motion to surplus the 7 copiers located at the Public Works Department. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported that the Fund Balance is \$1,362,000.00 over what was projected. He reported that the revenues such as the Tax Ad Valorem Sales Tax (TAVT), and revenues in other areas, were much higher and the funds were carried over. He said that he has tried to budget the contingency line item a little higher in the past in an effort to eliminate the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). He reported that the projections for January 2020 are on track for where they should be and the carryover was a little higher than in the past therefore the starting balance is higher than projected.

County Administrator Townsend reported that Possum Trot Road was washed out on February 6th, 2020. He said that the road has been closed since then and the biggest challenge has been with receiving the pipe for the project. The cost for the pipe is \$4,700.00 and the rock to replace the bridge is \$13,316.00. He reported that they are also going to put gravel on that road for a cost of \$22,5000 bringing the total cost to \$35,800.00. Chairman Glass said that the pipe was so old that it had rusted out at the bottom.

County Administrator Townsend gave a report on the grants that the County has received and also the ones that are currently being worked on.

Grants Received

- 1) Historical Grant with the Georgia Archives and the Board of Regents of the University of Georgia (USG)- Department: Old Jail Museum - Top Loading Sleeves for Records
- 2) Mom and Pop Grant- Department: Senior Center Computer- Meals on Wheels Bags
- 3) Congregate Meal Grant-Department: Senior Center- Congregate Meals Home Delivery
- 4) Lamar Gives 365-Department: Senior Center-Blue Light Signs for Meals on Wheels Clients
- 5) Lamar Gives 365-Recreation Department-First Aid Kids for the Coaches
- 6) Lamar Gives 365-Fire Department for the Association.
- 7) Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP) for the 2020 Summer Grant-Recreation Department-Policy and Procedures Manual

Upcoming Grants

- 1) Kaboom Grant with Keurig and Dr. Pepper -Recreation Department-New Playground Equipment.
- 2) United Way Grant-Senior Center

XV. Public Comments

Randy Vining of 153 Ridgeway Road Milner, Georgia addressed the board. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for approving Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution. He said that he was present for the Board of Commissioners Workshop and said that the Board of Commissioners had asked a lot of good questions and had thought it all through.

Melissa Cline of 420 Country Kitchen Road addressed the board and thanked the Board of Commissioners for putting the thought and the time into the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution. Mrs. Cline stated that she had asked the board to take their time and do

their research. Mrs. Cline stated that they expect a lot out of the Board of Commissioners because they represent the County and the constituents. She said that they expect a lot of the Board of Commissioner not only in their public life but in their private life as well. Mrs. Cline said that Commissioner Traylor is always saying, “When he was on vacation with this family” and my son said this or that.” Mrs. Cline said that she appreciates that. Ms. Cline said that she had spoken to Commissioner Traylor several times and he is always professional and very nice. Mrs. Cline said that you never see his name on Facebook and you never hear anyone talk bad about him. She said that this is what they want to see and this is the kind of thing that they expect. She said that they don’t want to be Spalding County and they don’t want to have the Board of Commissioners faces in the newspaper. Mrs. Cline said that she appreciates everything that the Board of Commissioners have done for them and thanked them for their hard work and for passing the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution. Mrs. Cline said that she knows that some people want an Ordinance but having something there speaks to the County, our values and the way they feel about the Constitution.

XVI. Round Table

Commissioner Horton thanked everyone for coming out on a rainy night. He congratulated County Clerk Davidson for being nominated to serve on the board of officers for the Georgia County Clerk’s Association. Commissioner Horton also thanked Mr. Vining for coming to the workshop and giving insight on what they were trying to do with the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution.

Commissioner Traylor echoed Commissioner Horton’s thanks to Mr. Vining. He said that Mr. Vining did an excellent job with providing information on the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution and he did it in a way that was not confrontational but instead very informative. Commissioner Traylor thanked the ones at the meeting for coming out and taking the time to be there. He said that it shows a lot about the community. He said that he was speaking with a Representative and he was mentioning some of the surrounding counties and they talked about their meetings. He said that there are larger counties that only have 15 people that show up to their meetings. Commissioner Traylor said that those in their meeting come regularly and said he encourages others to come to the meeting as well. He said that he would love to see the room full, like it was at the last meeting, when they had a hot topic. Commissioner Traylor stated that those in the meeting are the faithful ones that come all of the time and said that he appreciates that. Commissioner Traylor stated that this week is the Lamar County Community Awards and said if anyone is not attending to be sure to be on the lookout for the update from the Barnesville Herald Gazette. Commissioner Traylor stated that he had been a part of this for eight years and said that it amazes him at the amount of work that goes on from the volunteers to the Law Enforcement and the Fire Department and seeing what the community does. Commissioner Traylor encouraged everyone to seek out the individuals nominated and tell them congratulations for the hard work that they do.

Vice-Chair Thrash thanked Mr. Vining for the hard work he had done on the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution. She said that a lot of people were involved in this and a lot of people had comments and she thanked everyone for their work on this. Vice-Chair Thrash reported that the Legislative Session is up and going and said that there are a lot of things going on and a lot of things that the Board of Commissioners are involved in. She said

that they are trying to protect the County tax payers. Vice-Chair Thrash said that the legislators want to do away with the counties and legislate from the Gold Dome so they are watching this. Chairman Glass said that the Presidential Primary is coming up March 24th, 2020. He reported that there will be new election equipment and it is a little different. He said that you will receive a paper printout for who you voted for. Then it will be run through and optical scanner. They will not keep that paper. It will be held behind the scanner in the secure box for recount for future reference. They will still use touch screens and once you complete the voting it prints out the paper that you will verify has the correct person that you wanted to vote for. If it doesn't show the person that you voted for you need to let one of the poll workers know right then. At that point, they can void that ballot and give you another one and let you vote again. Once it goes into the scanner it is over; you voted and you can't change it. Chairman Glass said that early voting starts March 2nd, 2020 and runs through March 20th, 2020. He said because of the new equipment, that people aren't familiar with, they are encouraging early voting so that you have plenty of time to work through it. Chairman Glass stated that he wasn't sure what the turn out will be and with the new equipment if they have a large turnout or a rainy day it could be tough on election day. Chairman Glass requested that everyone take advantage of early voting. Chairman Glass repeated the dates of March 2nd to March 20th, 2020 from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. (they close for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30). He said that there is a Saturday for early voting which is March 14th, 2020 from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. Chairman Glass stated that the Board of Elections office is located at 408 Thomaston Street in the Administration building. Chairman Glass requested that they not be put off by the new equipment and said that it is similar to the old equipment. Chairman Glass stated that the advantage of the new system is that you have a piece of paper that you can verify before it is scanned. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that if they take that paper home your vote does not count. Chairman Glass stated that the Board of Elections staff has done a great job trying to get ready for the election. He said that they have a tremendous task and there are all kind of things going on all over the State. Chairman Glass stated that he thinks that they are ready and he looks forward to it and hopes that everyone will show their appreciation to the Board of Elections staff when they see them and thank them for all their hard work.

Neal Devane recognized all of the County and City workers that worked diligently last week during the crisis with the flood. He said that he was thankful that they didn't loose anyone. He said that it was a tremendous effort with everyone working together. Chairman Glass stated that they might see them responding but you never see the preparation that goes into it ahead of time and all of the work that they put in.

XVII. Adjournment

Commissioner Horton made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at 8:42 p.m. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk