

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
March 17th, 2020**

The Lamar County Board of Commissioners held their March 17th, 2020 meeting at the Lamar County Administration Building via Zoom.

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Thrash, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, County Attorney Scott Mayfield, Commissioner Horton, and Walter Geiger with the Barnesville Herald Gazette was also present for the meeting via Zoom.

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 Chairman Glass.

III. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the agenda adding the Ag Arena Agreement to the agenda as item # 12 removing # 16 Ordinance 2020-01 Rezoning by Emily Hutto, and # 18 Resolution 2020-05 Subdivision Application 2020-01 by Chadwick Parson and adding # 18A Modified Fiscal Policy to the agenda. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

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

- i. Workshop Meeting-February 12th, 2020
- ii. Regular Business Meeting-February 18th, 2020

V. Proclamation-Donate Life Month

Chairman Glass read a Proclamation proclaiming April as Donate Life Month and honoring all those who made the decision to give the gift of life, to focus attention on the extreme need for organ, eye and tissue donation, to encourage all residents to take action and sign up on Georgia's Donor Registry at donatelifegeorgia.org, to discuss the miracle of transplantation as a family, and to make a family commitment to organ, eye, and tissue donation. Commissioner Traylor made a motion to proclaim April as Donate Life Month and Vice-Chair Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Proclamation- National Crime Victims' Right Week

Chairman Glass read a Proclamation proclaiming the week of April 19-25 as Crime Victims' Rights Week and reaffirming Lamar County's commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and expressing our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, justice, support, and peace. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to proclaim April 19-25th as Crime Victim's Rights Week and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Lamar County Extension- National Kicks Butts Day-March 18th, 2020

Lamar County Extension Agent Octavia Jackson sent in a picture of the 4-H club showing posters that they had created for National Kicks Butts Day. The posters showed that tobacco causes 480,000 deaths in the United States per year, the levels of second-hand smoke are severe, high and immense, there are 5 million kids and teens addicted to E-Cigarettes, and that they can cause anxiety and irritability.

VIII. FY 20 Three Rivers Regional Commission Transit Services Agreement

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the Public Transportation contract with the Three Rivers Regional Commission for an amount of \$5250.00. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Georgia County Internship Program Grant Agreement

Chairman Glass explained that Lamar County has received a General Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP) grant for the County Recreation Policy and Procedure Manual Project for the Lamar County Recreation Department. The contract has to be adopted by the Board of Commissioners. The Foundation shall reimburse the County for the cost of wages at the rate of \$12.00 per hour for each hour worked up to 200 hours, in the amount of 2,107.60. Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve and adopt the GCIP grant and Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Ag Arena Fees

The board reviewed an Ag Arena Agreement with Recreation Director Lowe via Zoom. Chairman Glass stated that there was an agreement on all of the fees except the staff on-call fee. He said that his understanding was that the \$8.00 on-call fee would be covered in the event fee but if they had to call someone out to the event then there would be a \$22.00 on-call fee. Recreation Director Lowe stated that they took out the charge for non-resident light usage of \$20.00. The charge is now \$10.00 across the board. The staff on call charge will come out of the event fee and whoever is holding the event will be responsible for this. This will keep people from calling in unnecessary things that they can fix themselves. She said that they will

have the ability to call the Recreation Department to pay instead of having to come to the office in person. Commissioner Heiney was concerned with the RV hookup and stated that this service may be abused because there are no locks on the hookups. He said that anyone could drive up and use the RV hookups. Vice-Chair Thrash asked if the RV hookups were connected to the Barnesville sewer. Commissioner Traylor confirmed that it was only power and not the sewer. Chairman Glass said that there should be a charge for RV hookup. He said that they need to cover this in policy and put locks on the RV hookups if necessary. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that the bottom line is that they want to know who is using the Ag Arena and they need control of who is there. Chairman Glass stated that with approving this agreement they are also tasking the Recreation Department to manage the RV hookups. Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the Ag Arena Agreement striking the \$8.00 an hour on-call fee. Commissioner Heiney asked if they should have a stipulation for the RV hookups. Chairman Glass stated that they are directing the Recreation Department to implement an internal policy that will prevent abuse of the RV hookups. Vice-Chairman Thrash seconded the motion to approve the Ag Arena Agreement as written striking the \$8.00 an hour on-call fee. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Bid for Road Striping

Chairman Glass reported that there were no Road Striping bids.

XII. Bid for LMIG

Chairman Glass reported that they had specified and approved the road list earlier back in December of 2019. The lowest bid came in from C.W. Matthews. Sherco Paving submitted a bid of \$ 1,186,410.02; Piedmont Paving submitted a bid of \$994,258.55; C.W. Matthews submitted a bid of \$954,301.00. C.W. Matthews also submitted an addendum to their bid for Road Striping for a bid of \$177,446,10. The staff recommended C.W. Matthews bid of \$954,301.00 plus the addendum of \$177,446,10 for a cost of \$1,131,747.10. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the low bid from C.W Matthews for \$954,301.00 plus the addendum of \$177,446,10 for a cost of \$1,131,747.10. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Jaws of Life Fire Department

Chairman Glass reported that the Fire Department needs a new set of Jaws of Life because they can't get parts to repair the set of Jaws of Life that they currently have. The Jaws of Life are needed for the Parker Branch Fire Department. Chairman Glass said that the funds will come from the Special Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST). Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the purchase of a set of Jaws of Life from Georgia Fire & Rescue Supply for a cost of \$17,999.00. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Resolution 2020-04 BB&T/ACCG Lease-Purchase Agreement

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-04 BB&T/ACCG Lease Purchase Agreement. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion.

XV. Modified Fiscal Policy

Chairman Glass presented a Modified Fiscal Policy in accordance with O.C.G.A. 38-3-1 and 38-3-64 and Lamar County Code Section 2.6-54 and Section 2.6.5-4.1. designating a dollar amount County's contingency funds to be used as "emergency" funds to protect the public health during the COVID-19 crisis. Any expenses up to \$7,500.00 can be approved by the County Administrator. Any expenses related to the COVID-19 crisis over the \$7,500.00 threshold will be approved by two designated Board of Commissioners. County Administrator Townsend stated that \$300,000.00 was budgeted in Contingency. Commissioner Traylor made a recommendation to designate the Chairman and the Vice-Chair to approve the funds over the \$7,500.00 threshold. Vice-Chair Thrash recommended that they designate \$50,000.00 to come from the contingency fund to be used as emergency funds to protect public health during the COVID-19 crisis. Commissioner Heiney made a motion to designate the Chairman and the Vice-Chair to approve any amount over \$7,500.00 and up to \$50,000.00 coming from the contingency fund. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XVI. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townend gave an Administrator's Report and said that his revenue forecast is \$40,000.00 over what was projected. He stated that the 2020 budgeted revenue were \$671,000.00 but the actual revenues are \$711,000.00. Chairman Glass pointed out that as of March 17th, the County has not had to draw from the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) and this \$671,000.00 can be used for expenses before draws are taken from the TAN.

County Administrator Townsend provided a list of roads that were damaged during the heavy rains. The estimated cost of \$154,855.00 will be submitted to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) for reimbursement. The pipe on Possum Trot Road will be replaced because the road was completely washed out. He reported that Public Works Director Rigdon and the road crew did a great job with this. County Administrator Townsend stated that there are still issues with High Falls and Brinkley Road because the pipes have been washed out and will need to be replaced. He reported that they are currently working on Crawford Road. County Administrator Townsend stated that they are working on all of these roads and that public safety is a matter of concern. Chairman Glass reported that he had 22 inches of rain at his house from January 21st until now and stated that the State declared a disaster and is hoping the County can get at least part of the money refunded based on the disaster declaration. Chairman Glass stated that he appreciated all of the hard work that the Public Works Department had done to keep everyone safe getting the roads repaired.

XVI. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

XVII. Round Table

Chairman Glass stated that Commissioner Horton is the wisest and the oldest on the Board of Commissioners and for his protection requested that he join the meeting via Zoom and not attend the meeting in person.

Commissioner Horton requested that all of the Seniors stay in and said that we will get through this.

Commissioner Heiney had no comments.

Commissioner Traylor said that he continues to pray for the welfare of the community and said that in order to reduce the length of this reduction of everyone's daily routine he encouraged everyone to adhere to the Department of Health's recommendations as well as going to the extra measure of taking their temperature themselves routinely before they leave the house. He said to remember that it is not just about having symptoms even if you are asymptomatic and it is not just to protect yourself but to also protect others in the community. He said that this will continue to reduce the rate this virus is being spread so that everyone can get back to the normal routine that they had in the past.

Vice-Chair Thrash stated that she had a conference call with Governor Kemp. She said that one of the most important things, as far as isolation facilities are concerned, by the end of the week there are going to be 20 trailers moved in at the post facility in Forsyth, Georgia. The other isolation facility is at Hard Labor Creek State Park. They will isolate people who have tested positive for the coronavirus. Vice-Chair Thrash said that there are currently 146 confirmed cases that have been reported in Georgia. This includes 27 counties. She said that the Governor has activated 2000 National Guard Troops. She said that the airline industry is down on passengers by 40 percent and one TSA agent tested positive and that person is isolated at home. Vice-Chair Thrash reported that the Attorney General reported that he is dealing with price gauging. People are charging \$300.00 for a coronavirus test that doesn't exist and people need to go to their doctor or a health facility if they have symptoms of the coronavirus. Vice-Chair Thrash said that the Governor hasn't issued any blanket orders to close clubs, restaurants, facilities but he did say that it is not off the table if he needs to do that. Vice-Chair Thrash said that if you are sick or running a fever stay home. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that there is nothing that the Board of Commissioners can do to keep the coronavirus from spreading. She said that the ones in the community can help with this.

Chairman Glass stated that this is a trying time and people have been through struggles. He said that there are probably going to be more struggles with not being able to go to work and people having to take care of family members because of a particular workplace that is closing. He said that they are hoping that they can relieve as much of the struggles as possible to help people through this. He said that he is confident that this community will look out for each other. Chairman Glass said that he has seen it before and there are a lot of ways that people are

reaching out to help others and this is the nature of this community. He said he wished it didn't have to happen but he is glad that he is a part of this community and that he can count on this. He requested that everyone help to keep the morale up and look out for their neighbors and family. Chairman Glass said that he appreciated everyone bearing with the Board of Commissioners as they have to make a lot of tough decisions and changes. He said that it will take a lot of effort to get through all of this. He said that he wanted to be sure that the elderly citizens are in their prayers and interactions. He requested that if people are able to volunteer to go to the store for the elderly citizens so that they can stay inside to avoid everyone else. He said that these are the people that need the most assistance.

XVIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at 7:50 p.m. Vice-Chair Thrash 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