

Emergency Special Called Meeting Minutes
March 25th, 2020
3:00 p.m.

Chairman Glass called the Emergency Special Called Meeting to order on March 25th, 2020 at approximately 3:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Vice-Chair Thrash and Commissioner Traylor. Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Heiney, County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, and Attorney Mayfield were present via the Zoom meeting.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A 50-14 -1(d)(3), this meeting was called on less than 24 hours' notice due to special circumstances, specifically the fact that any delay in adopting the declaration of emergency would risk the health, safety, and well-being of the residents of Lamar County. As a result, there was not enough time for the normal notice requirements to be met for the approval of the declaration of emergency. Notice of this meeting was given to The Herald Gazette via email and facsimile and notice was posted on the County's website and the door of the meeting location.

Board Discussion

Resolution 2020-06 Approving the Waiver of Certain Penalties and Interest by the Lamar County Tax Commissioners. Chairman Glass explained that in the Resolution it states that O.C.G.A. 48-2-44 (b), which provides that any person who fails to pay a penalty of 5% of the amount due and O.C.G.A. 48-2-44 (a), which provides a penalty for willful failure to pay a penalty of 5% of the amount due. Chairman Glass stated that in the Resolution O.C.G.A. 48-5-242 authorizes the county governing authority to delegate to the county tax commissioner the authority to waive, in whole or in part, the collection of penalties and interest assessed as a result of a taxpayer's failure to comply with laws relating to ad valorem taxation, where such failure was due to reasonable cause and not due to gross or willful neglect or disregard of the law. Chairman Glass read the Resolved section of the Resolution where it states that the Board of Commissioners of Lamar County, Georgia, hereby approves the waiver of penalties and interest on past-due taxes subject to collection by the Lamar County

Chairman Glass stated that they had one item of business to discuss. He said that the Coronavirus is causing a high crisis across the World, Country, and State. He said that it is a very serious thing because there is no vaccine and we don't know about hospitalization or the death rate or how bad they could be. He said that they must take every measure to try and limit the impact. He said that this literally means that people must stay separated and they have to take good sanitary measures and try not to share this virus and spread it. He said that this is the real danger and the purpose of the Emergency Declaration. He said that everything that the Board of Commissioners do will not work unless people will step up and take responsibility and keep themselves separated from others. He said that people need to do everything possible to stop the transmission of these germs.

Chairman Glass read the Emergency Declaration and Ordinance. Chairman Glass noted that in Section 13 that they do expect Sheriff White to enforce this and hopes they don't have to charge anyone with this violation. Chairman Glass stated that this is a State of Emergency and they are putting some specific things in place. Chairman Glass stated that in Section 10, the County

Administrator, in case he has to go to the hospital, will designate an interim as the Emergency interim successor pursuant to O.C.A. 38-3-50. He said that they are working on this plan and for every other position in the County including his own. Chairman Glass stated that Vice-Chair Thrash would take over his position if something would happen to him. If something were to happen to Vice-Chair Thrash, then the next person in line would fall to the senior member of the Board of Commissioners which is Commissioner Horton. He said that there is nothing specifically defined but he is recommended that this be the order that this is done.

Vice-Chair Thrash stated that the Lamar County Board of Commissioners, the Governor of Georgia, and the President of the United States and anyone in leadership can put things in place that prohibit behavior. Vice-Chair said that if the community does not follow this Emergency Declaration and Ordinance then it is a moot point. So, they are asking the community to please be vigilant. She said that this is a serious issue, and everyone will get through this. She said that they will probably look different, but everyone will make it through this. She said that in the interim they are asking the community to adhere to this rule and if you can stay home until the April 6th deadline. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that behavior is the only thing that is going to affect this.

Adoption of the Emergency Declaration and Ordinance

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the Adoption of the Emergency Declaration and Ordinance. Vice-Chair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to adjourn the Emergency Special Called meeting at approximately 2:23 p.m. Commissioner Traylor 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