

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Business Meeting  
May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The Lamar County Board of Commissioners held their May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting at the Lamar County Administration Building via Zoom. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Thrash, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson. County Attorney Scott Mayfield were 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 Paul Harper from Bentley and Sons Funeral home.

**III. Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Minutes Approval**

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

- i. Workshop Meeting-March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- ii. Regular Business Meeting-March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- iii. Emergency Special Called Meeting-March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- iv. Emergency Special Called Meeting-March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- v. Regular Business Meeting-April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- vi. Special Called Meeting-April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**V. Ordinance 2020-02 Development Regulation**

Planning and Community Development Director Buice addressed the Board of Commissioners and stated that the Development Regulation is an appendix of the zoning Ordinance in the Code of Law and it does require a Public Hearing. She said that this is a first introduction to the changes. She said that this is a large Ordinance and said that the County Attorney had received the first draft less than 24 hours ago. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that there needed to be a correction made on page 5 where it states, “must be at least twenty (20) wide” and stated that that she left out the word feet. Planning and Community Development Director Buice stated that there will be many corrections since this was just put together since this past Thursday. She said that there are a lot of things that they will be reviewing including the bond requirements and said that Public Works Director Rigdon is also working on the section for

the requirements of new roads. Vice-Chair Thrash asked if the bond requirements were for loggers as well. Planning and Community Development Director Buice stated that the bond requirements for logging is not in this code. Chairman Glass said that on page 21 it addresses the formal review and approval of subdivisions and noted that the Board of Commissioners is not trying to usurp the Planning and Zoning Commission but explained that the Board of Commissioners is the approval authority. Vice-Chair Thrash inquired about recessed lots on page 11. She said that she thought that she had heard in the Workshop meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 that they had decided on a setback of 100 to 150 feet and this section states 80 feet. Planning and Community Development Director Buice explained that this section is for flag lots. She said that the process of changing it from 50 feet to 80 feet is because someone may only partially develop a couple of road frontage lots and then have a larger area in the back of their property; that they want to save for future development. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that it will also take away from the flag lots that are only one acre. She said that this can also be changed because this is just one thought process with this code. Vice-Chair Thrash said that for the record, so that people understand, the reason the Board of Commissioners is looking at changing the code is because of the large amount of growth that is coming into Lamar County. She said that this gives them an opportunity to not only control the growth but to make sure that the growth that is coming to Lamar County is in conjunction with the land use plan and also so that every thing is in conjunction with the zoning laws. Planning and Community Development Director Buice stated that it takes away the ability for the developers to come in and cut road frontage lots and leave without putting any infrastructure in place. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that if you are coming to Lamar County then you need to invest in Lamar County and put in neighborhoods and not just lots. Chairman Glass stated that they need feedback from the public. It was suggested that it be placed on the website, and then have a work session with the public and the Planning and Zoning board. Vice-Chair Thrash said that before COVID-19, they had discussed having a town hall meeting. Chairman Glass stated that there would be a Public Hearing on this as well as a first and second reading of the Ordinance for the new Development Regulation.

#### **VI. Corrections to the October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Minutes-Rezoning App # 2018-06 by David Johnson**

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to correct a copy/paste issue with the October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Minutes regarding the rezoning App# 2018-06 by David Johnson. The minutes stated, “to rezone approximately 2.20 acres from M-1 (Manufacturing-Light) to A-R (Agricultural-Residential) to allow a boarding kennel and Ordinance 2018-04.” The corrected minutes now states “Rezoning App. #2018-06 by David Johnson to rezone approximately 2.00 acres from A-R (Agricultural- Residential) to R-4 (Residential) to allow a 962 square foot house (this is one of the Aldora houses) to be moved on the property. The property is located on Ennis Road, in Land Lot 124 of the 7th Land District, as shown on Tax Map 059 Parcel 078 and recorded in Deed Book 874, Page 249.” The minutes have been corrected to reflect what was heard in the Public Hearing on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and what was approved on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. Contracts**

### **FY 2020 Towaliga Circuit Budget**

Chairman Glass explained that the FY 2020 Towaliga Circuit Budget is from July 1st, 2020 to June 30th, 2021. He said that percentage of the Towaliga Circuit budget for Lamar County in 2020 is 23 % and will be 25 % in 2021. Chairman Glass said that this is done to bring Lamar County in line with the population split between the counties in the circuit. Chairman Glass stated that Lamar County's portion in 2021 will be based on the Census. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that the Chief Public Defender had called her and said that they are looking at a 14 percent cut in 2021 to their department. She said that this will equate to about 32 furlough days for their department. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that they didn't say anything about needed help but they may come to the counties for help and it may be something that they need to expect because this is something that is coming down from the State level. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the FY 2020 Towaliga Circuit budget for 2021 in the amount of \$256,532.74. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Cooperate Health Partners-Wellness Program**

Chairman Glass stated that the Cooperate Health Partners Wellness Program contract had been modified to reflect a performance-based rewards program rather than a participation-based rewards program. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that she had heard from several employees about the Wellness Program and they do not seem to like this program. County Administrator Townsend stated that he had not heard anything about this. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that this is something that we have never done before. She said that if they have a program, for example, for diabetics, and you are told that you are diabetic but you don't participate in any of the things that will help your eating or work out habits then it is a moot point. Vice-Chair Thrash said that she tried to explain this to those that had contacted her and told them that this decision is to help them. She said that they also hope it will help bring down the premiums, but it is really to help the employee. Chairman Glass noted that the amount of the contract is lower this year because it is based on a 10-month contract. The contract will run from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to April 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the contract with Cooperate Health Partners for a total cost of \$46,060.00.

### **Lamar County Juvenile Court**

Chairman Glass stated that this contract is for the dependency cases. County Administrator Townsend explained that the contract is the same as last year and the only change is the date. Vice-Chair Thrash asked about the conflict cases under the "Special Considerations Regarding the Avoidance of Conflicts of Interest between Contractor and Clients". She said that everyone has to have an attorney in the juvenile court and the same attorney cannot represent everyone. She said that under this section it states that the contractor shall not be financially penalized for withdrawing from a case which poses a conflict of interest to the attorney". Vice-Chair Thrash asked if this means that they are not going to say because you are representing this one dependency case, and they cannot represent them then their budget is cut. Vice-Chair asked if

this is what that means that they are not going to penalize them because they cannot pay conflict cases. Chairman Glass stated that he thinks it means that they are going to have to substitute someone, but they are not going to penalize them for the substitution. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the Lamar County Juvenile Court contract and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **VIII. Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Townsend presented a Financial Report to the board and said that the expenditures are under budget. He said that the projected expenses should be at 33 percent, but they are actually at 30.49 percent. County Administrator Townsend stated that as of May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, there has been no drawdown on the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) but tomorrow there will have to be a draw taken from the TAN. County Administrator Townsend said that the cashflow is still above schedule because of the carryover from 2019.

County Administrator Townsend gave a Projects Report and stated that C.W. Matthews should begin paving around June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and then after that they will begin striping. He said that he still has not heard from Jack Reid with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) regarding a traffic study on Five Points Road and Hwy 341. He said that they have also updated several offices with counters and glass for employee safety including the Courthouse, the Administration, and the Tax Commissioners buildings.

County Administrator Townsend stated that he had reached out to the City of Milner and had spoken to Sandra Miles regarding negotiations for a project in the City of Milner. He said that he is going to get with the County Attorney about an Intergovernmental Agreement between Lamar County and the City of Milner.

Chairman Glass stated that he cannot remember waiting until May to make a draw from the TAN and said that this is a sign that the County is getting better. He said that he is very pleased with this. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that this is an indication that the debt is being reduced.

### **IX. Round Table**

Commissioner Horton thanked County Administrator Townsend and the staff for the work that has been done during these critical times.

Commissioner Traylor echoed this and thanked County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, and all of the staff. He also thanked the Public Works Department for their work on Five Points Road. He thanked County Administrator Townsend for his leadership and work with helping the City of Milner. Commissioner Traylor said that with the anticipated 14 percent reduction that they will be looking at next year, and trying to find creative ways that they can use the Service Delivery Strategies (SDS) and things of this nature to maximize the staff that they have in place. He said they will need to be able to work together with agreements and financing, with other entities, such as the City of Milner, giving them the opportunity to help yet ensuring that the resources are there.

Vice-Chair Thrash requested that everyone pray for the City of Milner.

Chairman Glass thanked all of the staff for the great job that they are doing and said that sometimes they are doing something different than what they anticipated doing but everyone is pulling through it. He also thanked the citizens and said that the community had done a great job by showing some responsibility, by thinking things through, and helping each other. He said he really appreciates that and said that it shows by the results he is seeing, and he hopes that they can keep it up.

**X. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**XI. Adjournment**

Commissioner Horton made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at 7:28 p.m. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Charles Glass, Chairman

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Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chair

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Bennie Horton, Commissioner

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Robert Heiney, Commissioner

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Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

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