

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
August 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. The meeting was available to the public 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 Andy King of the Barnesville First Assembly of God.

III. Agenda Approval

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

IV. Minutes Approval

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

- i. Planning Session-July 9th, 2020
- ii. Workshop Meeting July 15th, 2020
- iii. Public Hearing July 21st, 2020
- iv. Regular Business Meeting-July 21st, 2020
- v. Special Called Meeting July 27th, 2020

V. Lamar County Arena Usage and Horse Arena Use Form

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the Lamar County Arena Usage and Horse Arena Use Form. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Approval for Gas Pumps

Chairman Glass explained that the gas pumps at the Lamar County School District Transportation Department were in bad shape. He said that various departments in the County use the gas pumps along with other municipalities in the County therefore we share the cost. The operating system for the current gas pumps is Windows 98 and that system is no longer supported. The total cost for the Lamar County Board of Education, Lamar County, the City

of Barnesville, and the City of Milner is \$31,124.91. The cost for Lamar County, with a 35% usage, is \$10,893.72. Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the cost split for the gas pumps with a 35% usage and a cost of \$10,893.72. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Resolution 2020-07 New Cingular Wireless, PCS, on behalf of AT&T

Vice-Chair Thrash stated that there had been no new updates on the proposal for the New Cingular Wireless cell tower since the previous Workshop meeting. She asked if any apologies had been conveyed to the Strickland's. Chairman Glass and the board all said that they had not spoken to the Strickland's. Chairman Glass explained that there was not a representative available for the meeting because the representatives with AT&T were under quarantine due to a case with COVID-19. Chairman Glass stated that the County Attorney had notified Planning and Community Development Director Buice that environmental concerns were not a reason for the cell tower to be denied. He said that the zoning powers are still in place and the decision could not be based on environmental concerns such as radio waves. He said that it goes against Federal law. Chairman Glass stated that at the last meeting there were concerns about this and that is why they voted to table the decision. Attorney Mayfield said that on the legal side of this issue, the statue of rights is crystal clear and agreed that environmental concerns were not a factor.

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-07 New Cingular Wireless, PCS, on behalf of AT&T. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Resolution 2020-13 Minor Subdivision by Larry Sheppard.

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-13 Minor Subdivision by Larry Sheppard. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Resolution 2020-14 BOC Millage Rate

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-14 BOC Millage Rate whereby the value of all taxable property in the County for 2020 as it appears on the digest thereof will be \$487,166,687.00; and the Lamar County Board of Commissioners hereby sets a millage rate of 13.157 mills for the 2020 tax year on all taxable property in the County, both within the unincorporated areas and municipalities located therein. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

X. Resolution 2020-15 LOST Millage Rate

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-15 LOST Millage Rate Lamar County whereby both the unincorporated areas and the municipalities located therein, shall receive a 2.243 mill roll-back for the local option sales tax Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Resolution 2020-16 BOE Millage Rate

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-16 BOE Millage Rate whereby upon the recommendation of the Lamar County Board of Education it is ordered that upon \$493,727,090, the net value of all property taxable for educational purposes in Lamar County as shown on the digest thereof, there be and hereby is levied a tax, ad valorem, on all property in Lamar County, real and personal, for the year 2020 for M& O educational purposes, in the amount of 17.000 per \$1,000.00 of the assessed valuation of the digest. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Resolution 2020-17 Bond Repayment

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-16 BOE Millage Rate whereby upon the recommendation of the Lamar County Board of Education, it is ordered that upon \$493,727,090, the value of all property taxable for educational purposes in Lamar County as shown on the digest thereof, there be and hereby is levied a tax, ad valorem, on all property in Lamar County, real and personal, for the year 2020 for bond repayment purposes, in the amount of 1.50 per \$1,000.00 of the assessed valuation of the digest. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Ordinance 2020-06 Sec 82 Route of Travel Through Trucks
Administrator's Report**

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-06 Sec 82 Route of Travel Through Trucks and Commissioner Traylor Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. County Attorney Mayfield pointed out that this was a first reading of Ordinance 2020-06 Sec 82 Route of Travel Through Trucks so Commissioner Traylor amended his motion and Vice-Chair Thrash amended her second to the motion approving Ordinance 2020-06 Sec 82 Route of Travel Through Trucks. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported that the expenditures are at 58.33 percent and continues to be higher than the expenses projected at 53.34 percent. He said that the cash flow is good and if they continue in this direction then the goal is to not have a TAN note next year. He said that contributing factors are the increase in revenues including the Local Options Sales Tax (LOST), the Tax Ad Valorem Taxes (TAVT) and the departments are being more frugal than in past years.

County Administrator Townsend reported that County Clerk Davidson is working with the Ms. Dozier, area loan specialist, with the USDA for a grant/loan combination and the Historic Preservation Division(HPD) The Lamar County Courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) so it make take time to work through all of the red tape. County

Administrator Townsend said that the window seals are damaged and that the windows could be expensive.

XV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

XVI. Round Table

Commissioner Horton stated that there would be a town hall meeting on August 27th, 2020 at the E.P. Roberts Center and invited everyone to come out to the meeting.

Chairman Glass stated that they are seeking public input into the development regulations and zoning for the County and he said that this will be a significant re-write. Chairman Glass stated that the public can also provide feedback to Planning and Community Development Director Buice.

Commissioner Traylor invited everyone to the First Responders Appreciation Celebration event on September 4th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Vice-Chair Thrash stated that she was happy to have Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard in Lamar County.

Chairman Glass Chairman Glass said that the 2020 Census is ongoing and that you could reply to the Census either online, by phone, or snail mail. He said that if you do not reply by one of these 3 methods then someone would come to your door. The website is <https://2020census.gov>. He said that he hopes everyone will participate in the 2020 Census because the population breakdowns bring funds to the counties and they need an accurate count to be able to do this.

Chairman Glass also invited everyone to the First Responders Appreciation Celebration event on September 4th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Glass reported that if you test positive for COVID-19 and you are asymptomatic then you can still spread the virus. He said that the numbers in Lamar County are pretty high and said that there had been a COVID-19 outbreak in the Lamar County School system. Chairman Glass said that he hopes that everyone will have a safe year and a safe fall.

County Administrator Townsend reported that County Clerk Davidson and Recreation Department Director Lowe had been notified that they received the matching KABOOM Grant which is an American non-profit organization that helps communities build playgrounds for children. The playground equipment will need to be installed by the end of the year in order to receive the grant.

XVII. Adjournment

Commissioner Horton made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at 7:37 p.m. and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chair

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk