

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
**August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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 7:09 p.m.

**II. Agenda Approval**

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

**III. Minutes Approval**

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

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

**IV. 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.

**V. Approval for Gas Pumps**

Chairman Glass explained that the gas pumps at the Lamar County School District Transportation Department were in bad shape and said that the amount of gas that is coming from the pumps is minimal. He said that the Lamar County School System, the Lamar County Board of Commissioners, the City of Barnesville, and the City of Milner all use the gas pumps therefore they share the cost. Chairman Glass said that the operating system for the current gas pumps is Windows 98 and that the computer system is no longer supported. Lamar County School District Superintendent, Jute Wilson, sent a proposal from JF Petroleum Group for the new gas pumps for a total cost of \$31,124.91. The cost is based on usage therefore the cost for the Lamar County Board of Commissioners, 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.

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

Planning and Community Development Director Buice 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. She stated that environmental concerns are not allowed to be a reason for a cell tower to be denied. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that the board's zoning powers are still in place but the decision to deny the cell tower could not be based on environmental concerns. She said that it goes against Federal law. Chairman Glass stated that at the last meeting there were concerns about this and that was the reason that they had voted to table the decision. Attorney Mayfield said that on the legal side of this issue, the statute on this issue is crystal clear and agreed that environmental concerns were not a factor in making this decision. 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.

**VII. 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.

**VIII. Resolution 2020-14 BOC Millage Rate**

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-14 BOC Millage Rate whereas 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

**IX. Resolution 2020-15 LOST Millage Rate**

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-15 LOST Millage Rate whereas Lamar County, both the unincorporated areas and the municipalities located therein, shall receive a 2.243 mill roll-back for the local option sales tax leaving a net millage rate of 13.157 for 2020. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Resolution 2020-16 BOE Millage Rate**

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-16 BOE Millage Rate whereas upon the recommendation of the Lamar County Board of Education it is ordered that upon \$493,727,090.00, 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 Maintenance and Operation

(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.

**XI. Resolution 2020-17 Bond Repayment**

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-16 BOE Millage Rate whereas upon the recommendation of the Lamar County Board of Education, it is ordered that upon \$493,727,090.00, 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.

**XII. 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. 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 the first reading of Ordinance 2020-06 Sec 82 Route of Travel Through Trucks. The motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Townsend reported that the revenues are at 58.33 percent and continues to be higher than the expenses currently 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 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) next year. He said that the 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 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 may take some 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.

**XIV. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**XV. Round Table**

Commissioner Horton stated that there would be a town hall meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 for the development regulations and zoning for the County and he said that this will be a significant re-write to the Ordinance. 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. He encouraged everyone to bring their chairs as there will be social distancing. Commissioner Traylor reported that the Lamar County softball team is playing Crawford County today because the Macon-Bibb County School System has forgone their season to play fall ball.

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

Chairman Glass said that the 2020 Census is ongoing, and they are at the point where field representatives are knocking on doors. He said that currently the response rate is at 59.3 percent and Lamar County's response rate is at 62.4 percent. He said that you can reply to the Census either online, by phone, or regular mail. He said that if you do not reply by one of these three methods then someone would come to your door. The website is <https://2020census.gov>. Chairman Glass said that he hopes everyone will participate in the 2020 Census because the Census is not only what affects our representation in congress but also the funding that comes through the Federal systems, the State, and then down to the local area. Chairman Glass said that funds are used for things such as roads, bridges, mental health, and the local school system. He said that all of this is based on population splits therefore 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 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Glass reported that he had heard from Nurse Manager Sherry Farr with the Lamar County Department of Health that if 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.

## **XVI. 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

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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