

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
**June 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 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 the Macon-Bibb County Superintendent, Curtis Jones.

**III. Agenda Approval**

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

**IV. Minutes Approval**

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

- i. Workshop Meeting-May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- ii. Regular Business Meeting-May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**V. Proclamation**

Commissioner Horton presented a Proclamation to Macon Bibb County Superintendent and the son of former Commissioner Roberta Prescott Jones in honor of her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Ms. Jones was born in Falls County, Texas on Tuesday, June 3, 1930, and moved to Georgia in 1953. She is a lifelong resident of Barnesville, Georgia, and is a faithful member of the White's Chapel C.M.E. Church in Barnesville, Georgia. Ms. Jones was elected as a Commissioner in April of 1988 and served for 14 years. The Lamar County Commissioners and the Lamar County citizens join with the Jones family in celebrating the 90th birthday of Mrs. Roberta Prescott Jones.

**VI. Board Appointments**

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Robert Taylor to the Lamar County Division of Family and Children Services Board for a term of four years which will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and to accept the resignation of Audrey Smith and to approve

the appointment of Cyndi Roberts to the Lamar County Division of Family Children Services Board until the term expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Jeffrey Stephens to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board for a term of three years which will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Dean Gore to the Board of Appeals for a term of three years which will expire on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and to approve the resignation of Aaron Brown and approve the appointment of Eddie Felton to the Board of Appeals until the term expires on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. Development Ordinance Plans**

Planning and Community Development Director Buice stated that this started with a simple request to look at setbacks and how close new homes are being constructed to the road. She said that it has turned into a pretty major redraft of the Development and Zoning Ordinances. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that there are several rough drafts on the Lamar County website. She said that it is her understanding that the board also wants to hold some community meetings and requested that they give her some places and dates to hold these meetings in August.

Chairman Glass said that the goal is to put the Development and Zoning Ordinances into place and to have the development like they expect and want but they need input from the citizens before they commit to this. He said that the board is planning to introduce this as a first reading in September and have the second reading in October. Chairman Glass stated that the board would like to get everything approved by the end of the year but said that they do not want to rush into it. He said that they want to have town hall meetings in August with one meeting per District. He said that the board had discussed holding at least three meetings in District 2 because the population is widespread, and they will be setting up and advertising these meetings soon. He said that if a citizen does not want to come to the town hall meeting, they can always contact one of the Commissioners through email or by phone. Chairman Glass stated that the board is looking for ideas and priorities that they may have and what they would like the community to look like five to ten years from now.

## **VIII. Contracts**

- i. Sheriff White addressed the board and stated that he had received two quotes for the digital control board: one from Tyco and one from American Detention Services. He said the quote from American Detention Services was \$10,000.00 less than the quote he had received from Tyco. County Administrator Townsend noted that the funds will come from SPLOST III. Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the American Detention

Services contract for \$75,500.00. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- ii. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the Automatic Aid Agreement between Lamar County and Pike County for the purpose of rendering automatic aid to each other related to the provisions of fire suppression., protection, prevention, rescue and emergency medical assistance to the citizens of their respective counties. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- iii. Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the Three Rivers Regional Transit Agreement from July 1, 2020, to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for \$5,250.00. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IX. Surplus of Vehicles**

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the surplus of two vehicles for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. 2005 Mercury G Marquis-Gold -Vin # 2186
- ii. 2006 Ford Interceptor-Gold-Vin # 3086

#### **X. Recreation Special Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) III Project**

County Administrator Townsend explained that there had been issues with the gym on Academy Drive. He stated that it would cost \$65,000.00 to replace the roof and that it would cost \$200,000.00 to fix the gym. He said that he had received a quote from Titan Steel Structures for \$179,580.00 with a deposit due of \$53,800.00 and the funds will come from SPLOST III. He stated that the building is 100 x 180 and usually cost about \$310,000.00. Chairman Glass explained that the new gym would be placed next to the old recycling center which is next to the soccer fields. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the purchase of the building from Titan Steel for a total purchase of \$179,580.00. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **XI. Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Townsend reported that the revenues and expenditures are doing well. He said that the projected expenditures should be at 41.67 percent but are actually at 37.22 percent and said that this is attributed to the Department Heads taking the initiative to cut back on expenditures. County Administrator Townsend reported that the cash flow projections are still higher because more money is coming into the County and the expenditures are dropping. He said that the County is currently in good shape with the finances.

County Administrator Townsend reported that the Right of Way Mowing and Trash Pickup is 95 percent complete. He reported that Public Works Director Rigdon reported that they should have completed the first round of cutting and trash pickup and will start the second round of mowing and trash pickup around the 29<sup>th</sup> of June. Public Works Director Rigdon graded the contractor and when they first started mowing, they received a D minus but now that they have become familiar with the County, they are currently receiving a B minus. County

Administrator Townsend said that this is because they are becoming more comfortable with the roads in the County.

County Administrator Townsend stated the Public Works Department had received a complement through the Work Order System on the Lamar County website stating that they were pleased with a job that had been done at Cole Forrest.

Vice-Chair Thrash inquired about the amount of funds that were received from the State for emergency funds during the floods in February and March. County Administrator Townsend replied that \$42,500.00 had been received to pay for the materials. He said that this was for a couple of bridges and Possum Trott Road that was completely washed out. County Administrator Townsend reported that there is a 30 percent match with the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) that has to be satisfied with the State and said that the cost for labor, material, and machine hours had to be submitted to the State. County Administrator Townsend stated that the total cost was around \$195,000.00. Chairman Glass stated that these funds came from the State and he hopes that they will receive Federal dollars through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as well.

Chairman Glass stated that the Right of Way Mowing and Trash Pickup contract was new to Lamar Country and stated that this will save the County money in terms of running our own crews, using our own equipment, and providing maintenance and fuel cost. He stated that he agrees that it started off rough but said he understood that they had a different process that they followed compared to what Lamar County follows. Chairman Glass said that now it seems to be working out for both sides. Chairman Glass said that he is pleased with the results. He said that they will keep watching them but wanted everyone to understand that this is a new process and said that they will continue to keep working with them.

Chairman Glass reported that a draw was taken from the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) at the end of May. He said that this was notable because in the past a draw had to be taken before May. Chairman Glass said he appreciated all of the work that had been done on this and said that it is an improvement. He said that he appreciated all of the Constitutional Officers and the Department Heads who had cut back on expenses which prevented them from taking a draw on the TAN.

## **XII. Public Comments**

Ashley Gilles of 425 Abbott Road Barnesville, Georgia addressed the board and stated that Marty Harbin would be coming to Lamar County for a town hall meeting on Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the Lamar County Courthouse parking lot. Ms. Gilles stated that she wanted to remind everyone to stay safe by social distancing. She stated that he would be giving a legislative update as well. Ms. Gilles said that everyone is welcome and requested that everyone bring a lawn chair.

## **XIII. Round Table**

Commissioner Horton requested that everyone stay safe and continue to pray.

Commissioner Heiney said Amen to Commissioner Horton's comment.

Commissioner Traylor said he also echoed the same sentiments. He also thanked the law enforcement in Lamar County and said that he tells people all of the time that in order to change directions for a path of anything there has to be a change. He said that the work that he sees the Sheriff's Office, in the school system with the youth, is one of the things that makes him proud of Lamar County. Commissioner Traylor said that they do not see the same things in Lamar County and our town that they see across the Country. He said he wanted to commend Sheriff White and his staff for all of the work that they had done to improve the relationships within the community. Commissioner Traylor requested that everyone be safe and take care of themselves. Commissioner Traylor commended the staff for the work that they have done on the TAN and said that this is something that he has talked about for quite a while. He said that people do not realize how big of a deal this is to get this far.

Vice-Chair Thrash requested that everyone keep the family of Anne Claxton, who was the Councilwoman for the City of Barnesville, in their prayers. Vice-Chair Thrash said that it has been very hard for the family, and the community. She said that it is hard to lose someone that is such a vital part of the community. Vice-Chair Thrash said that she was a great Councilwoman and it was a pleasure to work with her.

Chairman Glass thanked everyone and said that having meetings like this is not their preference, but said he appreciated everyone working with them by following the Governor's Executive Order requirements. Chairman Glass stated that they do want feedback on the Development and Zoning Ordinances and asked everyone to help them get the word out about this. Chairman Glass stated that with all that it is going on it is a crazy world but said that he is thankful that he lives here. He said that he read an article in the Herald Gazette about Barnesville being the greatest little city in the world. Chairman Glass said that he thinks that this whole community is the greatest in the world. He said that he has had the opportunity to visit a lot of places and always likes to come back here. He said that he is thankful for all of the people here, for all of the resources, the activities, and for all of the fun that everyone has here. Chairman Glass said that he is thankful that everyone pulls together here and that they are all working together for the same goals.

Chairman Glass reported that there is COVID-19 testing in Thomaston, Georgia every Tuesday, and Thursday until the end of the month. He said that next month they will be testing at the Lamar County Health Department. Chairman Glass said that the testing is free. He said that he was tested on Tuesday and received his results by email on Wednesday evening. He said that there will be a blood drive on July 16th, 2020 at the First Methodist Church in Barnesville, Georgia. Chairman Glass said that the Red Cross will now do antibody testing when you donate blood. He said that the antibody test assesses whether you have been exposed to the virus and not if the virus is currently present.

#### **XIV. Executive Session and Adjournment**

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to recess the Regular Business meeting at 7:33 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The

motion passed unanimously. The board came out of executive session at 7:54 p.m. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at 7:56 p.m. and Commissioner Heiney 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