

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
June 15th, 2021

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Thrash, 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

The Boy Scouts of America Troop 38 presented the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Invocation was given by Pastor Nancy Dadd of New Life Anointed Ministries International (AMI) Church.

III. Agenda Approval

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

IV. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the following three sets of minutes. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Workshop Meeting-May 13th, 2021
- ii. Public Hearing-May 18th, 2021
- iii. Regular Business Meeting-May 18th, 2021

V. Proclamation for the Boy Scouts

Commissioner Thrash presented a Proclamation to the Boy Scouts Troop 38 led by Scout Master John Briley. The Proclamation was in honor of Troop 38's 75th Anniversary and was founded in February of 1946 by the Aldora Plant of General Tire and remained under their care for many years. Troop 38 has meet in the Town of Aldora Park for all of their 75 years and Troop 38 has had 42 documented Eagle Scouts with 5 Boy Scouts working towards that title by the end of this year. There have been an estimated 1875 boys that have participated in Troop 38 over the years. The Lamar County Board of Commissioners recognized and acknowledged Troop 38 for their 75th celebration this 15th day of June 2021.

VI. Board Appointments

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to re-appoint Annie Ruth Bush to the Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS) for a term of four years expiring on June 30th, 2025. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to approve Ryran Traylor to the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Board for a term of three years expiring on June 30th, 2024. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Dr. Robert Cox to the West Georgia Emergency Medical Services Council for a term of two years expiring on June 30th, 2023. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Appointment of Christmas Parade Committee

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to re-instate the Christmas Parade Committee under the direction of Commissioner Traylor and Commissioner Thrash. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Three Rivers Regional Transit Agreement

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the Three Rivers Regional Transit Agreement Three Rivers Regional Transit Agreement for FY July 1, 2021-June 30th, 2022. The contract includes the local match for a transit bus along with operating and program administration. The cost is \$5,250.00 for each with a total cost \$10,770.00. The County's maximum obligation to TRRC for the term of this contract shall not exceed \$10,770. The compensation will be requested no more than monthly and no less than once a year. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend gave an Administrators Report. He said that the County is doing very well. He said that the expenses are at 41.67 percent and they were projected to be at 35.05 percent due to the Constitutional Officers and the Departments keeping their spending within their budget. County Administrator Townsend said that this helps with the cash flow. County Administrator Townsend said that they have not had to draw on the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN).

County Administrator Townsend reported on several projects:

- Reported that the paving on Silver Dollar Road was done today.
- Reported that there had been lightning damage to the repeaters on the tower on High Falls Road and wanted direction as to how to have the funds approved for a new tower.
- Sent drawings for the Recreation Gymnasium to the board.

- Reported that they are still waiting on the estimated time of arrival (EVA) for the Courthouse windows that have been ordered.
- Reported that the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones have been installed and they are working on the porting of the lines.
- Reported that the Yatesville Road had been striped and markers have been put down.
- Reported that the Local Options Sales Tax (LOST) Collections for this month are \$114,242.67 and the Special Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) Collections was \$204,005.29 which was still higher than in prior years.

Chairman Glass said that the budget planning process will begin next month. County Administrator Townsend reported that he is sending out the packages to the Constitutional Officers and the Departments Heads including the calendar with all of the dates. He said that he is sending out the calendars with dates to the board so they can setup up meetings to get the digest and the millage rate approved before August 31, 2021. County Administrator Townsend said that the main goal is to get the budget approved before November 30th, 2021.

Chairman Glass said that his understanding is that lightning struck the radio tower and the upper half of the tower will have to be replaced. County Administrator Townsend said that they also found a second hole in the tower. Commissioner Thrash said that if the cost is within the 10 percent of Administrative approval, then they should let them deal with it. County Administrator Townsend explained that this is located on High Falls Park Road where the two repeaters would be installed at 230 feet. He said that when they started installing the repeaters, they realized that there was a softball size hole in it where lightning had hit it. County Administrator Townsend said that the owner would repair it and they would go ahead and install the repeaters. Chairman Glass explained that they would install the repeaters, when they repair the part that was damaged by lightning, from 160 feet to 230 feet so that they can get a better coverage. Vice-Chairman Horton asked if the homeowner owns the tower. County Administrator Townsend said that this is correct so they will be getting an insurance claim to replace that portion of the tower.

X. Public Comments

Rick Stevenson of 184 Jones Road addressed the board. Mr. Stevenson reported that about a month ago there were about 1000 bats or chimney sweepers flying around the Courthouse. Commissioner Thrash said that this is mating season and they cannot do anything with them during mating season. Chairman Glass said that there were not bats, they are chimney sweepers. Mr. Stevenson said that you hear a lot on the news but said that the power companies can answer questions since the County is growing and will continue to grow. He asked the board how close the County is maxed out on the power grid and asked if the board has a plan for the next 10, 15 or even 50 years. Mr. Stevenson said to think back to what it was here 50 years ago. He said that it is going to grow that much more.

Mr. Stevenson said that he had a question about all of the No Truck signs on all of the County roads. He said that they are putting up No Thru Trucks signs. Mr. Stevenson said that this does not do anything if someone is cutting timber. He said that log trucks and chip trucks are what they are trying to deal with. Mr. Stevenson said that they can charge a

County, at least in other States they can, an overweight fee on County roads. He said that he knows that the board was discussing upping the weight limit for the timber industry. Mr. Stevenson said that if they do that the counties need to lobby to have part of that revenue to spread between the counties.

Commissioner Thrash said that thus far it has been put to sleep at the State level but now it is being introduced again at the Federal level. Mr. Stevenson said that there are different ways that they can do this. He said that they can charge the timber companies if they do not want to charge the trucks. Chairman Glass said that in Georgia they have a permit process where they have to get a permit before they can cut the timber. He said that this is now State controlled. Chairman Glass said that they have to administer the permit process per the State rules. Mr. Stevenson said that he was pretty sure that they could charge them an overweight permit. He said that they could set the weight limit on County roads at 54,000 then that covers everyone that is empty and then the legal weight for a loaded truck is 80,000 so they would have to buy a permit.

Commissioner Thrash said that with timber and logging trucks, the legislators allow them the same weight restrictions on the County roads that they have on the State roads and highways. She said that this is part of the problem. Chairman Glass said that he liked this idea and said that they would check with their legislators about this.

XI. Round Table

Commissioner Thrash announced that the County is doing a lot of paving and everyone needs to make sure that they are watching out for the road crew. She said that people need to slow down when this is going on and this holds true for the first responders, deputies, ambulance and fire workers. Chairman Thrash emphasized that people need to slow down when going through areas with things going on.

Chairman Glass said that Georgia does have a move over law. He said that, if possible, we need to give them a lane where they are working if there is no oncoming traffic.

Chairman Glass said that the board is looking towards having a local single County TSPLOST. He said that he has discussed with the cities and they think that they can raise a little over 10 million dollars in five years with another penny sales tax. Chairman Glass said that roughly \$600,000.00 a year is spent on re-paving which is what the County can afford to budget. He said that for the County's portion if they could get another million two per year that would give them three times the capability to pave as they are able to do now. Chairman Glass said that unless they do something different, they are not going to be able to keep up with the roads and they believe that the single County TSPLOST would be the way to do this. He said that it will have to go on a referendum and the voters will have to vote on it. Chairman Glass that they are looking at getting it on the November ballot so that they can start collecting the extra penny in April of 2022 so that improvements can be made in the County. Chairman Glass said more details will be forthcoming and if anyone has any questions to please let the board know. He said that they are not saying that this is the only way that they can go but they

think that this is the smart thing to do at this point. Chairman Glass said that the voters will have their chance to put their input on it.

XII. Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Bennie Horton, Vice-Chairman

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk