

Meeting Summary
Workshop Meeting of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners
June 10th, 2021
12:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on June 10th, 2021. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson. The meeting was available via Zoom.

Regular Business Meeting Discussion.

- The board heard that Pastor Nelo Dadd of New Life Anointed Ministries will give the invocation.
- The board reviewed 3 sets of Minutes
 - Workshop Meeting-May 13th, 2021
 - Public Hearing-May 18th, 2021
 - Regular Business Meeting-May 18th, 2021
- The board reviewed the following Board Appointments
 - Department of Family and Children Services
 - Annie Ruth Bush-Term Expires-June 30th, 2021
 - Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Board
 - Ryran Traylor-Term Expires-June 30, 2021
 - West Georgia Emergency Medical Services Council
 - Robert Cox-Term Expires-June 30th, 2021

The board reviewed a contract from Three Rivers Regional Commission (TRRC) 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 of \$10,770.00. The County's maximum obligation to TRRC for the term of this contract shall not exceed \$10,770.00. Compensation will be requested no more than monthly and no less than once a year.

- Commissioner Thrash requested that a Proclamation for the Boy Scouts 75th Anniversary be put on the agenda.

Other Discussion

Commissioner Thrash reported that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) may widen the right-hand turn lane onto Silver Dollar Road to make that safer for the oncoming traffic. She said that they are not going to do anything for the people that have to turn right, go up the highway, and make a U-turn as of yet because the engineers rode it and found out that there is plenty of site distance. Commissioner Thrash reported that GDOT has the engineers scheduled to come out to look at Eady Creek Road because of all the wrecks in that area. Chairman Glass said that Norris and Liberty Hill Road are two other roads that also have issues.

Commissioner Heiney requested that a speed limit change from 55 to 45 miles an hour be initiated on Barnesville Road. He said that this is a request from the citizens that live on the road. He said that if the speed limit is 45 miles an hour people are driving 55 to 65 miles an hour and if it is 55 miles an hour then they are driving 65 to 75 miles an hour. Chairman Glass asked if County Administrator Townsend had requested a traffic study on Barnesville Road. Commissioner Heiney said that they need to do this as soon

as possible. Commissioner Thrash said that there is an issue with speeders in Lamar County. Commissioner Heiney said that someone was speeding on Ramah Church Road yesterday. Commissioner Thrash said that someone passed her doing 70 miles an hour on Liberty Hill Road and said that they did not stop when they got to Main Street in Milner. Commissioner Traylor said he wondered if the tickets had gone up and asked if the Sheriff's Deputy's or the City Police were seeing an uptick. He said that he read an article from the State that said that the highest cause of death, for a certain age group, is related to speeding. Commissioner Traylor said that there are accident-prone areas in Lamar County such as the intersection at Ingles, Grove Street, and Silver Dollar Road, and said that these are the types of things that the board needs to know. Commissioner Heiney said that Barnesville Road is a two-lane road and it is a densely populated area.

Public Works Director Rigdon joined the meeting and said that they have equipment on Silver Dollar Road but he had other issues that took precedence. He said that he has asphalt setup for Tuesday morning. Public Works Director Rigdon reported that the paving on Yatesville Road had been done and they are waiting to do the striping because it has been too wet. He said that new signs had also been placed on Yatesville Road.

Chairman Glass said that they need to get an intergovernmental agreement ready for a single County Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) by the end of June. He said that the cities are all in favor of it. Chairman Glass said that the Mayors have spoken to their Councils and the only question that they had is regarding the split for the Town of Aldora and the terms of the agreement. He said that the board needs to think about the projects that they want to accomplish through TSPLOST. Chairman Glass said that they need projects that are going to be important to the community. He said that they need to put these types of things in a packet for the citizens or have some type of Frequently Asked Question (FAQ). Chairman Glass said that with a SPLOST or a TSPLOST they cannot advocate for or against the vote but they can provide facts about the situation. He said that it will require joint meetings with the cities to sign the paperwork and the intergovernmental agreement. Chairman Glass said that they should be able to accomplish this with a very short get-together and not have to have a long-drawn-out meeting.

Commissioner Traylor asked if there was anyone in the community that would want to champion the TSPLOST. Chairman Glass said that traditionally in other cities the Chamber of Commerce heads it up. He said that he does not know if the Barnesville Lamar County Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is strong enough to take it on. Commissioner Traylor said that with all of the events held in Barnesville such as Buggy Days, people come in and use Lamar County roads. He said that in terms of this, it is the closest thing to a fair tax. Chairman Glass said that they cannot spend County funds to promote this but said that they can provide an FAQ sheet or something like that. He said that if someone such as the Chamber or some person wants to lead this as a campaign then they can do that. Chairman Glass said that they can accept donations for materials from private entities. He said that they can accept in-kind donations from private groups. Chairman Glass said that the tentative schedule is that the vote will come up in November and it will take effect starting in April of 2022. He said that they still want to bond it so that they can start using it immediately. He said that if they do not bond it then they have to collect the money before they can put out a contract.

Chairman Glass said that there had been some discussion in the community about the old Fred's building. He said that the conceptual plan strikes off two parcels that they do not want to purchase. He said that if you look at where the parcel boundaries are located it cuts off one of the entrances coming off of the highway. Chairman Glass said that his concern was that unless they have an easement, they would lose access to that entrance. He said that the proposal in the agreement would be to have cross-access easements for all parties involved because GDOT will not approve another driveway. Chairman Glass said that they

want to make sure that everyone has access to get on and off of the highway. He said that the occupants of the three parcels will always have access to the highway.

Vice-Chairman Horton said that he wanted to make sure that the building is inspected and said that he had heard that the building may not be up to standards. Chairman Glass stated that County Administrator Townsend is already working on this. He said that the way the contract is written, if they sign this, they will put up \$10,000.00 earnest money and they have 60 days to decide if they want to follow through with it or not. Chairman Glass said that during the 60 days they can back out for essentially any reason and get the earnest money back. He said that the only thing it would cost the County would be for the engineering analysis. Chairman Glass said that they will have to pay part of the survey to split these out but the survey does not have to be done until they are ready to close on it. Chairman Glass said that he does not think that there is a lot of risk going into this except for the engineering cost.

Commissioner Traylor said that at the old Ingles building, there is a new for sale sign. He said that there are a lot of contractors working in that building. Chairman Glass said that Ingles has been pretty tight with that building and has kept things pretty close to the vest. He said that no one said anything about this at the recent IDA meeting.

Commissioner Heiney said that he is going to take the existing PowerPoint presentation regarding the old Fred's Building that County Administrator Townsend presented at the last Workshop meeting. He said that he wanted to make it more public-friendly so that it makes sense if people want to ask questions. Commissioner Heiney said that he is working on it now and will provide it to the board before he puts it out to the public.

Commissioner Thrash said that if they want to have the Christmas Parade again this year, which she is a total advocate for, they need to appoint a committee. She asked if they wanted to use the same committee as last year and said that she did not know how much that City Manager Turner would be able to help them this year. Commissioner Thrash said that she would like to do it again this year and said that it was a great success last year. She said that the Christmas Parade received a lot of positive feedback from the citizens. Chairman Glass said that he would be happy with re-appointing the prior committee. He said that from the County side of it, he was happy with the way it worked and he had no issues with the ones that were involved with the Christmas Parade. Chairman Glass said he was not sure how much time City Manager Turner could put into the Christmas Parade this year. He said that maybe they could designate someone else from the City. Commissioner Traylor said that maybe he could use the same crew that they used last year because City Manager Turner will not have the time to coordinate it. He said that they will be doing some different things with Buggy Days this year. Chairman Glass asked if they wanted to have an official vote on this to see if they wanted to do it again or officially designate or re-designate the committee members. Commissioner Thrash said that they needed to do both. Chairman Glass and the board agreed to add the appointment of the Christmas Parade Committee to the Regular Business meeting agenda.

Round Table

Commissioner Thrash announced that William Charles Kitchings (Billy) passed away and said that his funeral services will be held at Conner-Westbury in Griffin on Saturday.

Chairman Glass said that in the IDA meeting that they had this morning they discussed the medical marijuana facility. He said that the State is going to award those licenses by the end of this month. He said that there were a total of 40 applicants. Chairman Glass said that the group that submitted for the Industrial Park has done this in six other States. He said that they are a big player in this and they have estimated

that there are 20 viable applicants out of the 40. He said that they are ready to go once the announcement is made and they have one year to start the operation. Chairman Glass said that the only local issue that could possibly slow them down is with a parcel next to Piedmont Green Power. He said that they will need access, an easement coming off of the entrance to the road where you come down from the substation. Chairman Glass said that their parcel does not touch the road so they will need a driveway easement. He said that the City owns that land and has agreed to do this. Chairman Glass said that they just need to submit the plat to have it done. He said that everything else is ready to go and until they get the license no one wants to pull the trigger. Chairman Glass said that hopefully, they will know something by the end of the month.

Chairman Glass said that there had been some interest in some other parcels. He said that there are a lot of things happening with growth but they do not have any solid leads that they are about to close. Chairman Glass said that the IDA is getting a lot of inquiries and interests in different things but the high cost is keeping them from going ahead with their projects.

Perry Walker, who worked with the Board of Elections during the last election came in and met the board. He is now the County's temporary custodian.

Commissioner Traylor said that the houses being built on Wilmot Road were estimated to sell for about \$270,000.00 and they are selling for \$324,000.00. He said that this is for a 1900 square foot home. Commissioner Thrash said that this means that people will buy them for \$350,000.00 to \$360,000.00.

Chairman Glass said that the County is getting about 200 new addresses this year. He said that most of them are residential but some of them are commercial.

Adjournment and Executive Session

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to recess the Workshop meeting to go into Executive Session for legal purposes at approximately 1:08 p.m. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board came out of Executive Session at approximately 1:48 p.m. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Workshop meeting. 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