

Budget Workshop
Lamar County Board of Commissioners
10/27/2021
1:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on October 27th, 2021. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson. Commissioner Thrash joined the meeting via zoom and the meeting was also available via Zoom.

Department Heads and Constitutional Officers Request for the 2022 budget.

A. Clerk of Superior Court Tyson

- Increase Computer Fees and Licenses for ICON software by \$2,100.
- Increase M&R Equipment by \$1,000.00 for offices chairs.
- Requested to have his postage increased.
- Requested to have funds for digitalizing his records. County Administrator Townsend said that this would come from ARP funds.

Chairman Glass and the board discussed the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) 2022 Legislative Priorities. The top three will be selected at the upcoming ACCG conference.

1. County Participation in Development Authority Tax Abatements
2. Continue Single County TSPLOST Until Maximum Time Period is Reached
3. Reform Annexation Dispute Resolution / Arbitration Process
4. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Reforms to Funding and Staffing
5. Mental Health Reforms
6. Funding to Implement Next Generation E-911
7. Expansion of Sales Tax to Include Digital Goods
8. Increased Tag and Title Fee Revenue to Fund County Administrative Costs
9. Compensation for Private Utilization of County Right-of-Way

B. Magistrate Judge Kunst

- Increase in part-time salaries by \$10,907.
- Increase in Magistrate Clerk Salary from \$7,984.00 to \$8,650.32.
The Deputy Magistrate Clerk also serves as the Part Time Deputy Clerk working more hours (from 25 to 29 hrs. a week).
- Increase in Training by \$2,500.00 for offsite conference training.
- Requested additional expenses of \$100.00 for Software protection. These funds will come from ARP.
- Requested to have a computer and a phone for the Magistrate Court bench.
- Requested to have funds for a CD burner for Testimonies for Search and Arrest Warrants for the District Attorney or the Public Defender.

C. Tax Commissioner Anthony.

- Increase for (JIR) Judicial in Rem/Court Case Fees for Allie Jet, Attorney sales by \$2,500.
- Increase in Professional Services for Computer Support by \$375.00.

- Increase in Aumentum Computer/Fees Licenses by \$975.00.
- D. UGA County Extension Agent Jackson
- Increase in the Supplies/Tools for Computer match with UGA
 - Increase in Fuel by 11% for traveling to the schools, educational teaching at Rock Springs Church, and the 4-H Program.
 - Reported that they are partnering with the Barnesville Lamar County Library for continuing education.
 - Reported that they have been partnering with the Senior Center to assist with the delivery of the Meals on Wheels since only one person at the Senior Center is doing that. Reported that this gives the students an opportunity for Service Learning so every month since February they have been delivering the meals. Commissioner Traylor reported that his students had also been assigned to assist with the Meals on Wheels food delivery. Reported that they drive the 4-H bus and the students love to deliver the meals.
 - Reported that they had been tasked to do Community Gardening.
 - Reported that the recent restoration due to a water heater break had been completed by Blue Bear Restoration and that the results were very pleasing and beautiful.
- E. Sheriff White.
- Increase in Sheriff Office Salaries by \$101,760.00 plus FICA and Medicare by \$7,784.64.
 - Increase in Jail Salaries by \$150,027.00 plus FICA and Medicare by \$11,477.00.
 - Increase in E911 Salaries by \$58,823.00 plus FICA and Medicare by \$4,499.96.
 - Increase in Prisoner Medical Expenditures by \$33,000.00 for changing companies. Because of contract violations they need to change companies.
- F. Senior Center Director Watts
- Increase in Senior Center Activity software fees by \$1,200.00.
 - Increase for Microsoft Office 365 by \$200.00.
 - Increase of \$200.00 for additional activities due to the growth of the Senior Center.
- G. Tax Assessor Haddock
- Increase for a new Part-Time employee for \$12,480.00.
 - Increase in Communications for an employee phone by \$1,296.00.
 - Increase in Contracts by \$1,700.00 for Tinker & Associates (Personal Property Audit).
 - Reduction in M&R Vehicles by \$1,200.00.
- H. Community Development Director Buice.
- Added a new line-item for Part-Time Code Enforcement for \$15,600.00.
 - Increase in Dues & Fees by \$155.00.
 - Increase in Fuel by \$1,000.00 due to having two trucks now in service.
 - Requested to add \$1,000.00 to the Office Supplies for a new computer.

Community Development Director Buice reported that she had sent them an email regarding the upcoming Public Hearings. She said that she pulled out of the Development Ordinance what the board should look for when they are approving or denying a development. Community Development Director Buice said that prior to the changes that started on January 1st, 2021, a major subdivision would have a Public Hearing as they are going into the preliminary stage and that is still the same. Once construction is started and

they came to the point of providing the final plat, because at that point you are deciding if they are accepting this because it is there, it is built out at that point according to regulations. In the past, this would go just to the Planning Commission board and is based on the Lamar County Code it did not come to the Commissioners. When the Ordinance was re-written it was changed to where there is a Public Hearing attached to that final application but it is specifically for any neighbors that may have been affected by the construction phase.

Commissioner Traylor requested that she provide the board with the number of empty lots that are available such as subdivisions that are planned but not completed and that could be developed. Community Development Director Buice said that the only two that she is aware of is in Abbott Woods and one on Johnstonville Road. Commissioner Horton said that there was a subdivision that was supposed to be coming on Johnstonville with frontage on Adkins Road. Community Development Director Buice said that this was never developed but someone bought the property and they divided it up into 5 acres or larger. Commissioner Thrash stated that she heard that there was an offer on the property at the corner of Barnesville Road and Hwy 36 and she heard that they wanted to have a gated community there. Community Development Director Buice reported that Cole Forrest is built out except for several lots, Fox Crossing Phase I and II is completely built out and there are 39 lots in Phase III which leaves about 80 more to finish. NeedleLeaf is completely built out.

Chairman Glass inquired about the increase in Dues and Fees. Community Development Director Buice said that they touch a lot of different types of organizations such as business licenses and zoning.

Other Discussion

County Administrator Townsend stated that he would update the budget with the changes. He said that we would look at increasing the fuel line items. Chairman Glass said that they would have to have a Public Hearing before they could vote on the budget. County Administrator Townsend said that it would need to be advertised one week prior to the Public Hearing and then the budget could be voted on by the Commissioners. County Administrator Townsend said that it would probably be in December.

Vice-Chairman Horton suggested that they change the Workshop meeting from November 11th, 2021, to November 10th, 2021, due to everyone leaving to go to the 2021 ACCG conference in Savannah, Georgia.

Round Table

Commissioner Traylor said that the animal shelter conversation had been increasing and said that County Administrator Townsend has a proposal that looks doable but currently the issue is with the location of the "Future Animal Shelter". Commissioner Traylor said that he had never seen the sign on Roberta Drive near the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Traylor said that the animal shelter committee wants it there but the location that the board had determined was up by the bus barn. County Administrator Townsend said himself, former County Administrator Zellner, Public Works Director Rigdon and Vice-Chairman Horton had discussed moving the location up by the bus barn with the jail and a new Justice Center. He said that the Resolution that was passed in 2014 does not have a Plat attached as stated in the Resolution. County

Administrator Townsend found out from Attorney Mayfield that this was not his Resolution because former Commissioner Baker submitted this Resolution for approval without any attached files. Commissioner Thrash said that this property by the jail needs to be reserved for future expansion of the jail because it is coming one day. Commissioner Traylor said that their objection that the animal shelter committee has towards moving the location of the animal shelter is related to the amount of space that is near the bus barn, and the money that they have been raising is based on the current location of the animal shelter. Commissioner Thrash said that she did not buy this. Commissioner Traylor said that there is a major donor that is not happy about moving the location and is saying that they may not donate their original amount. Commissioner Thrash said that she did not see any reason that the new location would not work.

Chairman Glass asked if they had looked at the cost difference between the two locations. He said that there would need to be grading done at the location by the bus barn. He said that water and sewer is available at both locations. County Administrator Townsend said that the architects biggest question was regarding putting in septic tanks. He said that County Manager Turner told him that the City of Barnesville would take the waste so that they do not have to have a septic tank.

Commissioner Traylor said that they need to know the footprint of the current location and with the wetlands nearby they need to know how much space is useable. County Administrator Townsend stated that he would have the Conservationist from the USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Services check out the wetlands. Chairman Glass said that they would also need to research the setback for parking. County Administrator Townsend said that the two locations are still the same parcel.

Commissioner Thrash inquired about getting inmate labor to help with the shelter since it is next door to the Sheriff's Office. She said that she still could not understand what difference it would make to change the location. Commissioner Traylor said that it was related to aesthetics and it backs up to the wetlands. Chairman Glass said that check on the restrictions of the land in both locations. County Administrator Townsend said that he still needed to check on moving the horse arena.

Commissioner Thrash said that the Lamar County Animal Shelter voted on in SPLOST was just to build the shelter. County Administrator Townsend said that the Resolution for the animal shelter references the plat but there is not plat attached to the minutes. County Clerk Davidson noted that the animal shelter Resolution was not listed on the agenda in October of 2014. Chairman Glass said that the parcel is reserved for 5 years and is what was agreed to by the board in 2014.

Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Workshop meeting at approximately 3:57 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