

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
January 18th, 2022**

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

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance. Clifford Barber gave the invocation.

III. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the following four sets of minutes. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Special Called Meeting-December 8th, 2021
- ii. Public Hearing Meeting-December 14th, 2021
- iii. Workshop Meeting-December 14th, 2021
- iv. Regular Business Meeting-December 21st, 2021

V. Retirement Recognition

The board recognized the following employees in honor of their retirement. Mr. Billy Campbell was present for the recognition and received a plaque and a \$50.00 gift card. Both Ms. Hardin and Ms. Hardeman will also receive a plaque and a \$50.00 gift card. Mr. Campbell thanked the board and the citizens and also recognized Nurse Manager Farr for her hard work and assistance with the Emergency Management Services (EMS).

- i. Barbara Hardin for 26 years as the Lamar County Courthouse Custodian.
- ii. Rebecca Hardeman for 17 years with the Lamar County Sheriff's Office.
- iii. Billy Campbell for 22 years as the EMS Director.

VI. Resolution 2022-01 Clarification and Change in Conditions to Special Exception Application 2021-02 by Rudolph Vaughn.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to take a five-minute recess to speak to the County Attorney. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Thrash returned and the board resumed the Regular Business meeting. Commissioner Thrash made a motion that they move item # 9 on the agenda to item # 13-A on the agenda. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Resolution 2022-02 Crawley Road Solar Farm-Request for Extension for planted buffer by BRAC Development, LLC

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-02 Crawley Road Solar Farm-Request for an extension for planted buffer by BRAC Development, LLC to extend the approval for the special exception for a period of twelve (12) months. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Resolution 2022-03 Redistricting Map

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-03 Redistricting Map. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. RFP 2111-01 790 Design-Build Services

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve recommendation RFP 2111-01 790 Design-Build Services, Lamar County Administrative/Commissioners Offices and the staff recommendation for Hogan & Sutton Architectural Services, Inc. for a cost of \$2,031,604.00 minus American Relief Fund (ARP) funds of \$292,026.00 for a total cost of \$1,739,578.00. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Board Appointments

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve Commissioner Robert Heiney to serve as the Vice-Chairman for the year 2022. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to approve Smith, Welch Webb and White, Attorney Scott Mayfield, as the County Attorney for Lamar County. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the County Physicians as follows for the year 2022. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Heiney voted no. The motion passed 3-1.

- i. Drs. Woodall, Wilson and Manley
- ii. Dr. Aaron Buice
- iii. Family Medical Center (Family Medicine) Griffin, Ga
- iv. The Hughston Clinic (Orthopedic Surgery)
- v. Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Surgery-Thomaston Ga.

- vi. Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Surgery-Brandon Boyce-Barnesville, Ga.
- vii. Resurgens Orthopedics-Griffin, Ga.
- viii. Resurgens Orthopedics-Fayetteville, Ga.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve James Butler as the County Surveyor. Commissioner T aylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to approve Attorney Scott Mayfield with Smith, Welch, Webb and White as the Open Records Custodian for the year 2022. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Resolution 2022-01 Clarification and Change in Conditions to Special Exception Application 2021-02 by Rudolph Vaughn.

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the change in Conditions listed below as presented. The motion died for lack of a second motion.

Change # 10 Upon advance notice to Lamar County, one (1) event per calendar quarter may be conducted on the Subject Property at which attendance may exceed 500 persons. Otherwise, the number of persons attending any event shall not exceed 500.

Change # 12 Fencing and buffers, as shown on the attached site plan, shall be maintained on each boundary of the Subject Property.

Change # 15 a Cease-and-Desist order shall be issued to stop any further events on the Subject Property if citations issued for code or criminal violations for conduct on the Subject Property during an event result in three or more convictions in any calendar year.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-01 Clarification and Change in Conditions to Special Application 2021-02 with the change in Condition # 8 that there be no Bring Your Own Bottle (BYOB), Condition # 10 no change, Condition # 12 clarifying that the buffer will apply to all Residential and Zoned Residential Property, Change # 15 from 3 citations per year to 2 convictions or two plead of guilt. The motion died for lack of a second.

Planning and Community Development Director Buice explained that the way the land sits now, there is a tree buffer that you would have to take out to follow the new buffer regulations. On the North Side of the property, on the other side of the existing track, there are several hundred feet of woods. The property goes down and it comes back up. The property on the other side is within the City of Milner and adheres to their applicable zoning. For a fence and 10 ft. of trees, you would have to go in across the creek and put in a fence and trees and that would not benefit the homes on the other side because of the topography of the land. Planning and Community Development Director Buice stated that the buffer plan makes sense and gives the best option for the surrounding neighbors. This is the recommendation of the Board of Assessors.

Vice-Chairman Heiney stated that the 3 citations makes sense to him; 3 times and you are out. Attorney Mayfield said that the local process as an Executive Branch would not cross with the Judicial Branch. He said that there is a separation of power. Planning and Community Director Buice said that even though they can, the Code Enforcement Officer does not write citations. Her office agreed to allow the Sheriff's Office to handle this. Attorney Mayfield said that a Cease-and-Desist order will go through the Magistrate Court but the Board of Commissioners cannot tell them what to do. He said that citations would go to the Magistrate Court as a matter of course but said he felt like they needed some type of due process. Vice-Chairman Heiney said that his goal is to not put anyone out of business but to keep the neighborhood quiet. Commissioner Thrash said that they need to make sure that it was done right and it is not a violation of his rights and so that nothing is kicked back out and nothing is done. Attorney Mayfield suggested that they delete "Magistrate Court", that he has the right to the Superior Court because the Magistrate Court does not have the authority of a Cease-and-Desist order.

Chairman Glass stated that Condition # 10 would have no change, Condition # 12 the buffers will be specified as according to the map according to the Planning and Community Development Director Buice recommendation and on Condition # 15 they would delete the part about the application must appear before the Magistrate Court.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to table the Resolution 2022-01 Clarification and Change in Conditions to Special Exception Application 2021-02 until the February meeting. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported the following:

- i. Reported the cash flow for December 2021. The revenues came in at 108.15 percent. The expenditures came in at 93.47 percent.
- ii. Reported that three projects in 2021 were not started; The Recreation Gym, the Lamar County Animal Shelter, and the new Administration Building/Commissioners Offices.
- iii. The repeaters on the Radio Tower on High Falls Road should be completed in March of 2022.
- iv. Reported that the Local Option Tax Sales Distribution (LOST) for December was \$129,184.43.
- v. Reported that the Special Local Option Tax Sales Distribution (SPLOST) for December was \$230,686.62.
- vi. Stated that the goal for 2022 is to operate without a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)

Commissioner Thrash inquired about lowering the speed limit change on Skinners By-Pass. County Administrator Townsend stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation is changing a lot of things and you now have to go on a website to make a request. Commissioner Thrash said that it has been 4 months and if someone gets killed on that road because there is a 45 mile per hour speed limit and a road that should be 25 miles per hour.

XIII. Public Comments

Clifford Barber of 173 Adkins Road Barnesville. Mr. Barber stated that they had not dropped the ball on using the Barnesville Academy Gym. He requested that they setup a meeting in February discussing the plans that they are trying to do with the children. Mr. Barber said that they want to help fix it up so that they can have birthday parties and other events to help bring in revenue for the County. Mr. Barber said that he has about 22 people signed up that want to come out to help the children after school.

XIV. Round Table

Commissioner Horton thanked everyone for coming out. He said that everyone should be a good steward to your neighbor and your community. The man upstairs is in charge regardless of our decisions. This is a free country and communication is great but from the standpoint of the old school you used to work things out man to man. When the heat gets hot you go face to face. Commissioner Horton said that he prays to the Good Lord and he respects everyone. We are all men and women and we all bleed red and we are all Barnesville, Lamar County.

Commissioner Traylor thanked everyone for coming out and supporting everyone and wished that the meetings were broadcast because it is a commitment for the Commissioners and the citizens to be there regardless of which side you are with any decision. There is so much that is actually communicated at the Workshop meetings and he wished that people would join the meetings via Zoom. He said that his Gordon State College students joined the recent Workshop meeting and stayed to watch the entire meeting. Lamar County has great Departments and a great Administrative staff and they work tirelessly to try to get things improved and done for our community. He thanked the staff for eliminating the TAN and the Lamar County EMS Zone Permit. He thanked County Administrator Townsend, all the players involved, and the staff for all of the hard work that had been done on the ambulance service and for working with Upson County.

Commissioner Thrash said that she wanted to make sure that everyone understood that with the tabling of the Resolution 2022-01 Clarification and Change in Conditions to Special Exception Application 2021-02 that they want to get this right. So much stuff has been put out there on social media that tries to pit people against each other and said that “Hell she has even been accused of taking a bribe. So, Let’s make sure we get this right.”

County Attorney Mayfield announced that the Bond Validation paperwork for the TSPLOST has been filed and advertised. The hearing will be on February 2nd, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. with Judge Spears and requested that someone from the County be present.

Chairman Glass said that in November of 2021, Community Ambulance notified Lamar County that they were withdrawing from the contract in February. In order for Lamar County to have their own Ambulance Provider, they would need to have a Zone Permit issued by the State and you first had to secure an ambulance service. County Administrator Townsend, Chief Matthews and Ann Ellerbe along with the Fire Department and the County Manager in Upson County got this together and Lamar County was awarded the Zone permit. Chairman Glass reported that in December they contracted with AmeriPro for the ambulance provider, and

February 14th they will be the new ambulance provider. Having the Zone Permit means that Lamar County has the authority to keep the new ambulance contract or enter into an ambulance contract with another company if the contract with AmeriPro does not work out. Chairman Glass said that by partnering with Upson County it will reduce the cost of the Ambulance Service. Chairman Glass thanked County Administrator Townsend for his hard work.

Chairman Glass reported that the Blood Drive at the Barnesville First United Methodist will be held on January 27th, 2022. The blood supply is low and the Red Cross is down to less than a days supply of blood across the country. There are 38 appointment times still available between the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

XV. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Robert Heiney, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk