

Workshop Meeting of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners
December 14th, 2021
1:15 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. on December 14th, 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.

Corporate Health Partners (CHP)

The President of Corporate Health Partners (CHP) Dan Feruck addressed the board along with two Health Coaches, Allison Young and Katherine White. They provided a summary of results that had happened over the last five years stating that there had been a 96 percent participation rate. Mr. Feruck reported that 95 percent of the 110 participants were active in the coaching sessions. Some of the health risks mentioned included diabetes, pre-diabetes, hypertension, and pre-hypertension.

Commissioner Heiney stated that he understood the wisdom of a Wellness Program but was concerned about the return on investment related to the Wellness Program and the effect that it had on the insurance claims. Mr. Feruck requested that they have access to the insurance claims so they could see the hot spots with spikes in medications. He reported that the results on the sheet showed that diabetes and pre-diabetes were going down. Mrs. White reported that \$9,600.00 a year is what a diabetic spends on medication and said that as a result of the screenings 6 people that were undiagnosed as being diabetic followed up with their physicians. Mrs. White said that even though people are taking their medication they are still seeing people that have hypertension and said that they should not take the doctor at their word therefore the health coaches are taking control of helping people manage their healthcare. Mrs. Young said that if they hear about someone complaining about having chest pains, or headaches during a coaching session, especially those under the age of 30, they can help them get to their doctor. She said that they also help the employee find a doctor because many of them do not know how to use their insurance card. Mrs. Young said that employees may not always want to see her but if she stays on their case then they are held accountable. Mrs. Young explained that at the beginning of the year, wellness goals are set and said that it is about trust and about dripping on people until they get soaking wet and decide to come in out of the rain. Mrs. Young said that they find doctors for employees and actually make appointments if necessary because she is very passionate about wellness.

Commissioner Traylor asked about that the percentage of employees that are not participating or those that are not active in the program and asked how they are improving on that. Mrs. Young said that the main thing that she hears is that employees tell her that they already have a doctor and they do not need them to be on their case or in their business and they tip toe around those employees until they are ready to listen to what they have to say. Mrs. Young said that she made one employee sign a pledge that he would participate.

Commissioner Thrash said that the 96 percent engagement rate is what she is hearing from CHP but from the employees, she is hearing that they are financially penalized if they do not participate in the Wellness Program. Commissioner Thrash said that when they initially introduced the Wellness Program, it was sold to them that it would lower the insurance premium rates but they have had a 30 percent increase instead and this is not sustainable for Lamar County. She suggested that they look at having a Wellness Program in house because the money that is being spent on this program belongs to the taxpayers and currently, they are not getting a good return on the investment.

Ag Arena Contract-Alcoholic Beverages on County Property

Chairman Glass stated that a vendor has requested to sell alcoholic beverages at the Ag Arena and in the Ag Arena contract agreement it states that alcoholic beverages are not permitted on County property. The insurance policy with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) would cost more if the County allowed this to happen. The permit for selling alcohol would need to be approved by the Barnesville City Council since the Ag Arena is annexed into the City of Barnesville. The Ag Arena has low supervision and the cost for security would also need to be provided since it is on County property. The board agreed not to change the current policy to allow alcoholic beverages on County property.

EMS Discussion

County Administrator Townsend stated that he and the County Manager Jason Tinsley from Upson County, visited two ambulance companies out of Atlanta Georgia. The idea is to select an ambulance company to partner with that is also part of the community. He said that the zone permit application period is open from December 26th to January 5th, 2022. They are working together with the ambulance vendors so that a recommendation can be provided at the Regular Business Meeting. County Administrator Townsend said that American Relief Funds (ARF) funds could be used for the equipment but not for the actual ambulance service. The cost for having 6 EMTs and 6 Paramedics will be around \$775,000.00. Commissioner Thrash asked if it was feasible for Lamar County and Upson County to have their own regional ambulance service. County Administrator Townsend said that getting trucks would take at least 12 to 18 months.

Chairman Glass explained that when they talked to the State there is a zoning permit where you have permission to perform the medical services within an area and in order to acquire the zone permit someone has to release it or the State has to take it back. In this case, Community Ambulance is releasing it and companies have a 10-day window to apply for it. To apply for the zone permit, you have to have a licensed ambulance capability so to make the deadline, you have to have a licensed ambulance service. The permit cost, once awarded, is \$2,500.00 a year and a licensed physician has to manage the medications.

County Administrator Townsend said that Upson County is meeting with two other vendors that Lamar County has a bid from. Chairman Glass said that the timeline goal is to recommend one of the bids at the Regular Business Meeting and partner with one of them to qualify for a license and then submit an application for the zone permit. The license for the ambulance will be held by Lamar County and they will partner with Upson County with the same ambulance company; Lamar County will have a contract, and Upson County will have a contract. An example of this is that Upson County has a 9-minute response time in their Request for Proposal (RFP) but Lamar County does not have this in their RFP even though they will partner with the same ambulance company. With this arrangement, they could have an Intergovernmental Agreement with Upson County and then Pike County may come into the agreement at a later time but essentially everyone will have their own contract with their own set of powers managing the ambulance service.

Regular Business Meeting Discussion.

The board reviewed items to be placed on the agenda.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Invocation-Scott Weaver from Lasting Impact Church
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Recess for Public Hearing
6. Reconvene Regular Business Meeting
7. Minutes Approval
 - i. Workshop Meeting November 10th, 2021

- ii. Public Hearing Meeting November 16th, 2021
 - iii. Regular Business Meeting November 16th, 2021
8. Annual Appointments
- I. Vice-Chair (District 2)-Robert Heiney
 - II. County Attorney- Scott Mayfield (Smith, Welch, Webb, and White)
The board discussed conflicts that the County Attorney may have with the City of Milner and the County.
 - III. Open Records Custodian-Scott Mayfield (Smith, Welch, Webb, and White)
 - IV. County Surveyor-James Butler
 - V. County Physicians-State Board of Worker's Compensation
 - i. Dr. Woodall, Wilson, and Manley MD
 - ii. Dr. Aaron Buice MD
 - 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.
9. Board Appointments
- i. Re-Appointment of Irvin Trice-Non-Public Member of the Council of the Three Rivers Regional Commission
 - ii. Re-Appointment of Three Rivers Regional Commission-County-Bennie Horton
 - iii. E911 Committee-County-Robert Heiney
 - iv. Lamar County Industrial Development Authority-Resignation of Phillip Bell and Appointment to Fill the Unexpired Term through December 31, 2022.
 - v. Re-Appointment Board of Elections-Democratic Party-Scott Cone
10. Resolution 2021-34 Budget Approval
11. Resolution 2021-35 Qualifying Fees
- i. County Commissioner-Chair \$126.00
 - ii. County Commissioner-District 1 \$108.00
 - iii. County Commissioner-District 2 \$108.00
 - iv. Member, Board of Education District 2 \$198.00
 - v. Member, Board of Education District 4 \$198.00
 - vi. Member, Board of Education At Large \$252.00
12. Resolution 2021-36 Tax Assessors Board for re-appointment of Betty Smith Banks and Brad Bryan to a 4-year beginning 1/1/2022 through 12/31/2025.
Chairman Glass explained that the re-districting has to be set before qualifying for 2022. The current plan is to work with Three Rivers and their GIS employee or the Central Georgia Regional Commission.

Recess for Executive Session

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to adjourn the Workshop meeting at 1:13 p.m. to go into Executive Session for legal issues and Personnel. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board came out of executive session at approximately 1:59 p.m. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Charles Glass, Chairman

Bennie Horton, Vice-Chairman

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk