

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
June 21st, 2022

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Heiney, Commissioner Horton, 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 Pledge of Allegiance was said by all and the Invocation was given by Major Leslie Holmes of the Lamar County Sheriff's Office.

III. Recess for Public Hearing

Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to recess the Regular Business meeting to go into a Public Hearing. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reconvene the Public Hearing

Commissioner Horton made a motion to reconvene the Regular Business Meeting at approximately 7:04 p.m. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Minutes Approval

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

- i. Workshop Meeting May 12th, 2022
- ii. Public Hearing May 17th, 2022
- iii. Public Hearing May 17th, 2022
- iv. Regular Business Meeting May 17th, 2022
- v. Special Called Meeting May 27th, 2022

VIII. Resolution 2022-11 Special Exception in Agriculture-Residential (Redeemer Church)

Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-11 Special Exception in Agriculture-Residential (Redeemer Church) with the following conditions:

- All activity on the property must comply with the Lamar County noise ordinance with the additional restriction of no amplified noise after 9:00 pm, and
- any future expansion that includes any new structure(s) must come before the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Board Appointments-Department of Family and Children Services

Commissioner Horton made a motion to re-appoint Cyndi Roberts to the Lamar County Board of Family and Children Services whose term will expire on June 30, 2022. The term is for a period of 4 years and will expire on June 30th, 2026. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. ARP Community Grant Policy

County Administrator Townsend explained that the American Relief Plan funds were received in 2021. This is a policy for the community and if they ask for a grant it has to meet all of the qualifications and the board has to approve it. They will need to know where everything is spent so they created a policy where the recipient of the grant sends the County the invoices. This is for tracking purposes for the year end audits. Chairman Glass pointed out to the public that the ARP funds come with a set of conditions and if the conditions are violated the County could be on the hook to pay the money back and then the taxpayers would be responsible for helping to pay the money back to the Federal government. If they handle all of the funds appropriately, then they will not have to risk future taxpayer dollars. County Administrator Townsend said that other counties did not keep track of where the money was spent and now, they are having to go back and track everything that was done. Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to approve the ARP Community Grant Policy. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Three Rivers Regional Transit Agreement

The Three Rivers Transit Agreement for FY July 1, 2022, through June 30th, 2023, is for a total funding request of \$17,900.00. In 2021, the cost for the agreement in both 2020 and 2021 was \$5,250.00 for each year with a total cost of \$10,500.00. County Administrator Townsend explained that over the last year Three Rivers did not invoice the County because they had received funds from grants. Commissioner Thrash stated that they had received some information regarding the increase but her question regarding how many people are riding the buses was not addressed and are they getting their return on their investment. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to table the Three Rivers Transit Agreement for FY July 1, 2022, through June 30th, 2023, until she gets an answer about the number of riders for Lamar County. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. 911 Communication Bids for the Sheriff's Office

County Administrator Townsend explained that the 911 Communication Console replacements will be purchased out of ARP funds. Two bids were received from Loudown Communication for \$ 269,893.25 and Williams Communication for \$236,019.00. Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to approve the 911 Communications Console replacement. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. 2022 Mutual Aid Agreement By and Between the Fire Departments and the Lamar County Fire and Rescue.

- i. The City of Barnesville, Georgia
- ii. Yatesville Fire Department
- iii. Monroe County Fire Department
- iv. Butts County Fire Department
- v. Pike County Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- vi. Rock Hill Fire Department

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the 2022 Mutual Aid Agreement by and between the Fire Departments and the Lamar County Fire and Rescue. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion .

XIV. Administrators Report

County Administrator Townsend reported the following:

- i. Expenditures for May are running around 41.67 percent and they should be at 39.07 percent. The expenditures were higher because they paid out Retirement and Liability Insurance.
- ii. Working on the High Falls Park Road Tower.
- iii. Working on the Plans and the Roof issue for the new Administration building.
- iv. The LOST distribution received for May was \$138,242.60.
- v. SPLOST distribution received for May was \$246,861.86.

XV. Public Comments

Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeplechase Lane, Barnesville Georgia addressed the board. Mrs. Hallada presented an issue from her friend regarding the truck traffic on Barnesville Avenue. Mrs. Hallada also addressed the board with her concerns regarding the tax calculation for conservation. If you have 10 acres or more, then you can put your land into conservation but if you build a home on the land, that is in conservation, a 2-acre parcel is immediately taken out of that and is taxed on the current assessment. Mrs. Hallada asked if you have over 10 acres in conservation is the 2-acre parcel taken out, and are you then allowed to keep your conservation. On Lamar County's Qpublic she does not see where there are two levels of taxes and asked if she is getting a different tax rate than someone that is in conservation with more acreage. Chairman Glass said that his understanding of conservation was that it only applies to the land. Mrs. Hallada was referred to the Tax Assessors' office for further clarification. Mrs. Hallada suggested that they not keep the County just rural because small businesses such as theirs, just under a million dollar operation, bring in revenue to the County based on Lamar County taxes and sales taxes that they pay. Mrs. Hallada inquired about impact fees. Chairman Glass

responded that impact fees are attached to permits and are a one-time collection of revenue that goes into the General Fund as a Special Revenue and is targeted for a specific service. Commissioner Thrash requested that everyone get on Social Media and encourage new businesses to come to Lamar County.

XVI. Round Table

There were no round table comments.

XVII. Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at approximately 7:42 p.m. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Robert Heiney, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk