

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
April 19th, 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

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Mark Dix from Rock Springs Church gave the Invocation.

III. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Horton 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. Workshop Meeting-March 10th, 2022
- ii. Public Hearing-March 15th, 2022
- iii. Regular Business Meeting-March 15th, 2022
- iv. Joint Workshop Meeting-March 22nd, 2022

V. Nurse's Week Proclamation

Chairman Glass presented a Nurse's Week Proclamation to Nurse Manager Sherry Farr and Stephanie Durham of the Health Department. Along with the American Nurses Association, the Georgia Nurses Association has declared May as Nurses Month, with the theme "You Make a Difference," with appreciation for nurses' unparalleled impact during the pandemic, and their contributions to health care. The Lamar County Board of Commissioners asks that all residents of this community honor the nurses who care for all of us declaring May 6-12 as National Nurses Week.

VI. Board Appointment-Senior Center

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to appoint Jean Buchannan, Kellie Mercer, Sherry Farr, Dorothy Carter, and Fanny Hosley to serve on the Senior Center Advisory Board. Dorothy Carter replaces Kelly Hughes and Fanny Hosley replaces Dorothy Banks. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. First Reader Update-Ordinance 2022-01 Development Regulation

Planning and Community Development Director Buice presented a First Reader Update to Ordinance 2022-01 Development Regulation. The current Ordinance for major subdivisions allows 1-acre lots along public water lines. The proposed Ordinance would allow for 1-acre subdivisions in a limited area; along state highways and inside the cities; the City of Milner and the City of Barnesville, defined within the circles could be anywhere from a 2-mile radius to a 3-mile radius. The current Ordinance does not address styles of homes, but the proposed Ordinance requires 6 different types of homes. The current Ordinance does not address natural buffers along the outer parameters of the subdivisions. The proposed Ordinance requires at least 25 ft. buffers around the original boundaries. The current Ordinance is for conventional subdivisions only and in the proposed Ordinance there would be allowances for conservation subdivisions. The main objection is to be able to provide services outside the circles and along the highways, so that there is a faster response time for Law Enforcement or Fire and EMS. Chairman Glass said that the goal is to approve the update to the Development Regulation Ordinance in May.

VIII. Ordinance 2022-04 Rezoning from Agricultural to Residential 2: Tax Map 006 Parcel 023 Ethridge Mill-David and Gail Addison

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-04 Rezoning from Agricultural to Residential 2: Tax Map 006 Parcel 023 Ethridge Mill-David and Gail Addison with the condition that they must be stick built homes, the lots must be a minimum of 2 acres, and then there must be a vegetative buffer between the home. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

IX. Resolution 2022-09 Minor subdivision 6 lots, Tax Map 006 Parcel 023 Ethridge Mill-David and Gail Addison

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to deny Resolution 2022-09 and any fees for the applications will be waived. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Resolution 2022-08 Division of lot in platted minor subdivision tract 035 085 on Barnesville Avenue-Kevin Edmondson

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-08 Division of lot in platted minor subdivision tract 035 085 on Barnesville Avenue-Kevin Edmondson. No conditions are placed on the granting of the subdivision application. However, at the time of adoption, the sale of the land had not been closed. The applicant stated in the meeting he anticipates the sale and purchase to be closed within 30 days. In the event the sale and purchase of the subject property does not close, this resolution and the actions taken by the Board of Commissioners are void and the property will remain as it is. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. NFP Health Broker

Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to approve the health insurance carrier Anthem based on the recommendation from the NFP Health Broker with a 7.3% increase and adding the Vision and Dental carriers with Anthem and having a 4 percent discount applied to the medical coverage program. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Corporate Health Partners

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to terminate the contract with Corporate Health Partners and put it out for a bid to see what else is offered in the market. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Thrash amended her motion to terminate Corporate Health Partners at the end of the contract period and put the Wellness Program out to bid before July 1st, 2022.

XIII. MCCI -Scanning

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the contract for an amount not to exceed \$97,378.23, with funds coming from ARP funds. The quote for scanning includes picking up all boxes from the Administration Office, preparing all documents to be scanned (un-stapling, flattening, out pages, taking off paper clips and binder clips), organizing them into scannable images, doing the physical scanning; OCR included, indexing the scanned pages into a Laserfiche ready format, reassembling all scanned pages and placing back in boxes if desired, 2 index fields included for Personnel Files/1 index for the books, and return of all files to the Administration Office, or destruction thereof. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the Laserfiche Cloud Annual Subscription along with an MCCI Supplemental Support Services Annual Recurring Subscription of \$3,066.00. There is a one-time Laserfiche Training Service including installation of the program for a cost of \$1,710.00. The total Laserfiche one-time project cost is \$7,982.25. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Lamar Indexing-Clerk of Superior Court

Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to approve the proposal for a bid from Kofile which is to digitize the historical deed records in the Clerk of Superior Court. The program will interface with the Clerk's Authority. Kofile is a certified vendor for the State and is recommended by the staff. The historical deed records will be digitized from 1970 to 1989. The state digitized all deeds from 1989 to 2022 and has offered to reimburse the county if they decide to offer this service again. The total cost of the bid with Kofile of digitization from 1970 to 1989 is \$80,000.00. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. Commissioner Thrash requested to amend the motion to add that any refund that comes from the Clerk's Authority come directly to the County and not back to the Clerk of Superior Court. The motion passed unanimously.

XV. Indigent Burial Policy

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the Indigent Burial Policy where the purpose of the Indigent Burials Assistance Program is to assist an individual that passes away in Lamar County so that Assistance will be provided to applicants who meet the program criteria. All burial and /or cremation allocated costs is limited to \$500.00. Once the funeral home has agreed to take the amount allocated for burial and/or cremation, the family does not owe any more money. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XVI. Animal Shelter

Chairman Glass requested that the board decide on the location of the Animal Shelter. The potential locations are located on Roberta Drive, near the wetland trails, a parcel of land near the bus barn; a parcel of land near Continental Tire Company owned by the School Board, and other land that the County owns. The key to having the animal shelter is access to sewer and a location that the City of Barnesville can manage. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the parcel of land near Continental Tire and Aldora with the caveat that they can swap property with the School Board, the parcel on Roberta Drive, and the Parcel near Continental Tire and that the sewer system is feasible to pay for and with the caveat that they are leaving this open that the location may have to be changed. Commissioner Thrash announced that the new owner of AmWaste has offered a \$10,000.00 contribution to be applied towards the sewer system. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XVII. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported the following:

- i. Reported that revenues for the month of April should be at 25 percent and are at 14.65 percent. The expenditures for the month of April is at 20.26 percent.
- ii. Reported that the Cash Flow includes the 10-million-dollar TSPLOST funds that came in from the Bond. They are waiting on the signed document from the City of Milner so that they can receive their portion.
- iii. Chairman Glass noted that the Cash Flow has a consistent upward trend but when the Cash Flow gets to zero there is a need for a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). Because of all the hard work that is been done by the staff, there is no need for a TAN.
- iv. Reported that he is waiting on a bid for the front of the Courthouse.
- v. Reported that is he waiting on the architect's feedback for the construction of the Fred's building.
- vi. Reported that they will begin construction on the radio tower on the North End of the County.
- vii. Reported that he had received 3 bids for the new gym project and they all were around \$3,000,000.00.
- viii. Reported that they are working on quotes from vendors to remodel the BA gym.
- ix. Reported that the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) distribution was \$126,834,.85
- x. Reported that the Special Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) distribution was \$218,726.44.

- xi. Reported that Ameri Pro EMS has had 72 transports in the month of April. There were 164 transports in the month of March.

XVIII. Public Comments

Ashely Gilles of 425 Abbott Road, Barnesville addressed the board. She echoed the Chairman's comment about the TAN and said that she appreciated this. Ms. Gilles stated that she understands that zoning decisions are hard and that not everyone is going to agree and you cannot make everyone happy. She appreciates all the time that was put into it but one thing that has been looked over is the quality of life. Ms. Gilles said that the Comprehensive Plan and the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) manual highlights that the quality of life is just as important as the infrastructure. She said that having worked on the Comprehensive Plan, she has first-hand knowledge that the stakeholders and the citizens believe that Lamar County needs to stay rural to enhance their quality of life. Ms. Gilles said that some people are getting ready to leave, and some people still have some time left, and some Commissioners have already left. She urged the board to listen to their constituents just as much as they did when they campaigned. She has heard many times that the County does not like challenges and she is really tired of hearing this. Our representatives should challenge it and urged the Commissioners to finish out the terms, no matter how long they have, with the same enthusiasm as when they went in. She asked that when they are working on zoning not to rush, it is one of the solid plans of the County, and if they can say let's challenge it then go ahead and challenge it. It seems like the only people that the County worries about getting sued from are large landowners. If they see issues not going right, then make it right, whether it is a cemetery issue or something such as a ballot issue. The citizens should never have to hire an attorney to do the right thing because the codes are clear in Georgia. Ms. Gilles said that she is tired of the blame games of the Federal Government and she does not want to see the blame games in her town. Ms. Gilles said that she hopes everyone finishes out their terms with the same enthusiasm as when they went in and asked that they remember to listen to their constituents.

XIX. Round Table

Commissioner Horton thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and said that together there is no problem that cannot be solved.

Commissioner Thrash said that when you vote, make sure that you check your District because they have recently changed.

Chairman Glass stated that Early Voting will be held in the Administration Building beginning May 2nd, 2022, and on Election Day, May 24th, 2022, you will need to go to your precinct. If your District has changed, you will get a new precinct card in the mail.

XX. Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:35 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