

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
September 20th, 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. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Director Mary Ann Leverett gave the invocation. She also explained that CASA is a national association in the United States that supports and promotes court-appointed advocates for abused or neglected children. CASA are volunteers from the community who complete training that has been provided by the state or local CASA office.

III. Agenda Approval

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

IV. Minutes Approval

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

- i. Workshop Meeting-August 11th, 2022
- ii. Public Hearing-Millage Rate-August 16th, 2022
- iii. Public Hearing-Zoning and Special Exception Requests-August 16th, 2022
- iv. Regular Business Meeting-August 16th, 2022
- v. Special Called Meeting-August 25th, 2022

V. Barnesville-Lamar County Library Board Appointments

Commissioner Horton made a motion to re-appoint 6 members to the Barnesville Lamar County Library board whose terms will expire in December 2022. The term is for a two-year period beginning January 1, 2023, and expiring December 31, 2024. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Kent Kingsley-Sunday Elections and the Methodology of Selecting the Election Board

Kent Kingsley of 570 Weldon Lake Road addressed the board with his opinion about Sunday elections and the methodology of selecting the Election Board. Mr. Kingsley stated that Sunday

voting is a bad idea and that only one person on the Democratic board had input about Sunday voting before they brought it to the Board of Elections for approval. Mr. Kingsley stated that they bussed people in to vote on Sunday. His argument was that employees that work on Sunday cost the County money and even though there are funds in the budget for this expense, it is being spent for an unnecessary reason. There are 3 weeks of early voting, 2 days of Saturday voting, and the normal Election Day. This is 18 days of voting opportunities not to mention absentee voting. Mr. Kingsley went on to say that a question failed to be present on the primary ballot in the last election but was put on the runoff ballot which meant missed opportunities for voting since the turnout was less for the runoff election. Mr. Kingsley further addressed voting in the wrong districts due to the Board of Elections failure to know which districts voters should vote in. He reported that 101 people were coded in the wrong district and 68 people who voted in the incorrect district voted for the wrong candidate. Mr. Kingsley requested that the methodology for the selection of the Board of Elections be changed so that the Board of Commissioners appoint the members of the Board of Elections based on their District. He stated that this would hold everyone accountable. Mr. Kingsley concluded by stating that Sunday voting is a serious problem.

VII. Fire Station and Tax Commissioner Septic System

County Administrator Townsend presented 3 bids for the installation of a new septic system at the Fire Station and the Tax Commissioners Office. The staff received 3 bids from Fuller Septic for \$26,100.00, Steady Flo for \$44,103.00, and DreamWorks Plumbing for \$51,557.12. The staff is recommending Fuller Septic for \$26,100.00. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Fuller Septic for \$26,100.00. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Dunn Security and Surveillance

The board reviewed a bid from Dunn and Security Surveillance for a bid of \$14,582.00. This bid was submitted by the Sheriff's Office for the installation of a new surveillance system in the Courthouse. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the bid from Dunn Security Surveillance for \$14,582.00. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion.

IX. FY 2021 Audit

Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to approve the FY 2021 Audit presented by Mauldin & Jenkins CPAs & Advisors. The FY 2021 includes 2 reports; Lamar County Management Letter 2021 and the Lamar County Auditors Discussion and Analysis (AD&A) 2021. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Ordinance 2022-09 Rezoning from Agriculture-Residential to Residential -2: 408 Five Points Road (Tax Map 020, Parcel 022 017)

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-09 Rezoning from Agriculture-Residential to Residential-2: 408 Five Points Road (Tax Map 020, Parcel 022 017). Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Ordinance 2022-10 Rezoning from Agriculture-Residential to Manufacturing 2; High Falls Road and Van Mar Blvd (Tax Map 086, Parcels 007 and 008).

Vice-Chairman Heiney made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-10 Rezoning from Agriculture-Residential to Manufacturing 2; High Falls Road and Van Mar Blvd (Tax Map 086, Parcels 007 and 008) with the following conditions:

- A native species buffer of an average width of 50' shall be planted along all state waters. In any area where the width is less than 50', an enhanced buffer will be installed and maintained.
- Impervious surfaces shall be limited to 70% of the total acreage.
- Any future buildings constructed on the property must include a landscape plan with irrigation.
- Truck traffic into and out of the property shall be limited to Van Mar Boulevard only.
- Developer is responsible for upgrading the section of High Falls Road between the access point and Van Mar Boulevard to the same standards of Van Mar Boulevard.
- A landfill of any classification, or the development of natural resources (other than forestry practices) is excluded from the approved uses of this property.
- All retention ponds shall have an annual inspection and maintenance agreement
- The following uses are excluded from permitted uses on the property: Public garage; Repair garage; Newspaper or printing plant; Off-street parking lot or parking garage; Armory; Printing, publishing, reproducing establishment; Radio transmission tower; Feed, grain, or fertilizer manufacture or storage; Food processing plant; foundry or forging plant; Recycling center; Junkyard (salvage yard); Transfer station; Materials recovery facilities; Recovered materials processing; Acid manufacture and storage; Gasoline storage terminal; Bulk petroleum plant. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Resolution 2022-18 Authorizing Volunteers and Elected Officials to be Covered by the ACCG Group Self Insurance Workers Compensation Fund

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-18 Authorizing Volunteers and Elected Officials to be Covered by the ACCG Group Self Insurance Workers Compensation Fund. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. Commissioner Horton amended his motion to include all of the following: volunteer firefighters, volunteer law enforcement personnel that are post certified, volunteer members or workers of emergency management or civil defense organization, emergency medical service, or rescue organization, any person certified by the Department of Human Resources or the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners and registered with any county of this state as a medical first responder and for any volunteer first responder services rendered in such capacity and or elected county officers and elected members of the governing authority of Lamar County shall be covered under the Worker's Compensation Laws of the State of Georgia. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Resolution 2022-19 Budget Amendment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-19 Budget Amendment increasing the expenditures from \$1,548,050 to \$13, 586,648 and increasing the revenues from

\$1,548,050 to \$13,586,050. Vice-Chairman Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported the following:

- i. Reported that revenues for the month of August should be at 32.60 percent and are at 66.67 percent. The expenditures for the month of August are at 66.59 percent.
- ii. Reported that the cash flow is tight until the Insurance Premium Distribution comes in around the middle of October.
- iii. Reported that the FY 2022 Program of Work continues to include the gym renovation, the alternate location of the animal shelter because of issues with the sewer system.
- iv. Reported that the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) distribution for August was \$144,408.00.
- v. Reported that the Special Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) distribution for August was \$257,871.18.
- vi. Reported that SPLOST expires in October of 2023 and they are in the process of getting input from the public regarding a list of projects for the next SPLOST.

XV. Public Comments

Harold Jackson of 200 Laurel Drive addressed the board and said that he agreed with Mr. Kingsley regarding voting on Sunday. Mr. Jackson said that they have 3 weeks of early voting and 3 people working on Sunday is a waste of tax dollars.

Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeplechase addressed the board and said that she too was against Sunday voting. She said that employers must allow their employees 2 hours off to go vote but she allows her employees to take 4 hours off for voting. Mrs. Hallada said that they do not use Dominion voting machines in Canada and they still use paper ballots. She said that she cannot find the meetings on the Lamar County website and there needs to be sections for Planning and Zoning, Board of Election, the Tax Commissioners Office, or other Departments. Mrs. Hallada said that at the end of a meeting with the Board of Commissioners last week she was really perplexed by a few comments that were made. She addressed her question to Vice-Chairman Heiney. Her question dealt with hunting in her subdivision and she was told that they would put up hay bales and allow the boys to come down here and hunt and said that she had not seen any hay bales put out. Mrs. Hallada asked Vice-Chairman Heiney if he believed in Freedom of Speech because she made comments on the Redbone Community Page and her comment was taken down. She said that she was warning the residents in the area that a local problem was back out riding again and that they needed to keep their kids and pets off of the road and this was removed. She said that this was inappropriate since they have a problem in her neighborhood. Mrs. Hallada said her grandkids were almost run over and she had a police report that she could share. Vice-Chairman Heiney responded by saying that her comment was nasty and there is no place for this on the Redbone Community Facebook page and if she wants to be nice, she can come back. Mrs. Hallada addressed Chairman Glass regarding participation of hunting in an Estate Residential. Chairman Glass responded that her question was vague and said that those sites were not being used. Mrs. Hallada asked him about using a map. Chairman

Glass said that he did not need a map he has lived here all of his life. Mrs. Hallada went on to ask if the Board of Commissioners were going to enforce the zoning regulations. Chairman Glass said that they are continuing to enforce the zoning regulations. Mrs. Hallada asked Chairman Glass if he paid the full price to belong to the Redbone Hunting Club. Chairman Glass said that he is not a member but said he has hunted there. Mrs. Hallada asked if he got a reduction for being on their Board of Directors. Chairman Glass told her again that he is not a member. Mrs. Hallada addressed Commissioner Thrash and said that she apologized for calling her but said that she did not apologize for saying that she was going to call the District Attorney and said that she had her on speaker phone and there was more than one person that heard her say that. Mrs. Hallada said that Commissioner Thrash needs to apologize for saying that she was going to call the District Attorney for something that she did not do. Mrs. Hallada said that when you are in a position of authority as an elected official you better be prepared for public criticism.

Monica Walters of 1305 Crawford Road addressed the board and said that she serves as the Secretary of the Lamar County Board of Elections since its inception representing the Commission. She stated that Chairman Glass was their first Chairman. Mrs. Walters said that at first, she was against Sunday voting. She said that as a guest for their July Board of Elections meeting, Ms. Lynn Hadaway came before them and requested Sunday voting. There was a transparent discussion and the matter was tabled until the next meeting. Mrs. Walters said that she had time to reflect on the fair, equal, open, and honest voting for all duly registered voters in Lamar County. Opportunities should be welcomed to get as many voters as possible to vote and she would like to see 98 percent or 100 percent turnout so that they have a true feel for where the people of Lamar County stand. At the August meeting, she voted in favor of Sunday voting. Voting is a privilege and since Sunday is a day of rest, voting should be pleasurable and not work. If it cost the County a little bit more then it is worth it so that people that might not otherwise vote may elect to vote after church. Since every voting person has a soul then "Souls to the Polls" is great and it is for all church groups and not just a few. Pastors should add it to their agenda and take the opportunity that the State of Georgia has afforded everyone. Mrs. Walters said that for those that elect to vote on Sunday, they will be ready on October 22nd, 2022 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

XVI. Round Table

Chairman Glass thanked everyone for coming. He said Buggy Days was successful and said that LOST and SPLOST always generates a good bit of revenue which will be distributed to the County in October.

XVII. Adjournment

Commissioner Horton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:02 p.m. Commissioner Thrash 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