

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
July 18th, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Present for the meeting were Chairman Traylor, Vice-Chair Thrash, Commissioner Fletcher, Commissioner Lovett, Commissioner Gilles, County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, and County Attorney Mayfield. The meeting was available via Zoom.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Traylor called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Allen Newman of Calvary Baptist Church gave the invocation.

III. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment of changing Resolution 2023-09 to Ordinance 2023-13 Lowering of the Speed Limit from 45 to 35 on Five Points Road from Hwy 41 North to Zebulon Road Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Workshop Meeting-June 6th, 2023
- ii. Public Hearing Minutes June 20th, 2023
- iii. Regular Business Meeting June 20th, 2023

V. Reallocation of Victim Advocates Funds

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the reallocation of funds of the 5 percent money giving 2.5 percent to the District Attorney (DA) and 2.5 percent to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Ordinance 2023-09 Kunst Freeman Road Rezoning from Agricultural-Residential to Residential 1 (R-1)

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-09 Kunst Freeman Road Rezoning from Agricultural-Residential to Residential 1 (R-1) Tax Map 039, Parcel 017 Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Ordinance 2023-10 Latimer Fredonia Road-Rezoning from Residential 3 to Highway Commercial

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-09 Latimer Fredonia Road Rezoning from Residential 3 to Highway Commercial Tax Map 060, Parcel 190, with the following conditions. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Any condition or conditions that also apply to property located on Tax Map 60, Parcel 179.

VIII. Ordinance 2023-11 Strickland Van Buren Road Rezoning 2 acres from Agricultural Residential to Residential

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-11 Strickland Van Buren Road Rezoning from Agricultural Residential to Residential Tax Map 093, Parcel 040. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Ordinance 2023-12 Shockley Ethridge Mill Road -Remove Restriction of a Site Built Home so a Manufactured home can be placed on the property.

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to deny Ordinance 2023-12 Shockley Ethridge Mill Road to Remove the Restriction of a Site Built Home so a Manufactured home can be placed on the property. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Ordinance 2023-13 Lowering of Speed Limit from 45 to 35 on Five Points Road from Hwy 41 North to Zebulon Road

Vice Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2023-13 Lowering of Speed Limit from 45 to 35 on Five Points Road from Hwy 41 North to Zebulon Road. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Lamar County Bids

- Animal Shelter Bid Recommendation

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to reject the Animal Shelter bid recommendation from Flint Building Company for a bid amount of \$1,146,539.00 and to reduce the liability to \$1,000,000.00 instead of \$2,000,000.00 and to reduce the bond and put it out to bid for 60 days and added there be supervision of the project with the roofing consultant. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. Commissioner Gilles amended the motion to reject the animal shelter taking the reduction of liability, reduction of the bond, and roofing supervision out of the motion, but leaving in the motion they put it out to bid for 60 days. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Courthouse Recommendation

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to reject the Courthouse bid recommendation from Flint Roofing Company for a bid amount of \$87,000.00 and RyCars Construction for a bid amount of \$150,000.00 and to reduce the liability to \$1,000,000.00 instead of \$2,000,000.00 to reduce the bond and put it out to bid for 60 days and added that there be supervision of the project with the roofing consultant. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion.

- Sheriff's Office and Jail Recommendation

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to reject the Sheriff's Office and Jail bid recommendation from RyCars Construction for a bid amount of \$341,585.00 and put it back out to bid. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion.

XII. FY24 Three Rivers Regional Transit Agreement

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve the FY 24 Three Rivers Regional Transit agreement with the term of the agreement beginning July 1st, 2023, through June 30th, 2024. The total funding request for Operating and Program Administration is \$17,900.00. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Acceptance of Conveyance of Old Barnesville Armory Property

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the Acceptance of the Conveyance of Old Barnesville Armory Property. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported the following:

- i. Reported that revenues over expenditures for June should be at 50 percent and are at 51.38 percent.
- ii. Reported that the Cash Flow is off due to an unexpected bill. He forecasted the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) to be paid out in August, but it was paid out early due to the paving project starting early and paid out in June.
- iii. Reported on the gym that the State Fire Marshall wanted additional emergency lights. They are working on the bathrooms, bleachers, cabinets in the concession stands, the Americas with Disability Act (ADA) sidewalk off the backdoor, and updates to the electrical panel. The cost for all of these additions is around \$15,000.00 and will come from the Special Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST). The budget for SPLOST was \$9,300,000.00 and has come in at around \$14,000,000.00, so the extra cost for the gym comes from the excess funds in SPLOST. They have also used the excess funds for a new Firetruck, Sheriff's Office vehicles, and Public Works.
- iv. Reported that a new tractor for Public Works was delivered this past week and was covered by the excess funds from SPLOST.
- v. Reported on the Administration Building. Reported that the final completion date is August 10th, 2023, unless there are other delays.

- vi. Reported that EXP is doing their final inspection on the roads next week, and final payments will be made.
- vii. Reported that he had three bids, the Courthouse Roof, The Roof at the Jail, and the Animal Shelter; all were rejected.
- viii. Reported that the Local Options Sales Tax (LOST) distribution for June was \$140,697.09.
- ix. Reported that the Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) distribution for May was \$247,005.07.
- x. Reported that the Transportation Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (TSPLOST) for April was \$223,695.89.
- xi. Reported that the County has a mowing contract. The County is considering keeping the mowing and trash pickup in-house. Reported that the Public Works Crew can only provide two cuts where the current mowing contract of \$266,000.00 provides three cuts plus trash pickup. Public Works Rigdon suggested that the Public Works crew could do some in-between cuttings during the year. Commissioner Gilles suggested that Public Works spray the intersections so that it stunts the growth of the grass without killing it.

The breakdown for inhouse mowing is as follows:

Salaries- (4) Employees		\$124,800.00
FICA		\$8,186.88
Medicare		\$1,809.60
Group Insurance		\$48,000.00
Uniform		\$3,120.00
Fuel		\$20,000.00
M&R Equipment		\$20,000.00
Worker Comp		\$1,584.00
	Subtotal:	\$ 227,500.48

Equipment- Capital Outlay- Not Budgeted in the New SPLOST

Massey Ferguson 5710 Tractor	4	\$ 83,173.74	\$ 332,694.96
Bush Hog 316 Rotary Cutter- 6 Foot	3	\$ 7,316.60	\$ 21,949.80
Bush Hog 4110 10-foot Mower	1	\$ 25,795.20	\$ 25,795.20
Crew Truck	1	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00

Total \$ 425,439.96

XV. Public Comments

Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeple Chase addressed the board with her concerns about finding all meetings in the County showing in the upcoming events section. Mrs. Hallada said that if you are going to have a board meeting or an authority meeting, it will allow people to go to those meetings, and each month, it should be updated by the various departments. She asked if every

board or authority in the County has to meet at least once a year. Chairman Traylor said that it depends on the bylaws of the board or authority. Ms. Hallada said Commissioner Lovett suggested that the community should look for available Government Grants. The Governor's Office has a website for press releases and is also in charge of community affairs. She said she goes online once a week, which takes her about five minutes, and encouraged the public to look for grants. Mrs. Hallada said now that they have the three-minute rule (it's a joke) she said that people come up to her and have named it the Hallada rule.

Diane Perry of 101 Maple Drive addressed the board with her concerns. She said about two years ago, she noticed a plaque lying on the ground in front of the Courthouse. It is now lying up against a post. The plaque designates the Courthouse as a historic building. Mrs. Perry asked one of the Commissioners why it had not been repaired, and they told her it was not a priority to the Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Perry said it is a priority to the citizens of Lamar County. It reflects on how the City looks, and she went to the National Historic Site and found that an ordinary citizen can fill out a form requesting repairs or work to be done on these plaques. She filled out the form on Friday, and Tuesday morning, she got a letter stating that they were getting a new plaque designating the Courthouse as a historic building. It may take a year because it is being recasted. Mrs. Perry said that it was done because one citizen decided to do something about it, and this is a reflection on what the Board of Commissioners should be doing and what is going on in the community, and how they can repair it. Mrs. Perry said she made a copy of the letter for each Commissioner if they wanted to contact them. She said everyone should take pride in the community and the Courthouse because all activities are in front of the building. She said that parades go in front of this building, and it is important.

Harold Jackson asked if the meetings are recorded and stored for future reference. Mr. Jackson said it is a good way to protect the board if anything controversial arises. Chairman Traylor said that the minutes are the official record of the meeting. Once the meeting is approved, the recording is destroyed. County Administrator Townsend noted that this is State law. Chairman Traylor said that if they had an Open Records request information you would have to decipher meetings and recordings.

XVI. Commissioner Comments

Planning and Community Development Director Buice addressed Mrs. Perry and the historical marker at the Courthouse. Ms. Buice said a few months ago; they had a sign on Liberty Hill Road that was down. When they spoke to the State about this sign, it was replaced by the State in the 2023 budget. They asked her to wait until they finalized the 2024 budget before they could recast the one for the Courthouse. Mrs. Buice said that she heard from them last week, and everything was approved, and they are recasting the plaque. They will ship it to the County, and it will be installed.

Commissioner Fletcher addressed Mrs. Perry regarding her comment about the historic marker not being a priority. He said that one voice is not everyone; as you heard, they are working on this issue.

Commissioner Gilles said that when she brought up the issue with the historical marker, no one told her that the County was getting signs recast. She said she spoke to County Administrator Townsend about it. Chairman Traylor said he did not recall her speaking to anyone about it.

XVII. Round Table

Commissioner Fletcher reminded everyone that the students will return to Lamar County Schools on July 28th, 2023. He requested prayers of support for the students, teachers, and staff members.

Commissioner Gilles reported that on July 27th, 2023, there would be a blood drive at the First United Methodist Church of Barnesville. As always, there will be snacks.

Vice-Chair Thrash said that historically in the County, whenever a constituent would require us to lower speed limits on a road, they had to go through a long process with the GDOT. A while back, she was asked to lower the speed limit on Skinners Bypass. That road is one of the most dangerous roads in the County because it is curvy and narrow, but the GDOT recommended that they raise the speed limit to 55 miles per hour instead of lowering it. Now, they have removed their hands from this process, and the Board of Commissioners has the authority to raise or lower the speed limits through Ordinance.

Vice-Chair Thrash said that in last month's meeting, it was mentioned that there may be some uneasiness between the Board of Commissioners and the Governor's Office. She said she spoke to the Governor's Office and has been assured that everything is fine between the Board of Commissioners and the Governor's Office.

County Clerk Davidson stated that Mrs. Hallada announced that she could not find the announcement of the meetings. County Clerk Davidson explained that on the Lamar County website, at the top of the page, there is a place on the site, "Meeting Agenda and Minutes," and every meeting is posted here. Mrs. Hallada said that most people will click on upcoming events, and they are not there. County Clerk thanked Mrs. Hallada for her suggestion.

Chairman Traylor stated that Buggy Days is coming up quickly, and people will travel into the community to spend money contributing to the LOST, SPLOST, and TSPLOST. He was looking on the Barnesville Chamber of Commerce website, and there are a lot of new activities. One activity is a car show that will be next to Hardee's. Chairman Traylor is co-chairing this event with his 17-year-old son and invited anyone to put a car into the show. He is already passing out flyers.

Chairman Traylor said that anytime there is a loss in the community, it is tough even though we live and we die. This week there have been several deaths in the community and asked that everyone be concerned about their neighbors. Chairman Traylor said that his condolences go out to all these families that have lost a loved one.

XVII. Adjournment & Executive Session

Vice-Chairman Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting to go into Executive Session to discuss Litigation at approximately 8:12 p.m. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The board came out of Executive session at approximately 8:27 p.m. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ryran Traylor, Chairman

Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chair

Jarrod Fletcher, Commissioner

Jason Lovett, Commissioner

Ashley Gilles, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk