

Minutes of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Special Called Meeting
Administration Building
January 21, 2025, 10:30 AM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Declaration of Emergency - Winter Weather

Governor Kemp sent out an Executive Order for the State in regard to the Winter Weather emergency. All schools from Atlanta to South Georgia have closed due to weather conditions. The Public Works Director and the Fire Chief have been working on the weather calls. There were discussions focused on winter weather preparedness and response planning. Fire Chief Matthews said the plan for the generator for Hog Mountain if they lose power. If it turns into ice tonight and they go to chains on the fire trucks, the response time increases as you can only travel thirty miles an hour.

EMA Director Martin stated that everything was lined up to open the Senior Center if a warming station becomes necessary. She has everything set up with the Senior Center Director Watts and they have two volunteers in place but if they lose power at this location there is no generator backup. City of Barnesville Manager Folson can open two warming centers: EP Roberts Center and the Barnesville Civic Center.

Chairman Traylor complimented Media Relations Specialist/System Administrator Jordan Calhoun for her role in placing County news on the Lamar County Commissioners Facebook page. EMA Director Martin stated she will continue to send her updated information as well as the local newspaper and the Lamar County Cert Facebook page. EMA Director Martin stated the warming station at the Senior Center has to run simultaneously with freezing temperatures and extended power outages. Citizens are advised to follow warming center protocols and plan for extended power outages by reaching out to family and friends.

Sheriff White reported that they had E911 Dispatchers on standby and all of the Sheriff's Office was prepared.

Public Works Director Rigdon reported that the Lamar County spreader was down, and Kelly Haddock loaned his manure spreader that they could use for laying down salt and sand. County Attorney Mayfield was involved with the legality and a waiver of liability and worker's compensation was signed with Mr. Haddock. Public Works Director Rigdon reported that he has two dump trucks, but they have limited resources, and they cannot manage every road in the County. There are six Public Work employees, and they have chain saws ready. Public Works Director Rigdon requested that everyone needs to stay off the roads and avoid all unnecessary travel. They have three trucks, six crew members, and 276 miles of roads. EMA Director Martin stated there are State resources she could request if necessary.

Commissioner Boyle stated there is a battery-powered repeater system in place on Hog Mountain to maintain radio communications in case of power loss. It will operate for about

three hours. They lost a generator about six times and lost communications. He is in the process of working on some radios if the repeaters go down.

County Administrator Townsend stated that employees will be sent home early if weather conditions worsen. He heard the snow will hit around 4:00 p.m. but will send employees home before this time. The ice is expected to impact the area on Wednesday morning and conditions will continue to be monitored through Thursday.

County Clerk Davidson stated that the Regular Board of Commissioners meeting scheduled for January 21st, 2025 will need to be rescheduled.

Declaration of Local Emergency

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the Declaration of Local Emergency. Vice-Chair Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to reschedule the regular Board of Commissioners meeting to January 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. due to the Declaration of Local Emergency for Winter Weather. Vice-Chair Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Round Table

EMA Director Martin introduced Mandy Warren, the new Area 4 Coordinator for EMA who is also a local resident of Lamar County.

Chairman Traylor stated after speaking to County Clerk Davidson about caution on icy roads and driveways he had not thought about the conditions that could happen at his house. He encouraged the citizens as they travel home to think about family and neighbors and assist them, as necessary. Informed the citizens he has a four-wheel-drive vehicles to assist others where possible; pulling vehicles out of a ditch, etc. Chairman Traylor said the one thing he worried about was those people, who are like he used to be when he was younger, wanting to get the best photo of the fresh snow in the location that no one else to get the photo and those are situations where we put ourselves in danger. He encouraged everyone to stay off the roads.

Adjournment

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to adjourn the Special Called meeting at 10:49 a.m. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ryran Traylor, Chairman

Jarrold Fletcher , Vice-Chair

Jason Lovett, Commissioner

Ashley Gilles, Commissioner

Truman Boyle, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk