

Workshop Meeting of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners
January 17th, 2020
11:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. on January 17th, 2020. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chair Thrash, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson.

Facebook Discussion

Kevin Bradley of 120 Millpond Court, Milner, Georgia addressed the board about a Facebook Page for Lamar County. Mr. Bradley said that he was in favor of having a Facebook Page and he believes that it is important because of the information that can go out to the public quicker and better than a website. He said that the workshop agenda for January 17th, 2020 wasn't posted until earlier in the week and the meeting for the Regular Business Meeting hasn't been posted anywhere nor is it on the Lamar County website. He said that he is not saying that it is not on Facebook somewhere or for whatever reason that it hasn't been approved yet, or for whatever else is the case. Chairman Glass stated that agenda is not going to be posted until the Board of Commissioners have it ready. Mr. Bradley stated that his point was that people aren't going to come to the meeting if they aren't interested in some topics and if they don't know what topics are coming up, they are going to say who cares. Mr. Bradley said that some people don't want to go and just sit. Mr. Bradley quoted Chairman Glass, "He hopes to establish a more deliberate citizen feedback mechanism and involve more citizens in discussion and decision making in County business." Mr. Bradley said that they can do that via the Facebook Page. Mr. Bradley said that if the only resource that is being used is the Lamar County website, he doesn't feel that this is adequate enough. Mr. Bradley said that he saw where Chairman Glass had posted about the Blood Drive on Facebook and he said that's a wonderful thing and he even liked it. Mr. Bradley said if they could get things like that out to the people it would be better. Mr. Bradley said that if someone has a counter argument to it then he would love to hear it. He says that it makes sense to do that.

Commissioner Traylor stated that he set up a County Facebook Page right after he got elected and in order to set it up, he had to attach it to his personal Facebook Page. He said he had to be the author of that Facebook Page because no one else could at that particular time. He said shortly after that there was a lot of conversation from the Federal and State level concerning how Facebook Pages are run. Commissioner Traylor said there is a lot of legislation about people commenting on Facebook. He said that some Commissioners were trying to make it a Fan Page and there was a lot of Governments around the whole Country that was in an uproar about it. He said that they were expecting someone to respond if a comment was made. He said that they immediately took that right away and put it as information only with no ability for someone to make a comment. Commissioner Traylor stated that he stopped his Facebook Page after this happened because his goal was for it to be an informational page similar to the Lamar County website but without dialogues of conversation. He said that people get frustrated if no one responds to the question because you are expecting someone to respond.

Mr. Bradley stated that he feels like that there are certain things that you can pin and if you are on the page and you scroll down on the page then it is on there automatically. He said that they could

post this meeting, pin it to the top, so you see that first and questions in regards to that can be answered. He said if you need a request for a road, or repairs then it is pinned to the top. He said that you can also turn off comments. He said that Spalding, Pike, Monroe, Putnam and Henry County all have Facebook Pages. Mr. Bradley said that everyone around Lamar County has a working Facebook Page to get information to the people and you see it used as such. Mr. Bradley said that to him it just makes sense. Mr. Bradley said otherwise how else does the information get to the people. He said via the website that you have to check every single second and practically every single day and hope that's its up there and they don't wait until the last minute, because some things have to be approved to get posted, to post things, because people don't have all day to do it. Chairman Glass said that he didn't appreciate Mr. Bradley taking it to extremes like this, checking it every minute and every second. Chairman Glass stated that there was no reason for this. Chairman Glass stated that they have a set schedule every month, the way that the Government works, and people understand that the agenda comes out the Thursday before the Regular Business meeting and is sent to the legal organ, the Barnesville Herald Gazette. Chairman Glass said that the agenda is not actually posted in the legal organ. Chairman Glass stated that the Lamar County Code of Law states that we have to have the agenda ready the Friday at noon before the Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday. Chairman Glass stated that there are ways to check on things without having to go everyday and every second. Chairman Glass stated that he understood Mr. Bradley's point but requested that he not go to the extreme and poke everyone. Mr. Bradley said he was not trying to poke anyone that this was just his words that he chooses to use. Mr. Bradley said that he was not trying to get in a gripe but said that people want information from the Government. Chairman Glass stated that this was a good point to work on. Mr. Bradley stated that people do check the website and they want to know if something is posted and if it is not then they have to keep hitting refresh. He said that it is like ordering online and you know something is going to be ready at 12:00 a.m. and you keep checking it constantly because you are waiting. Mr. Bradley said that this is the point he is trying to make. Mr. Bradley said that he doesn't know how Chairman Glass took it and it is not like a personal attack but this is what people do. Chairman Glass said that Mr. Bradley is skewing the facts and said that Mr. Bradley is looking for a push notification whereas the website is not a push notification. Mr. Bradley said that he is not looking for that. He said that to bring the community together, like other Counties have done. He said that they need to look at other Counties and see how it is actually done and how it is benefiting everyone. Mr. Bradley said that he can tell Chairman Glass all day but unless he looked for himself then he wouldn't take his word for it.

Commissioner Traylor replied that he did look at this. He said that he had a Commissioner friend that took his Fan Page on Facebook down because it created a lot of controversy. Commissioner Traylor agreed with Mr. Bradley that some Counties do have a Facebook Page but said that he is not technical enough to know how to block the comments and said that he didn't know if it was legal to block the comments. Commissioner Traylor said that if Lamar County did have a Facebook Page, who is going to be able to update the information, put the information in, and monitor the information. Commissioner Traylor said that like with his Facebook Page, if he doesn't see a question or respond to a question he wondered if this is going to make people upset. He said that it might not be that the comments are negative but that is not the platform for communication to a Commissioner. He said he wondered if a question was posted to their Facebook Page and a Commissioner didn't respond would it create anxiety with people?

Mr. Bradley said that people are finicky and people are either going to use Facebook as their personal gripe session, the thing that accomplishes something without addressing someone in a more direct manner such as email or attending a meeting or a workshop. Mr. Bradley said that the point with the comments is that you can make the argument that you are getting the information. You are not creating a discussion. You are just posting information such as the upcoming Regular Business meeting on Tuesday. You just post it. If you have any other questions about the meeting, then you put in there to contact your local Commissioner, or post email addresses. Mr. Bradley said it can also be discussed that these are the only forms of contact and you could address the personal things if that wants to be incorporated. Mr. Bradley said that at the same time, it isn't trying to get conversation with the Commissioners, it is to get information that the County wants to push out as another means to do things. He said that he feels that it is more effective, because of the capabilities that you can do with social media. There are things with events that can be created and it will automatically post for you. So that you know that there is Blood Drive and you know that there is Humane Society meeting that is coming up. He said that you can go ahead and put it in there where you have it from this day to this day and its done.

Commissioner Traylor inquired about the timing of responses and asked if this was an area of concern. Penny Hutson, Administrator for the Lamar County Discussion Page on Facebook, who was present for the meeting, stated that you can have several people as an Administrator on a Facebook Page. She said that an Administrator can receive notifications, if it is turned on, so when someone comments or ask a question they can respond. She said that you can answer it as an individual or as an Administrator.

Vice-Chair Thrash stated that the bottom line that they are trying to accomplish is how can they reach the most citizens with the most information. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that she and Ashley Gilles, also present for the meeting, had spoken about this issue in detail. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that her fear is that it will end up being a gripe session. She said it is like with the Town Hall meetings. She said that 90 percent of the people who come to the Town Hall meetings come to complain and vent about whatever Commissioner they don't like and it is an opportunity for them to do that. Vice-Chair Thrash asked if they could have a Facebook Page that is informational only.

Mr. Bradley said that he feels like that this is the biggest thing that people are looking for because he sees it in the existing conversations. He said that there are people out there that want the information and sometimes it comes from second or third hand. Mr. Bradley said that it is never directly from the County. He said that they need a link that takes you directly to the link where the County has stated their opinion or the facts on a certain issue so that there is no question about it. He said that this way you help them with what they are looking for or prove them wrong or lead them in the right direction to get the correct answer. Mr. Bradley stated that he was aware of Vice-Chair Thrash's Facebook Page that is a Commissioners Page so he knows that she can address some of the issues and said he didn't know if the people that went to her page and gripe or not.

Vice-Chair Thrash stated that she didn't want to see them setup another ability for someone to gripe because there is a small percentage of people where that is all they do. They just gripe and complain and they never come forth with any suggestions or anything that is worth working towards. They just want to slam someone. Vice-Chair Thrash said that she doesn't want to setup another avenue for someone to feed into that.

Mr. Bradley said that on the website there is not a place for people to do that. Mr. Bradley said that it comes down to information that can get out to the people effectively. He said that it is always going to trump those issues because the information is more powerful than someone's complaint.

Commissioner Horton stated that social media technology is good but said that the Commissioners have meetings twice a month. He said that the meetings are advertised. He said the meetings are a place where you can come and ask questions and interact with everyone. Commissioner Horton said that three fourths of the constituents don't show up to the meetings. He said that the groups that want to be involved will get involved and the ones that don't just gripe.

Mr. Bradley stated that he was only at the Workshop meeting today because his wife is off on Friday's otherwise, he couldn't be there. Mr. Bradley stated that workshops are wonderful and he wishes he could come to more of them but he can't. Commissioner Horton said that he could come to the Regular Business meeting because he doesn't work 24/7. Mr. Bradley said that there have been times he has attended the Regular Business meeting. Commissioner Horton stated that the average citizen could either come to the Workshop meeting or the Regular Business Meeting. Mr. Bradley stated that the only place he has seen the meeting agenda is on the Lamar County website or if someone has posted from the website and he isn't aware of where else it would be posted.

Commissioner Heiney stated that if you are going to have a Facebook Page you need to have someone as a paid Administrator. That person would be in charge of content. He said that Dolly Goodpuppy's content person for their Facebook Page left. He said that these are the kind of things that happen. A content person is a Catch as Catch can type of person. If you have a Facebook Page and that person is no longer doing it then you look like you are not supplying information. Commissioner Heiney said that some people will even say that you are hiding things. Commissioner Heiney said that a Facebook Page creates its own problems in terms of contents. He said that there are meeting minutes that are published on the Lamar County website and a lot of the things that the Commissioners do is published fairly quickly. He said that he is not saying that a Facebook Page is not a good idea but it requires some additional stewardship.

Mr. Bradley said that his thoughts are that whoever is running the website could run the Facebook Page because doing a website is a lot harder than a Facebook Page. He said that it is so easy to post on a Facebook Page.

Ashley Gilles stated that she created a mock Facebook Page and sent an invite to those that were on her personal Facebook Page, Vice-Chair Thrash, Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Heiney, and County Administrator Townsend. Ms. Gilles stated that she couldn't send Commissioner Horton an invitation. She said that it has a Social Media Policy that states that the purpose of the Lamar County Media Policy is to present matters of public interest concerning Lamar County programs, activities, news, and to otherwise augment and enhance County transparency and access. We want to welcome your comments, please note that the County's Social Media site is monitored and online discussion and or information on this site is not intended as a traditional public or limited purpose public form. Please report all emergencies to 911. It says that we have the right to take off anything that we deem offensive such as fighting words. It has a list which is common with most County comments unrelated to the purpose and scope of the page

including obscenity, and threats against another person. She said that there is already a set of rules. It is just plugging everything in from the Lamar County website to Facebook.

Vice-Chair Thrash posed a question to Ms. Hutson. She asked statistically how many people pay attention to her rules on the Lamar County Discussion page. Ms. Hutson replied that she has pre-approval on her page. She says every now and then she will take it off and it is like a free for all and everyone can post whatever they want to post. She said that when it comes to pre-approval for anyone in Government, then they get pre-approval automatically. Ms. Hutson stated that she has the three-strike rule and it is in her rules section. Ms. Hutson said that her tongue gets away from her sometimes. She said that she admits it and will shut up and back off. Ms. Hutson said that she sends a warning and tells them there are certain words that they can't say in this group. Ms. Hutson stated that it is a small percentage of people that break the rules. Ms. Hutson said that she has 11,000 people in her group.

Commissioner Traylor said that Spalding County's Facebook Page has very few comments with some shares. Ms. Hutson stated that when people start attacking people, she deletes the comments. Commissioner Traylor inquired about the amount of time that Ms. Hutson spends making sure that the rules are followed. Ms. Hutson said that she has several Administrators that help her out. She said that they all get notification from the groups. They all look at posts that need to be approved. Vice-Chair Thrash asked if Ms. Hutson could do it without the other Administrators and Ms. Hutson replied that she could and she has before. She said that her group is the first one that was started in Lamar County. It was started in 2014. She said that they all have group message and if any kind of problem arises then they all can talk through the group messages. She said that first thing in the morning she gets about 15 notifications on her personal page where people have commented. She said they get very few notifications from Lamar County unless it is something that is a post that needs to be approved. She said that she tries to keep local businesses on the page but she doesn't like things being sold on the page. Ms. Hutson says that she controls all of this. Ms. Hutson says she has a rule and a file section in the group. She said that the file section is for all of things that are available with Local Government in Lamar County. She has a file section for the Lamar County Board of Commissioners introducing each one of them. Ms. Hutson stated that she copied and pasted this from the Lamar County website. Ms. Hutson stated that she also has a link to the District Map that is on her page that she took from the Lamar County website. Ms. Hutson said that she has a file section for Sheriff White as well. Ms. Hutson stated that she checks this about every six months to make sure everything is updated.

Commissioner Heiney stated that Ms. Hutson already has all of the County information on her Facebook and asked her why she didn't just liaison with Ms. Hutson and make sure that she has all of the information rather than duplicating the effort. Ms. Hutson replied that it is in a file section and she tries to promote the file section. Ms. Hutson stated that she doesn't babysit the page 24/7 because she has a life and a job where she works from home. Ms. Hutson stated that she does what she can do. She stated that when Ms. Gilles shares something from the Republican party or something is going on in the Events Section of someone's personal Facebook Page, that has to do with Lamar County, she shares that information. Ms. Hutson stated that she shares what she can find. Ms. Hutson stated that she asks Ms. Gilles about the meetings for the Board of Commissioners because she doesn't know. Commissioner Heiney stated that all of the meetings for the Board of Commissioners are posted on the Lamar County website.

Ms. Gilles stated that when she is looking through the Lamar County website, it is not iPhone savvy. She said that when she looks up minutes and it says view agenda, she said it cuts it off and she has to turn her phone sideways every single time and it is annoying to her. She said that this takes up too much of her time. She said that she just wants to be able to scroll. Commissioner Heiney suggested that they be a little more phone friendly on the website.

Commissioner Traylor stated that they need the County Attorney to review having a Facebook Page because he thought there was ruling that stated you were not able to block comments from a citizen or a public organization. Chairman Glass stated that they needed to get legal advice from the County Attorney regarding controls with having a Facebook Page. Commissioner Heiney agreed that speaking with the County Attorney was a good starting point. Chairman Glass stated that the felt like this was one action that they could take from this Facebook discussion.

Mr. Bradley suggested that the Commissioners contact other Counties regarding any type of legal rulings. Commissioner Traylor stated that some of these Counties may have a media staff person that runs their Facebook Page. He said currently Lamar County doesn't have that and the County Clerk maintains the Lamar County website. Chairman Glass suggested that the Commissioners list their questions and issues and proceed with those as the next step.

Littering in Lamar County

Vice-Chair Thrash stated that littering is the number one comment she is getting from the citizens and how the litter is out of control in the County. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that in one of the workshops they had discussed contracting with the Department of Corrections and having them send out the female crew to pickup up trash. Vice-Chair Thrash asked if this was in the budget and said that she thought that the amount was around \$35,000.00. Chairman Glass replied that the price had gone up because they don't have the facility in Lamar County. He said that the closest facility to Lamar County is Hawkinsville, Georgia so for them to travel here would be a lot more expensive. Chairman Glass said that they had discussed a Right of Way Mowing contract that also has a litter pickup as a part of the contract. County Administrator Townsend stated that the Right of Way Mowing contract will be on the February agenda. Chairman Glass and Public Works Director Rigdon, who was in attendance for the meeting, stated that dirt roads aren't litter issues they are dump issues. He said that people dump their whole household on dirt roads. He said they recently found 2 mattresses on Silver Dollar Road and then 2 on Old Hwy 41 within 10 minutes of each other. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that the Right of Way Mowing contract does include litter pickup just like the State does. County Clerk Davidson reported that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Right of Way Mowing contract has been posted on the Lamar County website and the advertisement has been sent to the legal organ, the Barnesville Herald Gazette and will be advertised on January 21st, 2020. Vice-Chair Thrash inquired if they could report this to the constituents. Chairman Glass replied that they could but also stated that they may need to supplement this with something else. Public Works Director Rigdon reported that they would start cutting at the end of April until the end of August. There are three cuttings and two litter pickups. They will pickup the trash and then mow. He said during the winter time they will pickup trash. The mowing and the litter cycles are different. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that litter pickup twice a year is not enough to clean up the County. Commissioner Traylor noted that an additional trash

pickup contract could cost \$22,000.00 per pickup based on a contract they reviewed at a workshop. Commissioner Heiney stated that they should start fining those that litter. He said that when people are caught littering, they should be prosecuted through the court system. Commissioner Heiney stated that on Dean Road, Tom Rausch has caught people on camera dumping trash on his road. He said these people should be prosecuted and their names should be in the paper. Vice-Chair Thrash said that a while back someone dumped 4 bags of garbage on City Pond Road. Major Holmes took several inmates and they opened up the bags of garbage and found the person, who dumped the trash, personal information. Major Holmes then went to their home, brought them back in her patrol car, and they picked up that garbage. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that they should have been prosecuted. Commissioner Heiney agreed. He said that it should have been a thousand dollar fine. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that they couldn't afford to have their law enforcement officers doing this. Commissioner Heiney stated that the charges currently are a twenty-five-dollar fine or either they are dismissed. Commissioner Heiney stated that they know that this is not worth it but with a thousand dollar fine then it is a whole different world. He said that he thinks that they need to start enforcing the fines and the fines need to go up. He said that the same thing with dumping dogs. If someone dumps a dead dog, they should get thirty days in jail. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that she agreed and said that this is where the teeth are. She said that they need the support of the Sheriff to go out and cite these people. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that this is where you reach them; in their pocketbook. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that they could sit on Hwy 36 /Jackson Hwy and catch everyone coming in and leaving the City of Barnesville. Chairman Glass stated that if they have video evidence why can't they take it to the Magistrate Court rather than involving the Sheriff. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that because it is a criminal citation, the Board of Commissioners can't issue criminal citations. Chairman Glass stated that they could issue a complaint to the Magistrate Court. Vice-Chair Thrash said that this would be a civil complaint and not a criminal complaint. Commissioner Heiney inquired about the structure of doing this. He stated that he would take the complaints to the Magistrate Court. Chairman Glass stated that he should go and talk to them because the Magistrate Court is very user friendly. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that they should get the advice from the County Attorney before doing this. Vice-Chair Thrash said that the Code Enforcement Officer would probably be in charge of issuing citations but he is covered up in work now and he doesn't have time to chase people that are throwing out trash. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that the biggest issue is that they don't have the staffing to take care of things of this nature. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that it would take someone two months to pickup up the trash that is currently in the County. Commissioner Heiney stated that when someone is captured, on video, for dumping trash, and they have their tag number, and then nothing is done about it, this to him is a crime in itself. Chairman Glass suggested that they get the Code Enforcement Officer to take this issue to Magistrate Court. He said that if the word gets out about this then this could change people's behavior. Commissioner Traylor stated that if their name is put in the paper then it will change people's behavior. Commissioner Heiney stated that he is in favor of raising the fines for littering. Chairman Glass requested that they contact the County Attorney about the right approach to turning it over to the Code Enforcement Office, give him the evidence and let him write the citation and turn it over to the Magistrate Court.

Commissioner Traylor reported that the Highlanders Team from Gordon State College would be picking up trash from the Depot down Mill Street to Hwy 36 ahead of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. Commissioner Traylor stated that speeding and the possibility of snakes is an issue for

people picking up trash on county roads so they are going to take this route as their first trash pickup event.

Vice-Chair Thrash stated that the board had previously discussed having people that come into the County and commit crimes and as a part of their restitution they could pickup trash. She said that once again it is a cost factor because they have to have a post certified deputy stay with them. She said that the judges were 100 percent on board with this and they said they would sentence someone to pick up trash in the County. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that because of the criminal justice reform, they can't hardly make them do this. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that they are picking up trash in Spalding County on the weekends as a part of their restitution. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that this is because with an individual sentence they aren't sentenced to do it in Lamar County. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that when they start citing and fining these people, and they tell the judges that this is what they want for their probation, they go out and pickup trash. Once they satisfy their community service requirement then they are free to go. County Administrator Townsend stated that he had discussed this with former Code Enforcement Officer Vaughan and he took it out to the Magistrate Court and they didn't do anything with it. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that if the Sheriff's Office and the Magistrate Court is not on board then the Commissioners are spinning their wheels. Chairman Glass stated that the two actions that need to be followed up on are getting with the County Attorney about getting Code Enforcement to issue the citations and working with the Magistrate Court and the judicial system to implement more community service to get more trash cleanup. County Administrator Townsend stated that they used to have a supervisory fee that was applied to the fine. Commissioner Horton stated that a long while back civic organizations used to pickup trash on the weekends. Chairman Glass stated that the issue with the trash is too large for individuals or civic organizations to handle.

Regular Business Meeting Discussion

The board reviewed the following:

- 1) Approval of Three Sets of Minutes from December.
- 2) Resolution 2020-1 Tan Anticipation Note in the amount of 3.8 million dollars with an interest rate of 2.65 from United Bank and no loan fee.
- 3) Resolution 2020-2 Special Exception for Shereen Crowley
- 4) Board Appointments.
 - i. Appointment of District 4 Commissioner Nancy Thrash to Vice-Chair
 - ii. County Attorney Appointment- Smith, Welch, Webb and White
 - iii. County Physicians
 - a) Dr. Woodall, Wilson and Manley
 - b) Dr. Buice
 - iv. County Surveyor- James Butler
 - v. Open Records Custodian-Scott Mayfield
- 5) Pictometry International Corporation Contract for the Tax Assessors fly over for the mapping of Lamar County.
- 6) County Administrator Townsend reported on the bid for Surplus Equipment with J.M. Wood Auction Company. This purpose of this bid is for surplusing the paver, and the triple

treat machinery. J.M. Wood Auction Company is offering a firm fixed price. If it goes for higher than that at the auction then the County receives the difference. Chairman Glass stated that normally equipment is surplus and then put on GovDeals.com. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that the company has looked at the equipment and given a guaranteed price. The overall charge is \$7,000.00 and \$110,000.00 is guaranteed. County Administrator Townsend stated that anything over \$120,000.00 is split 50/50 can be re-negotiated such as the County gets 60 percent and they get 40 percent. Vice-Chair Thrash inquired about paying a contract fee and them getting a percentage of what is surplus. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that they have to pay \$3,000.00 to have the equipment hauled to Alabama where the auction is held. The \$7,000.00 is an administration fee to cover their costs.

County Administrator Townsend stated that they have a lot of nice surplus equipment including a dump truck that Public Works Director Rigdon is interested in. The equipment that they want to surplus hasn't been used in over two years and surplus the equipment will allow him to purchase the dump truck. He said that GovDeals charges 12 percent and then we have to ship it. County Administrator Townsend stated that it is hard to put a price on the paver and the triple treat machinery because it is 5 to 6 years old but it has very low mileage. The equipment is in good shape to be this old and will bring top dollar. He said he used the term "Unicorn" because you normally don't see this type of equipment. Public Works Director stated that it would cost \$600.00 for batteries just to get it cranked. He said that it takes 9 experienced operators to run this equipment. Vice-Chair Thrash asked if it was more costly to tar and gravel to patch a road compared to using asphalt to patch a road. Public Works Director Rigdon responded that the cost is the issue. He said you might go to Griffin and get a ton of asphalt and you have to sit to lunch to get it. You come back to Lamar County and you only have 4 hours to get it on the ground before it hardens. He said that you can only patch about 6 to 8 holes compared to the 50 holes they patch with tar and gravel per day. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that when he started to work for Lamar County 13 years ago, they used stuff in buckets. He said it was \$50.00 a bucket and some pot holes took 2 buckets. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that people are reporting to her that what is being patched isn't holding up. Public Works Rigdon stated that this time of year they are going to cup out because of the moisture in the ground. He said that during the summer people were griping because there was a hump in the road. He said because of the moisture in the ground, the pothole is there for a reason. He said that the ground was soft underneath to start with.

Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported that he has put several vehicles and equipment out for bid and said that the funds for this will come from debt service. There are 2 police cars with equipment, 1 public works truck, 2 tandem fire tankers, a folding tank with an aluminum frame, and 1 Senior Center vehicle. County Clerk Davidson is working with United Bank and the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and Branch Bank and Trust (BB&T) for quotes on a lease agreement. The plan is to put this on the agenda for February.

The RFP for the Right of Way Mowing is out for bid and will be on the Regular Business meeting agenda for approval in February.

The RFP for Striping of Roadway is out for bid and will be on the Regular Business meeting agenda for approval in March.

The RFP for the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) will be on the Regular Business meeting agenda for approval in March.

County Administrator Townsend reported that Silver Dollar Road was an issue that was in the Barnesville Herald Gazette and will be addressed at the January meeting. The report states that the loggers have paid the County to fix Silver Dollar Road and the County has just put gravel on it. The loggers permit doesn't include a permit fee, the business license is in another County and the property owner received \$541,000.00. The timber tax received was \$16,401.28. The funds the County received, in 2017, were \$6,544.60. To date, the County has spent \$4,913.30. To repave the entire road would cost the County \$300,000.00. If they cut out and patch the road it would cost \$142,032.20.

Vice-Chair Thrash stated that those loggers are required to come into the County and file a bond and the Commissioners can't attach to that bond. She said that the fact that some of the citizens said that loggers paid the County to fix Silver Dollar Road is a bold face lie. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that there would be citizens coming to the meeting Tuesday night regarding Silver Dollar Road.

Commissioner Traylor inquired about raising the logging permit fees. County Administrator Townsend reported that the timber tax is based off of the property tax and the millage rate. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that this is 30 to 40 years of timber growing and the County didn't draw anything during this time. County Administrator Townsend stated that most of the time the land is in conservation and they don't get taxed. Chairman Glass stated that in 2017/2018 he took advantage of this. Chairman Glass inquired about the 2018/2019 date on County Administrator Townsend's report. Public Works Director Rigdon responded that they finished the logging in December of 2018 but they had a spot across from Liberty Hill Road that was underwater that they had to cut. Chairman Glass reported that the taxes are due the quarter after you harvest. He said that for anything that was paid in the last quarter of 2018 then the taxes were due in 2019. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that they harvested in 2019 on the other side of Liberty Hill Road. He said there were 10 acres that they had left. Chairman Glass stated that they don't have to wait to pay the taxes and this is the completion of February 2019. Chairman Glass pointed out that the road had been tore up for more than a year and Public Works Director Rigdon agreed. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that the patching work had been done from 2017 to 2020. He said that they patched several times in 2019. Commissioner Thrash stated that she tries to explain to people that when the loggers are actively logging, it makes absolutely no sense to spend tax payer dollars to go out there and do spot patching when they are just going to tear it right back up again. Vice-Chair Thrash said that people get mad about this but realistically it makes sense because it is just throwing money away. Public Works Director Rigdon said that they were on Silver Dollar Road for about five

hours yesterday. Chairman Glass asked what it would take to prevent this from the next logging truck causing these problems. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that it would take a full depth reclamation. He stated that the issue is the base. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that people need to be contacting their legislators saying don't allow the same weight restrictions on side County roads that you have on the main highways. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that when they started logging on Hwy 36, they ran them through the City of Milner because that road is a main highway. Former City of Milner Manager Wayne Patterson stopped that because these roads are not made for heavy trucks. He said that Wayne Patterson had the deputy block the highway. Vice-Chair Thrash said he did this because he liked to run them through Liberty Hill Road. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that then they couldn't go the other way on Liberty Hill Road because of the intersection on Hwy 41. He said that they had to go up the hill and back and he would rather them come down Silver Dollar Road. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that everywhere you seeing a braking point is where the road is tearing up. He said that all of the weight is on the back wheels of the truck when they go to break in a curve. He said that when they accelerate or slowdown is where you can tell the road is tore up. Commissioner Thrash stated that Eady Creek Road is the same way.

County Administrator Townsend stated that on his Cash Flow Report, the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) would be okay to do 3.5 million dollars but to be safe he said they should do 3.8 million dollars. He said that some tax payers wait 90 days to pay their taxes.

County Administrator Townsend stated that he is working with all of the Department Heads about doing "Smart Goals" along with their employees over the next five years.

County Administrator Townsend said that the Board of Elections needs a special trailer to haul their equipment and the funds will come out of contingency. Chairman Glass reported that the old carry cases were hard whereas the new equipment is much flimsier. He said that the touch screens are in bags. He said that when they are loading the equipment, to take to the precincts, the equipment will get broken. The idea for putting it in the trailer is to have some place to actually store it and transport it without it bouncing around. Chairman Glass said that it is light commercial quality. He said that this is another expense that wasn't provided by the State. Chairman Glass stated that it is under County Administrator Townsends threshold of \$7,500.00 to approve and since it is not under the Board of Elections budget the funds need to be moved from contingency and this is the reason that it is on the agenda.

County Administrator Townsend requested that the board go into executive session to discuss personnel.

Public Works Rigdon requested direction from the board regarding the City of Milner. He said that the other night, during the rain storm, he had to take his crew and get permission from the Sheriff's Office to go onto someone's property because they had to get off the right of way to unstop a culvert. Public Works Director Rigdon said that there was 2 feet of water in the road. He said that there is a mess in this man's pasture that will need to be corrected. He said that this is in the Milner City limits. He said that the man needs about

100 feet of pipe. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that the City of Milner has no one capable of handling their Public Works Department. He said that he is having to take his resources from Lamar County and go to the City of Milner to correct their issues. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that any request needs to come through her. She said that the City of Milner has to look at hiring another maintenance employee because the City of Milner residents pay taxes for those types of service. Vice-Chair Thrash said that Public Works Director Rigdon has bent over backwards helping them and he has always done it. She said that it is just getting to the point where they are going to have to make a decision and hire someone that can take care of these types of things. Chairman Glass stated that according to the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS), they are responsible for this. He said that they would like to work with them and help them out but we can't penalize the rest of the County. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that at this point they are expecting the help from the County. Chairman Glass stated that technically through the SDS if we are going to assist the City of Milner, we can charge them for these services provided by the County. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that she requested that Public Works Director Rigdon remove a limb that was hanging over the road and she said that it was on the County and the City of Milner's line. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that the City of Milner has let their infrastructure fall apart and the County is having to assist them.

Commissioner Heiney presented the board with a model of an Animal Ordinance and requested that they review it.

Vice-Chair Thrash reported on her board meeting with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). She congratulated Commissioner Taylor and all those on the SDS/LOST SDS committee for all of the hard work they did. Vice-Chair Thrash reported that on the Tax Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) revenues, the formulas are changing again and said that the Cities have lost about 60 to 50 percent of their revenues whereas the Counties revenues have gone up. The Cities are going to ask the legislators to adjust this which means that the Counties may see a decline in TAVT revenue.

Vice-Chair Thrash reported that the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) is also going to ask the legislators to create a Local Government Financing Authority the same as ACCG and Bankers Branch and Trust (BB&T) do with the Counties. ACCG is taking a neutral position on this.

Vice-Chair reported that no one has dropped any new legislation and they don't believe that the gambling legislation is going to get any push forward this year.

Vice-Chair Thrash reported that there is one piece of legislation where Savannah is asking for every County to have a referendum on the ballot that says that the citizens vote on whether or not Counties have a Police Department. The concern is that they are pulling away from local rule authority. Vice-Chair Thrash said that if they are having an issue with this in Savannah it needs to stay in Savannah and it doesn't need to affect all 159 Counties.

Commissioner Horton made a motion to go into executive session at approximately 12:41 p.m. to discuss personnel. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The board came out of executive session around 12:51 and resumed the workshop meeting.

Round Table

Chairman Glass reported that the Boys and Girls Ribbon Cutting would be held on Thursday, January 18th, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at the new building behind the elementary school campus off of Roberta Drive.

Chairman Glass stated that he expected a Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance to be presented at the Regular Business meeting. He said that he had spoken to Ashley Gilles about it at the Blood Drive and he had also spoken to Randy Vining. He is requesting that it be a Resolution and not an Ordinance. Chairman Glass reported he is in the Army and he would put his life on the line to defend the Constitution. He said that every time they had been sworn in as Commissioners, they have taken an oath for the Federal and the State Constitution and asked why just do something for the Second Amendment and not do something for the First or the Fourth Amendment. He said that he is not against it but to do an Ordinance is just more government. Vice-Chair Thrash agreed that it shouldn't be done as an Ordinance. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that Habersham County passed a Second Amendment Sanctuary Resolution and this is being driven by what is happening in Virginia.

Commissioner Heiney stated that it is also Federal and State Government usurping County power. He said that there is going to be a standoff to see who is going to come out on top. He said that the whole thing with the Counties is it is really almost a solidarity. Commissioner Heiney noted that as Commissioners they aren't going to be there forever.

Vice-Chair Thrash stated that the democrats are leaning more towards being more liberal and they are saying that we need to look at specifics with gun usage and background checks and the Red Flag laws. She said that it is going to cause more division than is already there. Commissioner Heiney said that the division is inspired by the insiders. He said that there are Republicans that want gun confiscation and you have Democrats who want to preserve our rights and said how far are we going to go with this. Commissioner Heiney said that it is not so much gun control as it is people control. He said that it could be another aspect of your life such as food control and they could say that they are going to cut everyone down to 1500 calories a day. He said some people would say no you are not but Commissioner Heiney said that he could guarantee that it starts with gun control. He said then there will be car control, travel control. Vice-Chair Thrash said that this is like in California where you can't use plastic straws.

Commissioner Horton inquired about the February Capital Connection Conference. The conference begins Thursday morning with breakfast. County Clerk Davidson explained

that there are several options to choose from. They can choose to take a class and not attend the conference or they can go to the conference and not take a class. There is also the option of attending a class and the reception but not the conference. The full registration includes both taking a class and attending the conference and the reception. There will be a legislative session at the Capital if you attend the conference. Chairman Glass and Commissioner Thrash explained that it used to be two separate days. One focused on the legislation and the other day focused on training. Now the two have been combined into a two-day session. Commissioner Horton explained that he had a conflict with Three River Regional Commission meeting. Chairman Glass stated that he wasn't attending the Capital Connection Conference and would handle the meeting with Three River Regional Commission if Commissioner Horton wanted to attend the Capital Connection Conference.

Commissioner Horton reported that there were some pot holes on Robinson Road.

Chairman Glass and Vice-Chair Thrash inquired about facility dude being placed on the new iPads. County Clerk Davidson stated that this could be setup in a browser and that Accounting Clerk Windle could get them setup with an ID and Password. County Clerk Davidson explained that with the new iPads they each have a unique phone number and showed them how to access their phone number. County Clerk Davidson reported that they could setup individual mail accounts but said that since they will be migrating to Office 365, they will need to setup their ID and Password, for their email domain, that they individually use, with the IT contractor. There was discussion about using the iPad as opposed to using a Droid. The iPad is App driven.

Vice-Chair Thrash reported that she had received a call from a citizen on Mclean Road in Milner, Georgia and they are requesting that the speed limit be lowered from 45 to 25 miles per hour. Chairman Glass reported that they would have to change the Code of Law for Lamar County in order for the Sheriff's Office to run radar. Chairman Glass stated that they could put the radar sign on Mclean Road and based on that study they could possibly have the speed limit changed. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that she had a lady call her about speeding on Skinner's By Pass and the Sheriff's Office ran radar. The lady called her and said that she wanted to say thank you. Vice-Chair Thrash asked her if it slowed the traffic down and she said no, I just wanted to thank you because my grandson got a speeding ticket. Vice-Chair Thrash said she told her to be careful what you ask for.

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting at approximately 1:06 p.m. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chair

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk