

Workshop Meeting of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners
February 12th, 2020
11:30 A.M.

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 a.m. on February 12th, 2020. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chair Thrash, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson.

Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution

Chairman Glass addressed the board and said that they needed to decide whether or not to approve a Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution, an Ordinance or nothing at all.

Vice-Chair Thrash stated that she had spoken to the Sheriff about the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Ordinance and she said that the thing that concerns her about the Ordinance is that they are basically telling the Sheriff what laws to enforce and what laws not too. Vice-Chair Thrash said that she has issues with this particular Ordinance. She said that with a Resolution or an Ordinance they are being asked to protect something that is not even here yet but said the State of Virginia never thought that they would be dealing with this either. Vice-Chair Thrash said that a Resolution or an Ordinance sends a message to their constituents that they are pro Second Amendment and they are going to defend the Second Amendment. She said that they can't tell the Sheriff or enact any local laws that would prohibit him from arresting anyone that is charged with a gun law violation. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that she understood that people had questions about due process and domestic violence laws but she personally does not like adopting an Ordinance. She said that she has talked to a lot of people and none of the counties in Georgia have passed an Ordinance. Vice-Chair Thrash said that they have all passed either a Proclamation or a Resolution.

Commissioner Horton said that he was in a meeting last night and the people that were there at the meeting stated that they would support a Proclamation or a Resolution but they didn't think that they should adopt an Ordinance. Commissioner Horton said that there was a possibility that the State or Federal Government could sue the County if they did. Commissioner Horton pointed out that Chairman Glass had stated earlier that all of the board members had taken an oath to defend the Constitution. Commissioner Horton stated that he hoped that they could keep people in office that wouldn't get them in the same situation as the State of Virginia.

Commissioner Traylor stated that he also agreed with the decision not to have an Ordinance. He said that he had read the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Ordinance and he believes that it over steps what the board does but said that the board does do Resolutions often and those Resolutions are an opportunity to tell the community and the constituents where they stand on this issue and what they are supporting. He said he preferred doing a Resolution as opposed to doing a Proclamation. Commissioner Traylor stated that if you look, consistently, at what they have done in the past, a Resolution would appear to be and should be the right avenue for the board to be able to make a statement about this issue.

Chairman Glass stated that he had spoken with County Attorney Mayfield and he told him that nothing is going to trump State or Federal law. Attorney Mayfield said that the board is bound to

enforce State and Federal law based on the oath that they all took when they assumed office. Attorney Mayfield said that the Sheriff took an oath to enforce State and Federal law and if they think a law is illegal then it goes through the court system. Attorney Mayfield said that this is part of the three branches of government and if they adopt an Ordinance then they are usurping the court system as well as the legislative process at the State and Federal level. Chairman Glass stated that he personally thinks that this is all a waste of time. He said that if they want to send a message then a Proclamation can do this. He said a Resolution or an Ordinance will not have any more weight than a Proclamation in terms of sending a message.

Vice-Chair Thrash read an email that she had received from one of her constituents. They said that they wanted to discuss her position on the Second Amendment Ordinance. The constituent said via Vice-Chair Thrash's email, "There has been talk that a Resolution would be what the Board of Commissioners would pass if anything at all. Do you support an Ordinance? A Resolution is just a fancy way of saying a promise which is what you already did when you took an oath when you were sworn into office. A Resolution is just a reiteration of a promise already made. If anyone wants to go against a Resolution nothing would happen to them, besides people being upset, and having to wait a length of time to vote the Commissioners out of office." Vice-Chair Thrash addressed the board and asked if they couldn't just say the same thing in an Ordinance. Chairman Glass explained that an Ordinance is codified in the County Code of Law. He said that the proposed Ordinance had fines defined according to specific acts and the Resolution wouldn't have any of that.

Mr. Randy Vining addressed the board and said that he didn't want to lose site of the big picture. He said that he understood that they were talking about Lamar County but said there is a big push around the entire State of Georgia. He said that there is a Facebook Page for Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolutions that is being pushed all across the counties in Georgia. He said that there is also a big push in the community. Mr. Vining said that he knows most of the Commissioners personally and they all took an oath and they all believe in the Second Amendment and they are never going to go against it or pass anything that would go against it. He said that the bigger picture is if all the counties in the State of Georgia pass this Resolution. Once this happens, then the State legislators look at it and if laws are brought before them, that go against the Second Amendment, then they look at the big picture of the whole State of Georgia. Once they do this, then they can see that there are a lot of counties in the State of Georgia that have passed a Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution. Mr. Vining said that the bottom line is if they pass laws that go against the Constitution either the Feds or the Sheriff will come in and take your weapons. Mr. Vining said that if something comes up, like what happened in Virginia, then they can take a look at it and see that all of the counties in the State of Georgia have passed a Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution. Once they do this, then the legislators will recognize that they have a big battle against them and that is the reason why Lamar County needs to pass a Resolution. Mr. Vining said that all of this is just words but words mean something to him especially if it is to protect his rights. He said that he knows that the Commissioners and those serving in the military, have taken oaths but if something like this happens, he might even have to give up his weapons because he may not want to die. He said if the Sheriff shows up at his house to take his weapons, he might just give them up. Mr. Vining said that none of them know what they will do if this happens. He said that what they do know is that those legislators listen to their constituents and there is a map being made and for every County that adopts a Resolution or an Ordinance, that

County gets a little red sticker. Mr. Vining stated that he had hoped that Lamar County would be second or third to do this because the first two happened last month. Mr. Vining stated that Lamar County will be sixth or seventh to do this.

Commissioner Traylor stated that the one thing that he would agree with Mr. Vining on is that the board spends time with the legislative team as a lobbying power facing their constituents. He said that a Resolution says that they have no hidden agenda and they know what or how this is being said. Commissioner Traylor said a Resolution lets them know what the Commissioners and the Constituents are supporting. Commissioner Traylor stated that this is what the Resolution does and what it is supposed to do.

Vice-Chair Thrash said that she wanted the board to consider saying in the Resolution that they support the Second Amendment but they also support the Fourteenth Amendment which says “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws” Vice-Chair Thrash stated that one of the things that they need to be concerned about is that there is Red Flag legislation that is pending right now in the State of Georgia. She said that when you violate the peoples’ due process, this violates their Constitutional rights. Vice-Chair Thrash suggested that they add this to the Resolution as well.

Mr. Vining stated that this is a good point but said that the Second Amendment Resolution stands against the Red Flag laws.

Chairman Glass stated that if they are going to add the Fourteenth Amendment then why not add the Third, and the Fourth, etc., Amendments to the Resolution. Chairman Glass stated that they could say that they are re-affirming their oath of office. He said that they could all stand up there and take their oath of office again. Vice-Chairman Thrash agreed that this was a good point.

Sheriff White stated that he looked over the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Ordinance that Vice-Chair Thrash had sent him and he said that this Ordinance basically has a lot of stipulations for the Board of Commissioners regarding enforcing any gun laws that may be brought forth in the future. Sheriff White said that the Board of Commissioners in Lamar County have zero law enforcement authority with any laws. He said that they do have code enforcement authority in the local office. He said that the Henry County Commissioners are in charge of the Henry County Police Department. He said that if Lamar County was like them, they would have some say so as to what laws get enforced but they would not have any law enforcement authority. Sheriff White stated that he didn’t understand why they were even discussing adopting an Ordinance but he also agreed with Mr. Vining that a Resolution sends a strong message. He said that Banks County recently passed a Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution. Sheriff White said that there is good number in the House of Representatives and a good number of Senators that are going to support this and he said that this is good for down the road when new people are elected that may be more liberal than the majority of the people are in Lamar County. Sheriff White stated that an Ordinance is a moot point and should be off the table.

Vice-Chair Thrash pointed out that there is legislation being introduced by Chatham County that wants to turn over the ability to either consider or enact a County Police Department to the voters. Sheriff White said that Brunswick, in Glynn County, is trying to abolish their Police Department. He said that there is more legislation that is trying to abandon semi-automatic handguns. Sheriff White stated that for the convicted felons, that are getting out of prison for armed robberies and aggravated assault for handguns, the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Ordinance protects their rights to own a fire arm. Sheriff White stated that he didn't buy into this and said that these people are violent criminals and they should not own a fire arm when they get out of prison. He said that he fully supports the Second Amendment but he doesn't go that far with it.

The board reviewed a Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution and made changes that they felt were most suitable for Lamar County, Georgia. Mr. Vining stated that he is looking at the big picture and said that it sends a message to the legislators that Lamar County supports the Second Amendment. The board agreed to remove the paragraph in the Resolution that states " Be it further resolved that no agent, employee or official of Lamar County, or any corporation providing services to Lamar County, shall provide material support or participate in any way with the implementation of federal acts, orders, rules, laws or regulations in violation of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. The board also agreed to remove the paragraph in the Resolution that states " Be it further resolved, that all federal acts, laws, orders, rules, regulations that violate the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States or Article I, Section I, Paragraph VIII of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, violate the true meaning and intent of those constitutions and are hereby declared to be invalid and are specifically rejected in Lamar County, Georgia and shall be considered null and void and of no effect in Lamar County, Georgia." Chairman Glass stated that he would submit the changes to Attorney Mayfield.

Commissioner Horton made a motion to recess the Workshop meeting at 12:14 p.m. for lunch and Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Glass called the meeting back to order and the board resumed the Workshop meeting at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Facebook Page for Lamar County

The board discussed the idea of having a Facebook Page for Lamar County. Chairman Glass stated that he had asked Attorney Mayfield the following questions. Can they Block posts from their Facebook Page? Can it just be for the information only? Is there a time-line they have to answer questions, if questions are posted on the page? Chairman Glass referred back to Attorney Mayfield's email which states, "My opinion is based on what I researched, if you permit comments, you must permit all comments, the good, the bad and the ugly. Otherwise, you are infringing on freedom of speech. Some say even vile hate speech cannot be deleted but rather reported to Facebook for deletion. However, you do not have to permit comments at all (I guess that is your question #2 about information only). If you do not permit comments, then I suppose question #3 does not apply. If it did, I do not think you have any duty to respond to any question unless the question appears to be an open records request. Even then, you could post somewhere that all open records requests must be in writing and delivered to yours truly the honorable open

records custodian.” Chairman Glass stated that one of his concerns was who would monitor the Facebook Page. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that she didn’t want it to turn into a Lamar County destruction page. Commissioner Heiney pointed out that there is a NewsTicker on the Lamar County Website which updates everyone and serves the same function as a Facebook Page without the interaction from other people. Commissioner Traylor stated that his concern with this was that most people don’t use websites anymore. He said that he very seldom uses a website for companies because for most companies there is a cost associated with a website whereas there is not a cost associated with a Facebook Page. Commissioner Traylor said that small companies are not doing websites anymore and they are only doing a Facebook Page. Commissioner Traylor stated that if you have a generation of people who are not using websites and they go to Facebook they aren’t going to go to the Lamar County Website for information and said that he understands the argument for having a Facebook Page. He said that having a Facebook Page will bring more value to the County. He said that you will get more viewership than with a website even with a NewsTicker. Commissioner Traylor said that he is not in favor of allowing comments on a Facebook Page. He said that he has looked at Spalding and Butts County and there was only ten comments and he thought that there would have been more people commenting. He said that he did understand that they have more staff who can monitor the Facebook Page. County Clerk Davidson pointed out that whoever is maintaining the site is probably deleting the comments. Commissioner Horton asked what was wrong with what they already have in place. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that a lot of people don’t visit websites. County Administrator Townsend stated that if people are researching something they will go to a website. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that they need to do a better job of advertising the Lamar County Website. Chairman Glass stated that he had spoken before about having some type of push notification. He said that with a website you have to go seek it out whereas a Facebook Page will give you an alert and this is a push type of notification. He said that there were comments about someone else running the Facebook Page based on what we already have on the Lamar County Website. Chairman Glass stated that he didn’t have a problem with this and someone else can do this on their own. He said that it is all public information that can be shared. County Clerk Davidson stated that people do pull things off of the Lamar County Website and put it on their own personal Facebook Page. Commissioner Traylor stated that he hoped that they didn’t and said he believes that it should be an employee of the County that is running the Facebook Page. He said that if anyone puts anything out there that is representing the Lamar County Board of Commissioners, then they have no control of that. Chairman Glass said he wasn’t speaking of them running a Facebook Page for the Lamar County Board of Commissioners but said that they could copy information from the Lamar County Website and put it on an established Facebook Page such as the Lamar County Discussion Page. Commissioner Traylor stated that they are prolonging having a Facebook Page and said that all of the other counties have a Facebook Page. Chairman Glass noted that Commissioner Traylor was going to run his own personal Lamar County Facebook Page and realized that there was too much time involved. Commissioner Traylor stated that it wasn’t that it was taking too much time, it was because it was connected directly to his private Facebook Page. He said that he didn’t want to be in a position where it marketed his views personally. He said that moving the information from the Lamar County Website over to a Facebook Page wouldn’t be that heavily involved. He said that if you are having to have someone read comments and delete comments there is no way they could have enough staff to support this. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that her idea was that it be an informational page such as reporting that the County Commissioner’s Workshop agenda is on such and such date at such and such time or Public Works has closed such and such road and not that

a Commissioner goes to a particular conference. Commissioner Horton said that this is what it would end up being. He said that they have two meetings per month and said that if you want to know something then why can't you visit the Lamar County Website or question someone or come to the meeting. He said that the Workshop was an open meeting. He said that the Regular Business meeting is open to the public. Commissioner Horton said that he agreed with technology but said that sometimes people get a little lazy and if things are already in place and are working then why don't they use them.

Commissioner Traylor said that he agreed but said that websites are phasing out. He said that kids are not graduating College to be Web Designers. Commissioner Traylor stated that this was a big job and now they are doing gaming and programming. He said that if you don't have items that you are selling, drop downs or multi facet websites, they aren't interested because people are not filtering for information only. Commissioner Traylor stated that he would never go to a website to see that a road is closed. Commissioner Traylor stated that personally he goes on his Facebook Page at least once a day.

Commissioner Heiney stated that it is two totally different things. He said that if he sees that a company has a website and also a Facebook Page and he wants information he doesn't go to their Facebook Page, he said that he goes to their website. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that she doesn't either. Commissioner Heiney stated that he would like to look at the data that Commissioner Traylor is using to justify this because he said that a professional organization has a website that provides clear and easy to find information. He said that if he is looking for a pest control company, he is not going to go to their Facebook Page unless he wants ideas about how reputable they are and to see what kind of comments are on there but for straight up information he is going to access their website. Commissioner Traylor stated that once he visits the website, they will connect you to their Social Media Page. He said that this is where they are going to put their coupons and discounts. This is where there are going to put their advertisements to keep you coming back and they aren't going to expect you to go back to their website. He said that once you go to their website, they will connect you to their Social Media Page; Follow us on Twitter or Follow us on Facebook. He said this is where the updates are coming from. Commissioner Heiney asked how many people will do this. Commissioner Traylor stated that a lot of people do this. Commissioner Heiney stated that they will have to have additional resources to run a Facebook Page and it will become quite involved and very time consuming. Commissioner Heiney said that for a County that is three or four times bigger that is okay and one day he believes that Lamar County should have a Facebook Page and then Lamar County will have to have a dedicated Social Media person whereby that is all they do.

Commissioner Traylor stated that he would encourage the board to go out and look at the other counties' Facebook Page. He said that he can foresee them having a meeting with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) where they suggest that every County must have a Facebook Page. Commissioner Traylor says that he sees this coming down the road. He said that they don't have to do it now if they don't have the time or the resources but in general this is where people get up to date information. Commissioner Traylor said that most companies don't update their websites. He said that people look at a website being static information. Commissioner Heiney and Vice-Chair Thrash said that they find that people don't update their Facebook page

every day either and sometimes it is for months. Commissioner Heiney clarified that he was meaning businesses and not personal Facebook Pages.

Chairman Glass stated that he had visited some other County Facebook Pages and said that he doesn't have any problem with them. He said that there is good information on these pages. Chairman Glass stated that the issue with Lamar County is who is going to run it, where does that effort come from and who covers this effort. Chairman Glass stated that it is more than just putting information on the website. He said other people feel that you are already putting it on the website so what is the big deal.

Vice-Chair Thrash inquired about tracking the number of people that actually use the website. County Clerk Davidson stated that on the other version of the Lamar County Website there was a tracking notification but there is not one set up on the current website. She stated that there was a large number of users but she found out that it wasn't a true analysis because most of those numbers came from her being logged in to the site all day long. County Clerk Davidson stated that she thought that about 25 people per day were looking at the website. County Clerk Davidson stated that this was with the older version of the website but with the new redesigned version, including the NewsTicker, they don't actually know how many people are using the website.

Commissioner Heiney stated that if they had a Facebook Page people will like the page or what is posted on the page but just because they like the page doesn't mean they are going to continue to visit it. He said a lot of it is going to be content and people aren't going to visit the page if they think it is boring. Commissioner Heiney said that usually companies that have a Social Media person pay someone to do Twitter, or Facebook or anything else that is out there. Chairman Glass stated that it would take significant effort to have a Facebook Page and he didn't know who they would put in charge of this. Vice-Chairman Thrash stated that the only way she would support a Facebook Page would be if there are no comments and if it was informational only. Commissioner Heiney said he thought that if they had a Facebook Page that comments had to be allowed. Chairman Glass stated that if you allow comments you have to allow every comment.

Commissioner Heiney inquired about the number of hours it takes to maintain a County Facebook Page in other counties. County Clerk Davidson stated that a lot of County Clerks do maintain a Facebook Page but some of them are Fan Pages and most of them are gripe sessions and they spend a lot of time deleting comments. Commissioner Heiney inquired about the time they spend doing this. County Clerk Davidson stated that she did not know this information. Chairman Glass inquired about how much time is spent on the Lamar County Website. County Clerk Davidson stated that it depends on the nature of what is being done. She reported that some weeks it may take two to three of hours updating and inputting information on the website and other weeks not as much time. Chairman Glass stated that his concern with having a Facebook Page is the time and effort it takes to have a Facebook Page. He stated that having no comments is what they should do if they implement a Facebook Page but said that he doesn't see where it is adding enough value to the citizens to justify the cost therefore, he is recommending that they not have a Facebook Page. Vice Chair Thrash, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Heiney, and Commissioner Traylor all agreed. Chairman Glass requested that they remove the Facebook Page item from the Regular Business Meeting draft agenda.

Regular Business Meeting Discussion

The board reviewed the following:

The board reviewed four sets of minutes:

- i. Public Hearing-December 10th, 2019
- ii. Workshop-January 17th, 2020
- iii. Public Hearing-January 21st, 2020
- iv. Regular Business Meeting-January 21st, 2020

The board reviewed a Proclamation for Black History Month. Vice-Chair Thrash inquired about having someone to do the invocation that would be present to receive the Black History Proclamation. Commissioner Horton stated that he would have someone give the invocation. Vice-Chair Thrash suggested that the oldest black citizen read the Proclamation for Black History Month. Chairman Glass pointed out that the Proclamation says, "We, the Lamar County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim February 2020, as "Black History Month." Commissioner Horton agreed with this and said that he would read and present the Black History Month Proclamation. Vice-Chair Thrash suggested that they have the new preacher from the Milner Baptist Church give the invocation at the March Regular Business Meeting.

The board added the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution to the agenda.

The board agreed to remove the Facebook Page discussion from the agenda.

The board reviewed the playground equipment bid for the Recreation Department.

Recreation Director Lowe addressed the board and stated that she had been working with County Clerk Davidson on a playground equipment grant from Kaboom. She reported that they had made it through Phase I of the grant and said that they are working on Phase II of the grant which is about \$15,000.00. Recreation Director Lowe said that she had received several playground equipment bids, but that one of the stipulations in the grant is for them to use one of their approved vendors. The bid from Miracle Recreation Equipment Co. is for a total cost of \$26,395.32. Recreation Director Lowe stated that her suggestion was to approve Miracle Recreation Equipment, Co so that if they receive the grant, they don't have to go through another process of approving Miracle Recreation Equipment, Co. as the preferred vendor. The bids included Commercial Playground Equipment for a total cost of \$13,401.72, Gametime for a total cost of \$35,123.00, Young Creek Recreational, LLC for a total cost of \$22,819.66, Miracle Recreation Equipment Co. for a total cost of \$21,125.61 for the first design and the second design from Miracle Recreation Equipment, Co. for a total cost of \$26,395.32. Recreation Director Lowe reported that Commercial Playground solutions is a local vendor from Jackson, Georgia but they said that they have an upfront deposit of \$13,401.72. County Clerk Davidson reported that she had emailed a representative from Kaboom and they stated that the grant would be awarded sometime between the end of March and April and that they need to have the Kaboom Grant completed before the end of February. Recreation Director Lowe stated she is waiting on an updated quote and design from Miracle Recreation Equipment Co. so that it can be submitted for the grant and that there are a few other agreements that will also need to be submitted for completion. Recreation Director Lowe said that the grant from Kaboom is a community build grant and it is based around being community involved. She stated that she has people that are willing to be involved and they

are excited about doing this. Recreation Director Lowe said that those affiliated with the grant will send someone to oversee the grant in regards to the layout and the installment of the playground equipment but the Recreation Department will actually do the work. Chairman Glass inquired about the chances of receiving the grant. County Clerk Davidson stated that it sounded promising as long as the criteria is met. She said that the Kaboom Grant is partnered with Keurig and Dr. Pepper. A ground breaking celebration is required if the grant is received. County Clerk Davidson reported that the \$15,000 is a match type grant where the County is responsible for \$8,000.00 to \$9,000.00 dollars. Recreation Director Lowe reported that the Recreation Department had already raised about \$7,500.00.

Vice-Chair Thrash and Commissioner Horton gave an update on an issue that happened at the Ag Arena. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that people from other counties had been reported using the Ag Arena and they have been leaving the lights on. She said they that have not been going through the Recreation Department to do this. Vice-Chair Thrash reported that she and Commissioner Horton had a meeting with Recreation Director Lowe and the Saddle Club to discuss this issue. She said that originally, former Recreation Director Lanier had an agreement with the Saddle Club which allowed them to be in charge of the Ag Arena. Vice-Chair Thrash said that the issue that they are having now is that the County needs to know who is over there. Recreation Director Lowe said that they had spoken with the Saddle Club a couple of times. She said that they went over to look at the Ag Arena and reported that there were panels that had fallen over that needed to be stabilized. Recreation Director Lowe said that the day they met they discovered that someone had taken the panels off and they had broken into the Ag Arena. She said because of this they decided to go ahead and lock the Ag Arena. Recreation Director Lowe reported that since the day the Ag Arena was locked, it has been broken into twice. Chairman Glass said he recalled that when they started using the Ag Arena former Recreation Director Lanier was doing a lot of the work at the Ag Arena and because of this he had turned it over to the Saddle Club to handle and there came a point where the Recreation Department turned all of it over to the Saddle Club to maintain. Chairman Glass stated that this was a privilege that they were giving to the Saddle Club because this was an asset of the County and if they are not protecting the asset then they need to put a stop to it. Recreation Director Lowe said that they were working on different ways to secure the arena including purchasing cameras. Recreation Director Lowe stated that the lights, the bathrooms and the actual gate to the Ag Arena is now locked. Recreation Director Lowe said that she is working with the Saddle Club on an agreement to determine their responsibilities including out of County usage and what fees need to be charged. Chairman Glass stated that they had previously discussed a set fee for each use of the Ag Arena.

The board reviewed the purchase of vehicles and equipment. This includes the following:

Public Works	\$29,460.00	2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500
Sheriff	\$57,332.00	(2) Dodge Durango SSV
Sheriff	\$12,358.00	Light & Equipment (2) 2020 Durango SSV
Sheriff	\$9,640.00	Camera for (2) 2020 Durango SSV
Fire	\$272,106.28	(2) Kenworth T370 Tandem Tanker 4000 gallons
Fire	\$4,399.00	folding Tank w/ aluminum Frame
Senior Center	\$18,051.00	2019 Nissan Rogue
Recreation	\$18,766.40	(2) 72" Model 335 Grasshoppers
		\$ 422,112.68

County Administrator Townsend stated that the Sheriff's Office originally wanted to purchase Dodge Chargers but since they are no longer able to get Dodge Chargers, they cancelled the order and found two Dodge Durango's which was about \$3,700.00 more per vehicle. The lights and equipment cost stayed the same. County Administrator Townsend stated that the amount for the vehicles was approved in the budget but since it is over his \$7,500.00 threshold the Board of Commissioners would need to approve the purchase. Chairman Glass inquired about the State Contract for the vehicles. County Administrator Townsend replied that almost all of them are on State Contract except for the Senior Center's vehicle. He said that for the Senior Center vehicle he received bids from Ford, Chevrolet and Nissan. The bid from Nissan was for a Rogue with only 6 miles on it. He said the ones from Ford and Chevrolet were going to be around \$24,000.00 to \$25,000.00 and only \$21,000.00 was budgeted. He said that he found the Rogue from Five Star Nissan online for \$17,000.00 plus fees and no taxes. Chairman Glass requested that County Administrator Townsend get some more information from Ford and Chevrolet so that they have some more comparison. County Administrator Townsend said that the mowers for the Recreation Department was added because there have been issues with the mowers and that currently the Public Works Department is working on them. Recreation Director Lowe said that they had just received the John Deere mower back this past week and one or two mowers are still at the Public Works Department. County Administrator Townsend stated that he had received quotes from John Deere and Grasshopper and they were twenty five percent lower than what the State contract had to offer. County Administrator Townsend reported that they had a three-year warranty on parts and said that they actually will send someone to the site location for training on maintenance.

The board reviewed three quotes from several banks for the bid for the vehicles and equipment purchase. County Administrator Townsend reported that BB&T is the lowest bid with an interest rate of 2.43 percent for \$442,791.51 with a first payment on 3/4/2021. United Bank's bid had an interest rate of 3.385 percent for a total cost of \$450,216.43 with a first payment on 12/31/2020. Lease One Magnolia has an interest rate of 3.15 percent with a total cost of \$449,420.07 with a first payment on 3/4/2021. Chairman Glass stated that BB&T is the lowest even with the five percent allocated for United Bank and said that this is kind of unfair because the banking regulations encourage the big banks to do business outside of urban areas and they take a loss on this so that they can get a certain percentage of the business outside of those urban areas. He said that it is almost impossible for small community banks to compete. County Clerk Davidson stated that President Robbie Tenney of United Bank wanted her to pass onto the Commissioners that he is a taxpayer as well as a banker. Chairman Glass stated that United Bank recognizes this and they don't hold it against the County.

The board reviewed three bids for the Right of Way Mowing. County Administrator Townsend said that the staff recommends BCLS with the low bids of \$260.00 per mile (3) mowing and (3) litter pickups for a total cost of \$212,940.00. NGL & Erosion submitted a bid for \$239,967.00 and Yellowstone Landscape submitted a bid for \$286,650.00. Public Works Director Rigdon stated that a company that wanted to bid didn't meet the 4:00 p.m. deadline and their bid was \$175.00 per mile plus \$80.00 per mile for litter. County Administrator Townsend stated that \$208,000.00 was budgeted for mowing and litter pickup.

The board reviewed the surplus of Board of Elections equipment. Chairman Glass said that the total cost for the older equipment is \$6,650.00 and was originally purchased by the County. The equipment was purchased from San Diego, California. Chairman Glass said the State was originally scheduled to come and pick up the equipment, that they had bought, and it was to be stored securely. Chairman Glass said that because of an ongoing court case, none of it can be disposed of at this time and it has to be maintained and secured. Chairman Glass stated that he didn't realize that the County purchased equipment was going with the State when they came to pick up the other equipment that was purchased by the State. He said to legally give them to the State they have to go through the process of surplusing the equipment. Chairman Glass stated that he finally spoke to someone at the State office and the State didn't mind that we kept it. Chairman Glass stated that they did pick up everything else. He said that the State was trying to do the County a favor to clear up storage room for the new stuff. Chairman Glass said that the smart thing to have done was to let the State take it and then surplus the equipment since they already had the serial numbers to the equipment. Chairman Glass said that the State has guaranteed the security of the equipment until a court case is resolved. Currently, the equipment is stored at the old Health Department until the State can come and pick the equipment up. Chairman Glass stated that the equipment has no value but said that they don't want the surplused equipment to go out to the general public and then have someone figure out how to hack into the election machines. Chairman Glass stated that the State is planning to destroy the equipment once the court case is settled.

Public Works Director Rigdon stated that he has about 7 copiers stored at his shop that needs to be surplused. County Administrator Townsend stated that they wouldn't be taken to the landfill because he has someone who may be willing to pay about \$25.00 for each one. Chairman Glass requested that the surplus of Public Works copiers be added to the agenda.

Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported that he had been looking at the current per diem allowance for the County which is \$40.00 a day. He said that the current policy was adopted in 2010 and the time before that it was approved in 2005. County Administrator Townsend said that it should have been updated in 2015 and then again in 2020. He said that County Clerk Davidson and himself reached out to other counties regarding this and found out that most counties are using the per diem rates provided by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). County Administrator Townsend stated that the Federal Government gathers various rates from various locations and compiles it into one place so that you can look it up on the GSA site. He said that this is for hotels and meals. County Administrator Townsend said that the meals have always been the biggest concern because the resort prices are much higher. He said that the GSA site shows the standard for breakfast, lunch and dinner according to the location that you are staying. He said that even on the GSA site the dinners are kind of low. He said one example of \$23.00 is still low for dinner especially in a resort area. County Administrator requested that he be allowed to make a change to the per diem policy based on the rates at the GSA site. County Administrator Townsend explained that the mileage reimbursement rate is based on what is reported at the Internal Revenue Service. He said that this year it went from \$.58 cents per mile in 2019 to \$.57.5 cents per mile in 2020. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that in Washington, D.C. it could cost as much as \$70.00 to \$100.00 per meal. She said that they have food during the day but not for dinner. Vice-Chair Thrash reported that two of the conferences that she attends are reimbursed by the Association of County Commissioner of Georgia (ACCG). County Administrator Townsend stated that he would submit

an Ordinance to Attorney Mayfield based on the GSA per diem rating. County Administrator Townsend stated that an email had been sent out to all of the Constitutional Officers and Department Heads stating that the audit process will begin on March 16th, 2020. County Administrator Townsend reported that Superior Court Clerk Tyson had already turned in his material from 2019 for the audit. County Administrator Townsend said that they will hit the County hard in the first week. He said that a schedule had been sent out to the audit committee including the Departments and Authorities.

Commissioner Heiney inquired about the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) loan. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that all of the equipment for the char has been received. She reported that it hasn't been setup at this time and they may be waiting on one more piece of equipment. Commissioner Traylor stated that they were going to start assembling the equipment over the next two weeks. Commissioner Traylor stated that they aren't selling gas only char. Commissioner Traylor said that they have a very strong contract that is in the works for the char. County Clerk Davidson reported that she had received an open records request from Greg Williams, with the Barnesville Dispatch, regarding a \$27.5 million low interest loan and the project it financed, that was approved for the Lamar County Solid Waste Authority and/or Lamar County Board of Commissioners in 2014. County Clerk Davidson reported that this information was sent to Attorney Mayfield and she provided the information that she had to him which was a Resolution signed by the board in October of 2014 and an Environmental Facilities Agreement between the Lamar County Regional Solid Waste Management Authority and the Lamar County Board of Commissioners. County Clerk Davidson stated that any information regarding the actual loan was directed to the Solid Waste Authority.

Legislative Report

Vice-Chair Thrash gave a legislative report to the Board.

HB334 Vice Chair Thrash reported that David Knight has introduced a bill that states that Constitutional Officers will get an automatic five percent pay increase at the end of every four years in addition to their supplements and their COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) raise.

HB52 is based on short term rentals in a County and it will prohibit the County from making any regulations.

HB0005 would require that if you are looking at hiring someone, you can't look at their past pay history to set their pay.

HB030 is being passed by the contractors, builders and the Real Estate agencies. This would prohibit counties from determining the design or paint on a house. This has to do with location of architectural style including windows, doors, garages and vinyl siding. Vice-Chair Thrash reported that this is a huge issue at ACCG.

HB283 states that you can register to vote the day of an election. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that Lamar County does not have the staffing for this. She said that a lot of legislation is targeted toward

rural areas. Chairman Glass stated that Georgia has a statewide database and explained that when they register people and put them into that database, locally, the database is updated overnight. If someone went to two different counties and tried to register when it hit the database during the nightly update it would put them in one County today and move them to another County the next day so it wouldn't be duplicated. The State maintains this database so that there aren't any duplicates. Chairman Glass said that a lot of States do this. He said that when you walk in to register to vote, they hand you a ballot and you vote. Chairman Glass said that elections employees, the Saturday before the Tuesday, election day, they have to input the information into the local iPads and anyone that early voted or absentee voted has already voted. If they show up at the precinct on election day they can not vote because they have already voted. He said to make sure they have that information, locally, they have to download it on Saturday from the State after the last day of early voting.

HB034 is being supported by ACCG and authorizes the licenses business owners that are paying property taxes to be a Development Authority Director without living in the County or the City of the Authority. Vice-Chair Thrash said that she didn't understand this one completely because who knows your area better than people who live here. Chairman Glass asked why this was an issue. Vice-Chair Thrash said that they are trying to mandate where anybody can come in and be a Director. Vice-Chair Thrash said that it is home rule again.

HB806 would create and expand municipalities to start their own Municipal Option Sales Tax (MOST). Vice-Chair Thrash stated that it would be one percent and it will be used for water and sewer purposes. The question being asked is if they will be willing to give up their one percent Special Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) if they create this.

HB765 provides another five percent COLA raise for the Magistrate Judges including the Magistrate Judges Clerks. It will be updated every four years. Vice-Chair Thrash said that the problem with this bill is that the Magistrate Judges are not Constitutional Officers. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that this will be a burden on the tax payers.

HB897 is regarding timber harvesting. She said that they are getting some of the legislators' attention. It will increase the fine from \$500.00 to \$1,500.00 for any logger that fails to notify the County that they are going to be logging. It increases the Bond amounts from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00. Vice-Chair stated that the good thing is that it narrows the scope for when the \$5,000.00 bond can be used but it does not prevent a County from pursuing other remedies to recoup damages to the roads and right of ways. Vice-Chair Thrash reported that the logging industry is fighting this bill.

HB690 is another home rule bill. Vice-Chair Thrash said that this is where local authorities cannot charge a permitting fee for anyone building something that is an agricultural structure. This includes a hay barn, anything for livestock, or local camps for migrant workers. Vice-Chair Thrash said that you cannot charge a fee of any kind. Vice-Chair Thrash stated that there are a lot of House Bills that have gotten a lot of the County Commissioners upset because it is invading home rule authority. Vice-Chair Thrash said that as she has said before, she feels like that they want to get rid of County Government and legislate from the Gold Dome.

Executive Session Adjournment

Chairman Glass requested that they go into executive session around 1:30 p.m. to discuss personnel and the budget. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to recess the Workshop meeting to go into executive session for personnel. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reconvene Workshop Meeting

The board came out of executive session around 1:40 p.m. and resumed the Workshop meeting.

Round Table

Chairman Glass reported that the Regional Workforce Pipeline Summit – Barnesville, Georgia will be held on Wednesday, March 25th, 2020 from 11:00 to 1:30 p.m. at Gordon State College. Chairman Glass stated that lunch would be provided but you would need to register to attend. He said that the purpose of this is to get some ideas on how to keep the workforce local.

Chairman Glass reported that Southern Crescent will host a Career Fair on March 25th, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Griffin Campus Event Center. He reported that last year they had 70 companies participate in the Career Fair and so far, for this Career Fair, they have 62 companies signed up to participate. Chairman Glass said that if anyone knows of someone looking for a job there is no excuse not to participate in this Career Fair. Chairman Glass stated that unemployment is at record low levels but if employees are unhappy in their current job, they could probably find a job pretty easy.

Vice-Chair Thrash reported that there is also legislation that will change the legal age from 17 to 18 years old for someone that is being charged as a juvenile. Vice-Chair Thrash said that with the juvenile justice reform, everyone has to have an attorney so this will increase the circuit budget tremendously. She said that she had spoken to all three of the judges about this and they are going to write letters to the legislators regarding the impact it will have on the circuit.

Chairman Glass reported that three Board of Commissioner Chairmen, that are in the circuit, have requested that Judge Wilson and the rest of the Judges in the Circuit provide their budget request by April 1st, 2020 so that it can be approved by June 1st, 2020. He reported that Butts County is currently slated to host the event.

Adjournment

Commissioner Horton made a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting at approximately 1:56 p.m. Vice-Chair Thrash 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