

Workshop Meeting of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners

April 16th, 2021

12:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on April 16th, 2021. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson. The meeting was available via Zoom.

VoIP-Wireless Technology

The board heard a presentation from Jonas Comacho and Jantzen Shivers with WiRed Technology regarding Voice Over IP (VoIP). Mr. Comacho said that Ring Central is one of the largest providers of VoIP in the Country and WiRed Technology partners with them. He said that there is typically a 99.99 percent uptime and if the lines dip down to 99.5 percent, then they take money off the bill. Mr. Shivers explained that the system is in the cloud and all phones can be ported to a cellphone or picked up and taken anywhere that the employee needs to go as long as there is internet activity. Mr. Comacho addressed downtime with the implementation process and explained the migration process. He said they would keep the old phone system in place while they installed the new system therefore you would have two phones side by side. Mr. Comacho said that installation would take 7 to 10 days to port the old phones numbers from the landlines to the VoIP.

Commissioner Thrash inquired about downtime and Mr. Comacho responded that there was no downtime putting the new phone system in place. He said that once the new system is in place the new phones will begin ringing. Once this takes place then they will remove all of the old phones.

Mr. Comacho said that RingCentral has all of the phone systems in the cloud therefore all of the phones are extremely portable. He said if an employee is switching from one office to another one, they can take the phone anywhere and plug it up. He said that the phone can be transferred to your cellphone if you are not at your desk. He said there is an app that be downloaded onto your cellphone so that this can be done. Mr. Shivers said that app can also be downloaded onto the employee's iPad or computer. Mr. Comacho said that all text messages or faxes come from the app and they can see it on the phone, computer or iPad. He said that this gives everyone an extreme amount of portability.

Commissioner Thrash inquired about an increase in data usage. Mr. Comacho said that they went through all of the existing networks and internet service providers and stress tested the system to see how many simultaneous phone calls that you can have. He said that there was only one location, the Magistrate Court, with an area for concern and they have the ability to switch over to the Sheriff's Office fiber that they already have in place. He said most the buildings were anywhere from 15 to 20 simultaneous phones calls before they see any deterioration in the quality of service.

Mr. Comacho presented several stationary phones for the board to review and said that they can also do portable phones as well. He said that the process works the same on the portable phones. Mr. Comacho said that there are options with both providers. He said that you can purchase the phones up front or you can lease the phones. He said it is a lot easier to lease the phones and they are covered under the warranty. He said that if something happens to the phone, they can have one overnighted. Mr. Comacho said that they also keep phones in stock for temporary purposes until they receive the overnighted phones.

Mr. Comacho said phones can be updated through an online portal and everyone's phones could be updated at one time. Mr. Shivers said that if you have a team meeting in the Board of Commissioners office and you need to see if they are on the call or answer one of their calls, you could see them on the dial pad.

Commissioner Thrash inquired about the quote of \$1,786.45 being the total monthly price and asked if the hardware cost was included. Mr. Shivers and Mr. Comacho said that it was included in the lease. Mr. Comacho said that the phones could be turned back in but said that as the phones begin to fail, RingCentral sends out new models. Commissioner Heiney inquired about the e911 Service Fee. Mr. Comacho said that they have thoroughly investigated this issue and they do have to charge that fee.

Mr. Comacho presented the SpectrumVoIP quote of \$1,585.00 to the board for comparison. He first spoke about RingCentral, which WiRed Technology, the IT Service provider for Lamar County, has partnered with and they support. He said that if something happens in Lamar County and the phone system goes down, they will be here to take care of it and there is no additional cost. Mr. Comacho said that they work in between companies to get the quotes created. He said that originally, they thought that Lamar County was competing with Spectrum, not SpectrumVoIP, and they worked hard with RingCentral to produce this quote of \$1786.45. Mr. Comacho said that quote from Spectrum VoIP does not show any e911 fees in their quote but on the second page of the quote from SpectrumVoIP, he showed the board where it does state that Telecom Tax and e911 Recovery Fee may be billed cumulatively once per year. Mr. Comacho explained that the quote from RingCentral is good for 60 months. Mr. Comacho said that on the second page of the quote it also states that SpectrumVoIP is unaffiliated with Charter/Time/Warner/Spectrum Business. He said that it is not a good business practice when they are using the name Spectrum as a hook to build that confidence and that trust to get someone to go with that solution.

Mr. Comacho said that when you go with RingCentral's solution, every single line is given a Zoom license. He said that a Zoom license cost \$150.00 a year for each user. Mr. Comacho said that Lamar County will be getting 105 Zoom accounts; every phone/person/user will have their own Zoom account and login. Mr. Comacho said that this is an extra free item that you are getting and because they are a huge company and they have been around for a long time they are able to work out those types of deals.

Commissioner Heiney asked if Zoom worked off the phones or just the computers and iPads. Mr. Shivers said that they could integrate a camera on the phone but the experience is better on a laptop, desktop or iPad.

Chairman Glass inquired about the Spectrum/VoIP statement on their quote. "SpectrumVoIP will pay customer up to \$0 for ETF." Mr. Comacho said that ETF stands for Early Termination Fees and said that this means if you are leaving your current carrier and they have a contract with you, they can charge a fee.

Mr. Comacho said that this quote from RingCentral includes five months of free service which is \$10,000.00 worth of credits towards your service plus free Zoom for 105 uses. Mr. Comacho said that SpectrumVoIP is offering three months of no payments instead of five months and their e911 fees at the end of the year will be higher. Mr. Comacho and Mr. Shivers said that he had to go to the Senior Vice President and the Legal Team of RingCentral to get this quote.

Commissioner Heiney inquired about the Yealink phone from the Spectrum VoIP quote. Mr. Shivers said that Yealink is a good phone but is not as good as Polycom and said that he likes to go for the best.

Mr. Shivers said that they will be involved with the installation. He said that expected time frame after approval is approximately a 30-day switch over time. County Administrator Townsend said that it would take 30 to 60 days to port the lines from Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) and until all of the new phones are ported, they will not want to cancel the service from GTA. Commissioner Heiney inquired about an early termination fee. Mr. Comacho said that they give you 30 days to back out of the contract without penalties. Mr. Comacho said that they would hit the high-end users first because those users will be the ones constantly tested for good feedback. He said that way they can decide if they want to move past the 30-day trial period. Commissioner Thrash asked if 30 days was long enough to know if this phone

system is going to serve the County and if they are going to have problems. Mr. Shivers said he could guarantee them that they would not have any problems and 30 days was enough time to know. Commissioner Thrash inquired about the warranty on the hardware. Mr. Shivers said that the phones are on loan so that is built into the lease. He said if something happens to a phone, they will just replace it. Mr. Shivers said that they keep the phones in stock so that no one is down.

NFP-Health Broker

Johnathan Shaw joined the Workshop meeting via Zoom. He said that the County has had a successful year and it goes back to looking at it over the last four to five years. He said that when you came on with ShawHankins which is now NFP you were talking about a long-term strategy to mitigate control of the cost of the County's health insurance. He said that in 2017 they were at about \$920,000 in premiums, in 2018 they were at about \$1,000,000.00 in premiums and in 2019 the premiums were at \$1,100,000.00. He said that in 2020 this was the first year that they really reaped the rewards of the Wellness Program. He said that there was a lot of debate last year with Ben Pittarelli from the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) where they were potentially looking at leaving the pool and it had to be an educated decision. Mr. Shaw said that last year they were looking at a 31 percent increase from Anthem. He said that this would have taken them from \$1,100,000.00 up to \$1,400,000.00 and they also had an option with Cigna which would have taken them from \$1,100,000.00 down to \$943,000.00. Mr. Shaw said that when you are looking at a \$485,000.00 difference that is a nice safe buffer that allowed them to feel comfortable in leaving the ACCG pool and going with Cigna. He said that by doing this they were able to re-set the premium back to where they were in in 2017. He said that in 2017 they were at \$930,000.00 in premiums and the year 2020 they were at \$943,000.00 in premiums. Mr. Shaw said that the fact that they could get them below \$1,000,000.00 is a huge success.

Mr. Shaw said that in looking at the renewal last year and then looking at the market, Cigna was the lowest option. He said that they had an aggressive proposal and said that this was well under what the market was offering but they knew that they should expect some type of an increase the next year. He said that they knew the risk of leaving the pool and taking the savings that first year and then getting slammed in a future renewal. Mr. Shaw said that this was the risk that they took and they knew they had a \$485,000.00 buffer. He said that it would have had to have come back with a 45 percent increase this year just to get them back to where they would have been at renewal last year. Mr. Shaw said that in speaking with County Administrator Townsend, and looking at the claims for the County, and tracking the loss ratio, for the plan year, they are at about a 101 percent loss ratio. Mr. Shaw said that this means that Cigna has lost money in their relationship with Lamar County. He said that if they were an unfair carrier, if their strategy was to attract them with a low-rate, year one and then get it all back year two, they could have easily issued a 40 plus percent renewal this year. Mr. Shaw said that based on the loss ratio alone, it should have been around 30 percent. He said that in working with Cigna as a long-term relationship, the fact that they came in well under where they needed to be, from an actuarial standpoint, he is excited to say that they are in a good position for 2021.

Mr. Shaw presented a marketing overview to the board. He said that he is not working for Anthem, Aetna, Cigna, or ACCG, he works for Lamar County. Mr. Shaw said that they go to the market every year to make sure that Lamar County has the most attractive proposal and benefits available for the Lamar County employees. Mr. Shaw said that when they went to the market this year it was very clear, in this particular incidence, that Cigna by far is the place that Lamar County needs to be. He said that there was no room left for discussion. Mr. Shaw said that Aetna, Humana and United Health Care looked at the claims versus what they are paying right now with Cigna and they said that they could not compete and they did not want to waste their underwriters time because the rates would have been much higher than what Cigna is offering in their renewal. Mr. Shaw said that they could not go with ACCG/Anthem because you have to be out of the pool for two years before they will issue a proposal but next year, he expects that ACCG will work to get Lamar County back into the ACCG pool.

Mr. Shaw said that the other lines of coverage are under rate guarantee which means the dental, vision, life insurance, and disability have no changes to the coverage or the rates. He said that focusing on just the health insurance, the renewal will have a 17.5 percent rate increase for the plan year 2021. Mr. Shaw said that there is a wide-spread plan option and if they make no changes to the plan design it will be apples to apples. He said that the numbers will be what they were in 2019 even with the \$165,153.00 increase. Mr. Shaw said that they are looking at Cigna as a two-to-three-year strategy. He said that in previous years, they have given the employees two plan options to choose from. Mr. Shaw said that there was a base plan option, that the County absorbed the cost for, with the option to purchase a buy-up plan which is a stronger insurance coverage. The plan is to offer the employees a base plan option with the opportunity to purchase a buy-up plan that has a lot of enhancements. Mr. Shaw said that with the buy up plan the deductible is lower. He said that instead of a \$2,500.00 deductible it will be \$1,500.00 deductible with the buy-up plan. Mr. Shaw said that coinsurance is important because once you have met your deductible, insurance covers everything at 100 percent. Mr. Shaw said that if you have a \$1,000,000.00 claim, and you are on the base plan, you will be responsible for \$7,900.00.00 before insurance pays everything. He said that if you are on the buy-up plan, you will be responsible for \$1,500.00 before insurance pays everything. Mr. Shaw said that the current plan cost \$634.33 and the renewal plan cost \$745.32. He said that the buy-up plan cost \$829.21. The current plan cost \$943,883.00 and the renewal plan cost \$1,109,036.00 annually.

Commissioner Thrash inquired about the loss ratio for dental. Mr. Shaw said that they do not give loss ratios for dental unless you have 250 employees or more. He said that the loss ratio for health insurance is 101 percent. Commissioner Thrash said that she was wondering if there was a way to recoup some savings there. Mr. Shaw said that they took advantage of some discounts by bundling dental and medical last year and all of the coverages went to Cigna. Mr. Shaw said that the 17.50 percent increase in coverage is extremely fair based on how the market is running. He said that COVID is an underwriter's nightmare because that they did not price for the pandemic. He said that trend in Georgia, for the cost of claims, is 12 to 13 percent higher. Mr. Shaw said that this means nothing changes and you have the exact same claims in 2021 that you had in 2020 and they are expecting the cost of those claims to be about 12 to 13 percent higher. He said that factoring in the adverse trends, no leverage from the market, and a higher loss ratio, no one really wanted to go after Lamar County's business when they were really aggressive the last three years and said that they are in a good position relative to what other carriers could offer. Mr. Shaw said that in ten years he is concerned about what the fully insured insurance market will look like. He said that he is looking forward to some reform in the industry. Mr. Shaw said that there is so much money that is being made on prescriptions and this is something that they are monitoring.

Commissioner Thrash inquired about self-insuring and asked if this was for larger counties. Mr. Shaw said that typically you want to have at least 500 employees. He said that he looks at the premium amount and it makes sense to partially self-fund 500 employees. Mr. Shaw said that this was more accurate five to seven years ago than it is now. He said that if fully insured premiums keep picking up, there comes a point in time when that risk you take, for being partially self-funded, is going to be less than what you are guaranteed to pay in these fully insured premiums. Mr. Shaw said that with a Wellness Program in place, you are part of the way to controlling the cost and mitigating those high-cost claimants. He said that with Lamar County's size there is no protection. Mr. Shaw said that it is very hard to put a budget on what they would expect the claims cost to be for Lamar County. Mr. Shaw said that he would suspect in the upcoming renewal and the following renewal that they need to start looking at those options as well. He said that with the claims being higher than the premiums right now, fully insured is where they need to be. He said that if they were paying more in premium and their claims had a 60 to 70 percent loss ratio, that is when they would be benefiting from being partially self-funded. Mr. Shaw said that when they are consistently paying less than they are in claims it is clear that fully insured is where they need to be in 2021. Mr. Shaw

said that Monroe County, and the Macon Water Authority are self-funded with 250 employees. He said that Jones County has 200 employees and they are fully insured.

Commissioner Traylor inquired about the loss ratio in 2019. Mr. Shaw said that in 2018 the loss ratio was 157 percent and in 2019 the loss ratio was 81 percent and in 2020 from July to November the loss ratio was 101 percent. Mr. Shaw reminded the board that when they were in the ACCG pool, the 157 percent loss ratio in 2018 was protected because anything over \$100,000 was taken off the loss ratio and spread out amongst the pool. Mr. Shaw said that in 2018 the loss ratio was underwritten and ACCG issued the quote for Lamar County the loss ratio was 108 percent. He said that it was still really bad but much better than the 157 percent loss ratio percentage. Mr. Shaw said that if you have that 157 percent loss ratio percentage and you are partially self-funded and you are not expecting it, or you are with Cigna and you do not have that protection of the ACCG pool and there is a 157 percent loss ratio, then you are in trouble. Mr. Shaw said that this is a risk that they take and speaks to the importance of the Wellness Program and the impact that it has had on their claims as a whole. He said that there had been no catastrophic numbers that have been over the \$100,000.00 mark in the last four or five months but there are expecting one claim to be high into the 2021 year which made them less attractive to the other carriers. Mr. Shaw said that there have been no huge spikes in the numbers like they had in April of 2019.

Mr. Shaw said that they had also discussed offering the employees a voluntary permanent life insurance policy. He said that this rounds out the portfolio for Lamar County and it ensures that the employee has some type of life insurance policy when they retire. Mr. Shaw highly encouraged the board to make this available to the employees this year.

Corporate Health Partners (CHP)

Katherine Sims Account Manager for Corporate Health Partners (CHP) addressed the board via Zoom about the success and plans with the Wellness Program for the upcoming year. She said that everything has been going great and one of the changes that the board made last year was to move to an outcome's bases program. Ms. Sims said that they are now rewarding employees that are healthy or moving in the right direction for improvement. She said that screenings are tentatively scheduled for May and they will be able to see how moving to that program has really made an impact. Ms. Sims said that they have heard feedback from employees that this has been motivational for them because they get to know what their A1c, BMI or Blood Pressure is and they sit down with the Wellness Health coaches, Katherine White or Allison Young, and they tell them if they can move it down by this amount of points so they will get an insurance discount as an incentive.

Ms. Sims shared a few successes with the board. She said that one of the employees, Bill Reeder, has a huge success story as he has made incredible strides and was nominated to be a Wellness Warrior. Ms. Sims said that he is most proud of giving up soft drinks. She said that it took almost two years to get to the point where he drinks water exclusively. Ms. Sims said that he is motivated to make the change because of his age and his line of work as a fireman and he saw the outcome of not taking care of himself.

Ms. Sims went over some 2020-21 Program Highlights:

- 119 screened-97.5 percent participation rate
- The population of employees since the beginning of the program has lost 433 pounds
- Walking Challenges are a favorite
- Virtual Healthy Breaks with an action required are gaining momentum
- 1 less participant with a diabetic A1c (>6.5)
- 9 fewer participants with elevated total cholesterol 32 to 23
- 16 participants lost 10+ pounds
- 2 fewer participants with BMI > 30

- 5 fewer tobacco users 17 to 12

Ms. Sims said that there is a first time for everything and two individuals went to a doctor for an annual physical. She said that one person began working with their doctor to get their A1c in check. Ms. Sims said that in 2021 they are trying to build a healthier culture and get everyone to buy into the Wellness Program. She said that they are doing the following things listed below to make this happen. Ms. Sims said that one employee lost 11 pounds this year just by not going to the vending machine. She said that little changes like smart snacking has made a big impact.

- Follow up Coaching with one on one-813 Sessions
- Challenges-Quarterly
- Healthy Breaks-Bi-Monthly
- Wellness Team-Quarterly

Ms. Sims said that every year they send out an employee experience survey and the results are below:

- Over 85 percent of employees found that Health Coaching is motivational.
- Over 85 percent believe their health awareness has improved
- Over 75 percent of employees believe their health has improved

Ms. Sims shared some comments from various employees and the behavior changes that are happening across the board in Lamar County.

- By reducing my desserts and getting more water and exercise, my A1c improved from 8.2 to 7.1.
- One participant woke up one morning and decided that he was not going to vape anymore. He put it down and has not picked it back up. He is optimistic that he will stop using tobacco for the long term.
- A competitive individual was motivated by the step challenge. They stated that they liked checking the challenger runner app each day to see what place there were in.
- Due to the cold, wet, weather, an employee along with their friend purchased a Peloton together so they could exercise inside.

Ms. Sims said that one of the things that they established last year was having a mid-year check. She said that last year they moved to an outcome-based program where employees need to be in a certain range for their BMI, Blood Pressure, A1c and LDL Cholesterol. Ms. Sims said that they decided that the employees needed to have a mid-year check-up where the employees would have to go to the doctor halfway through the year to make sure they are moving in the right direction. She said that everyone went through the mid-year check and they got some complaints from employees because CHP's mid-year mark did not line up with when their doctors visit. Ms. Sims said that the employees were having to pay a lot of extra money for that doctors visit that they had not intended to have to do. Ms. Sims said that money was a big push back on this requirement. Ms. Sims proposed eliminating the mid-year check. She said that now that they have the baseline year, that was established last May, so this year, they will screen everyone and prepare their results from year to year. Ms. Sims said that they will have a whole year to work on their improvements. Ms. Sims said that they still prefer the employees to go to their doctor to get the care they need if they are falling in that elevated range.

Ms. Sims said that another thing that they have done this year is to eliminate having to pay for new hires by engaging at no cost for new hires but they will still have the option to participate in the Wellness Program. Ms. Sims said that they have also added a mental health initiative and all of the health coaches have been through mental health first aid training. She said that they have a ton of resources that they are

able to provide to the employees if they need some additional support. Ms. Sims said that they are offering educational training around mental health.

Ms. Sims said that they are offering a diabetic management program. She said that Lamar County has 18.3 percent of its participants that are in the Wellness Program that are diabetics or pre-diabetics. She said that the national average is 9.3 percent. Ms. Sims said that this is a diabetic coaching program that consists of 12 total sessions. She said that the participants will meet virtually with their health coach once per week with bi-weekly check-ins. Ms. Sims said that the cost for this program is \$280.00 per participant and they are proposing that the County pay for this program as needed for the employee. She said that this program educates the employee on the disease and what lifestyle changes they can make to better control their A1c along with the area that each individual needs to focus on.

Chairman Glass asked what was different with this diabetic management program compared to what they would regularly do with the employee. Ms. Sims said that it is just catered to diabetes. She said that there would be more sessions and the coach meets with the individual just to focus on diabetes and to set goals with the employees. Ms. Sims said that part of this program requires the employee to check their blood glucose and monitor it. She said that they would monitor their food to see what they are eating that could be effecting their blood sugar. Ms. Sims said that the focus is on improving diabetes. Chairman Glass said that he assumed that this was part of the normal program and if someone was diabetic, they were working to coach them through it. Ms. Sims said that he was right, they are working with employees on blood sugar management and lowering their A1c. She said that this is just an educational component to the program that they are able to cover outside of the 15-minute coaching session. Ms. Sims said that some doctors will offer programs such as this and said that there are programs like this that are out there but they wanted to have a program as well for diabetes. Ms. Sims said that the \$280.00 cost per participant is based on whoever participates so if you only have five employees, that are engaged in the program, you only pay for five employees. She said that there is no minimum because if they can help one diabetic to better manage their disease, that will save a lot of cost.

Ms. Sims said that there is no price increase in this year's renewal which is a total cost of \$53,740.00. She said that they will not be charging for new hires. She said that Lamar County has two options. The first is 20 percent down and then a monthly payment of \$3,908.36. The other option is one that they are offering to clients and it is a one-time payment of \$53,740.00 that eliminates any true-up. Ms. Sims said that once you go through the open enrollment, they usually do a true-up process based on how many employees are on the insurance and how many are participating. Ms. Sims said that this year it will be the one-time fee up front and no additional cost incurred throughout the year.

City of Milner De-Annexation- Rudy Vaughn

Planning and Community Development Director Buice addressed the board and said that a Deannexation from the City of Milner came to her attention when Mr. Rudy Vaughn was applying for his outdoor concentrated commercial. She said that Mr. Vaughn owns seventeen acres that comes off of Old Alabama Road. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that there is a large parcel that he purchased last year that runs behind his parcel and up to Liberty Hill which is 100 acres. She said that when Mr. Vaughn was building and clearing the 17 acres the end part of the clearing goes over into the 100 acres which is in the City of Milner. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that the 17 acres goes over into Lamar County. She said that any future applications that Mr. Vaughn would apply for would require two applications, one to the County and one to the City of Milner and he would have to annex the smaller property into the City of Milner or deannex a portion of the property. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that he choose a portion of the of the larger acreage and wants to combine it with the smaller acreage and bring it into the County. She said that Mr. Vaughn has chosen to request the Deannexation from the City of Milner. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that there is a pond on the large acreage but it would not include the pond. She said

that it would just be the five acres that backs up to Old Alabama Road. Chairman Glass said that they would need to implement a Resolution to bring it back into the County. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that City of Milner has to act on this as well. She said that the County has to adopt the Resolution first and then it goes to the City of Milner where they will do a Resolution. Chairman Glass said unless the board chooses not to approve the Resolution for the Deannexation.

Kong Real Estate Holdings, LLC

Planning and Community Development Director Buice addressed the board and said that the request from Kong Real Estate Holdings, LLC is known as Zoe Pediatrics. She said that it started out as a Funeral Home in the early to mid-2000's. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that the Funeral Home was built under a Special Exception in Agriculture with the conditions that they provide a buffer and there be no driveway onto Silver Dollar Road. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that the property was then rezoned to highway commercial and the conditions stayed with the property. She said that in 2015, Dr. Kong applied for an entrance onto Silver Dollar Road and it was denied and now in 2021, he is asking for the same request, to have an entrance onto Silver Dollar Road. Commissioner Thrash noted that this request is for a different location on the property. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that he has a building permit for the new medical facility but that is not part of the application because that is permitted by rights; it is already zoned highway commercial. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that he is asking for that second entrance.

Commissioner Traylor said that Public Works Director Rigdon told him that there would not be a safety issue. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that she had heard from a lot of neighbors who were in opposition of this request. Chairman Glass said that there was a good bit of push back from the neighbors in 2015. He said he remembered that there were concerns about horse trailers coming on or off of the four-lane. He said that this is on past the curve. Chairman Glass said that his understanding was that there is pink tape marking the entrance. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that they tried to put the sign as close as they could where Dr. Kong wants the entrance. Chairman Glass suggested that the board go by this location before the Regular Business meeting because he is expecting the same kind of opposition as there was in 2015.

Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that he had started putting the forms up for the building and they were inside the back setback. She said that they spoke with the contractor and the engineer and they stopped and re-worked the plans. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that they took out a row of parking spots in the front and they are pushing the building forward towards the four-lane. Commissioner Thrash said that it was supposed to be a 40 ft setback and they had done a 17 ft. setback.

Part Time Code Enforcement Officer

Planning and Community Development Director Buice addressed the board about having a part time Code Enforcement Officer. She said that everything in her office is code enforcement; building permits, building licenses, and sign surveys. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that what she considers code enforcement are things such as nuisance calls, trash in the yard, stagnant water, and erosion and that is what she considers code enforcement. She said as a small County they still take a personal view to code enforcement and the very first thing that they do is to make personal contact with whoever the complaint is about. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said everything in her office is running on a one-day delay. She said that if you come in to get a permit, your permit will be ready no later than 24 hours. She said that if you call in for an inspection, it will happen 24 hours later.

Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that code enforcement complaints are running weeks out because they focus on surveys, business licenses, and building permits. She said that they would like to request to have a part time person for code enforcement. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that this person would need to be available on evenings and weekends because this may be the only time you can catch someone at home to make that first personal contact. Commissioner Thrash asked how much she would want to pay for this person. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that it is typically \$15.00 an hour. She said that this is what deputies get paid for security at the Recreation Department. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said she would prefer to have a deputy because they like to make that first personal contact. She said for the most part people will comply but 10 percent of the issues end up in court because they do not comply and deputies have the experience of dealing with the courts. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that if they cannot have this then maybe they could get a part time inspector that would eventually turn into a full-time inspector. She said that this would probably be needed in another year.

Chairman Glass said that it would be setup according to the hours per week that are needed. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that it would take five to ten hours per week to do a good job because there is a lot of driving and a lot of paperwork. She said that Sheriff White is in support of them using a deputy and they would also have their full deputy resources. Commissioner Thrash asked if there was a conflict with doing this. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that there would not be and said that in a lot of counties the Code Enforcement Officer goes through the Sheriff's Office but they are still working for the County. Chairman Glass noted that this is an additional task that they are asking the deputy to take on outside of the current budget. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that she has 41 open code enforcement cases and nine of them have not even had this first contact.

Chairman Glass said that ten hours a week would be \$150.00 if you pay them \$15.00 an hour. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that it would probably take about \$5,000.00 to get through the rest of the year. County Administrator Townsend said that this would come from the contingency line item. He said that they would have to do a budget amendment for the \$5,000.00. Chairman Glass said that if they approve it, they could set a maximum of \$5,000.00 for the rest of the year. He said that if they find out it is not working in three months or they do not think it is worth \$150.00 per week, they could cancel the position and go back to building up a back log of complaints. County Administrator Townsend said he could go ahead and create the line item and in October or November they could do a budget amendment from contingency so that they will at least know how much it will cost. Chairman Glass said that County Administrator Townsend can approve up to \$7,500.00 so he could start this on a trail basis and see how it works. Chairman Glass said that he would like to see, in May or June, a report or a memo of how this is going along with a backlog and a feedback from the citizens.

McKenzie Road-No Thru Trucks

Commissioner Thrash said that the gas company goes down McKenzie and then they turn up Martin Dairy to access the four-lane. She said if they are going to have no thru trucks her suggestion would be from Martin Dairy Road up towards Milner. Commissioner Heiney said that if the gas company is based there, they would not be considered a no thru truck. Commissioner Thrash said that they would because they have other options. She said that they can go up Main Street and then go down Zebulon Road and access the four-lane that way. She said that they could also go all the way down Main Street and access the four lane. Commissioner Thrash said that the no thru trucks request is to keep them off of the portion of the road that they just paved and to keep the pipes from collapsing due to the heavy weight of the trucks. Commissioner Thrash said that they could turn right on Martin Dairy and they are right there at the four-lane. Chairman Glass said that the wording should be addressed in the meeting. Chairman Glass said that the wording should read from McKenzie Road at the Milner City limits to Martin Dairy Road. Planning

and Community Development Director Buice said that she has a draft of the Ordinance that she will send to the board.

Ben Fleming Construction-Change Order for Courthouse Windows

County Administrator Townsend said that the crew from Ben Fleming Construction came over here to check the sizes of the windows and they said that there was a 12 percent increase when they ordered the windows so they went up by 53 percent instead of 12 percent. He said that the windows went from \$33,000.00 to \$45,800.00. County Administrator Townsend said that when they quoted in November of 2020 the windows were \$12,000.00 to \$14,000.00 and now it is \$22,000.00 to \$24,000.00. He said that in April of 2021 it is even more. Chairman Glass said that this is not out of line with construction materials. Commissioner Traylor suggested that they go ahead and order the windows. County Administrator Townsend said that Ben Fleming Construction gave him a quote of \$49,000.00 for the front windows. He said that if he can go ahead and get those ordered then they can figure up the labor and get all the windows done. Chairman Glass said that because of the increase for the quote for the back windows the board can reject the bid or they can approve this new amount and continue on with them installing the back windows. Chairman Glass said that the original quote was \$33,600.00. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the change order request from \$33,600.00 to \$45,800.00. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Policy

County Administrator Townsend said that he sent out a copy of the Financial Policy to the board last week. He said that Chairman Glass had several questions that were addressed and then changed. County Administrator Townsend said that he had the approval of credit cards going through the Board of Commissioners and when he sent it out to the Constitutional Officers, Sheriff White was the only one that commented. He said that one Constitutional Officer said that they did not have the time to look at it and said that the board is going to do what they want to anyway and then another Constitutional Officer said ditto. County Administrator Townsend said that Sheriff White called him and said that everything looks good. County Administrator Townsend said that for the Constitutional Officers usage of the credit card he changed the approval process from the Board of Commissioners to the Constitutional Officers.

Commissioner Thrash asked County Administrator Townsend if they were changing the fiscal year because in Section 3-3.1 it reads, "Fiscal Year. The County's annual fiscal year for budgeting and financial reporting will be the period beginning July 1 and ending June 30." County Administrator Townsend said that he would change that back to the calendar year of January 1 to December 31. Chairman Glass said that in general he thought that having a Financial Policy was a good idea. He said that it helps to educate everyone and put them on the right track. Chairman Glass said that this Financial Policy also addresses planning and focusing on the audit. He said that this is good business sense and keeps them from back-sliding. Chairman Glass said that this is a policy and changes can be made, as necessary.

Office Space/Needs

County Administrator Townsend said that he has been looking into office space options and needs of the employee. He said that he called about renting the old Fred's building and the owner, Charles Nixon said that he would sell for \$60.00 a square foot. County Administrator Townsend said that he would rent it for \$6,800.00 a month which would be about \$80,000.00 per year with a five-year lease. County Administrator Townsend said that he went through the study that was done with Goodwyn, Mills, and Cawood (GMC) a few years ago and they gave them measurements. He said that they recommended 9074 sq. ft. County Administrator Townsend said that he sent the layout to the board for review and in the

layout, he included a Board of Commissioners meeting room and an Executive Session room. He said that the Commissioner's offices would line up near the Executive Session room.

Commissioner Thrash said that she liked the idea of purchasing this building and said that it would solve a lot of their future needs and the problems with growth. She said that she would like to get a price for what it would cost on just the basic drawing to remodel and to reconstruct the County Administrative building. County Administrator Townsend said that he had three architects that could give him a quote. Commissioner Thrash said that if the neighbors are still against a back entrance onto Murphy Avenue that is a stopping point for her and a no deal because they would have to have that back entrance. Commissioner Traylor said that not having that back entrance would not be a deal breaker for him. He said that the Administrative building in Perry, Georgia is a one way in and out. Commissioner Traylor said that if this is the deal breaker then they do not need to put much effort into this until they get the back entrance approved. Commissioner Heiney said that he agreed and said that they should demand having a back entrance. Chairman Glass said that this belongs to the City of Barnesville and the City Council has denied the back entrance request twice. He said that there was some severe citizen pushback. County Administrator Townsend said that they were just worried about the big trucks that were unloading at Fred's. Commissioner Traylor said that they were not worried about this. Commissioner Thrash said that they were worried about the traffic cutting through a back entrance. Vice-Chairman Horton said that he thought that it would be feasible even if you did not get the back entrance. Commissioner Traylor said that the owner wants to sale it because of the back entrance. He said that the drive-thru is an issue at the old Fred's building because when Rite Aid bought Fred's 70 percent of the profit sales was in pharmaceutical and they deemed it not a proper entrance and exit for the pharmacy. He said that this is the reason the owner is selling it for this price. Commissioner Traylor noted that American Pie does have a feasible drive thru.

County Administrator Townsend asked the board if they would want to buy the whole building or just the space where Fred's was located. He said that if they bought the whole space, they would receive \$50,000.00 in rent every year which will help with the funding and if they sell the Administrative building it will help with the offset also. Chairman Glass said that in addition the County would be landlords and have the responsibility of maintaining the entire Fred's building. County Administrator Townsend said that the additional space at the Fred's building could be used for County offices in the future. Vice-Chairman Horton said that since they are going to have growth his vote would be yes.

Commissioner Thrash asked if the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) would make them a crossing. Chairman Glass said that they would not put in another crossing. He said that in the GDOT's analysis, the turnaround distance is not that much. Chairman Glass said that the back entrance is a better possibility than a new GDOT crossing but he realistically does not think there is a chance for a back entrance.

Chairman Glass inquired about what decision County Administrator Townsend was looking for at the Regular Business meeting. County Administrator Townsend said that before he spends any more time on this, he wanted to get the Board thought's. He said that he could not pass up \$60.00 a square foot. Chairman Glass asked him to get an estimate on the refurbishment of the Administration Building. County Administrator Townsend said that he could call Mr. Mixon and get him to do a small study. Chairman Glass said that he has questions about his cost too and said that it is not just a building with 8 ft. ceilings, because the Fred's building has tall ceilings and if they are going to put in drop ceilings, they have to put in something to make it secure because you have to bring the ceiling down or go up to the top of the ceiling. He said that there may be a few options to bring the ceiling down but somehow, they will have to wall that whole part off. County Administrator Townsend said that they could drop the ceiling down and build the walls up to the ceiling because if you ever decide to move one of the walls you can take the wall out versus trying to mess with the ceiling.

Commissioner Traylor said that this is one of things that he mentioned when he first became a Commissioner, they took an old Walmart in Forsyth and turned it into a medical center. He said that when he was working in the medical center he was trying to get in on the Walmart in Griffin because they did not have a place in the community where they could do that. Commissioner Traylor said that purchasing the old Fred's building is the way to go. He said that most places are doing this and to have access to that building, for that price, is a good thing. He said that the only other place is the old Ingles building and they aren't willing to sell it.

Chairman Glass requested that County Administrator Townsend get a cost estimate for the refurbishment using the layout he presented to the board. He said that the Tax Commissioners Office may need to be secured from the rest of the offices. County Administrator Townsend said that he had them separate from the other offices. He said that the drive thru window in the old Fred's building is blocked up so it would have to be cut out for a new drive thru window. Commissioner Thrash said that she received emails from the Tax Commissioners Office and calls from several people in opposition of moving the Tax Commissioner.

Chairman Glass said that they have the old tag office available, Karen Martin's office in the Administration building, and the old Barnesville Academy (BA) classroom area. He said that it is unserviceable and they have discussed moving the Lamar County Extension Office out of there. Chairman Glass said that they had discussed having a new gym built. He said that all of these options are being looked at but nothing has been approved. Chairman Glass said that nothing has been decided or recommended. He said that there are a bunch of options floating around and they are trying to work out what is best. Commissioner Thrash said that there was an article in the Barnesville Dispatch that threw a lot of people off. County Administrator Townsend said he spoke to some people about what their needs are.

Chairman Glass inquired about the dates that Karen Martin's Office would be cleared out. County Administrator Townsend said that her daughter told him that they were turning off utilities. County Clerk Davidson said that they had not been turned off. Commissioner Thrash said that she thought they were going to be out by the end of April. County Administrator Townsend said that he thought that they would have someone in that office so if someone needed records, they could get them. County Clerk Davidson said that Marilyn Smith had been there to keep the office open almost every day. Chairman Glass said that they are not pushing for it but he just would like to have a date. County Administrator Townsend said that the gas had been turned off. County Clerk Davidson said that the lights are still on. Commissioner Thrash asked what the plans were for this office. She said that the Board of Elections need more space. Chairman Glass said that this office needs some work before they move anyone into that space. He said that he assumed that the plan was to update it based on the layout of the Administration building.

Commissioner Traylor asked if they had an estimate as to what the Administration building would sell for. County Administrator Townsend said that the Tax Assessor has it appraised at \$1,800,000.00 but since it is a County building with offices it would probably sell for \$1,100,000.00. Commissioner Thrash said that she thinks it will sell quickly. Chairman Glass said that it would have to be officially appraised before they could do anything with it.

Chairman Glass said that he expected County Administrator Townsend to keep giving the board options for building space. He said that they are trying to figure out what is best because they have quite a few people that are squeezed and this may be one of the times that they have a chance to solve those issues.

Broadband Ready Community

Chairman Glass said that there is a proposal from Southern Rivers EMC to spread fiber across their poles. He said that they discussed Broadband Ready certification last year and decided not to go for it because

they did not like some of the requirements. He said that the legislature passed a bill saying that if they adopted the model Ordinance for the Broadband Ready Community, they could be certified by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) as Broadband Ready. Chairman Glass said that this would give them points for grants and other things. He said that the model Ordinance was written by some of the Independent Financial Partners, (IFP's) and it was targeted for burying the cable not for fiber running along the poles. Chairman Glass said that one of the things that he has a concern about is the shot clock, where it says ten calendar days on the permits. He said that once you submit a permit application, if you do not do something within the ten calendar days, it is considered approved. Chairman Glass said that because that is calendar days if they turn it in on Thursday before the holiday Good Friday, and no one is working Friday, Saturday or Sunday, the next week you have five days then on the following Sunday, technically the ten days runs out. He said that if you have not approved it by the next Monday morning, it would be approved by default. He said that this just gives them five working days to figure out anything on the permit request. Chairman Glass said that he realizes that 24 hours is the normal permit turnaround, but if they were to come in and say that they wanted to put fiber or cable down, along the County roads in the Northeast corner of the County, that would roughly be 75 miles of roads to consider. He said that things to consider would be driveways, road crossings, stream crossing, and whatever other obstacles are along those roads. Chairman Glass said that only five days to consider it would be a squeeze especially when they have a lot of other things going on. He said that it is a fulltime job handling inspections now.

Commissioner Thrash said that the reason that they fought with ACCG about this shot clock of time is because you are just overwhelming your staff. Chairman Glass said that a large company could target this and drop this off on Thursday afternoon before Good Friday or a three-day weekend. Chairman Glass said that for this reason he has been hesitant to agree to this.

Chairman Glass said that they are talking with the Industrial Development Authority's (IDA), Southern Rivers EMC, Pike and Lamar County and Kevin Brown one of the attorneys that works with the IDA. He said that he spoke with Mr. Brown about the details on how to work out something to incentivize the EMCs to come to Lamar County next. He said that part of their concerns are if they could get one of the Broadband Ready grants. He said that the State has 20 million dollars that they are giving out. He said that supposedly the State is sending out some guidelines about this. Chairman Glass said that they had discussed doing something outside of the grants, whether they got a grant or not, and he is not sure if it is worth applying for this.

Chairman Glass said that he sent the model Ordinance to Scott and he said that it needs to be done as a Resolution instead of an Ordinance. He said that he asked DCA about this and they said that the law said that it has to be an Ordinance and it has to be their model Ordinance and if it is not, they have to send it out for public comments, which is a 30-day minimum. Chairman Glass said that they told him that they should plan for at least 45 days before they submit them a Resolution or an Ordinance if it does not match their model Ordinance before you can possibly be approved. Chairman Glass said that for a lot of reasons he does not think that being a Broadband Ready designee is worth their time and effort. Commissioner Thrash agreed and said that with the ten-day shot clock and the three-day holiday weekend there are ways to get around that. She said that you can always find something wrong on their application. Chairman Glass said that you would have 5 days to do this.

Chairman Glass said that he spoke to IDA Director Kathy Oxford and she said that they can still apply for a grant, out of the State fund, even if they are not Broadband Ready. He said that they would just have to give up a couple of points in the application process. Chairman Glass said that they still do not know what the process looks like. Commissioner Thrash said that they have to consider that there is going to be 118 billion dollars available for broadband if President Biden's Workforce Plan passes.

Chairman Glass recommended that they take Broadband Ready off the agenda for Tuesday night and said that he does not think that it is worth considering. He said that maybe sometime later they will want to revisit it but he does not see any big penalty with taking it on right now.

Chairman Glass said that Pike County has more meters than Lamar County does and if you take out the 700 meters that Central Georgia EMC serves the Northeast part of Lamar County, they will have 300 to 400 meters less than Pike County. He said that Southern Rivers EMC would like to consider Lamar and Pike together because this is a bulk of low hanging fruit for them. He said that there are a lot of meters that are close to their central hub. Commissioner Thrash inquired about Pike County's position on investing. Chairman Glass said that Pike County has not committed. He said that Lamar County has not committed a dollar figure either but they have discussed putting \$300,000.00 toward being Broadband Ready and said that he has passed that onto Southern Rivers EMC. He said that the biggest thing is how they do it legally. He said that it still has not been worked out for Monroe or Butts County but they both have memorandums of agreement in place. He said that they will need to figure it out legally. Chairman Glass said that it all goes back to the gratuity clause in the State Constitution. He said that no one wants to step on that and they have to figure out how to work through that. Chairman Glass said that one of the complications is that utilities are normally assessed by the State. He said that the Tax Assessor does not assess the utilities. He said that if the State assesses a value, then it ties their hands in terms of what they can do with transferring titles and how to give them any value for that. Chairman Glass said that if the EMCs would say that they do not want the State to assess their fiber and they want the local Tax Assessor to do this they could end up with a mismatch of setting values on the fiber. He said that they may have to do that in order to get some legal abatements. Chairman Glass said that there are a lot of complicated issues that they do not have answers for and they are trying to figure that out. He said that in the meantime they are trying to proceed forward and he thinks that everyone is supporting it and doing what they can to make it happen. Chairman Glass said that the EMCs are committed to having everything ready in four years. He said that he is guessing that locally it will be ready in two years.

Future Rock Quarry Applications

Commissioner Heiney said that he had spoken to Planning and Community Director Buice about this and said that it should be taken off the agenda. He said that he heard that there was a possible Rock Quarry application for Van Buren Road and said that he had already discussed this with Planning and Community Director Buice.

Legislative Update from Commissioner Thrash

Commissioner Thrash said that she sent the board an email with an executive summary on President Biden's new job plans. She said that it summarizes everything.

Chairman Glass said that they are still waiting on how they can use the Stimulus 3 money and said that there are still some things that have not come out about this. He said that he knows that the Treasury setup a two-person lead. Chairman Glass said that they are still pushing for the Treasury to tell them what they can do with the money.

Commissioner Thrash said that the Recovery Fund provides money for critical projects and includes 195 billion for States and 130 billion for local government including County, Cities and smaller governments. She said that direct payments will be made to the States and through territories and to tribal governments. Commissioner Thrash said that the entity has to have a valid Dun's number, a SAM's Registration and an EIN number. Chairman Glass said that they have implemented that there be two designated people for a point of contact.

Other Discussion

Commissioner Traylor said that he received two phone calls about some type of dedication for Henry Murphy, formally an employee with the Lamar County Recreation Department and who recently passed away. He suggested that this go through the Recreation Department and suggested that they contact Recreation Director Lowe. He said that he thought it would be nice to have a tree dedication with a plaque. Chairman Glass agreed with this dedication.

Commissioner Traylor said that he agreed that they should push for an entrance on Murphy Avenue.

Chairman Glass said that if they are going to get the Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) together for the November ballot they have to have everything together by the first of July. He said that they had discussed this with the cities and they are in favor of the TSPLOST. He said that they need to agree on the splits and they need to decide on what projects before they can get a Resolution together and put this on the ballot. Chairman Glass requested that County Administrator Townsend forward any information that he had received from other counties that had a TSPLOST and types of projects that they choose to have on the ballot. He said that his understanding was that it has to be transportation related. Chairman Glass said that it could be roads and bridges, and sidewalks. Commissioner Traylor asked if it had to be contracted out or could it be in house contracts such as if they are paving for the cities. Chairman Glass said that the materials could be covered but labor would be normal salaries. He said that it could fall under an intergovernmental agreement and if they are paving for the cities, they would get TSPLOST money to pay for the materials but the salaries would be covered out of the operating cost along with the maintenance on the equipment. Chairman Glass requested that County Administrator Townsend send the information from the other counties to the board. He said part of the purpose of the projects is to make sure that the public is interested in having a TSPLOST. Chairman Glass said that if they are not seeing any value out it, they are not going to vote to add another penny to it.

Chairman Glass said that his understanding is that Monroe and Butts County have already approved the Towaliga Budget request for their portion and Lamar County is ready to approve it also at the April Regular Business meeting.

Regular Business Meeting Discussion.

1. The board heard that the invocation would be given by Reverend Jimmy Fambro of Hope Tree Ministries.
2. The board reviewed three sets of minutes.
 - i. Workshop Minutes-March 11th, 2021
 - ii. Public Hearing Minutes-March 16th, 2021
 - iii. Regular Business Meeting-March 16th, 2021
3. The board reviewed the Confederate History and Heritage Month
4. The board heard that the Proclamation for the V.F.W. 75th Anniversary was requested by Mr. Richard Wright but as of today had not been received.
5. The board reviewed the Nurse's Week Proclamation.
6. The board heard that Vice-Chairman Horton had a nomination for the Board of Appeals. Her name is Mattie Drake.
6. The board reviewed a contract for VoIP Communication from WiRed Technology.
7. The board reviewed a contract from NFP Health Broker and the new rate of \$1,109,036.00 which will be effective from July 1, 2021 to June 30th, 2022. Chairman Glass stated that this is already covered in the budget. County Administrator Townsend said that for the newly hired Firemen only eight of them took the insurance and he had it for thirteen and they were budgeted from January to December. Chairman Glass stated that the budget for next year will cover the second six months of the NFP contract.

8. The board reviewed the Corporate Health Partner (CHP) contract in the amount of \$53,740.00 Chairman Glass said that the question that needs to be addressed is if they want to adopt the \$280.00 charge per employee for a diabetes support session. Commissioner Thrash said that this should already be included in the Wellness Program coaching sessions.
9. The board heard that County Administrator Townsend did not have any new information on Liberty Hill Park and agreed to take it off the agenda.
10. The board reviewed the lease agreement in the amount of \$120.58 for the Augusta Radio Fellowship Institute which is the repeater for the radio tower on High Falls Park Road.
11. The board reviewed the bid for a sweeper in the amount of \$8,400.00.
12. The board reviewed Ordinance 2021-05 Kong Real Estate Holdings, LLC
13. The board reviewed a model Ordinance for a Social Media Policy and discussed posting of Facebook and other sites during company time. Chairman Glass said that he has not spent a lot of time on it and said he is not comfortable approving it yet and suggested that they postpone until the May meeting.
14. The board reviewed Ordinance 2021-06 Financial Policy. County Administrator Townsend noted that the fiscal year would need to be changed in the Ordinance. Chairman Glass said that some punctuation needed to be fixed and the section on credit cards with the Constitutional Officers. He said that instead of the Chairman approving their limits, another Constitutional Officer could approve it.
15. The board reviewed Ordinance 2021-07 No thru Trucks on McKenzie Road.
16. The board reviewed 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2021-03 Timber Harvest.
17. The board reviewed Resolution 2021-05 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) with an amount of \$2,000,000.00 available for drawdown. Chairman Glass said that currently the County does not need to take any drawdowns but having the TAN is a safety net in case revenues start to decline.
18. The board reviewed Resolution 2021-06 which is a request from Rudy Vaughn for Deannexation from the City of Milner.

Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported that the revenues were higher than the expenditures. He said that a bill for \$278,000.00 was budgeted in March but was paid in April. County Administrator Townsend said that there was a 90-day extension on property taxes due to COVID and revenue came in higher in March. County Administrator Townsend presented an overview of projects to the board he has been working on over the last few months. He also presented the Local Option Sales numbers to the board. (Shown Below).

County Administrator Townsend stated that he received notice that they would receive some extra Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) money in the amount \$38,781.16. County Administrator Townsend stated that this is slated for the Yatesville Road paving. He said that this includes reflectors, re-striping and putting guard rails up. County Administrator Townsend that the matching portion for Lamar County is 30 percent. County Administrator Townsend said that the bid process will be held in June and he is working with Public Works Director Rigdon. County Administrator Townsend said that he has had request from citizens to put down lines on Yatesville Road because they cannot see the road when it rains.

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
FY 2021 Program of Work
Updated April 8, 2021

Program & Funding Source	Responsible Party	Status
Equipment & Vehicle Purchase		
1. January 19, 2021- Board approved the purchase of Sheriff cars from SPLOST III \$130,000	Sheriff	1/21/2021- Purchase two Dodge \$53,386
2. March 16, 2021- Board approved the purchase of Paver from Yancy Brother-Caterpillar for \$142,386 from SPLOST III	Public Works Director	3/17/2021- Purchase Order and Sale Order has been signed and return
Program & Funding Source	Responsible Party	Status
Road & Bridge/ Public Works Projects		
3. Repair of McKenzie Road- Two 10 Ft 30 ft long at be replaced. Request funded from LMIG with the repairs.	Public Works Director	Received the pipes and PW crews are now digging up the pipes and should be replacing the pipes. Received bid from Michael's Asphalt for \$12,900.
4. Conduct the 2021 LMIG road resurfacing projects-\$526,851.03 total, \$383,898.68 from LMIG and \$142,952.35 from SPLOST-2017 for 10% match.	Public Works Director	TBA- Pending contract with Blount Construction
Program & Funding Source	Responsible Party	Status
Park & Recreation Projects		
5. Purchased a new Recreation GYM from Titan Steel for \$179,580.	County Administrator	The county has a deposit of \$53,800 on 6/17/2020 with Check # 1226 from SPLOST III. Waiting on the Architecture
Program & Funding Source	Responsible Party	Status
Facilities Maintenance		
6. Install new windows at the rear of the courthouse- \$33,600 Ben Flemming Construction	Maint. Supervisor	TBA
7. VOIP system for all county's phone	County Clerk & IT	On the April agenda for approval
Program & Funding Source	Responsible Party	Status
Other Projects		
8. High Falls Park Road Tower	Fire Chief	TBA

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
 LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (LOST)
 COLLECTION CHART

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	\$ 75,684.80	\$ 84,986.13	\$ 91,040.44	\$ 91,040.44	\$ 110,699.91		
February	\$ 70,551.06	\$ 77,945.22	\$ 92,257.62	\$ 90,702.42	\$ 102,459.12		
March	\$ 69,389.21	\$ 67,723.19	\$ 81,937.09	\$ 80,307.29	\$ 103,706.73		
April	\$ 74,582.07	\$ 81,188.19	\$ 92,156.95	\$ 94,685.71			
May	\$ 77,053.43	\$ 78,504.14	\$ 93,137.38	\$ 91,914.58			
June	\$ 76,999.79	\$ 76,362.85	\$ 95,398.61	\$ 101,204.58			
July	\$ 72,991.37	\$ 85,987.91	\$ 94,184.47	\$ 100,957.85			
August	\$ 74,611.22	\$ 84,448.08	\$ 87,689.50	\$ 98,504.15			
September	\$ 81,254.45	\$ 94,045.69	\$ 99,312.18	\$ 114,083.33			
October	\$ 80,085.53	\$ 81,332.86	\$ 92,618.09	\$ 104,136.06			
November	\$ 70,770.20	\$ 83,950.13	\$ 88,189.21	\$ 118,693.67			
December	\$ 69,122.33	\$ 83,237.08	\$ 86,503.72	\$ 101,433.44			
Total	\$ 893,095.46	\$ 979,711.47	\$ 1,094,425.26	\$ 1,187,663.52	\$ 316,865.76	\$ -	
Budget	\$ 870,000.00	\$ 900,000.00	\$ 772,027.00	\$ 947,076.00	\$ 1,000,865.00		
% Collect	103%	109%	142%	125%	32%		
	\$ 74,424.62	FY 2017 Monthly average					
	\$ 81,642.62	FY 2018 Monthly average					
	\$ 91,202.11	FY 2019 Monthly average					
	\$ 98,971.96	FY 2020 Monthly average					
	\$ 105,621.92	FY 2021 Monthly average					



Round Table

Commissioner Thrash stated that an employee with the new trash company was ugly to the employees at the landfill. County Administrator said that they had already spoken to the company about the incident and he is no longer employed with them. Commissioner Thrash stated that this was about an issue with him giving his driver’s license when he was dumping trash and said that he did not have to identify himself because he worked for the County. Commissioner Thrash said that there should not be an issue with the trash company dumping over there and said that this needed to be addressed.

Commissioner Thrash thanked everyone who had texted, called, sent flowers, and came to the funeral for her grandson Graycen Knox Marlowe.

Chairman Glass stated that COVID vaccinations are being given on Monday’s and Wednesdays at Southern Rivers EMC. He said that they have plenty of vaccines. Chairman Glass said that Hines Prescription Shop, Zoe Pediatrics, Upson Regional Clinic, Ingles and CVS are all giving vaccines. He said that each of them have a number of slots available your just have to call to receive them. Chairman Glass said that the vaccines are normally free but the other places other than the Health Department can charge a fee for administrating the shot. He said that you have to provide your insurance and a lot of them pick up this cost.

Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Workshop meeting at approximately 3:13 p.m. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Bennie Horton, Vice-Chairman

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk