

**JOINT CALLED MEETING  
LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,  
CITY OF BARNESVILLE, CITY OF MILNER, AND TOWN OF ALDORA**

**July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
10:00 a.m.  
BARNESVILLE CIVIC CENTER**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Glass welcomed everyone and thanked the City of Barnesville for hosting the Joint TSPLOST meeting. He called the meeting of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. Each County and Municipality called their meeting to order.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

City of Milner Council Member George Weldon led the invocation and everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone introduced themselves.

**City of Milner**

Andy Marlowe-Mayor  
Michael Floyd-Council Member  
Regina Stephens-Council Member  
George Weldon-Council Member  
Skip Seda-Council Member  
Tausha Grose- City Administrator

**Town of Aldora**

Jimmy Matthews-Mayor  
Linda Waterman- Town of Aldora Clerk

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners**

Charles Glass -Chairman  
Bennie Horton-Vice-Chairman  
Robert Heiney-Commissioner  
Ryan Traylor-Commissioner  
Nancy Thrash-Commissioner  
Sean Townsend-County Administrator  
Carlette Davidson-County Clerk

**City of Barnesville**

Peter Banks-Mayor  
Tim Turner- Acting City Manager

Mayor Pro Tem- Christopher Hightower  
Bill Claxton-Council Member  
Sammie Shropshire-Council Member  
Larry Whitworth-Council Member  
Cecil “Butch” McDaniel- Council Member  
Tammy Folson-City Clerk

### **Meeting Discussion**

Chairman Glass explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss having a single county Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST). He said that an extra penny TSPLOST will raise the sales tax an extra penny from 7 cents to 8 cents. He said that 4 cents will go to the State, 1 cent to LOST, 1 cent to SPLOST and 1 cent to ELOST. Chairman Glass said that they are expecting to receive \$10,679,450.00 and that those estimates are based on 2020 proceeds received from the fuel tax minus the portion represented by the fuel tax. County Administrator Townsend presented a chart showing the amounts collected and projected collections based on the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) splits for the County and the Cities; 58% for Lamar County, 1% for the Town of Aldora, 37% for the City of Barnesville, and 4% for the City of Milner.

Chairman Glass explained that if the TSPLOST is implemented the voters will approve the referendum on November 2nd, 2021, and the collections will begin April 1st, 2022. The County proposes to issue a general obligation debt of \$10,679,450.00 to be used for funding transportation purposes. The collections will terminate after 5 years or when collections exceed the maximum of 12.2 million. The TSPLOST funds will be bonded so that the transportation projects can begin right away rather than having to wait for the funds to be collected as they do with SPLOST. They do not have to wait to distribute the funds monthly to the Town of Aldora first and the City of Milner and then distribute the funds to the County and the City of Barnesville as the distributions come into the County. As the funds from TSPLOST are distributed to the County they will be used to pay off the bond note. The County will handle the financing of the bond or there will be a bond attorney that can handle this. The cities will have one check, to begin with, and then if more than \$10,679,450.00 is collected, they will allocate the remainder of the collections monthly per the split negotiations. The TSPLOST is a 5-year program as opposed to the 6-year SPLOST. If the 5-year TSPLOST is not renewed it, will take another vote by the citizens to renew it.

Chairman Glass explained that the bond attorney will charge 1 percent of the bond and comes off the top before it is distributed to County or the Cities and there could be some other finance charges. Chairman Glass stated that they are expecting about a 3 percent total bond charge and each entity is responsible for their portion of the bond. The plan is to bond it for the 5-year life cycle. It was suggested that they do not spend all of the money that they receive upfront that first year. Upson County's projects are being done in 5 phases and they have a priority list of projects to be completed in each phase.

Chairman Glass explained that the ballot is specified by law. They are proposing that the bond be included in the referendum. If the referendum is held in November at a Special Election, the earliest they can begin implementing the tax is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

City of Milner Administrator Tausha Grose questioned the percentage split for the City of Milner. The concern was that the City of Milner has grown due to the implementation of the large subdivisions and the

split should be based on the population. City of Barnesville Council Member McDaniel asked if the LOST negotiations were implemented in 2012 and was based on population. Chairman Glass said that the originally proposed splits were based on LOST proceeds and negotiated in 2012 and the larger driver was based on population. City of Barnesville Council Member McDaniel asked if the State could tell them where the sales revenue is generated from. Chairman Glass said that they could not. Commissioner Traylor stated that it could be based on business locations. Chairman Glass explained that they do not know the amount of collections that are for each business. Revenue is kept up by zip code. Lost splits are negotiated for a 10-year period based on census data. The city of Barnesville inquired about the population for 2019. Chairman Glass said that it was around 19,000 and had not increased as much as the City of Milner. City of Milner Administrator Tausha Grose stated that 4 percent was low for the City of Milner based on the population and the continued growth in the City of Milner. Chairman Glass said that in 2012 the 4 percent for the City of Milner was higher than what was justified based on population and the City of Barnesville reduced their percentage to get the City of Milner to 4 percent instead of 3 percent.

City of Milner Administrator Tausha Grose proposed 6 percent for the City of Milner which would give them \$600,000.00 out of \$10,000,000.00. Chairman Glass noted that the 6 percent increase is based on a 25 percent population increase which is a 33 percent increase in the percentage based on a 25 percent increase in the population. The population is not the only consideration and if they looked at the mileage of paved roads in the County, the County has much more than 58 percent of the mileage of paved roads. The LMIG splits which are based on population and road mileage combined the County would have more than 58 percent of the split. The population-based on the census for 2010 was around 18,000 and in 2019 the population is a little over 19,000. City of Barnesville Mayor Pro-Tem asked if the 2020 census population would be used the next time for the SPLOST negotiations. Chairman Glass said that this would be for the LOST negotiations.

Chairman Glass explained that if they did another 2 percent increase for the City of Milner it would be a decrease of 1 percent from the County and a decrease of 1 percent from the City of Barnesville. City of Milner Administrator Tausha Grose said that in 2019 the City of Milner was 5 percent of the population in Lamar County. Chairman Glass noted that it is not just the population that is being considered. The State formula for LMIG is three-fifths mileage and two-fifths population and if they use the LMIG figures the percentages would be more in the County's favor.

City of Milner Council member Seda stated that the City of Barnesville has less than 37 percent of the population. The City of Barnesville is receiving 2 percent more based on the population in 2019 and the City of Milner is getting 2 percent less than what they should receive. Chairman Glass said that population is not the only consideration and one of the considerations with LOST is also services provided and this is the reason that the City of Barnesville's percentage was higher in 2012. City Council member Seda stated that this is based on 2012 numbers and not 2019 numbers.

Commissioner Thrash said that they cannot base it all on potential growth. The County provides the majority of the road repairs and with this increase, the City of Milner will be responsible for their road repair. The City of Milner does not have the equipment or the manpower.

Acting City of Barnesville Manager Turner said that the City of Barnesville is increasing in population and they also provide water and sewer for the City of Milner. The increase in population in the City of Milner

will cost them more. City of Barnesville Council member Claxton stated that the infrastructure for the new subdivisions is expensive.

City of Milner Administrator Tausha Grose proposed 5 percent for the City of Milner. Chairman Glass said that this would decrease the percentage by ½ percent for the County and a ½ percent for the City of Barnesville and called for a vote. The recommendation from the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia was to go with the LOST splits for the TSPLOST splits and some counties based the TSPLOST off of LMIG numbers. Chairman Glass said that population is one factor that impacts the splits. County Administrator Townsend said that State has the mileage for Lamar County at 321, the Town of Aldora at 2 miles, the City of Barnesville at 45 miles, and the City of Milner at 13 miles.

A five-minute recess was taken at approximately 11:00 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Mayor Marlow for the City of Milner proposed a 4.5 percentage for TSPLOST. Chairman Glass stated that he did not agree with a 4.5 percent. Commissioner Thrash stated that there was justification for a 4.5 percentage because the City of Milner has sustained substantial growth and there is a need for an increase in the TSPLOST. Mayor Matthews of the Town of Aldora stated that Continental Tire, a vital revenue resource for Lamar County utilizes Peacock Street to access their facility via truck traffic from Savannah, and over \$700,00.00 has been spent on this road and they are nowhere near finished with the paving project. They also will have to have new drains installed to fix a major water problem. Mayor Matthews stated that they need some major help on these issues.

Commissioner Thrash said that the City of Milner is the vein for Lamar County due to people cutting through from I-75 and Hwy 36 and a lot of other roads that feed through the Lamar County roads. Commissioner Traylor reported that counties such as Upson County want to have joint paving due to heavy traffic on the roadways.

Chairman Glass called for a motion on the TSPLOST splits. Lamar County will have 56.5 percent and the City of Milner will have 4.5 percent. Commissioner Thrash made a motion that Lamar County would have 56.5 percent and the City of Milner will have 4.5 percent. Chairman Glass said that the motion died for lack of a second.

Chairman Glass reported that according to the law if not all municipalities agree to the intergovernmental agreement, the maximum that they can impose on the TSPLOST would be .75 pennies. The municipalities that do not participate in the TSPLOST would not receive any of the proceeds. It would reduce the total amount collected but it would cut out proceeds to that municipality even though the citizens would be paying that tax.

Commissioner Thrash said that the biggest growth experience in the County has been in District 4 which includes the City of Milner.

### **TSPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement and Call for Special Election.**

The City of Milner voted to stay with the 4 percent split.

Chairman Glass explained that the intergovernmental agreement reads that within 60 days after the bond satisfaction date, the proceeds will be distributed among the County and the municipalities as proposed: County-57%, Barnesville-36%, Milner-4%, and the Town of Aldora-3%.

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for a Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The City of Barnesville, the Town of Aldora, and the City of Milner all approved the Intergovernmental Agreement.

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-12 calling for a Special Election in November to consider the TSPLOST referendum. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Glass stated that the citizens have to be convinced that this is a good thing and like SPLOST they cannot use County or City funds to promote a vote for or against. Facts, questions, and data can be provided. Taxpayers' funds cannot be used to convince people to vote for or against the TSPLOST.

Commissioner Traylor stated that TSPLOST failed in some surrounding counties and they need support from Continental Tire to share this with the community.

City of Milner Council member Stephens stated that people are looking at this and see SPLOST and they are not going to vote for this because they wanted an animal shelter and it has not been built. Projects that were promised to be done have not been done.

Commissioner Thrash stated that as elected officials they need to make the citizens aware that they are knowledgeable about these subjects. SPLOST is for a period of 6 years and they have 6 years to complete those designated projects unless it is not feasible.

Chairman Glass said that the plan for the animal shelter is to construct it next year and it is a project that will happen. They are working on an architectural bid so they can move forward on the animal shelter project.

Chairman Glass thanked everyone for their service and time.

Chairman Glass called for a collective adjournment at approximately 11:40 a.m.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Charles Glass, Chairman

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Bennie Horton, Vice-Chairman

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Robert Heiney, Commissioner

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Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

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Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk