

Meeting Summary
Workshop Meeting of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners
July 15th, 2021
12:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on July 15th, 2021. Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson. Commissioner Traylor joined the meeting via zoom and the meeting was also available via Zoom.

Mayor of the Town of Aldora-Jimmy Matthews

The board heard a request from the Town of Aldora Mayor Jimmy Matthews for the County and the Cities to put a Transportation Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (TSPLOST) on the agenda. Mayor Matthews said that currently, the Town of Aldora receives 1 penny, and if they could approve the TSPLOST they are asking for them to approve another penny and that will give them 3 cents to go towards their projects. Mayor Matthews explained the following issues that constitutes his need for an extra TSPLOST penny.

- a) Completion of the paving on Peacock Street.
- b) \$200,000.00 project has turned into a \$700,000.00 project.
- c) Problems with soil and water.
- d) Request to widen O'Neal street to accommodate the truck traffic that comes out of Savannah where Continental Tire gets its raw material.
- e) Peacock and O'Neal Street will serve as an entrance with an exit.
- f) Removed the old pavement to put down new highway material that they are putting on all of the four lanes that looks like alligator skin. He said he thought that this would not work but found that it was the best.
- g) Will need to repair the dam.
- h) Will need extra funds for sewer and water if 144 units are added at Powell Place. They currently have 36 units.
- i) Will have to borrow money from the bank when they receive their annual revenue if TSPLOT does not pass.

Commissioner Thrash said that when Lamar County has struggled the Town of Aldora helped them out. She said that the Town of Aldora has helped out a lot of municipalities and they need our help now and she thinks that they should help them. Chairman Glass said that Continental Tire over the last 2 years has doubled its workforce by moving and consolidating some of its operations to Georgia. He said that they are expanding again to bring in more operations. Chairman Glass said that their impact on the community has been nothing but positive and they are one of the best employers in the community. He said that their increase in jobs will have a significant impact on Lamar County. Commissioner Thrash said that with that kind of growth they could potentially be one of the top 5 taxpayers in the County. Chairman Glass said that they agreed to not take any abatements a couple of years ago.

Mayor Matthews said that out of their General Fund last year the Town of Aldora paved their parking lot and their visitor and employee parking lot and this was about \$125,000.00 that they did for them. He said that they just had the dam inspected and they paid for this. Chairman Glass said that the 1 penny represents about \$113,000.00 for Lamar County over the 5-year TSPLOST period out of \$6.2 million. Mayor Matthews said that this will put them over the hump.

Mauldin & Jenkins FY 2020 Audit

Justin Elliot addressed the board and said that the audit is a lot better than last year. He said that last year they had to do 2 audits to get everything cleaned up and they had several findings. Mr. Elliot said that thanks to Accountant Colquitt it was smooth sailing. He said that they had a clean opinion and it was unmodified and the best you can have; no issues. Mr. Elliot reported that in the General Fund the fund balance is \$3,416,383.00 and said that most of this is liquid. He said that compared to last year when the fund balance was \$1.8 million. Mr. Elliot said that they had an uptick with taxes. He said that the \$600,000.00 received for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act helped. Mr. Elliot said that the County is now going in the right direction. He said that expenses went up but said they are in line with the revenues.

Mr. Elliot said that there were several findings but said they are not going to be able to clean up everything in one year. He said that the findings are similar to last year but said they were better. Mr. Elliot explained the findings as follows.

- a) Close-out procedures were not being done in a timely manner and said that this has since been corrected.
- b) Adjustments for capital leases and some interfund transfer clean ups.
- c) Clerk of Superior Courts, the Sheriff's Office, the Probate Court, the Magistrate Court appears to have excess funds in their account due to interest that was accrued over the decades.
- d) Issues with journal entries have already been corrected.
- e) Audits for the Recreation Department and the Law Library need to be decentralized and implemented into the County General Ledger and the Trial Balance.
- f) Timely deposits were not being made and deposits need to be taken to the bank as soon as possible.

Chairman Glass said that he had a concern about the segregation of duties. He said that the Sheriff's Office has 1 person doing accounting and another one making deposits. Chairman Glass said that the other people in the office are not trained to do any of this. Mr. Elliot said that it is hard for small counties to overcome this behavior. He said that with bank reconciliations there needs to be a person to review and sign off on the bank reconciliation so they try to get someone in the Administration Office to do this but knows that elected officials are not receptive of this.

Mr. Elliot explained other findings as follows:

- a) Opening the mail, writing checks, posting entries, and bank reconciliations should be limited, including the number of people who post transactions and also have access to cash.
- c) Spot checks were done on SPLOST, LOST and E911, and no issues were found.
- d) Issues with the same person writing checks and reconciling the bank statements and suggested that there be more segregations of duties.

Commissioner Thrash asked about doing manual journal entries. Mr. Elliot said that this would be done if you had some type of invoice from the prior year so they would need to do a manual journal entry. Accountant Colquitt said that an example of this would be with CIGNA. She said that it is a bank draft and since they do not cut a check to CIGNA, they have to do a manual journal entry. Mr. Elliot said that there are quite a few of these and in the Financial system you can see who makes the entry and who reviews it. Mr. Elliot said that you can do a lot with the Financial system but if it is not set up properly there could be issues.

Accountant Colquitt said that manual journal entries are done for all of the bank drafts and then to subsidize the E911 account, they have to do manual journal entries. County Administrator Townsend said that they are doing the Hotel/Motel tax this way also. Account Colquitt said that there were some correcting journal entries for SPLOST and they had to make some necessary adjustments by doing manual journal entries. Mr. Elliot said that if the bank makes an error they have to also go in and make correcting journal entry adjustments.

Mr. Elliott said that last year there were a lot of things that had to be corrected but this year it is better. County Administrator Townsend said that the Finance staff is going through Level 1 training through the Carl Vinson Institute.

Animal Control Ordinance

Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that the County has an existing animal control ordinance and said that there was an animal ordinance that was put out there for a proposal but it was never adopted. She asked the board if they would like for her to get a new one together and asked what is it about the current animal ordinance that does not seem to be working. Chairman Glass said that one of the things is the language, regarding vicious dogs, is defined as a dog that attacks a person. He said that if a dog attacks livestock or other animals then it is not classified as vicious. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that at one time the State law specifically defined a dangerous dog as opposed to a potentially dangerous dog. She explained that a potentially dangerous dog attacks other animals.

Chairman Glass said that he did not know what was wrong with using the State code. He said that the State code is probably sufficient enough for what they really need and asked if they needed to change the Lamar County code to specially site the State code and leave it that way. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that for the classification of a dangerous dog and a potentially dangerous dog she does think that this needs to meet State code but said that it is the aftereffects that the local jurisdiction can put more teeth into it. She said if a dog that attacks the neighbor's dog and then the owner decides to keep that dog, the local ordinance could require the owner to have a fence that is concreted around the bottom. She said that they could also put into the ordinance that you are required to have insurance that lists that you have a potentially dangerous dog and you are required to show proof of that and anytime that dog is off its owners property it is required to have a muzzle Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that these types of things can be added to the local ordinance.

The Board discussed the responsibility of the pet owners to take care of dogs and agreed that it is unfortunate that people cannot do this. Public Works Director Rigdon said that he gets calls at 2:00 a.m. He said that in 2019 the State changed the wording from dangerous to vicious. Public Works Director Rigdon said that they need to mirror the State law. Planning Development Director Buice said that in the current code an animal is defined as dog, cat, horse, mule, cow, goat, sheep, swine, cattle, or any domestic fowl. She said that you have an ordinance with rules pertaining to all these different types of animals. Public Works Director Rigdon said that they pick up dogs and cats. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that maybe they need a subsection about nuisance animals where you get a ticket but not that where the County is going to pick up your cow. Public Works Director Rigdon said that you are still going to have cows that get out and you put them back in and an hour later the cow is back out. He said that this would be a nuisance animal to him and said that if a car hits it then it will be a lawsuit. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that they could add a section so that those animals are handled differently.

Chairman Glass asked about animals that are abused. Commissioner Thrash said that if cows and horses are not taken care of then it falls up under the Agriculture Authority. Chairman Glass said that this does not have to be a part of this animal control ordinance. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that it could be mentioned in the ordinance as to how complaints flow. Chairman Glass said that the State is not collecting those animals anymore. He said that they have established a trust fund where they can apply for reimbursement after they physically handle the animals. He said that it used to be where the Department of Agriculture would send someone to pick them up and take them someplace for help. He said that the State is out of that business and now the County is supposed to handle these animal issues. He said that money goes into a trust fund and after the County incurs the expenses then they can apply for funds from a trust fund.

Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that they need to have an internal policy set as to where to take the neglected cows or horses and what farm in the area could take these animals.

The board continued to discuss the following:

- a) Coggins test and Proper Vaccinations requirement
- b) Volunteers or Rescue teams formed.
- c) Fines and Penalties for dumped dogs in the County.
- d) Reviewed a fee schedule from the City of Barnesville Animal Control.
- e) Discussed surrendering dogs and cats.

Chairman Glass asked if they needed to consider something such as more than 2 surrenders in 2 weeks or more than 3 in 30 days. Public Works Director said that they needed to consider something because a dog has 10 puppies and then the mama gets sick and then they want them to come pick up the puppies.

Commissioner Traylor said that they need to encourage people to surrender the dogs or cats if they are in a situation instead of dumping them and creating a population that will create more issues. He said that while they are thinking about fees and cost, they need to make sure that they are not thinking about something where people will not take advantage of the service. Commissioner Thrash said that this warrants a committee with some outside help that can assist Planning and Community Development Director Buice and Public Director Rigdon. Commissioner Heiney said that there needs to be a certain series of goals that they want to achieve. He said that the breeders were the ones that had issues. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that breeders have to be registered with the State and if they have a State license, they are exempt.

Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that before the first draft is presented as a first reader, she would like to have some type of open public forum for public input. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that the goal is to have compromise and meet in the middle. She said that you are not going to make everyone happy but, in the end, you should have a good solid ordinance that works. Chairman Glass requested that she take the current ordinance and start with a draft and an outline of what they think they are moving towards and then get some public feedback on that. Chairman Glass said that the next step is to consolidate those thoughts together about some proposed changes to the animal control ordinance.

Planning and Community Development Director Buice asked when the new Lamar County Animal Shelter would be built. She said that she is asking because there are things embedded in the current animal control ordinance regarding the relationship with the City of Barnesville and wondered if this would change once they have a shelter. Chairman Glass said that schedule-wise they are working on an engineering plan; figuring out the cost and how they are going to pay for it. He said that he anticipates breaking ground next year with the hopes of finishing it next year. Planning and Community Development

Director Buice said that rather than changing this animal control ordinance now they could approve one around the same time that the animal shelter is built. Commissioner Thrash suggested that they wait until the animal shelter is built before a modified animal control ordinance is approved. Chairman Glass said that he was in favor of shelving it until the middle of next year or 18 months if they have too. He said that if other things come up and they have another incident with vicious dogs they could take those lessons learned and look at what they have sitting on the shelf and decide if they need to make any tweaks at that point. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that this time frame should give them a well-organized animal control ordinance that most people should be happy with. Chairman Glass said that the goal is to modify the current animal control ordinance and have it ready to adopt when the new animal shelter is built.

Ladder Truck

Fire Chief Matthews addressed the board regarding the Ladder Truck as follows:

- a) Peachtree City Council meets this evening and they will be find out if they will accept the offer of \$40,000.00 to purchase a 2001 HME ladder truck.
- b) Equipment for the Ladder Truck will cost around \$25,000.00
- c) Having a Ladder Truck with equipment will bring the Insurance Services Office (ISO) from 5.9 to 4.0.
- d) Reported that they have 4 air packs to be used on the ladder truck that they do not have to spend if the board approves the ladder truck and the equipment on Tuesday evening.
- e) Reported that Ladder Trucks typically cost \$1.3 to \$1.7 million dollars.
- f) Reported that the Ladder Truck should run for 10 to 15 years.
- g) Reported that the ladder on the truck is 104 ft. and they can pull someone out of the water without touching the water.
- h) Reported that the pump and the ladder passed inspection.
- i) Reported that he knows how to operate the Ladder Truck and the firemen will be trained to operate the Ladder Truck in-house.

Fire Chief Matthews said that if they ever build the hotels on Hwy 36 East and the County will be covered and it will help with getting up on the roof at Rock Springs Church in Milner. Fire Chief Matthews said that at present it can only be stored at Station 1 located on Hwy 36 West and said that this is better than not having a ladder truck. Fire Chief Matthews said that the ultimate plan would be to have it stored in Milner. Fire Chief Matthews said that he knows that fire trucks are going up by 15 percent. Fire Chief Matthews said that he checked the tires and said that they are in good shape.

Chairman Glass said that by this evening they will know if they will accept the offer and requested that it be added to the agenda for Tuesday night once they accept the offer. Fire Chief Matthews said that he believes that they can have the ladder truck on site by July 26th, 2021, if they approve the offer. Chairman Glass suggested that they put both the ladder truck and the equipment on the agenda so that it can be a part of the same action for approval.

Chairman Glass said that the Fire Department came up in discussion at the recent Republic Party town hall meeting. He said that this is a service he relied on to talk about when people were asking about services that they were getting from paying their taxes. He said that he told them that improvements had been made and said that he felt like the people had seen some improvements as well. Chairman Glass said that with 2 people on duty, it has cut down on the response time.

Keck and Wood

Public Works Director Rigdon addressed the board and said that he was tasked with getting figures on Possum Trot Road. He said that Keck and Wood contacted them about overseeing the project to get the numbers to do hydraulic reports and to analyze the roadway geometry and stream crossings. Public Works Director Rigdon said that they produced a preliminary engineering evaluation and cost estimate for Possum Trot Road for \$7,250.00. He said that this gives them an idea for the future and what it would cost to convert the dirt roads to pavement by getting measurements for the right of ways, utilities, hydraulic evaluations, water runoff, geometry, and straightening the curves. Public Works Director Rigdon said that for \$75.00 a mile he will ride every road in the County, take pictures of them, and tell them work type of work needs to be done on them to get them up to standards. Public Works Director Rigdon said that they will update the exact mileage of the roadways. He said that the mileage has not been updated since before he came and if a subdivision was added, the mileage was updated. Public Works Director Rigdon said that this would cost \$24,500.00 to do this for the entire County. He said that they would take pictures of the roads including the signs and said that if another tornado came through, they could go back to those pictures for reference. He said that way they could tell the State how it was before the event happened and what has to be replaced.

Commissioner Traylor asked if they identified any safety issues and if they did, and they were not corrected, could the County be liable based on their recommendation. Public Works Director Rigdon said that he was shown what they had done over in Pike County, on a laptop, and he showed him everything that needed to be done on that road. He said that potholes just happen and if someone wants to sue the County over a pothole and the picture shows the pothole was not there at the time then the County is not liable. Chairman Glass said that whether they know about the safety issues or not the County is equally liable.

Chairman Glass said that they may could funnel the \$24,500.00 cost into the TSPLOST. He said that this would help them to get a true prioritized road list and they could know what the top 10 worst roads are in the County and how to make them last. Chairman Glass said that these are not long-term solutions but said that the \$7,250.00 for Possum Trot Road is an investment worth spending. He said that currently the \$24,500.00 is out of the financial realm for the County. Chairman Glass said that they need to know what it is going to cost them and to set that goal and works towards it. He said that he proposed that they pursue the \$7,250.00 cost and shelve the \$24,500.00 analysis for now until after the TSPLOST vote is over.

Speed Limit Changes:

- Barnesville Road from State Route 36 to Spalding County Line from 55 to 45
- Skinner's Bypass from 45 to 30

The board discussed the above speed limit changes. Commissioner Thrash said that on Skinner's Bypass she does not know how it was ever approved to raise the speed limit to 45. She said that she got a call about the speed limit so she went and rode down Skinner bypass and a motorcycle came towards her doing 45 to 50 miles an hour and he was on her side of the road. Commissioner Thrash said that there was nowhere for her to go because there is no right of way or ditches. She said that the road is not wide enough and it is a winding road with a lot of hills. Commissioner Thrash said that she has spoken to Sheriff White and Major Holmes about this issue and they all agree that it is not a 45 mile an hour road. She said that it is a death trap. Chairman Glass said that to change the speed limit they have to update it in the code.

County Administrator Townsend said that he is planning on doing a speed study. He said that he reached out to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and they said that the County had to provide the study and then they would provide the recommendations for changing the speed limit. County Administrator Townsend said that the computer to do this with is very outdated so they have ordered a new one back in June but it has not been received. Public Works Director Rigdon explained that the Public Works Department cannot change the speed limit signs until a speed study has been done and is approved by GDOT.

Gymnasium

County Administrator Townsend addressed the board regarding the new gymnasium. He said that the new quote is \$417,652.00 minus the \$53,800.00 is \$363,852.00. County Administrator Townsend said that this is \$184,052.00 over the original quote of \$53,800.00 in the agreement. He said that he spoke to County Attorney Mayfield about holding them to the original agreement. County Administrator Townsend said he was told that they would have to file a lawsuit in Florida and this would increase their legal fees. He said that County Attorney Mayfield said that this could take a good while and they just need to request a refund and then put it out to bid again.

Chairman Glass asked if in the new quote was there was anything in there that was not on the original quote that had changed other than the price of the steel. County Administrator Townsend said that it was the price of the steel on the sides and they said that they could not change was what on the roof. Chairman Glass asked if putting in doors and windows was part of the original quote. County Administrator Townsend said that it was not and it is not in the new quote either.

Vice-Chairman Horton said that if they put it out for bid, they may still be facing the same issues. Commissioner Traylor said that they need to be proactive because it is a need for the community. He said that they need to be mindful of the fact that they are not going to have the savings but they still need to find a solution. Commissioner Thrash said that they are lowering the gauge of the steel which lowers the life expectancy of the building. Commissioner Traylor said that they need to get the other bids out there and be proactive.

Chairman Glass said that the action is for County Administrator Townsend to request a refund with Attorney Mayfield sending them a letter. He said that then they need to put this out to bid pretty quickly. Chairman Glass said that they have the specifications so they should be able to plug the attachment onto the application. County Administrator Townsend said that Precision Planning can put it out to bid for the County. He said that they already have 4 companies lined up to give them some quotes. County Administrator Townsend said that it would still be about 6 to 8 months out on the bids.

Community Wellbeing Update

Jessica Traylor addressed the board with a presentation regarding community wellbeing. Mrs. Traylor said that she had been doing some research trying to prepare for her fall classes. She said that her fall classes are going to look at community data and what is going on in Lamar County and set up some dialogue sessions. Mrs. Traylor said that they need to talk about what they think and what they need and what the citizens want even though her students do not have any powers to make decisions. She said that wellbeing is all about health, happiness, and prosperity, and how you feel. Do you feel good in your life? Are you happy or are you making money is your family growing? She said that she looked at the Lamar County website. She said that it is a great vision for the community. Mrs. Traylor said that she looked on the website and found "Welcome to Lamar County, Georgia, a place of growth and development filled with tradition and small-town values, a place to raise your family, start your business. She said that she is so

glad that they moved back to Lamar County to raise a family. Mrs. Traylor said that the last line, “Home is Just Better Here!” is the line that she questions. She said if home is better here, how is it better here and is it better for everybody. Mrs. Traylor said that she used this as a guide for her data collection and said that this is how she will help her students think about wellbeing in the community.

Mrs. Traylor said that in a community wellbeing index they take 5 areas of individual wellbeing and 5 areas of social wellbeing. She said that a recent study uses these same 5 individual wellbeing factors and they are well researched and validated. Mrs. Traylor said that these 5 factors are physical, community, purpose, social and financial.

Individual Health Factors:

Physical: How do you feel and how is your energy level to get things done during the day?

Community: Do you like where you live? Are you proud of your community? Are you involved in your community?

Purpose: Is about your career. Does your life have meaning? Why do you get up every day? Is there a reason for it?

Social Relationships: This is really important. A lack of social connections is a huge reason why people suffer from mental illness. Isolation is used as a punishment.

Financial: Are you making money?

Social Health Factors:

Healthcare Access: Can you get the healthcare that you need? Do we have adequate doctors, dentists, and health providers?

Food Access: Do we have access to high-quality food and not just food but healthy food?

Resource Access: Do we have access to the resources we need? Are the schools doing what they need to do? Do we have enough social organizations?

Economic Security: Do we have jobs? Are we insured?

Housing and Transportation: Is Public Transportation part of the factor? Do we have affordable housing?

Mrs. Traylor said that all 5 of these wellbeing factors give them a community wellbeing index. She said that Georgia is ranked # 32 in the United States and Lamar County is # 115 out of 159 Counties in Georgia. Mrs. Traylor said that this is not the best place for community wellbeing. She said she wondered what these factors look like and what are they doing. Mrs. Traylor said that youth mental health is very important to her. She said that it is an area that they could intervene easily and much earlier.

Mrs. Traylor shared a series of data points from a comparison from 2016, 2018, and 2020 including Lamar, Butts, Pike, Upson, and the State of Georgia. She said that she found that Lamar County does have some strengths.

- 79.6% of LC students have an adult that they can talk to at school. She said that having 1 adult that students can talk to makes a lot of difference. She said that it makes a difference when they can talk to their high school English teacher or their basketball coach.
- 67.7% of LC students agree that adults at school show respect for all students and not just teachers.
- 94.6% of LC students believe it’s important to help people. She said that this data point gave her a lot of hope.

Mrs. Traylor explained that the data presented is from 2016, 2018, and 2020. Mrs. Traylor said that the 2020 data was before COVID. She said that all anxiety, depression, and suicide rates have increased

everywhere since COVID began. Mrs. Traylor said that if the data was done in 2021, chances are that they could be worse.

Mrs. Traylor said that the next study was about worries or fears that got in the way of daily activities over the last 30 days. She said that all of the counties increased but Lamar County increased faster. She said that anxiety and worry got in the way of learning and the student being able to make good behavioral decisions. Mrs. Traylor said that when this happens, they do not do good on tests and long-term planning goes completely out the window. She said that kids will self-medicate and when you ask them why they are smoking weed or why or they are drinking and said that a lot of them will tell you it's to calm their nerves. Mrs. Traylor said that if they do not do something about this anxiety and fear they may have more of a substance abuse issue down the road especially if they do not know the fallout of the increase in the anxiety of COVID.

Mrs. Traylor said that the next study deals with suicide and asked the question "Have you seriously considered harming yourself on purpose?" She said that Lamar County has gone up in this area faster than the other counties. Mrs. Traylor said that this is cutting, burning, choking and doing something to potentially harm themselves. Mrs. Traylor said that 7 percent of Lamar County students actually attempted suicide. She said that they do not know about the ones that actually attempted suicide and were able to complete it. Mrs. Traylor said that Lamar County does not do a very good job of reporting this. She said that there is a lot of understandable stigma around suicide but without accurate reporting, they do not know the magnitude of the problem.

Mrs. Traylor said that in the State of Georgia, Mental Health America looks at access to mental healthcare rankings as follows:

- Ranked # 51 out of 51 for access to mental healthcare.
- 65% of adults with a mental illness do not receive treatment.
- 70% of youth with a major depressive episode do not receive treatment.
- Georgia is ranked #47 out of 51 for mental health workforce availability
- Georgia has a 690:1 ratio
- Lamar County has a 1470:1 ratio

Mrs. Traylor said that they know that mental healthcare is just one part of overall health. She said that if you are sick and you do not have the energy to get up and move you feel worse and your life seems to have less meaning. She said that you do not have the energy to do the things that were designed to bring your life purpose. Mrs. Traylor said that stress and anxiety lead to decreased immune systems. She said that these are all interconnected and you cannot talk about one without the other. Mrs. Traylor looked at the County Health rankings. She said they looked at the length of life and the quality of life. She said that Lamar County is ranked #112 out of 159 counties in Georgia. She said that she looked back in 2017 and Lamar County was ranked # 87. Mrs. Traylor said that based on their website a couple of reasons for the decrease in rankings was that the number of social associations had decreased. She said that these included civic organizations, clubs, and anything that is organized in the community to get people to socialize. She said that the number of these opportunities has decreased in the community. Mrs. Traylor said that access to care has decreased because there are not enough mental health providers, physicians, or dentists. She said that people are inactive, and said that obesity, diabetes, and smoking are increasing. Mrs. Traylor said that they do still have some inequalities because low birth rates are different for white babies versus black babies. She said that there are still some inequalities with income even though it is getting better. Mrs. Traylor said that the 3rd grade test scores are still somewhat different for black students versus white students.

Mrs. Traylor said that as she thought about political actions that could be taken as a community her first thought goes to grants and if you write a grant you have to start with a logic model and a logic model is based on a theoretical framework.

Mrs. Traylor said that she looked at the mortality rate in Lamar County. She said that there are differences between white residents and black residents. She said that white residents are having more issues with COPD and lung cancer. She said that black residents are struggling with diabetes and kidney disease. Mrs. Traylor said that for people in the community ages 10-34 mental and behavioral problems are ranked # 5 and # 6 reason that they visit the emergency room. She said that normal things such as accidents, falls, and the flu are the top reasons but for mental health to be ranked # 5 and # 6 she wondered if there is some prevention that can be done around that.

Commissioner Thrash said that for kids with behavioral problems, ages 10-34, since Georgia ignores mental health, there is nowhere to put the kids. She said that unless you have money, the ER is the only option for the parent. Mrs. Traylor said that her first job in education was to work at a psychoeducational school. She said that she worked with kids with severe emotional and behavioral disorders. Mrs. Traylor said that this is where the kids end up if they cannot live at home and if this does not work out, they end up in the juvenile justice centers. Mrs. Traylor said that it cost around \$45,000.00 to \$55,000.00 to house them.

Mrs. Traylor said that Lamar County does have some strengths and because the median income is increasing the Barnesville Lamar County Chamber of Commerce will run with this in their marketing campaign to attract more businesses. She said that the income gap is closing between white and black citizens and people like that. Mrs. Traylor said that this is a really good selling point and it says great things about the community and how they are trying to make it a “better home” for everyone. She said that the children are doing better and the graduation rate looks really good. Mrs. Traylor said that the number of teen births is down. She said the decreasing number of uninsured citizens is still an issue but they have a lot of good going towards Lamar County.

Mrs. Traylor said that there are still some concerns and mental health is her focus. She said that there are still some issues with access to healthcare, the increasing obesity, lifestyle disease, diabetes, and heart disease, and the increasing numbers of low birth rates are concerning. Mrs. Traylor said that there has been so much focus on the low birth rate but they are still struggling with this. She said that there are more people with high school degrees but they still do not have people with college degrees. Mrs. Traylor said that 50 percent of the people have some college education and said that businesses want either college degrees or some form of more education than just a GED or High School diploma.

Mrs. Traylor said that her students are going to look at the main areas of concern and if they need more research. She said that they are going to divide up and have more conversations with the community. Mrs. Traylor said that it could be in the different districts, it could be at a church, or a school and it is going to be up to them. Mrs. Traylor said that they are going to be in charge of planning and having a partnership with someone like a County Commissioner or a residential staff at Gordon. She said that it takes a village for most of these things but for some of these things it is going to take multiple villages. Mrs. Traylor said that they are going to host a delivery dialogue session and this is setup to illicit viewpoints; strengths and weaknesses.

Mrs. Traylor said that she heard about the animal control ordinance discussion earlier and said that they do need a new policy. She said that the deliverative dialogue would be useful in this type of situation because you get everyone there discussing the strength and weaknesses of the options and the tradeoffs; what can we live with and without as a community and how can we go forward as a community.

Mrs. Traylor asked the board if they knew of other data that they should consider and what did they think would be helpful to move them forward. Chairman Glass said that information such as this is helpful to share with the community and to raise awareness. He said that he hoped it would inspire people to get involved and to take some action. He said as far as other data that they might tie into this, they already track the data based on the dollars per citizen and the operating budgets compared to other counties. Chairman Glass said that they are lower than other counties and they have always said that it is because they are more efficient and more effective. Chairman Glass said that it might be worth looking into to see if there are programs that they are using to address some of these issues. He said that this could be one reason that they are higher than Lamar County. He said that there could be programs that Lamar County is skipping they lead to some of these things.

Commissioner Thrash said that they throw the responsibility of someone with mental health issues on law enforcement. She said that they have to deal with them and they have to handle them and then they have to lock them up. Commissioner Thrash said that it might be helpful to do some type of tracking to see how many people that come into the jails because they have a mental issue. They need to see if they are on their medication and are they able to get their medication. She said that this is important because when they start going to the State to say that they need help with this and they have to have funding for this, these are the types of things that they need to track so they can show them that this is really happening. Chairman Glass said that the rate of repeaters is high because the Sheriff's Office has seen these people before and they know what medications that they should be on when they pick them up. He said that if they can get them back on their medication then they can release them but they know within a few weeks they will be off their medication and they will have to pick them back up because of the same type of problems.

Mrs. Traylor said that it is the same with the emergency room. She said that the same people come in with mental health issues. Mrs. Traylor said that the Georgia Department of Corrections actually gathers data for the prison system for inmates that have mental health conditions but she has not seen anything on a County level. Chairman Glass asked if Mrs. Traylor's students could investigate this with the jailers so they could get some data for them. Mrs. Traylor said that they could do this because most of her students want to go into Criminal Investigation or the Nursing field.

Mrs. Traylor said that the main question is what role that the Board of Commissioners want to play with the community-delivered dialogue process. She said that if the board participates in this project, she will ask them to promote it and then ask them to participate. Chairman Glass said that one of the things he heard after the Republic Party town hall meeting was could they do something to bring more communication together. He said that if they tried to do something quarterly, they could rotate it among the districts and different venues. Chairman Glass asked how they could attract a crowd and if only 3 people come then it is not worth doing. He said that 35 to 40 people came to the Republican Party town hall meeting based on the topic of discussion. Mrs. Traylor said that her students will be interviewing people to see what types of things people want to talk about. She said that some of the topics could be things such as what is important to you as a citizen and how do you want to make a difference.

Vice-Chairman Horton said that over the years self-esteem in Lamar County has been an issue. He said that some of his constituents do not believe in themselves or anything else that the County, the City, or the School does. Mrs. Traylor said that the more people that they can get involved the more diverse voices they will be able to bring to the table. She said that diverse representation helps in government. Mrs. Traylor said that people do not trust the government and for good reason. She said that it would help to get people involved particularly in local government where they will learn to trust the process because they will see that there are good people in local government who are really trying to do good for the

community. Mrs. Traylor said that she is concerned about this but she said that she does not know how to reach these people. She said that this would be helpful even for the City Council members to get involved in reaching out to their constituents to bring them to the table.

Chairman Glass said that they appreciated the data and the direction that she is taking this with her students and said that he hopes that they can stay connected to them. He said that helping in the community is a key area that they would like to work on. Chairman Glass said that if there are grants that need to be championed through the County office or if they need to be a physical agent, they will do that too. Mrs. Traylor said that they should think about it and find out which area the Board of Commissioners are interested in working on because they are the leaders and the decision makers. She said that after they think about it, they could reach back out and say that they want to focus on early intervention or adolescence and she can look for and write the grants if it is something that the Community wants to get behind.

Community Engagement Letter-Jon Pannell

Chairman Glass said that this is for the bond attorney. He said that they are proposing a bond attorney to handle the potential purchase of Fred's and then if they bond the TSPLOST they will do the same thing. Chairman Glass said that Jon Pannell is a bond attorney and ACCG recommends him. He said that he has done some work for Lamar County before and Attorney Mayfield recommends him too. Chairman Glass said that this is the engagement letter so that you realize that it is happening.

Regular Business Meeting Discussion.

- The board reviewed 3 sets of Minutes
 - Workshop Meeting June 3rd, 2021
 - Workshop Meeting June 10th, 2021
 - Regular Business Meeting-June 15th, 2021
- The board reviewed several board appointments.
 - Board Appointments
 - i. Planning Commission (Term is for 4 years)
 - a. Angela Preston- Term Expires 8-1-2021
 - ii. Board of Appeals (Term is for 3 years)
 - a. Frankie Holland (Term Expires 7-1-2021)
 - b. Eddie Felton (Term Expires 7-1-2021)
 - c. Lavetrece Walker (Term Expires 7-1-2021)
- The board reviewed the FY 2020 audit.
- The board reviewed a contract for Indigent Defense Services
- The board reviewed Resolution 2021-10 Intergovernmental Agreement between Lamar County and the City of Barnesville for Roberta Drive. He said that there is an investment firm that is interested in possibly putting in a spec building that they could market. He said that they would own the building but it could help to attract some interest in Lamar County. Chairman Glass said that one of the big issues that they have is when the State calls and says that they have someone that is interested in a 30,000 square foot building. He said that a lot of times when they come and look, they may not like the building but they might see something else that they may want. Chairman Glass said that it is a great recruiting tool. He said that they have tried to get local investors to put one up before but they have been unsuccessful for many years. He said that this company is willing to do it but they do not want to develop all of the Roberta Drive property at one time. He said that the idea is to get a

development plan together with multiple parcels on it and they would invest in the spec building and the first parcel. He said that they would have some options on the other parcels down the road. He said that if someone buys that parcel then they can go to the next parcel. Chairman Glass said that they could also defer payments on parcels until they could sell the first one.

- The board reviewed Resolution 2021-10 Adoption of A Solid Waste Management Plan.
- The board reviewed Ordinance 2021-09 Rezone 518 Hwy 18 West (036 033) from Hwy Commercial to R-3

Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported that the Courthouse windows came in but for some reason, the cost of things has gone up. He said that the price for the windows is now \$35,687.26 but the original agreement was \$20,916.04. Chairman Glass said that there was an increase from the cost that was in the original bid. He said that for some reason there was a delay in the ordering of the windows and a price increase which was on their end. County Administrator Townsend said that the Windows were not ordered until May 13th, 2021. Chairman Glass asked if County Administrator Townsend could get Attorney Mayfield to send them a letter telling them they are liable for the second quote. He said that he would speak to him about it because he had been doing a lot of other stuff and he had not spoken with him about it but said that he would before the meeting.

County Administrator Townsend said that LOST came in at \$214,415.88 and was the highest that it had been. He also presented a tentative budget for ARP funds. County Administrator Townsend said that those that had not been here for a year would have a prorated amount. He said that ACCG sent out information where other counties are doing a premium payment once a year through the year 2024.

County Administrator Townsend stated that he would like to put the bid for 12 air conditioners that are slated for the detention center on the agenda. He said that this purchase is eligible to come from the ARP funds for \$54,148.64. He said that they usually spend around \$4,000.00 to replace a unit but the bid came in at \$5,800.00. He said that the jail video camera, the scanning contract for the Courthouse Records, and the Culverts/Storm Water are not covered according to ACCG. He said that he spoke to Sheriff White about having an isolation cell but Sheriff White said he spoke to other counties and he mentioned to him about putting a camper out back and putting a fence around it. County Administrator Townsend said Sheriff White said that it would be more expensive if you try to isolate one cell. Chairman Glass said that this is for cases such as tuberculosis and you have to have a negative pressure isolation unit to keep them from infecting the rest of the jail.

County Administrator Townsend said that they spoke about having the Crisis Mental Health Team that is also on the ARP list above. He said that this would cost \$24,000.00 and is covered by ARP. Chairman Glass said that this is for training on conflict de-escalation and things of this nature. He said that this is so that they can go to domestic disturbances and instead of taking them to jail they are trained on how to calm things down.

County Administrator Townsend said that tomorrow is the deadline for any type of input on the ARP changes. He said that the Parks/Recreation was added for a cost of \$50,000.00. County Administrator Townsend said that the balance of \$628,424.00 is for everything. Chairman Glass asked why the Cyber

Security was listed for 2023. Accountant Colquitt said that if they spend over \$750,000.00 then next year it will require the County to have a single audit. Chairman Glass said that no matter what year they spend the money they will have to add this single audit so they could at least pull it to the year 2022. County Administrator Townsend said that he had been playing with the numbers moving them back and forth. He said that he is proposing doing the premium payments on August 1st, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. Chairman Glass said that this is the draft and if they have any other ideas, they need to get back to County Administrator Townsend.

County Administrator Townsend said that the staff recommends the air conditioner units bid go to Southern Comfort out of Zebulon, Georgia for a cost of \$ 54,148.64 with a 5-year parts warranty and a 1-year labor warranty. Commissioner Thrash asked about getting quotes from the 2 businesses in Lamar County. County Administrator Townsend said that Maintenance Director Beverly reached out to them and they will not give them a quote because every time they submit a bid to Lamar County, they award it to someone else. Chairman Glass said that historically they have quoted higher numbers. Commissioner Thrash said that if they bid higher then it is the responsibility of the Commissioners to save the taxpayers money. County Administrator Townsend said that it is in the policy that if they are within 5 percent of the lowest bidder to negotiate the cost. County Administrator Townsend said that he was surprised at the quote from the company out of Zebulon, Georgia. Commissioner Traylor asked if the equipment was the same. County Administrator Townsend said that they are all Carriers. He said that the reason he stayed away from one of the bids that they were the second-lowest bid was because of the warranty. County Administrator Townsend said he spoke to Accountant Colquitt and they agreed on Southern Comfort. He said that they are working on the Courthouse too and said that Southern Comfort would be eligible for this too. County Administrator Townsend said that having new air conditioners will be a big help.

County Administrator Townsend presented a TSPLOST starter list to the board and requested that they give him their feedback. He said that if they put this out to bid and they have 6 million dollars they might be able to get a lower cost. County Administrator Townsend said that Public Works Director Rigdon is using LMIG numbers. Commissioner Thrash said that it is not the labor but the material prices that are going up.

County Administrator Townsend said finances are looking good and they are projecting not to go into the TAN until sometime in August. He said that they may not have to since he and Accountant Colquitt decided to extend the Accounts Payables out to 3 weeks instead of a 2-week pay cycle.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Thrash said that she is going to be hosting a Cyber Security and Infrastructure event for Lamar County and the surrounding counties. She said that the Director of Cyber Security and Infrastructure for the White House will be the guest speaker. Commissioner Thrash said that she would be sending out dates based on their schedule.

Adjournment and Executive Session

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to recess the Workshop meeting to go into Executive Session for real estate at approximately 2:52 p.m. Commissioner Thrash Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board came out of Executive Session at approximately 3:15 p.m. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Workshop meeting. Commissioner Traylor 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