

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
October 19th, 2021**

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Traylor, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, and County Attorney Mayfield. The meeting was available via Zoom.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Glass called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance. Clayton Andrews, Senior Pastor/Founder at Building Relationships Ministries International gave the invocation.

III. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to amend the agenda adding a Request to Support Southern Rivers Energy's Broadband Infrastructure Grant Application. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to approve the following three sets of minutes. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Workshop Meeting September 16th, 2021
- ii. Public Hearing Meeting September 21st, 2021
- iii. Regular Business Meeting-September 21st, 2021

V. Lamar County Community Citizens Concern

April Scott of 267 Roberts Road addressed the board on behalf of a group of citizens in Lamar County. Ms. Scott said that there have been issues with the Barnesville Academy (BA) gym and she has met with several Commissioners about this. Her proposal is to have the Community come in and try to help with this. Ms. Scott said that there have been some propositions or ideas that the board has had that have not happened as of yet and with this particular gym in mind, they are wondering if they could have permission and support for this. Ms. Scott said that she has spoken to the City of Barnesville's County Manager Turner in reference to sitting down at the table along with the Board of Commissioners to make this a Community joint effort with the County and the City to try and do some type of renovations. Ms. Scott said that you have other counties that are coming in and they have made it known that it is an embarrassment so they do not want to play here because of the leakage, the floor cracks, and the bleachers. She said that she understands that the gym is old but the upkeep of the gym

should have been maintained. Ms. Scott said that the BA gym is an eyesore. It is an embarrassment to the Youth. Ms. Scott said that she understood that money is an issue but if they could all come together to try and find funding so that they can come out and use the gym. The Community has proposed to them that they do not mind coming out and playing a few hours when the gym is not being used. They could compare schedules with the Recreation Department because they have organized programs as well and they would not want to interfere with this. Ms. Scott said that they are willing to pay and they are willing to raise money and they are also willing to come in and some repairs as necessary. Ms. Scott said that they want to make sure that they are all on the same page and they do not want to do anything without the Board of Commissioners approval. They want to make sure that in the event that this does happen that the Community itself can come in a couple nights a week and play and pay. Ms. Scott said that they also want to start an adult basketball league; male and female at a paid rate. This would be under Georgia Recreation and Parks Association (GRPA) rules so that they can also raise money. The admissions, entry fees, and concessions would go to the BA gym. Ms. Scott said that she would be willing to help with this like back in 2017 when she started an adult soft ball league that is still going on. Ms. Scott requested to meet with the Board of Commissioners on a different date and time.

Ms. Scott said that she has reached out and researched Grants in this area and she is willing to help proceed with this as well. She said that she is coming tonight for the Board of Commissioners to consider opening up the gym so that the Youth can come in and play basketball. Ms. Scott said that this would be a win, win until they can build another gym because one is very much needed. She said that they need something for the Youth to do because they do not have anything for them to do. Ms. Scott said that this is not a Barnesville thing or a Lamar thing, it is a joint effort thing, and they all have need to pull together to give the kids something to do here in Lamar County.

Clifford Barber of 173 Adkins Road addressed the board. Mr. Barber said that they are very concerned about the gym for the children. He said that it could bring in some revenue if they have things such as family reunions and it could be a nice place if it is fixed up. Mr. Barber said that they boys and girls need somewhere to go and said that the Board of Commissioners should have been at a meeting last Thursday night at the Church and said that it is a good thing to go to church but said that they need somewhere else to go besides going home. Mr. Barber said that they are asking for the Board of Commissioners to take this under consideration and said that they will work with them anyway that they can. Mr. Barber said that they need somewhere for the young people to go and to get them off the streets and to give the gangs a place to go because they want to save their children.

Teresa Davis of 113 Bradley Circle addressed the board. Mrs. Davis said that her granddaughter played ball at the Spalding County gym when she was growing up. It gave them an opportunity to get involved and to learn how to know that there are responsibilities to education that also coincides with their ability to achieve or to know how to do something else that they love to do such as playing basketball. In reality, the children of today are going through a lot. They have gone through virtual learning and you have to give them some type of insight as to what their future will look like. Mrs. Davis said that she spoke to Mr. Barber about the Booker School. Mrs. Davis said that it needs to be cleaned up. Her granddaughter

went over there to take pictures and there was trash everywhere and you could tell that there were people over there doing unsafe things. With all of this in mind along with the gym they need to pull the community together to help their children and even start tutoring at some point. Mrs. Davis said that she helped out an organization in Warner Robins, Georgia. They were putting together a facility that helped out Veterans. This was for women who lost their way and became homeless. They got sponsors to help such as Home Depot and Lowes to renovate the building. Mrs. Davis said that her husband is a Park Ranger and whenever they did any type of celebration, sponsors always paid for everything from an organizational standpoint. Mrs. Davis said that their kids are important to them. It is important for them to not be isolated and to not be able to be around their friends.

Chairman Glass said that they had spoke about this at their recent Workshop meeting. He said that the concept is great for their kids and they do need to support them and provide some resources and activities for them. The Board of Commissioners do have some concerns about the gym floors, bleachers and the basketball goals not being safe. Chairman Glass said that safety is a big concern liability wise. They did have a plan to build a new gym as a SPLOST project and they thought that they had reserved the steel building but by the time that they put the order in and the time that it was supposed to be delivered, the price went up and they would not honor the original contract. They have had a setback and they are still looking at building a new gym or at least refurbishing the BA gym to current standards. Chairman Glass said that these projects will take a while. There are a couple of people working on this already and said that this was the first that he had heard that the City of Barnesville wanted to be involved. Chairman Glass suggested that they continue this with the City of Barnesville and the concerned citizens. He said that he likes the idea of sponsorships but Lamar County does not have a Home Depot or a Walmart that might could help but with the right people and the right argument maybe they can bring some resources here.

County Administrator Townsend shared that the cost for replacing the floors would be around \$51,000.00, to replace the two goals will cost around \$29,000.00, and to replace the bleachers it will cost around \$67,000.00. He said that he is getting some quotes for someone to come in and repair the roof. They will need to take the old insulation out plus put in new LED lights and concession cabinets. County Administrator Townsend said that they are looking into what it would cost to repair the BA gym compared to what it would cost to build a new gym and find out what will be the best solution.

Chairman Glass said that at the Workshop meeting in November they can give an update and plan on meeting with the City of Barnesville before then. Ms. Scott volunteered to setup the meeting. Chairman Glass explained that only two Commissioners could be present at the meeting unless they want to advertise for an official meeting.

VI. Lamar County Board of Health Fees

Chairman Glass explained that the purpose of approving the Lamar County Board of Health Environmental Health Fees increase, listed below. was to bring them more in line with the surrounding counties. He explained that this is the first time that they had been changed in the last 15 years. This is a District 4 Department of Public Health (DPH) recommendation to

modify the fees. Commissioner Thrash said that she noticed that in the paper they are paying for transportation to get people to come get the COVID vaccine and wanted to know where that money is coming from. Commissioner Traylor said that these fees are similar to the increase that they did with the permitting fees in Lamar County. The Health Department is increasing the same type of permitting fees. Commissioner Traylor said that with all of the growth and the increase in the subdivisions in the County, the Health Department was not able to subsidize the fees so they did a comparison with the other counties. Commissioner Thrash stated that since they cannot subsidize the fees, they are going to put the increase on the businessowners and the new construction but they can pay for transportation to take people to get vaccines.

Bonnie Turner, Environmental Health Manager for the District 4 Department of Public Health addressed the board via Zoom. Mrs. Turner explained that these fees are for Environmental Health and any transportation is not coming from DPH as far as the vaccine is concerned. She said that it could be other grants or things that are going on but as far as the Environmental Health fees are concerned, Lamar County is growing and there are more lots and homes and currently they only have one Environmentalist and it is very difficult to keep up with the growth in Lamar County so the Environmental Health Department is going to have to grow with Lamar. Mrs. Turner said that they cannot do this if they are keeping their fees the same as they were 10 to 15 years ago. She said that the none of these increases are completely through the roof. These type fees help to get more individuals for the Environmental Health Department so that they can ensure that they are providing the kind of service that Lamar County deserves and they cannot see this happening with only one Environmentalist.

Commissioner Thrash asked Mrs. Turner if Environmental Health received any American Relief Plan (ARP) money. Mrs. Turner said that she was not aware of any ARP money but there is a Financial Department that handles all of this but she had not heard of any type of extra funding for the Environmental Health. Commissioner Traylor said that it could be coming from a different bucket and Lamar County can't use LMIG money to renovate the gym. Commissioner Thrash said that Mrs. Turner clarified that. She said that the reason that she was raising the issue is so that Environmental Health can make sure that they are getting some of the ARP money.

Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve the Lamar County Board of Health Environmental Health Fees increase and Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner

Well sampling (owner requested)	\$30	Lamar		\$40
	\$30	Spalding		
		Pike		
Well sampling (w/ letter)	\$40	Lamar		\$50
	\$50	Spalding		
	\$50	Pike		

Existing On-site evaluation	\$50	Lamar		\$75
	\$100	Spalding		
	\$60	Pike		
Existing On-site evaluation w/ well sample	\$75	Lamar		\$100
	\$100+30	Spalding		
	\$110	Pike		
Subdivision Review	\$50/lot	Lamar		\$200 + 50/ lot
	\$50/lot	Spalding		Co. mgr. seeking change
	\$200 + 50/lot	Pike		
Well Permits (to include 1st test)	\$75	Lamar		\$100
	\$50	Spalding		
	\$150	Pike		
Food Service Permit+ Plan Review				
1- 50 seats	\$100	Lamar		\$250
	250	Spalding		
	250	Pike		
51-99 seats				
	200	Lamar		\$350
	500	Spalding		
	350	Pike		
100+ seats				
	300	Lamar		\$450
	500	Spalding		
	350	Pike		

VII. Lamar County Department of Family and Children Services 2022 Budget Request

Chairman Glass explained the budget request from the Lamar County Department of Family and Children Services. These funds are used for children that need pajamas, shoes, socks, underwear and other items initially They are requesting the usual allowed budget amount of \$15,000.00 for the fiscal year 2021. The monthly payment will be \$1,250.00 and any expenditures over \$750.00 will require budget approval. They are also requested that any unused funds be carried over into the next fiscal year. Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the budget request from the Lamar County Department of Family and Children Services in the amount of \$15,000.00. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Panel of Physicians

Chairman Glass explained the need for an updated Panel of Physicians because Resurgens Orthopedics out of Fayetteville, Georgia is in the same group as the one out of Griffin, Georgia and needed to be listed on the panel. This is required for Workers Compensation that is administered through the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve the updated Panel of Physicians. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. LMIG Priority List of Roads

Chairman Glass presented a list of priority roads for the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG). County Administrator reported that LMIG is bringing in \$425,000 for the project. Commissioner Traylor made a motion to approve Option 3 for the LMIG priority list of roads. Vice-Chairman Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Glass reported that Early Voting is going on for TSPLOST and said that there is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the Lamar County Website. He said that with the revenue that could be generated from TSPLOST they could triple the amount of roads that they could pave.

▪ Option # 1

Road Name		Linear FT	Tons	Projected Cost	District
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Church Street		4,195	622.42	\$ 68,253.65.	Horton
Woodruff Street		375	68.75	\$ 7,354.40	Horton
Ware Street		375	68.75	\$ 7,354.40	Horton
McBroom Street		375	68.75	\$ 7,354.40	Horton
Johnson Street		2,120	388.67	\$ 41,576.89	Horton
Banks-Walton		2,900	531.67	\$ 56,874.05	Horton
McCollum Road	Hwy 36- Perdue	11,335	1,589.19	\$ 175,573.72	Traylor
Skinners Bypass		8,700	1,448.33	\$ 156,604.55	Thrash
Community House Road	341-Ramah Church Road	16,896	3,525.38	\$ 367,381.67	Heiney

• \$ 888,327.73

▪ Option # 2

Road Name		Linear FT	Tons	Projected Cost	District
Church Street		4,195	622.42	\$ 68,253.65	Horton
Woodruff Street		375	68.75	\$ 7,354.40	Horton
Ware Street		375	68.75	\$ 7,354.40	Horton
McBroom Street		375	68.75	\$ 7,354.40	Horton
Johnson Street		2,120	388.67	\$ 41,576.89	Horton
Banks-Walton		2,900	531.67	\$ 56,874.05	Horton
Burnette Road		8,835	1,375.31	\$ 149,907.05	Traylor

Brown Springs Rd		2,800	513.33	\$ 54,912.88	Thrash
Skyler Road		4,700	715.00	\$ 78,157.58	Thrash
Heatherwood Lane		900	165.00	\$ 17,650.57	Thrash
Yancy Road		3,500	641.67	\$ 68,641.10	Thrash
Heavy Road		1,200	220.00	\$ 23,534.09	Thrash
Community House Road	341-Ramah Church Road	16,896	3,525.38	\$ 367,381.67	Heiney

• \$ 948,952.73

▪ Option # 3

Road Name		Linear FT	Tons	Projected Cost	District
Church Street		4,195	622.42	\$ 68,253.65	Horton
Woodruff Street		375	68.75	\$ 7,354.40	Horton
Ware Street		375	68.75	\$ 7,354.40	Horton
McBroom Street		375	68.75	\$ 7,354.40	Horton
Johnson Street		2,120	388.67	\$ 41,576.89	Horton
Banks-Walton		2,900	531.67	\$ 56,874.05	Horton
Skinner's Bypass		8,700	1,448.33	\$ 156,604.55	Thrash
Lovejoy Road		4,750	638.61	\$ 70,961.22	Traylor
Burnette Road		8,835	1,375.31	\$ 149,907.05	Traylor
Community House Road	341-Ramah Church Road	16,896	3,525.38	\$ 367,381.67	Heiney

• \$ 933,622.28

X. Purchase of John Deere Gator TX (Model Year 2022)

Chairman Glass presented the purchase of a John Deere Gator TX (Model Year 2022) for the Recreation Department in the amount of \$8,568.55. This will be purchased from SPLOST. Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to approve the purchase of a John Deere Gator TX (Model Year 2022) for the Recreation Department in the amount of \$8,568.55. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion Passed unanimously.

XI. Purchase of Caterpillar, Inc. Model: 304 Hydraulic Excavators (Yancey/Cat)

Chairman Glass presented the purchase of a Caterpillar, Inc. Model: 304 Hydraulic Excavators (Yancey/Cat) for the Public Works Department in the amount of \$66,555.00. This will be purchased from SPLOST. Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to approve the purchase of a Caterpillar, Inc. Model: 304 Hydraulic Excavators (Yancey/Cat) for the Public Works Department in the amount of \$66,555.00. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Resolution 2021-27 Repay Interest for the loan on Legacy Industrial Park

Chairman Glass explained that this is related to the purchase of the property in Legacy Industrial Park. The original Intergovernmental Agreement was between the Industrial

Development Authority (IDA) and the Town of Aldora (Aldora). He explained that when the Chinese were planning to come to Lamar County the IDA bought property on Forsyth Highway anticipating future growth for manufacturers. The IDA borrowed the money to purchase the land and then the Chinese backed out of coming to Lamar County. The only portion of the land that has been sold is to Piedmont Green Power. Chairman Glass said that because the IDA did not have any source of income, the bank needed reassurance that the money would be paid back so the Town of Aldora agreed to pay the interest on the loan for up to three years. Chairman Glass said that part of the loan was paid off from the Piedmont Green Power sale but it was not enough to cover the entire loan. Aldora was never paid anything and now they are having to do some roadwork to keep the roads up to speed for Continental Tire Company to handle the truck traffic. Aldora has done great things for the County in the past and the County and the City of Barnesville want to help back the IDA financially so they have agreed to split the money and pay it back to Aldora. This Resolution allows the County to transfer the money to the IDA and then they pay it back to Aldora because the original agreement was between Aldora and the IDA. The County will get documentation from Aldora that there is no further obligation towards this money and it is completely paid off. Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-27 to Repay Interest for loan on Legacy Industrial Park in the amount of \$105,269.00. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Request to Support Southern Rivers Energy's Broadband Infrastructure Grant Application

Chairman Glass explained that this request is for a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners for a Broadband Infrastructure Grant. Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to approve the request supporting Southern Rivers Energy's Broadband Infrastructure Grant application. Commissioner Thrash requested that they amend the motion to include future request for Federal Grant Funding. Chairman Glass stated that they would add a paragraph about request for Federal Grant Funding. Vice-Chairman Horton amended his motion to approve the request supporting Southern Rivers Energy's Broadband Infrastructure Grant application adding a paragraph to the letter supporting request for Federal Grant funding. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Administrators Report

County Administrator reported the following:

- i. Received the Insurance Premium Rollback in the amount of \$820,861.73 plus some property tax money so that in the coming weeks they can pay off the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). To date \$973,081.88 had been borrowed.
- ii. Expenditures are running at 69.24 percent and they should be at 75 percent.
- iii. Cash Flow is running about the forecast.
- iv. Tax Ad Valorem (TAVT), Local Options Sales Tax (LOST) are running above the forecast. With the formula change the TAVT has not been tracked properly but should be on track within the next year.
- v. Reported that the new air conditioners had been installed at the Sheriff's Office and the Courthouse. These were purchased with the ARP funds.

- vi. Reported that he will be in meetings regarding the renovation for the old Fred's building.
- vii. Reported that he will be in meetings regarding the Lamar County Animal Shelter and the new Recreation gym.
- viii. Reported that LOST and SPLOST came in at the highest level reported in Lamar County. The LOST distribution was \$128,420.06 and SPLOST distribution was \$229,321.74 and this was attributed to online purchases and local shopping in Lamar County.

Chairman Glass explained that the difference between a LOST penny and a SPLOST penny. The LOST penny is the money received from the Department of Revenue and they also send a portion of the one penny collected to the City. The SPLOST penny comes to Lamar County and is split out amongst the municipalities. The amount for LOST and SPLOST is about the same amount for Lamar County.

Commissioner Thrash said that she appreciated what the Department Heads had done and what County Administrator Townsend had been doing because the County is in a better position than they had been in the past and they are prepared for what is about to come down the track. Commissioner Thrash said that the way things are going this is not sustainable and believes that they are going to be faced with some very hard times.

XV. Public Comments

Recreation Director Tiffany Lowe of 222 Autumn Ridge Drive Griffin, Georgia addressed the board. Recreation Director Tiffany Lowe said that she was in support of both the County side and the Community side for the project of updating the BA gym and/or moving towards having a new gym. She said that she and County Administrator Townsend having been talking for a year about what direction that they need to move toward renovations or building a new gym and what would be best for the Community as a whole. Recreation Director Tiffany Lowe said that she is in support of what the Community wants to do as well as expansion for the Youth and what they need in the future. What they have right now was sufficient 20 years ago but is no longer sufficient now. Recreation Director Tiffany Lowe said that Recreation Projects will cost a lot of money and does not know if they can just rely on the County for this and it cannot be done by just the Recreation Department. She said that she is willing to sit down and have a discussion about this so that they can move in the right direction. Recreation Director Tiffany Lowe and her office is always open and said that she is in support of this on both sides.

Clifford Barber addressed the board again and thanked the Board of Commissioners. He said that he appreciated them and said that they would help out with this.

XVI. Round Table

Vice-Chairman Horton said that he appreciated the citizens for coming out and in the end would like to see a happy median for everyone.

Commissioner Heiney said that he agreed with Vice-Chairman Horton.

Commissioner Traylor echoed this and thanked everyone for coming, sharing and being patient. He said that he had coached out there for many years and remembers playing out there and he understands the importance that the Recreation Department has on the Community and the Youth in the Community. Commissioner Traylor said that hopefully they can move forward and said that the soccer fields and the baseball fields look a lot better.

Commissioner Thrash thanked everyone for coming and said that a lot of times people just throw things at them but said that is so refreshing to see someone come up with ideas and suggestions and willingness to step up to the plate to help. Commissioner Thrash also announced that December 4th, 2021, will be the next annual Christmas Parade. It was a huge success last year so put it on your calendar for this year. The Christmas Parade will start at 5:30 p.m. so if you want to put a float in the parade, they will have the registration applications available soon. There will also be competition with the floats and the employees and she hopes everyone will come out.

Chairman Glass said that it is very refreshing to have people come forward with ideas instead of throwing a problem in their laps and expecting them to do something about it. He said that they have a good start on this and hopefully they can build on this so that it can be a success in the Community. Chairman Glass said that projects move slow sometimes. He said that they thought they had a new gym plan for the building and they lost that possibility. Chairman Glass said that with inflation it is going to take a lot more money just for the building and maybe refurbishment of what they already have is the best approach until they can build something new. They do have a need for more capacity because they just have one court and with the growth of Community, they would like to have more courts. Chairman Glass said that they can vote early for TSPLOST at the Administration Building between 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the rest of this week including Saturday and then next week Monday through Friday and on Election Day, November 2nd, 2021, where they can vote at their designated precincts. There is also an election for the City of Barnesville for City Council Members in Ward 2 and Ward 4 where you can vote early or on November 2nd, 2021, you can vote at the Civic Center.

XVII. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Horton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. 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