

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Mid-Year Review Minutes
July 13th, 2023
8:30 A.M

I. Call to Order

Chairman Glass called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Present for the meeting was Vice-Chairman Heiney, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson.

II. Mid-Year Review

Chairman Traylor stated that the reviews allow the Commissioners to spend time with the leaders in the County and it allows them to motivate and encourage them. They get to look at their spending habits. Chairman Traylor said that if you look at Government people expect things not to be the best and he wants to change that by looking at everything; picking up a piece of trash, painting a handicap parking sign, fixing a door handle, or whatever it is that is keeping them from the low hanging fruit.

County Administrator Townsend said that it had been a challenging year. There have been health insurance and liability insurance increases. The departments have tried to stay within their budget but they had increases with contracts. The Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) and Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) have come in higher. A mid-year budget review book to the board and reported the following:

- a) Reported that the current budget for all revenues is \$21,300,583.00 to \$21,764,508.00.
- b) Reported that E-911 collections are lower than projected so they will need to increase it to \$105,639.00. He said a lot of the Special Revenues are lower than projected and will need to be increased, including the Drug Abuse Treatment (DATE) fund which pays for the Accountability Court.
- c) Presented a tentative budget calendar from July 13th to December 19th, 2023 with the Board of Commissioners adopted the 2024 budget. It has to go to the legal organ by July 20th or 21st, 2023. County Administrator Townsend said that what he will share with them regarding expenditures and revenues will help them to determine if they need to do a millage increase. He uses trend numbers to determine increases and decreases from last year and to determine if the millage rate needs to be increased. He is recommending that they do a rollback rate.
- d) Reported that many of the larger expenditures in the County are due the first six months of the year and this is the reason for the past Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). He said that the expenditures shows the percentage at 51.3 because the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) was paid early.
- e) Reported the new Administration building is being expensed for electricity.
- f) Reported that the Commissioners budget increased due to having new Commissioner attending required trainings.
- g) Presented the trends for General Government, Judicial, Public Safety, Public Works, Health Welfare, Culture and Recreation, Planning and Community Development.
- h) Reported the projected expenditures is \$13,727,932.35 and the projected revenues is \$14,048,617.12 with a total balance of \$320,684.77.

- i) Reported that the PT32 had a 2023 rollback rate of 10.089 but it has changed to 10.093 based on new numbers from the Tax Commissioner.
- j) Reviewed the millage rates from 2006-2023 going from 8.942 to 10.093. The difference between the current versus the 3 percent Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) over 18 years is -5.856 percent.
- k) Presented a list of 2023 budgeted revenues for all line items with a total balance of \$13,998.436.
- l) Reported that the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) line item was reduced from \$40,000.00 to zero because the Sheriff's Office did not apply for the VOCA grant.
- m) Presented trends for all of the revenues from 2019 to 2023.
- n) Reported that the bill for the Pension plan was paid twice so they booked it to prior year but the cash for \$362,000.00 had to still go out. This amount will not be coming out of the revenue for this year. Normally a contingency is listed but he did not put it in there this year because the \$362,000.00 will not be spent out of the 2024 budget.
- o) Reported that over the last three years the books have changed tremendously. He said that the books now include the Transportation Special Local Options Sales Tax (TSPLOST), an extra bond and new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) rules such as GASB 86 related to how you book leases. Reported that there is rumor that GASB will change again.
- p) Reported that the ERP software system will be migrated from ERP version 9 to 10.
- q) Commissioner Thrash stated she though the beer and wine sales would have increased due to the Sunday Alcohol Sales.
- r) Discussed Public Utility Taxes for the year 2022 showing zero revenue. County Administrator Townsend said that there was nothing received for 2022 or 2023 because the sales ratios were below the 38 percent threshold. This is where Southern Rivers and Georgia Power are invoiced in November and the money comes in the next year. Commissioner Lovett said he was not understanding this since both 2022 and the proposed 2023 were zero. County Administrator Townsend realized that a formula was wrong and said he would submit the correct amount to the Commissioners.
- s) Commissioner Gilles inquired the decrease in Zoning. County Administrator Townsend stated that zoning and permits had been broken out into separate categories.
- t) Vice-Chair Thrash inquired about the decrease in the Franchise Fee Tax because legislation has passed that this be collected locally in the County. County Administrator Townsend said that this is an issue with the reporting from the Department of Revenue. 30:00
- u)

III. Department Briefings

Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

Interim EMA Director Becky Martin addressed the board.

- a) Reported that the EMA budget for 2023 budget is not over.
- b) Requested that they raise the fuel in the 2024 budget for the truck from \$400.00 to \$500.00 due to the distance she travels to and from work.
- c) Requested that they lower the dues and fees from \$100.00 to \$75.00.
- d) Reported that this will bring her 2024 Budget to \$45,387.60.
- e) Reported that the last two sirens will arrive next year and they will need to be paid for up front and then the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will reimburse the County later in the year. Reported that the

sirens will cost \$72,338.71 and they are supposed to go on Country Kitchen Road (at the Main Fire Station) and the corner of Barnesville Road and Hwy 36. There will be a 70 percent reimbursement for the total amount.

- f) Reported that the Disaster Relief will expire in December of 2025 but they will need to begin trainings and meetings in the year 2024. They are conducted with Three Rivers over a period of a year and a half to two years.
- g) Reported that the sirens are tested once a month. Truman Boyle tests half of them on the North side of the County and Ms. Martin tests the other half on the South side of the County.
- h) Stated that over the next five years she has a lot of studying to do and courses to complete.
- i) Reported that the City of Barnesville Fire Chief Kelvin Chute approached her about re-vamping the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The budget in the past for CERT was \$100.00 a month. The CERT training is designed to have 24 hours of base training where you receive a backpack and learn to take care of yourself and your neighbors. The former CERT had training in Lamar County that was constant and they met every month.
- j) Inquired about the EMA moving locations. Vice-Chair Thrash said that the goal is to put the EMA and the 911 center in the same location. Ms. Martin said that she will need an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) room that is a good size.
- k) Reported that City of Barnesville Fire Chief Chute and the CERT commander Tom Burgess meet two weeks ago about re-vamping CERT. County Fire Chief Matthews was also invited.

Public Works Department

Public Works Director James Rigdon (Mr. Rigdon) addressed the board.

- a) Reported no major increases for next year other than repair and maintenance on equipment.
- b) Reported that until June of 2024 there will be no cost for rock with Vulcan. This is about \$450.00 a load and this is 1800 loads which is a substantial savings. After this contract ends then there is a 20 percent reduction from the Georgia Department of Transportation from now on. Chairman Traylor requested that County Administrator Townsend hold the new Rock Quarry to the same standards as Vulcan is giving the County with the rock.
- c) Reported that they are scraping and graveling roads every day.
- d) Reported that there are motor graders on two parts of the County scraping roads.
- e) Reported that there will be a standard cost of living increase in communications.
- f) Reported that work orders are done on Ipad.
- g) Reported that there will be increases to Schools, Meetings and Trainings
- h) Reported that there will be increases to Uniforms.
- i) Reported that they are wearing the Snake Boots when necessary.
- j) Vice-Chair Thrash said she would like to have security for the Public Works crew that are working on the roads and would like to see the contractors pay for this or have law enforcement as a means of security.
- k) Reported that the new message boards are helping to slow down the cars when the Public Works crews are working on the roads.
- l) Reported that Code Enforcement, Tax Assessor, Senior Center, and Maintenance use fuel from the Public Works Department. The funds are moved from those Departments line item to the Public Works Department line item.
- m) Reported that the motor graders are burning 60 gallons of diesel fuel per day and each dump truck burns 60 to 75 gallons of diesel fuel per day.

- n) Chairman Traylor asked Mr. Rigdon about his succession for retirement and if he has a training plan. Mr. Rigdon said that this is something that you have to have a feel for and the position of the Public Works Director is different in other counties. The Public Works Director sits behind a desk and most of them are engineers making six figures. Mr. Rigdon said that you cannot train someone to run a piece of equipment, they have to have a feel for it. He said that you could end up with a \$50,000.00 maintenance repair. Currently he has no one to run the paver except for himself and it is something that you have to know how to run. Mr. Rigdon reported that Monroe County hired their own paving crew and purchased 3 million dollars' worth of equipment from Caterpillar. They hired Miller Group Corporation run by a Superintendent who retired and had been in Public Works his entire life. Pike County is doing their own paving but it is not working out for them. Mr. Rigdon said that the salary is the issue when hiring someone.

Probate Court

Probate Judge Kathy Martin addressed the board.

- a) Reported that old documents and records in the Probate Office will need to be scanned down the road.
- b) Reported that she likes the new shelves for records in their storage room.
- c) Reported that she has confidential documents that need to be shredded.
- d) Reported that the water in the Probate Office is coming through her front wall and the roof leaks when it rains. Reported that the windows are in a mess but they can live with that if they can get the roof fixed.
- e) Reported that all of the fees that the Probate Court collects does not go to the County but to other agencies such as the Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA) and they disburse to other funds such as Crime Victims Emergency Fund (DUI of alcohol/drugs), Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund, Crime Lab Fee, Driver Education and Training Fund, Civil Action Surcharge, Bond Forfeiture. She pays the individual funds directly, Alternative Dispute Resolution, County General Fund, Drug Abuse Treatment and Education, Jail Construction and Staffing, Law Library, Peace Officer's Annuity and Benefit, Publication Fee, Sheriff's Retirement, Local Victim Assistance Program.
- f) Reported that probate fees will increase when the General Assembly meets and makes the change. One of the fees will increase by three percent but she will need to wait and see what this is before she goes up on fees.
- g) Reported that she has great employees and one of them is a wealth of knowledge with traffic laws.

Planning and Community Development

Planning and Community Development Director Anita Buice (Ms. Buice) addressed the board.

- a.) Reported that they have a Planning Commission and a Board of Appeals and the Board of Appeals was not funded in the 2023 budget. They both are active boards but there are plans to combine these boards and they are waiting for the regulations. Requesting to have the Board of Appeals funding of \$2,750.00.
- b.) Reported that at the end of last year they discussed having all of their building permits go through a private company. That changed this and in doing so took out the part-time employee budget. Then that changed to where it would only be for Commercial inspections that would

go through the private company. If a permit fee is \$1,000.00 and they collect the money then they pay the private company \$750.00 which is 25 percent of the cost for the permit fee. Requesting to have a part-time Code Enforcement Officer be put back in the budget. The salary would be \$15,600.00 for 20 hours.

- c.) Reported that in the next 3 to 5 years they will need another full-time employee.

Elections

Elections Supervisor Anita Reid, Chairman Bill Christopher, Board Members Mike Perry and Elaine Williams addressed the board.

- a) Reported that they are underbudget to date.
- b) Reported that in the 2024 budget they will need more money because of the Senate Bill 129 change. It is mandatory that anytime there is a Federal or State candidate on the ballot the election has to be audited. This will add more money to their budget.
- c) Reported that there will be an increase in salaries for additional poll workers.
- d) Reported that there will be an increase for part-time employees of approximately \$75,000.00
- e) Reported that there will be five elections in the year 2024.
- f) Reported that they will need a line item for overtime pay of approximately \$15,000.00.
- g) Reported that they have more hours than days to use for comp time. They have to request an exception each year to roll over vacation and comp time. Ms. Reid stated that there is no way she can take off an entire month and run an election and it is not fair to her or the staff where they earn the time and cannot use it and time is forfeited.
- h) Reported that the warranty on their new cellular poll pads may increase. This is approximately \$35.00 per cellular poll pad per election.
- i) Reported that there will be a budget increase with their voter registration software.
- j) Reported that there is a new process for voting with the new Garvis System. The voter will now be looked up in the cellular poll pad. You bring in your drivers license and if the voter does not bring in a license, they can you look up your information. The cellular poll pad talks to the Garvis system. Mr. Christopher stated that the updating process is faster with the new Garvis System.
- k) Reported the ballot box is still inside the building but it has to be monitored by human eyes which means hiring someone to sit at the door to see the person that comes in and puts the ballot in the box. Reported that the ballot box can only be used during early voting.
- l) Requested to have a tour of the new Administration building before they move.
- m) Reported that Homeland Security has partnered with the Secretary of State's Office and will be coming to Lamar County to see how the equipment is set up and how the security is set up and where it is located and if it is climate controlled. Currently the equipment is set up in the office downstairs of the current Administration building.
- n) Reported that the first election of 2024 will be in March; the Presidential Preference Primary Election.
- o) Reported that cameras can be used for security monitoring of the voter registration equipment. Some counties are paying poll workers to spend the night to monitor the equipment.
- p) Suggested that they have a security person posted at the new Administration building.
- q) Reported that they are reviewing consolidating precincts. They are planning to combine Chappel Mill with the Senior Center and possibly using the Barnesville Civic Center.
- r) Mr. Christopher recommended that an IT person be hired on staff rather than a 3rd party IT company. He stated that they had batteries that were not charged properly. He stated that board

members should not have to swap out or change batteries. He said that board members should not have to fix machines. He said that an IT person needs to be hired for the entire county and they need to have boots on the ground.

Tax Assessor

Tax Assessor Haddock (Mrs. Haddock) addressed the board.

- a.) Reported that in November or December of 2023 she had a full time position that was hired to take over her position and she was not able to do it. Requested to change a part-time position to a full time position so she could hire someone to come in and get trained for when she retires. The current full time position employee is working hard to get all of her training done and take over Mrs. Haddock's position in the future. The full time position will go back to part-time. The salary position will go from \$132,000.00 to \$108,000.00.
- b.) Requested to put the Flight back into the budget because of all of the new houses.
- c.) Reported that the WinGAP fees are increasing from \$2,500.00 to \$6,000.00.
- d.) Reported that WinGAP will provide their backup including pictures. In 2020 her server crashed and she lost everything because her files were not backed up. IT told her that it was being backed up but it was not. All of the parcel appeals and pictures were lost. She worked at home inputting data back into WinGAP.
- e.) Reported that they received 230 appeals and three big taxpayers make an appeal.
- f.) Reported that around 100 appeals will go to the Board of Equalization.
- g.) Suggested that they have security in the new Administration building.
- h.) Reported that houses are selling high. In January she was at a 38 percent ratio and to date she is at a 34 percent ratio.
- i.) Reported that a house on Carletta Street sold for \$292,000.00. Reported that a house on Collier Road is being sold for \$200,000.00 and another house on Collier Road sold for \$350,000.00. Reported houses that were built in 1976 that are 1700 square feet selling for \$310,000.00.
- j.) Reported that land is still selling high.
- k.) Reported that average rent in Lamar County is \$1200.00 to \$1400.00. Reported that the rent in College Manor is around \$2200.00.
- l.) Reported that the outside door going into and out of the building downstairs, next to her office, needs to be fixed.

Maintenance

Maintenance Director Beverly addressed the board.

- a.) Reported that the biggest item on his list is the Courthouse and the Jail Roof.
- b.) Reported that Fire Station 6 and Fire Station 2 (manned stated at Parker Branch) need a roof coating.
- c.) Reported replacing air conditioner units at the Courthouse and the Jail has helped but you can no longer purchase R22, freon, but they have some left they can use in storage. The air conditioner at the Milner Fire Station is a unit from the early 1990's and the County split the cost with the City of Milner to repair it. He reported that there are still old air conditioner units.
- d.) Reported that they finished with the repairs at the Mental Health building.

- e.) Reported that all of the electrical work, the emergency lightning, and the ceilings in the bathrooms at the Gym have been completed. Need to paint the bathrooms and seal the pipes under the sink.
- f.) Reported he has a Maintenance plan for all of the builders.
- g.) Reported that the truck that they are using from Public Works is in bad shape.
- h.) County Administrator Townsend reported that the utility van for the Maintenance Department was budgeted in SPLOST IV.
- i.) County Administrator Townsend reported that the van bought from the State had a motor that went out.
- j.) Chairman Traylor inquired about taking out trees at the new administration Building since leaves are falling in the back of the building and is there additional cost. Reported that Southern Pride Tree Service has the contract and stated that the Crepe Myrtles could be taken out.
- k.) County Administrator Townsend said that there was discussion about putting in Leland Cyprus trees in the back of the building.
- l.) Vice-Chair Thrash inquired about the pressure washer theft at the new Administration building. County Administrator Townsend reported that there was no new news regarding this but reported there will be all new inside locks on the new building. County Administrator Townsend reported that the biggest issue is that the City of Barnesville will not allow the County to come out onto Murphy Avenue and said that everyone on Murphy Avenue wants to come in through the back wood. They have been putting up poles to keep them out. He said that if a golf cart comes through there and hits a hole and flips, they are trying to prevent them from suing the County by filling up the holes. County Administrator Townsend said that with it being a County building they may can go ahead and put an exit out onto Murphy Avenue.

Tax Commissioner

Tax Commissioner Anthony addressed the board.

- a) Reported that there was a reporting issues with postage. Financial Director Kristy Johnston reported that there was a Journal Entry coding issue with postage and other line items between the Tax Commissioners Office, Planning and Community Development and other Departments. Tax Commissioner Anthony stated she would get with Accounting Technician Windle on how to code things in her budget.
- b) Reported that they are at 99 percent collected and they had 245 files going to the paralegal and are down to 41 files. This will be the 4th year in a row that they will not have a tax sale other than five going to Judicial in Rem; estates and other companies.
- c) Commissioner Lovett inquired about a tax sale and what happens to the balance. He said if they owed \$40,000.00 and sold it for \$50,000.00. Tax Commissioner Anthony said that the \$50,000.00 sits in a noninterest bearing account until that person comes to redeem the property. They get the overage and they have to put the 20 percent with it if they want to buy it back. They could quit claim it and say they do not want it and get their overage. Anything over \$800.00 the County Attorney handles and he pleads it to the Courts and they tell her who to pay it to. If no one comes through by Georgia Law, she holds it for five full years and then it is turned over to Georgia unclaimed property. Commissioner Lovett said that for example if he did not pay his tax bill and he owed \$20,000.00 and the house was sold for \$100,000.00 on the Courthouse square, he can come to the Tax Commissioner for the difference. Tax

Commissioner Anthony said that there is an application that he would have to fill out. She would take out the tax owed and the overage is what they could claim.

- d) Commissioner Fletcher asked about the goals for the next five years. He said that her office is always busy and inquired about her having a kiosk. Tax Commissioner Anthony said that she had spoken with Sylvia Hollums, Tax Commissioner for Spalding County. Spalding County has a kiosks and they have them at Kroger. She has to pay a certain amount to have it and Lamar County and the surrounding counties who do not have a kiosk pays to participate. You can get your driver's license at any kiosk at a participating Kroger. Tax Commissioner Anthony said that she wants to see if they can put one at the new Administration building if that is permissible. As long as decals are loaded in the machine it will work.
- e) Reported that the Sheriff's Office and out of State people were instrumental in catching fraudsters in Lamar County related to titles.
- f) Reported that the Tax Commissioners moving started out as a joke because they hired through the grape vine that they were moving. Then she heard that other offices were going to be in the old Fred's building. Someone asked where they were going to put them and she said she did not know that they would be "sardines in a can, ha, ha, ha". Tax Commissioners said that she knows her life got in the way but she does have a right hand person that could have been called on. She said for her to go into that building and see all those nice amenities with five offices for the Commissioners that are not there 40 hours a week and a new meeting office, when you have one at the Courthouse to use. She said that the citizens of the County are going to say that they are being frivolous with spending and ask why did they need that. Tax Commissioner Anthony said that she is looking at an office for two people that is big as the large conference room in the current Administration building and you have her with four people elbow to elbow and to say the most, she was livid. County Administrator Townsend said that he and Paul went out there and showed her the plans and then Abby showed her the plans. Tax Commissioner Anthony said that she has not seen Abby and she does not know who Abby is. She said that Chairman Traylor, Commissioner Lovett and County Administrator Townsend came and said that she has not seen any plans and was not getting into a contest with County Administrator Townsend because it is a moot point. She said as she told Vice-Chair Thrash, they will deal with what they have but there is no room for growth. They see people on a daily basis and the citizens will voice their opinions and she will make it work. Tax Commissioner Anthony said that Deputy Tax Commissioner Connell meet with Chairman Traylor, Commissioner Lovett and County Administrator Townsend yesterday and she is assuming that everything went fine. She heard that Commissioner Lovett was instrumental in making changes to their offices and they will reconfigure and make it work. If they get to the point that it will not work, they will have to have a new set of whatever.
- g) Requested to have split screen monitors for approximately \$3,500.00, a new laminator for around \$150.00, ergonomic chairs for approximately \$2000.00, a new chip reader for the debit and credit cards for approximately \$1250.00, and salary increases.
- h) Requested to keep the Cornerstone Security.
- i) Reported that there could be 10 to 20 people in the Tax Commissioner building at one time.

Recreation

Recreation Director Tiffany Lowe addressed the board.

- a) The Board congratulated Recreation Director Lowe for the job she is doing at the Recreation Department and the State Tournaments, the World Series and the relationship she has with the State Recreation officials.
- b) Shared an athletic cost analysis for registration fees of all sports in the Recreation Department with a shortfall of \$48,876.50. The cost to run the program per player was broken down; Basketball: \$137.75, Baseball/Softball/Tball: \$188.66, Soccer: \$100.00, Football, \$225.00. The net loss per player is \$-62.50 (Approximately \$7,500.00 annually).
- c) Reported that last year they brought in around \$42,000.00 sponsorships and donations including the world series donations. Reported that this year it will not be anywhere near that amount of money. Reported that approximately \$13,000.00 was made on hosted tournaments.
- d) Reported that if they did not receive any more supplements or sponsorships into their bank accounts the programs would only last for two years. Chairman Traylor reported that they no longer receive a supplement that was once received from the Town of Aldora. Reported that prior to the Water Authority swap, the City of Barnesville funded the Recreation Department.
- e) Reported that last year the soccer fees were increased to \$80.00. and in the spring of 2023 the baseball/softball fees were increased to \$75.00. For FY 2024 all athletic fees will be increased by \$25.00.
- f) Reported on the condition of the park and said that they have barely survived the programs. The lightning and the fencing is budgeted in SPLOST IV but there are other maintenance/equipment repair needs and will have to come from the General Fund or the community raising funds. The repairs include; trees in the park, bathrooms/concession, entrance/exit to top of the hill, field space adage, skate park, tennis courts and basketball court upgrades, parking lot redone, field equipment needed; sod cutter, skid steer, play equipment added to playground areas, covered pavilions. Would like a future location and renovations to the old recycling center. Reported that none of these repairs will come from registration fees.
- g) Requested to charge for pavilion rentals (approximately \$3,500.00 per year), Park Rental fees, Field Rentals.
- h) Reported that received \$150.00 for Basketball, \$400.00 for Basketball/Softball/Tball, \$300.00 for Soccer, \$120.00 for Football for last year.
- i) Reported that she scholarships six kids. All of the volunteer coaches get one kid that plays for free. There are about 75 kids that receive a free registration.
- j) Reported that fixing the lights at the ballpark is a safety issue because people are getting shocked.
- k) Requested that there be a charge for using the park for any event. Recently there was an event at the park. There were stipulations in the rental agreement that were not followed such as alcohol usage and sale of alcohol, usage of water, and cars and motorcycles on the fields.
- l) County Administrator Townsend said that he is working with Recreation Director Lowe on having plans regarding renovations and repairs. He said that it will cost \$1,002,000.00 for the lights and the electrical lines, which are also a major issue. They need an engineer to help with this concept. Other Recreation Departments are putting the lines underground. County Administrator Townsend and County Clerk Davidson have reached out to Lowndes County regarding some type of grant because their County was just National recognized for obtaining grants for their Recreation Department.
- m) Reported that requiring a renter to provide security be provided is part of the rental agreement.
- n) Reported that the floor in the gym has a huge bubble in the middle of the gym floor and it may have to be taken up and replaced. It was recommended that they turn on the air conditioner to see if it will settle; could have been due to the humidity.

- o) Requested to have a salary increase for the Recreation Department employees. The starting pay in surrounding counties is at least two to four dollars more an hour for the same position.
- p) Reported that it takes a lot of work in the season and her right hand employee has a lot of comp time accumulated and will be off the entire month of July and she still has 65 hours of comp time left.

Senior Center

Senior Center Director Antionette Watts addressed the board.

- a) Reported that the unit cost for the Meals on Wheels food that comes from Upson County has increased from \$3.93 to \$7.25 and they want to increase it \$11.00 per meal. If this happens, they will need to cut this program in half. They have 41 participants and 9 on the waiting list. This does not include the Seniors that come to the center to eat. They serve around 25 Seniors on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and around 15 Seniors on Tuesday and Thursdays.
- b) County Administrator Townsend reported that Upson County needs a new van and a new roof and they are increasing the charge for meals to go towards the purchase of the van and the roof. They also were robbed by the vendor Sysco and they have to recoup that money.
- c) Reported that they have a part time employee that can cook but the salary would have to be increased in order for him to cook the meals.
- d) Reported that Three Rivers has sent them an additional freezer to store meals, a slicer, a new stove and a new serving table to serve the meals.
- e) Reported that the hours or 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. so the hours would change to 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to make sure all of the meals are done prior to the meals being delivered.
- f) Reported that Three Rivers will contribute \$10,000.00 for the raw food cost and they also have American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that can be used for salaries and the meal costs.
- g) Commissioner Lovett asked if the Meals on Wheels could be outsourced to the School System, Gordon College or a local buffet restaurant. Senior Center Director explained that the meal selections are set by the State and they are diabetic meals.
- h) Commissioner Fletcher inquired about the salary increase. Senior Center Director Watts said that the part time employee currently makes \$8.00 an hour and other cooks in the surrounding counties make \$11.00 to \$12.00 an hour. Senior Center Director Watts said that once they start cooking and preparing the meals it will put more responsibility on everyone.
- i) Reported that Three Rivers has been providing them with a Charter Bus to take the last 14 trips this year. Recently the bus has been cutting off in the middle of the road and Senior Center Director Watts just found out about it. The bus that belongs to the Senior Center is very old and they have a new bus budgeted in SPLOST IV. Commissioner Lovett suggested that they go ahead and purchase a new Senior Center bus now and reimburse the cost of the bus from SPLOST IV. The cost of the bus is budgeted for \$160,000.00.
- j) Reported that the fuel cost will need to stay in the budget.
- k) Reported that the Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging (TRAAA) Contract for Services audit requires that they take trips and report to them where they went.
- l) Reported that they received an LED electrical sign from Three Rivers and they need electricity for it.
- m) Reported that they were given a 65 inch TV from Three Rivers for the dining room. Reported that the TV in the dining room well go into the exercise room.
- n) Reported that they received a new dish washer from Three Rivers that needs to be installed.

- o) Received a Grant from Community Foundation for \$3,000.00 for a new patio. The amount applied for was \$3,000.00 but now the cost is \$7,000.00 which covers the patio and furniture.
- p) Reported that water is leaking behind the steam table in the kitchen.
- q) Reported that the building is separating from the sidewalk.
- r) Reported that they found out who is feeding the dog at the Senior Center.
- s) Reported that she has been working all of the rentals.
- t) Reported that she had an incident during one of her rentals where the police was called.
- u) Reported that the Senior Center is rented through December and she makes around \$464 dollars for 8 hours. County Administrator Townsend reported that they take in around \$3,000.00 annually.
- v) Reported that they are having Sneaker Ball on August 19th, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and requested that a Commissioner come and speak to the Seniors.

Adjournment

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to adjourn the Mid-Year Review meeting at 12:06 p.m.
 Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

 Ryran Traylor, Chairman

 Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chair

 Jarrod Fletcher, Commissioner

 Jason Lovett, Commissioner

 Ashley Gilles, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk