

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
**August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Present for the meeting were Chairman Traylor, Vice-Chair Thrash, Commissioner Fletcher, Commissioner Lovett, Commissioner Gilles, County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, and County Attorney Mayfield. The meeting was available via Zoom.

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation**

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Ryan Christopher of Mr. View Baptist Church gave the invocation.

**III. Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Minutes Approval**

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Mid-Year Review Minutes-July 13th, 2023
- ii. Workshop Minutes-July 13th, 2023
- iii. Public Hearing Minute Meeting-July 18th, 2023
- iv. Regular Business Meeting Minute-July 18th, 2023

**V. Lamar County Department of Health Presentation**

Nurse Manager Sherry Farr presented an overview of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners. The Board of Health members include Dr. Lee Woodall, Chairman Dr. Samantha Bishop, Vice Chairman Robert Taylor, Mayor Peter Banks, Dr. Jute Wilson, Laura Trice, and Chairman of the Board of Commissioners Ryan Traylor. The programs offered include Women's Wellness, Immunizations, STD Screenings/Treatment, Children's Wellness Checks, Children's 1<sup>st</sup>, Blood Pressure Screenings, Pregnancy, and Women's Health. Medicaid/Case Management, Community Education, and Child Passenger Safety Program. The services unique to Lamar County include School Health Center, Dental Clinic, Georgia Memory Network Telehealth, and Women's Wellness Initiative. The Environmental Health Specialist Eric Hooper handles inspections and complaints and monitors safety concerns related to the following areas: Public Facilities, Body Art-Tattoos & Piercings, Food Service, Tourist Accommodations, Public Swimming Pools, Mold, Mosquitos and Bedbugs,

Rabies, Waste Management, Well Water and Lead Investigations. The Health Department funding and operating 2023 budget come from GGIA funding; 53%, County Contributions: 13%, Fees: 34%. The Finance Report generated revealed the following: GIA:\$257,198.00, County: \$100,000.00, Fees: \$408,559.00 for a total revenue of \$765,757.00.

**VI. 2nd Reading of Ordinance 023-13 Lowering of Speed Limit from 45 to 35 on Five Points Road from Hwy 41 North.**

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 023-13 Lowering of the Speed Limit from 45 to 35 on Five Points Road from Hwy 41 North. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. Resolution 2023-09 Special Exception by Paul Frady and Holly Graves to allow for Agritourism and Event Center on Tax Map 044 Parcel 032 902 Hwy 41 South**

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-09 Special Exception by Paul Frady and Holly Graves to allow for Agritourism and Event Center on Tax Map 044 Parcel 032 902 Hwy 41 South with the following conditions. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Cease the use of amplified sound and music at 9:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 8:00 p.m. on Sundays, and no amplified sound and music on weekdays; All GDOT requirements must be met before an event can be held. In the event GDOT requirements have not been constructed in one year from this date, then the parties agree that Lamar County may file a petition to return the property to its original zoning classification.

**VIII. Resolution 2023-10 BOC Millage Rate**

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-10 BOC Millage Rate whereas the value of all taxable property in the County for 2022 as it appears on the digest thereof will be \$757,046,956, and the Lamar County Board of Commissioners hereby sets a millage rate of 10.0920 mills for the 2023 tax year on all taxable property in the County, both within the unincorporated areas and municipalities located therein. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Resolution 2023-11 LOST Millage Rate**

Commissioner Fletcher made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-11 LOST Millage Rate whereas Lamar County, both the unincorporated areas and the municipalities located therein, shall receive a 2.2013 mill roll-back for the local option sales tax leaving a net millage rate of 10.0920 for 2023 Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Resolution 2023-12 BOE Millage Rate**

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-12 BOE Millage Rate whereas upon the recommendation of the Lamar County Board of Education it is ordered that upon \$765,804,935 the net value of all property taxable for educational purposes in Lamar County as shown on the digest thereof, there be and hereby is levied a tax, ad valorem, on all property in Lamar County, real and personal, for the year 2023 for Maintenance and Operation (M & O) educational purposes, in the amount of 14.000 per \$1,000.00 of the assessed valuation of the digest. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. Commissioner Fletcher abstained from the motion The motion passed 3-1.

**XI. Resolution 2023-13 BOE Bond Repayment**

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-13 BOE Bond Millage Rate whereas upon the recommendation of the Lamar County Board of Education, it is ordered that upon \$765,804,93, the value of all property taxable for educational purposes in Lamar County as shown on the digest thereof, there be and hereby is levied a tax, ad valorem, on all property in Lamar County, real and personal, for the year 2023 for bond repayment purposes, in the amount of 1.50 per \$1,000.00 of the assessed valuation of the digest. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. Commissioner Fletcher abstained from the motion. The motion passed 3-1.

**XII. Board Appointment- Public Facility**

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to table the appointments of the Public Facility Board until the September Regular Business meeting. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Townsend reported the following:

- i. Reported that revenues over expenditures for July should be at 58.33 percent and are at 58.64 percent.
- ii. Reported that the Cash Flow is on track.
- iii. Reported on the gym that they are waiting on concrete to be poured, repainted the bathrooms, installing new toilets, hanging tile in the bathroom, and working on the concession stand.
- iv. Reported on the new Administration building. There is a flooring issue; the flooring was higher than it should be, and the main hallway has a crown down the middle. It has to be sanded and leveled for the doors to be installed. The HVAC units will be shipped by the first week of September.
- v. Reported that the bids for the Courthouse Roof, and the Roof at the Jail have been put back out to bid. Worked with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) on the Request for Proposal (RFP).
- vi. Reported that the Local Options Sales Tax (LOST) distribution for June was \$143,781.97.

- vii. Reported that the Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) distribution for May was \$250,921.42.
- viii. Reported that the Transportation Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (TSPLOST) for April was \$221,203.82.

**XV. Public Comments**

Chip Gardner addressed the board stating that he appreciated the fact that he emailed the Commissioner's Office Monday morning, and less than an hour and a half later Vice-Chair Thrash called him. He thanked County road crews for all their hard work on Wilson Road. He said there is a hole at Hwy 41 North and Five Points Road that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has an issue with increased traffic and trees hanging on the road. There is no Decel lane from US 41 South onto Five Points Road. The traffic volume has noticeably increased at this intersection and needs to be looked into to because it will take a while to get the engineering done. He said that there is an issue with Atlanta Street intersection with US 41 North. There needs to be an accel lane that would continue North and become a right turn lane for GA 36 instead of Atlanta Street's traffic being thrown onto Hwy 41 North.

Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeple Chase addressed the board. She stated she has a copy of the Solid Waste Authority Bylaws and read a section regarding compensation. Mrs. Hallada said that she met with Johnny Poore. She inquired about the meeting dates and the board receiving \$150.00 instead of \$25.00 as stated in the Bylaws.

Shirley Williams of 148 Perdue Road addressed the board about the Lamar County School property taxes. Ms. Williams said that it was not fair for Senior Citizens to continue to pay school taxes. She is 76 years old and on Social Security and stated that she has paid the school taxes for a long time. Ms. Williams said that she has had no kids or grandkids in school for over 30 thirty years and feels she or other Senior Citizens receiving a small Social Security check each month should not have to continue to pay school taxes when their property taxes, health benefits, medications, car, and homeowners insurance increase on a yearly basis. Ms. Williams stated she addressed the Lamar County School Board with her concerns, and they told her to take it up with the Lamar County Board of Commissioners.

**XVI. Commissioner Comments**

Chairman Traylor requested to share Ms. Williams's phone number with the Lamar County School Superintendent. Ms. Williams said she did not mind but already had his number. She said that she addressed this issue with the Lamar County School Superintendent yesterday. Chairman Traylor said that the School System is requesting the Legislation to increase exemptions for Senior Citizens that are 70 and older by \$1,000.00 per year beginning in the year 2024 and tapping out at \$10,000.00. Ms. Williams said that this does not help when the Senior Citizens are struggling.

**XVII. Round Table**

County Administrator Townsend said that he is setting up a meeting with GDOT to discuss roads.

Chairman Traylor stated that the first Lamar County home football game is Friday night, and his son is a high school senior, and this is the first of the last. He encouraged everyone to come out and support the team. Chairman Traylor addressed Mrs. Hallada and said he would have some follow-up to her comment at a later date. Chairman Traylor said that this is month eighth for the new Board of Commissioners, and they have done a lot of hard work and bonding. They have spent a lot of energy on investigation. If you look at companies that have changed the World, such as Google, they created a place where people can be creative. He said that his grandmother said that an idle mind can be wasted. Chairman Traylor apologized because there were things that he said from the time he was campaigning and tailgate talks, and there were things that he wanted them to be able to do and bring to the community. Chairman Traylor said that they had spent a lot of time working through things. He said his goal going forward is to use their creative spirit to improve life in Lamar County for their constituents. Chairman Traylor encouraged everyone to contact their Commissioners if they have ideas or things that benefit them.

**XVII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Ryran Traylor, Chairman

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Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chair

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Jarrod Fletcher, Commissioner

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Jason Lovett, Commissioner

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Ashley Gilles, Commissioner

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