

Workshop Meeting
Lamar County Board of Commissioners
8-3-2023
12:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:30 p.m. on August 3rd, 2023. Present for the meeting were Chairman Traylor, Vice-Chair Thrash, Commissioner Fletcher, Commissioner Lovett, Commissioner Gilles, County Administrator Townsend and County Clerk Davidson. The meeting was available via Zoom.

Industrial Development Authority (IDA) Director Kathy Oxford

The board heard a presentation from the Barnesville-Lamar County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) Director Kathy Oxford regarding Freeport Exemption and adding a fulfillment center. The State passed the Free Exemption in the 1990s. The County voted on the Freeport exemption a long time ago; maybe in 1998. Currently three kinds of inventory taxes are exempt and the State added a fourth exemption in 2016 pertaining to fulfillment centers. Level 1 Freeport Exemption was approved by the voters years ago with three classes; Class 1; Raw Materials, Class 2: Finished goods, Class 3: Finished goods awaiting shipment outside of Georgia. The third section has to do with distribution centers such as Dollar General stores. Class 4 is the Fulfillment Center Stock in Trade. The difference between the first three classes and the fulfillment centers is that it could come from anywhere and go anywhere. Mrs. Oxford requested consideration from the Commissioners to add this element to the next available ballot for voter approval. They have been exempting most inventories for a while and the fulfillment center type inventory tax exemption would apply to e-commerce type distribution centers. It's entirely possible there will be prospects like this who could locate in any of the proposed developments at I-75 in Lamar County. There are 100 acres in the Industrial Park of Butts County's that lies in Lamar County. Butts County currently exempts all four types of inventory taxes.

Elections Superintendent Reid and Election Board members Elaine Williamson, Mike and Diane Perry were present for the meeting. If the board wants to put the fulfillment center on the ballot for the November election it would be a Special Election. They would need the verbiage from the County Attorney. The date of submission to the State for the November Election is September 7th, 2023. Elections Superintendent Reid said that there is also rumors about a Liquor Referendum if they wanted to add this as a Special Election in November as well. They could also wait until the March Election. The November Election is dependent on the qualifying for the City of Barnesville election and the qualifying fees are due in about two weeks. She said has not heard from the City of Milner but she has documentation on her end and the County Attorney is aware of this. If anyone in the City of Barnesville has opposition then they will have an election in November and if not then it will be in March of 2024.

IDA Director Oxford said that she does not know what is forth coming but she does know that there are developments on I-75 that are in Lamar County and they are designed for warehouse distribution. If those brokers are dealing with fulfillment centers and they realize at the last minute that Lamar County does not have this aspect of freeport then they could go to another County. Chairman Traylor asked if the percentage of the exemption has to be determined now or later. IDA Director Oxford said that she recommends doing the 100 percent; it can be set at 20, 40, 60, 80 or 100 percent, because that is what you have and she does not recommend phasing it in.

IDA Director Oxford said that the March Election will be ok but better not to wait so that they decide not to elsewhere. Elections Superintendent Reid said that the deadline for the March 12th Election is in early January. Chairman Traylor asked if there was anything from the IDA that they need to put on the radar. IDA Director Oxford said that Butts County Industrial Park has 100 acres that are in Lamar County. Having an

intergovernmental agreement on how to share revenue and how to handle permitting. She said that the property is looked at a lot and they need to be ready before a company looks at it. Butts County has experience with Spalding County and they can help with drafts. The more that they can have everything decided the better.

Commissioner Lovett inquired about the revenue received from retail inventory. IDA Director Oxford said that she would not recommend retail inventory because this is an economic development tool and they are not trying to attract retail development in terms of jobs. Commissioner Lovett said that he was thinking of the local businesses and this is helping development for a large warehouse. He said that there are counties in Level 2; Peach and Putnam County that have already done this. IDA Director Oxford said that there are just a few that have done Level 2; Freeport Exemption, Business inventory not covered in the Level 1 Freeport Exemption, including retail inventory, and it could be a local reason rather than industrial. Each taxpayer has to submit that information and it could be a burden but it is not a burden on an industrial development. She said that retail and commercial happen organically. Commissioner Lovett said that he wants to make sure that they are not tilting the scale for large industrial that runs away the local. IDA Director Oxford said that there are so few counties that have done Level 2 that she does not feel that they are missing anything. It is not eliminating taxes altogether it is just eliminating taxes on the inventory so their personal property will be taxed. The inventory comes and goes very quickly. Commissioner Lovett asked if they are penalizing the local company while exempting the large warehouse that should be falling under the exact criteria. He said that he does not want to tilt the scales in favor of large industry and penalize the people that vote for them. He said that they get these large warehouses that want to eat up the interstate and we give them a pass and he does not mind giving them a pass as long as they are giving everyone the same pass. Vice-Chair Thrash said that they need to look into this because nothing is free and if someone gets a break then someone else is paying. IDA Director Oxford said that they are not taking anything from anyone it is more of a competitive type situation. If a fulfillment center wanted to locate into one of the buildings in Butts Industrial Park that is in Lamar County and they could not they would then move into a building in Butts County and Lamar County would loose the property tax. IDA Director Oxford said that Butts County has been investing in the Industrial Park for some time and Lamar County does not want to loose that fulfillment center that could bring in property tax. Chairman Traylor said that you get your bang for your buck and when you look at what Butts County is doing on the interstate that has no impact on the City of Butts County but it is has impacted their digest for the school system and local government.

Public Hearing Discussion:

There will be two Public Hearings, both starting at 6:00 p.m. One for the Millage Rate and one for a Special Exception. Planning and Community Development Director Buice stated that the Special Exception Public Hearing was for Paul Frady and Holly Graves who are applying for Agritourism including an Event Center at 902 Hwy 41 South, Tax Map 077, Parcel 032. This Event Center according to the Ordinance can be for up to 100 people. However, since the put in the application, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) would like them to do a traffic study with an engineer since it is on a State Highway. If they do not have a final answer from the GDOT before the Public Hearing with the Commissioners, the applicant will need to decide if they want to move forward. Planning and Community Development Director Buice requested that they have the Public Commission meeting and if necessary, table the Public Hearing if there is no final decision because if they approve the application and then GDOT says they need a commercial entrance and the applicant decides not to do it the Special Exception is hanging around on the property.

Vice-Chair Thrash asked why the applicants did not follow up on this issue. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that they did but it took longer for GDOT to reply back than it normally would and they are getting more restrictive with these types of driveways. Vice-Chair Thrash said that this location is on a dangerous hill. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that it would not surprise her if

a turning lane was not required by GDOT. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that it is easier to readvertise a final decision than it is to undo something that may be done.

Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that they do have potential for future large warehouse growth. She has no applications but the potential is there and asked if this is the time for the County to implement impact fees. It is about \$85,000.00 to complete a study and have it in place before someone comes in for a building permit. Vice-Chair Thrash said that with the growth of the County, the potential for additional revenue is phenomenal with impact fees. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that it takes about a year to be complete once you hire a company to do the study. If you want the impact fees to be in place by the year 2025 it needs to begin now. Vice-Chair Thrash requested that Planning and Community Development Director Buice send out the information that she had compiled regarding impact fees. Commissioner Lovett said that this would be something that would go into next years budget and we need to get in the que with impact fee companies. He said that these projects are coming and once they put a shovel in the ground, we need to tell them that they have an impact fee.

Chairman Traylor asked if they would pay at the beginning or the end of the study. County Administrator Townsend stated he would reach out to his contact and see about the financial end of paying for the study. Commissioner Lovett said that we need this on the books now and asked that it be included on the September agenda. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said that she would solicit proposals from companies that do impact fee studies and request that they get a schedule of payment and how long it will take. County Administrator Townsend said that the Request for Qualification (RFQ) would have to run for 30 days. Commissioner Gilles said that you can buy everything online and along with the Comprehensive Plan coming together this will help to set up good measures.

Superintendent Jute Wilson-Lamar County Schools 2023 Budget & Tax Statement/FAQ's.

Superintendent Jute Wilson gave an update on the status of the 2023 millage rate. Notices sent out to Lamar County property owners including reassessed values calculated with an estimated tax at the 2022 school millage rate of 15.101. Lamar County Schools plan to decrease the school millage rate from 15.101 in 2022 by 1.101 mills to a rate of 14.0 in 2023. A millage rate of 14.0 will be the lowest tax rate in the history of Lamar County. The student population has increased by 25 percent since 2005 and continues to be one of only 15 percent of Georgia school systems experiencing annual student growth. Superintendent Wilson pointed out that the State has a per pupil expenditure. There are 180 school systems and when you count State, Local and Federal funding, Lamar County is 170th out of 180 school systems. Only 10 schools in Georgia spent less per student than Lamar County.

Superintendent Wilson said that a lot of new residents are coming from Henry County. He said that many people ask how it is that Seniors in Henry County are exempt from school taxes in Lamar County. The millage rate in Lamar County is 14.0 and Henry County's millage rate is set at 20. When you go down the interstate you see Home Depot, Lowes, Sams Club and other Commercial properties on top of the houses that are appraised at a much higher rate than Lamar County. They tax all their residents at 20 mills and they are able to exempt their Seniors. There is no Sams Club, Lowes, Walmart in Lamar County and excessive traffic off the interstate. In 2014 the Lamar County School board imposed an exemption of \$1,000.00 from school taxes and they increased that exemption by \$1,000.00 every year capping it off in 2020 at \$7,000.00 for the School M&O and the Millage Bond rate. This takes State action, but they are proposing in the next cycle to add \$1,000.00 over the next 3 years which will take a total of \$3,000.00 off their School M&O. For the Seniors that are on a fixed income, inflation has been a big impact. If they retired 10 years ago, they could take their Social Security and Monthly income and live off of that but rates are different now. Superintendent Wilson said that they hope this will ease the burden but they cannot exempt Seniors for the full amount and live the millage rate for everyone else.

For the last three years, they have averaged a reduction of a full mill each year. The 2020 millage rate was 17.0 with 2023 begin 14.0. Taxes due on property at a millage of 14.0 should be less than the notices which were sent out in May and calculated at 15.101. The rollback rate is 13.862 and Georgia Code 20-2-165 stipulates that any school system which lowers the millage rate below 14.0 will be exempt from receiving “equalization funding”. This year, Lamar County Schools will receive \$821,800 in equalization funding. Losing equalization funding from the budget would require them to increase the tax burden back on local taxpayers. The .138 difference in the local rate actually brings in almost \$1,000,000.00 to the district from State funding. Superintendent Wilson said that by not taking the full “rollback rate” the state requires they advertise a “tax increase” (even if the rate is reduced) if more taxes are being collected than the previous year. This should be advertised as a 1 percent increase even though they are lowering the mill rate more than a full mill.

Superintendent Wilson said that The enrollment for the 2023-24 school year set a record for around 2900 students. This will be the 4th consecutive year the Lamar County School System has lowered the millage rate. The County Commissioners, the City Council, the School System, they have to weigh the expense and the burden on the taxpayers as a product that they are able to deliver. It would be no good to have no taxes and live on dirt roads or a solid Fire Department and Law Enforcement. Police cars cost a lot and you cannot pay for those with a low millage rate and they try to be good stewards with the money. Commissioner Gilles asked how much a student cost? Superintendent Wilson said that it cost approximately \$8,800.00 per student. The State average is over \$10,000.00. The Governor gave a \$2,000.00 to certified teachers. The benefit cost is almost 30 percent and for every employee, which is around 240, they have to find \$600.00 to cover the benefits. Superintendent Wilson said that Henry County can pay their teachers more than Lamar County and if they are going to have a good school system, they have to stay competitive with the salaries for their staff. There is an arm wrestle with Bus Drivers between Monroe, Upson and Pike starting at \$16.00 an hour and going up to \$20.00 in Lamar County. There are 10 teachers from Henry County who took a pay cut to come and work in Lamar County because of the quality of the building, expectation of actions from children, support from parents, and they allow the teachers to teach. Superintendent Wilson said this is his 10th year and employees that leave and go to Henry County, they come back to Lamar County.

Superintendent Wilson addressed the capacity of the Primary, Elementary, Middle and High Schools. The Primary School was built as a K-5. As they grow, the Primary School was built to hold 5 levels and the Elementary School was built to hold 3 levels. There is room for growth in the Primary School but the Elementary School is close to capacity. They plan to add classrooms on 3 wings of the school which will give them through the next 10 years. If you build a new school, you are required to have an Administrator, a Media Specialist, a Counselor, and the expenses add up. The Middle School is close to capacity and they are looking at ways to extend the campus by adding classrooms. The High School was built with growth in mind and there are empty classrooms in this building. The only debt that Lamar County School has is the High School and it will be paid off in 11 years. They have a very low interest and they built it with pennies on the dollar. The High School can hold approximately 950 students and 50 to 100 students could be added. Superintendent Wilson addressed Commissioner Lovett’s comment regarding the capacity of the school system regarding incoming growth. He said that they could probably go from 2900 to 4000 students without building new schools but they would need additional classrooms in the Elementary and Middle Schools.

Superintendent Jute Wilson announced that they are doing an Elected Official Tail Gate party at the High School cafeteria on August 18th. They will be playing Wilcox County. They do not have an agenda but there will be BBQ from Shane’s Rib Shack. They are also inviting all Elected Officials, the Sheriff, the Fire Chiefs and School Officials. Superintendent Wilson asked that the Commissioners come and bring a guest. Everyone that comes will receive a free ticket to the ballgame to cheer on the Trojans.

Regular Business Meeting Agenda Discussion

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Invocation-Pastor Ryan Christopher from Mt. View Church
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Minutes Approval
 - a. Workshop Meeting-June 6th, 2023
 - b. Public Hearing Minutes June 20th, 2023
 - c. Regular Business Meeting June 20th, 2023
6. Lamar County Department of Health Presentation-Sherry Farr
7. 2nd Reading of Ordinance 023-13 Lowering of Speed Limit from 45 to 35 on Five Points Road from Hwy 41 North to Zebulon Road

Commissioner Gilles said that she had a few calls in favor of lowering the speed limit. Chairman Traylor noted that he has seen cars going fast down Five Points Road. He said that when you pave new roads people tend to go faster. Vice-Chair Thrash said that she has a few calls regarding Liberty Hill and Van Buren Roads. She said that people are saying that they have made the road smaller. They did not make the road smaller but when you paint the strips and the right of way strips on the side of the road, that takes up 6 to 8 inches. The State requires double reflectors be added to the paved road and that also takes up 2 to 3 inches of space. Elections Supervisor Reid asked what causes Van Buren Road to be bumpy and said that it makes you feel like you are going up and down a roller coaster. She said it was better before it was paved. Chairman Traylor explained that now that it is paved the bumps are noticeable. He was told that they did not level the road and they used Microsurfacing instead of Triple Treat with the full pavement and a leveling system where it put down enough asphalt to fix the dips in the road. The idea based off of the engineering study advise, the Microsurfacing extends the life cycle of the road. They will be able to come back in and do some leveling. Chairman Traylor said that he would have liked to have done some work in the edge of the road and leveled out the edges before the paving crew started the job.

8. Resolution 2023-09 Special Exception by Paul Frady and Holly Grove to allow for Agritourism and Event Center on Tax Map 044 Parcel 032 902 Hwy 41 South.
9. Resolution 2023-10 BOC Millage Rate
10. Resolution 2023-11 LOST Millage Rate
11. Resolution 2023-12 BOE Millage Rate
12. Resolution 2023-13 BOE Bond Repayment
13. Board Appointment- Public Facility
 - Mark Rischbieter 2 Years 8-17-2023
 - Dr. NaToya Fletcher 2 Years 8-17-2023
 - Linda Olivier 1 Year 8-17-2023

County Administrator Townsend explained that the Public Facility is designed to obtain low interest rates for Bonds. The County cannot be landowners so the Public Facility board is over the new building and they are actually over the loan as the landowners. The rent comes to them and then to the County for the payment. Vice-Chair Thrash said that the Legislation that was passed allows the County to do Public and Private partnerships. For example, a Financial agreement with a private corporation, the Public Facilities Board would oversee this. County Administrator Townsend said that there are no bylaws so there is no need for assigned Districts for each board member. Chairman Traylor said that initially each Commissioner made a suggestion for an appointment to the Public Facilities Board.

14. Administrator's Report
15. Public Comment
16. Commissioners Comment
17. Round Table
18. Executive Session
 - i. Real Estate
 - ii. Litigation
 - iii. Personnel
19. Adjournment

Other Discussion

Chairman Traylor pointed out that the Regular Business meeting is a County Business meeting regarding of comments or discussions and people need to understand the importance of that.

County Administrator Townsend reported that the cash flow is running over due to three payrolls but they are still doing well.

Public Comments

Jimmy Dunbar of 102 Summers Field Road addressed the board. Mr. Dunbar said that last year there was a meeting in Milner, Georgia regarding the Solid Waste Authority. They spoke about what the Solid Waste was going to do about the facility, the building on the hill. Mr. Dunbar said that Johnny Poore spoke about his plans and he has put it back four or five times. He asked if any of the Commissioners knew what was going on. Vice-Chair Thrash said that they are going to be moving their equipment that is out there to the old Enercon building. It should start within the next month or two. Mr. Dunbar asked when he would start the Leachate. Vice-Chair Thrash said as soon as they get their permit and is the only thing they are waiting on. Mr. Dunbar said he does not have a permit. Vice-Chair Thrash said that everything is in the process. It is in the final stage of Public Comment. Mr. Dunbar asked how many years he has been doing this. Vice-Chair Thrash said that there are three other companies in the Country that are doing the same thing. It took one company 20 years to get started and another one it took them 17 years and other company it took them almost 12 years. They are in the timeline and they have been working on this for 8 to 9 years. Mr. Dunbar said that they have been working on this a lot longer than this. Vice-Chair Thrash said not this Waste to Energy project. Mr. Dunbar said he retired 20 years ago from EPD and he was working on it then. She said that things made them stop what they were doing.

Mr. Dunbar said that there was a GEFA loan for 27.5 million dollars and asked how much of that had been spent. Vice-Chair Thrash said about 18 million dollars. Mr. Dunbar asked when the payments start back. Vice-Chair Thrash said April of next year. There are two payments in reserve. Mr. Dunbar said that he looked on the EPD website and said that he has not gotten site suitability, which is the first step in the process of getting a permit. The comment period on site suitability runs through August 7th, 2023. Then after that all of the engineering and design worked approved. Mr. Dunbar said that he is nowhere close to getting a permit. Vice-Chair Thrash said that they are ready to go as soon as they get a permit. Mr. Dunbar said that he used to handle the permits and he knows that you cannot do it in a months' time. Vice-Chair Thrash said that this has not all taken place in a months' time. Mr. Dunbar shared with the Board of Commissioners a letter from EPD regarding the review of the April 2023 "Report of Limited Site Suitability Lamar County Regional Solid Waste Authority Materials Recovery, Pyrolysis and Leachate Evaporation Facility. The letter was addressed to Mr. Poore and stated that she had not seen the letter. Vice-Chair Thrash said that if Mr. Dunbar wanted to visit with Mr. Poore, she would go with him. Mr. Dunbar stated that he had spoken to Mr. Poore many times regarding this issues. Mr. Dunbar said that the

Authority should be answering the questions. He said that his concern was that at some point in time the taxpayers of the County are on the hook for the GEFA loan. Vice-Chair Thrash said that they are not because the Authority will pay the GEFA loan and what will guarantee that the taxpayers do not have to pay the 27.5 million is if the project is destroyed. Mr. Dunbar said what will happen if it is not successful. Chairman Traylor said that the portion of the Leachate could generate enough to cover the GEFA loan. Mr. Dunbar said that he does not have it approved. He does not have a permit and if he got it in the next two months, he is still going to have to start the process and it will be months before any revenue comes in.

Walter Geiger asked for informational purposes what the first payment was for the GEFA loan. Vice-Chair Thrash and Chairman Traylor did not know. Mr. Dunbar said that at some point in time, someone has to answer this. The County should have never turned to the Solid Waste Authority but it was done under Chairman Bobby Burnette. You do not have to answer anyone that is on the Authority and the Public does not know what is going on. Mr. Dunbar said that you cannot tell him that the GEFA loan will not come back to the County if it is not paid. He said he hopes he makes a billion dollars but he has not done it in 20 years. Mr. Dunbar said that he has nothing personal against Mr. Poore, he was raised with him and went to school with him. Mr. Dunbar said that he totally agrees with what he did with the landfill and he is only speaking about the Waste to Energy project that he has been working on for 20 years. Vice-Chair Thrash made a phone call and found out that the payment is approximately 1.3 million dollars once a year.

Mr. Dunbar said the Solid Waste Authority should have questions for Mr. Poore because he said he knew a year ago at the meeting in Milner, Georgia. He said that Commissioner Lovett went to the meeting, and he said he should know what he was doing by February and now it is August. Mr. Geiger asked if the money was subject to audit. Vice-Chair Thrash that GEFA has all the records on all the expenses. There are no draws made on the money without GEFA's approval. Mr. Dunbar said that GEFA will get paid back one way or another. He said that if this is not successful what is the Plan B. Vice-Chair Thrash replied through the Leachate program and AmWaste the GEFA loan is covered. Mr. Dunbar said that if Plan B does not work out will the landfill be able to cover the GEFA loan. Vice-Chair Thrash said that they will take care of the note. Mr. Dunbar said that if that is the agreement then that is all he has to say.

Round Table

Vice-Chair Thrash said when they were paving Liberty Hill Road and Five Points Road, they had the barricades and people were driving around them. She is afraid that a Public Works employee could get hurt and wondered if there is a way to hire security through one of the local deputies. Vice-Chair Thrash said that the only way people respect construction zones is if they see blue lights. She said that it would help the local law enforcement with getting a part time job. This would be anytime they are doing a big project. Chairman Traylor said that this will be a pass through because if they ask for security with a contracted company, they will tact on that cost to the contract. It will be a markup on the contract so does the County want to initiate in house. County Administrator Townsend said that he and Public Works Director Rigdon have been speaking with the Sheriff about getting a deputy when they are working on the roads. He said that there are fines for speeding in zones of big construction sites and maybe the Sheriff could implement this in Lamar County. Commissioner Fletcher suggested parking a Sheriff's car with running blue lights. Chairman Traylor said that they should plan for high volume areas and having someone there.

Vice-Chair Thrash inquired about the truck staging lanes at Jordan Lumber. She said that when they paved Industrial Drive, they put in truck staging lanes so when they come out of Jordan Lumber, they can pull off and secure their loads. Public Works Director Rigdon and his crew cleaned the place up about three months ago and there were bags of feces and cups of urine. It was one of the nastiest hazard situations that he had been involved in. Vice-Chair Thrash said that she was over there a few days ago and she sent Public Works Director Rigdon

screen shots where it looks like that portion is apart of the land field. Chairman Traylor said he has not spoken to Jordan about this but noted that it is outside of their gate and it would not make sense for this to be something for them to police. Chairman Traylor suggested that they utilize technology for this issue. Commissioner Lovett said that they need to site Jordan. Chairman Traylor said that this is not Jordan's property or their truckers. Commissioner Lovett said to send Jordan a bill. Chairman Traylor said that these are contractors and they do not work for Jordan and they are not on Jordan's property. Commissioner Lovett said that this sounds like a problem they have in the legal system; fix the problem you create or hire your high dollar attorney to fix it in court. It is cheaper to fix the road. Commissioner Lovett said that these are Jordan's people because they are on that road to bring them logs and they need to control their people so they do not have to send the bill to the rest of the community or pay the fine. Chairman Traylor said that they could speak to the County Attorney about this. If they have cameras that could capture the tag number or photo of the independent drivers. Chairman Traylor and Vice-Chair Traylor both said that they created their own problem because they made the road where they could secure their load before they pulled off and now, they are abusing the property. Commissioner Lovett said that they could just close the road if they cannot solve the problem. Commissioner Fletcher agreed.

Commissioner Gilles asked if they could get AmWaste to publish their change in rules. She had a constituent call her about taken her limbs over there. She pays someone to cut up the pecans trees and take them to the dump. Vice-Chair Thrash said that the permit will not allow that. Mr. Poore always took them and put them over to the side but their permit will not allow them to take limbs. As long as they are not big logs, they will still allow them to bring them in. Commissioner Gilles said that she did not want them sawed but cut. They will not take the big tree limbs, just small debris. Chairman Traylor said that there is a new facility opening in the Industrial Park that will take tree limbs but there will be a charge. Commissioner Gilles said that it did not use to count towards her bill and now it does so because of this they need to publish the changes in the legal order.

Commissioner Lovett inquired about the liquor referendum on the ballot. Elections Superintendent said this was in regards to something on the County side that she did not have all of the details. She was approached with dates and when they could have an election. Vice-Chair Thrash said that they took it to the Election Superintendent rather than the Board of Commissioners. Elections Superintendent Reid said that they were doing research.

Commissioner Fletcher and everyone thanked Chairman Traylor for the delicious BBQ lunch.

County Administrator Townsend reported on the new Administration Building and said they are waiting on a timeline for the windows for the Tax Commissioner.

Chairman Traylor emailed Congressman Furgeson, and Representatives Knight and Camp. He would like to set up a meeting with them and all of the Board of Commissioners and the City Council members to do a round table. He would like it to be a time to strategize and talk about Grant opportunities. He said that Mayor Banks wants to do a lunch with the Board of Commissioners and the City Council and asked that they set up a time for this.

Adjournment and Executive Session

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to adjourn the Workshop meeting to go into Executive Session at approximately 3:17 p.m. to discuss Real Estate, Personnel and Litigation. Commissioner Lovett 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

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