

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Business Meeting Minutes
September 19th, 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.

Actions Taken

1. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Bishop Raines gave the invocation.
3. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Vice-Chair Thrash presented a National Senior Center Month Proclamation and Chairman Traylor presented a Lamar County National Bullying Month Proclamation.
5. Commissioner Fletcher made a motion to approve the minutes from the August Board of Commissioner meetings. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Commissioner Gilles made a motion to deny the Rezoning and Minor Subdivision Application for Kyle Johnston, McClean Road Parcel 007-006. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Commissioner Gilles made a motion to deny the Minor Subdivision Resolution 2023-14. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
8. Vice-Chair Thrash approved Budget Amendment Resolution 2023-15. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
9. Commissioner Gilles approved the 1st reader of Ordinance 2023-15 Camp Road “No Thru Trucks”. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion.
10. Commissioner Gilles approved the reappointments for the Public Facility Board as follows. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Blosser	2 Years	8-17-2025
Dr.NaToya Fletcher	2 Years	8-17-2025
Linda Olivier	1 Year	8-17-2024

11. Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the FY2024 LMIG as follows. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Ingram Rd-paved section Ramah Church Rd County Line Rd Asphalt hot mix construction \$311,000.00.
 - Ramah Church Rd County Line Rd SR18/US41 Asphalt hot mix construction \$1,147,000.00.

Funding for Paving Project

Lamar County LMIG Funds	\$468,722.38
Matching Funds from TSPLOST	\$989,277.62
Total	\$1,458,000.00

12. Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the replacement of three County owned bridges. Each local government that selects to participate will need to provide financial support and agree to pay a portion of the cost of the right-of-way based on the selected Tier for the project(s). Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Van Buren Road (CR 217) over Little Towaliga River – TIER II
- Cannafax Farm Road (CR 51) over Little Potato Creek – TIER I
- Etheridge Mill Road (CR 77) over Potato Creek 2 mi W of Milner – TIER I

12. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the Courthouse Roof bid from Certified Roofing & Gutter for \$138,807.00. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to approve the Sheriff's Office and Jail Roof bid from Certified Roofing & Gutter for \$238,910.60. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for an amount of \$500,000.00 to be used if the last option. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

15. The board heard a Waste to Energy (WTE) Presentation from the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) Director Johnny Poore (Mr. Poore). Mr. Poore stated that he was in the exact room 30 years ago in 1993 and a public meeting was conducted to decide what to do, and the SWA was formed. They had about six months of life on the County landfill that was about to close. It was on the verge of having contaminated groundwater. Mr. Poore commended County Administrator Townsend on the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). He said that in 2008, he was the County Administrator and the TAN was done in June instead of September. He said if you only need \$500,000.00 that is great. In 2008, the County did not live for the property taxes they lived for the TAN which was around \$3,500,000.00.

Mr. Poore gave a Waste to Energy (WTE) update which covered Permitting, Funds Dispersed/Remaining, Strength of Authority, Status of Projects, Taxpayer Protections, Comments & FAQ, Benefits to the Taxpayers, Benefits to Environment and Economy, Summary.

- Permitting: The WTE major modification has been approved. The Air Quality Permit modification has been fully approved. The Materials recovery facility is for the Enercon property. The goal was to move the operations at this location. The site suitability was approved September 5th, 2023. The permit conditions are things that need to be fixed. They received and amended those in an EPD (Environmental Protection Services) meeting on 9/6/2023. He said the head of permitting, Mr. Stephens, agreed that no one

wants this project up and running and successful more than them. They had some conditions they were concerned with so; they had a meeting with EPD permitting, Curtis Reynolds with Harbin Engineering along with Solid Waste Chair Nancy Thrash were present in the meeting. Mr. Poore spoke to Director Hunter Hill for GEFA (Georgia Environmental Finance Authority). Mr. Poore said the head of the Solid Waste Permitting Unit, Keith Stevens, also told him that no one in the room wants it up and running more successfully than they do.

Mr. Curtis Reynolds gave a brief summary of the permitting. He said the Cedar Grove WTE permit was issued in July of 2015. The processing building was constructed in 2017 and 2019. The equipment was installed in the building between 2020 and 2021. The Enercon property was submitted as a major modification to add that property to the Solid Waste permit and handling in 2022. In April of 2023, the material recovery facility and the leachate evaporation facility was to be added onto the Enercon property and was submitted to EPD. They received the draft of site suitability conditions on July 7th, 2023. The final site suitability was approved on September 5th, 2023. EPD had reviewed the design and operation plan for the material recovery facility, and the leachate evaporation facility and they provided comments on August 9th, 2023. The next step is for EPD to review their comments and provide correspondence on additional changes. Upon approval, they will give them the go ahead for a final Public Hearing for the Solid Waste handling permit. The Public Hearing is required to be 15 days prior to the issuance of the permit. They will need to advertise this in the legal organ for 30 days. Mr. Poore stated that the permit was put in a year ago and had to be changed. The plans had to be redrawn and Mr. Reynolds has burnt the midnight oil getting this completed.

- Funds Dispersed/Remaining: The GEFA funds used: \$22,591,833.67.
Construction \$20,286,732.82
Engineering \$1,589,735.52
Admin/Legal \$661,343.65
Testing/Inspection \$628.78
Contingency \$53,392.90
- GEFA Funds Remaining \$4,908,166
Authority Funds on Hand \$3,497,667
Total Available \$8,405,833
Funds Required to Complete \$6,944,000
21% Contingency Fund \$1,461,833
Landfill Royalty Funds (Feb-Sept) \$333,333
- Strength of Authority: 30 years with the SWA resulted in no property taxes. Curbside Rate in 1993 \$11/month, 2023 \$13/month (18% increase in 30 years.)
LC Budget 1993 \$3,000,000
2022 \$14,000,000 (366% increase)
Assets in 1993 \$0.00
Assets in 2023 (Maulding and Jenkins CPA) \$33,575,793
Assets exceed liabilities \$7,229,520

- Status of Projects: Phase I Evaporators-1 & 2 delivered, set up and ready to start one week after the permit is received. Phase I Evaporation pays the GEFA note and operating expenses. They have a long term contract with AmWaste. This satisfies the evaporation contract which pays the GEFA loan. Phase II evaporators 3&4 delivery scheduled November 4th and ready to start up in December. Phase III WTE start Q2 upon completion of building modifications with Enercon and they are well under way. They had to add an extension for an RDF storage and a roof. They plan on pouring concrete soon. As soon as the building modifications are done, they will move the equipment. There may be some structural things for Phase III. He said that will be gone when Phase IV, V and VI are done but they need to happen. The 490 Industrial drive building additions order, and fabrication are to be delivered in October. The RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel), Pyrolysis, and Gas polishing equipment installation are to follow after the building modifications are completed. The RDF building and equipment are to be relocated and the cost is to be paid for by AmWaste. The building will be used for Char or additional operations. The equipment used for RDF will save transporting to 490 Industrial permanently.
- Taxpayer Protection: 5 layers of protection. AmWaste has contracted for 30 years to pay funds to cover the GEFA note. If AmWaste defaults the following could happen.
 - SWA contracts operations with another company
 - SWA resumes operation of landfill and pays note
 - SWA sells, pays off debt and retains profit
 - Phase I and II evaporation revenues provide debt service coverage.
- Mr. Poore answered Comments and FAQ's

1. Are minutes of meetings not taken?

Minutes are taken for every board meeting

2. Taxpayer liability?

There are 5 layers of protection

3. Director not under contract?

Mr. Poore says he never has been and this allows SWA to change at any time. He said if they do not want him, he has a beach waiting on him and his wife and grandkids.

4. Not enough funds to complete the project?

SWA has funds available plus a \$1,400,000.00 contingency.

5. It won't work?

- Feedstock preparation and MRF's have been operated for decades
- Pyrolysis is a proven technology used in multiple application.
- Pyrolysis is regulated by EPD and EPA
- Hired the best engineers out of California to find the flaws. They examined the technology, the drawings, the materials, the gas BTU, the tar load of the gas. They examined everything including the metal. They examined every component. They cut a square called a chip out of the unit and sent it off to see

what happens after it has run for many hours. They sent it to Atlanta Testing and Engineering. Commissioner Gilles asked if SCS was from California? Mr. Poore said yes but SCS came out of Tampa but has a home office in California.

6. Char use in plastics won't work?

Demonstration products have been made by experts in the field of blending char from waste materials with injection mold plastic materials; polypropylene, and all sorts of the poly's. They made injectable plastic with ratios of up to 25% char that was used by Caterpillar to make their own demonstration product. The blended char had a higher heat tolerance than the injectable plastics.

Research has shown that char from pyrolysis used as a filler in injection pellets would be a viable "bolt on" enterprise. This is a grow into market.

7. Steam and Evaporation were not in the Plan?

He gave a power point presentation to the Lamar County Board of Commissioners in 2015 which lists steam for industrial use as a goal. In 2021, the joint Solid Waste Management plan for Lamar County and the City of Milner lists evaporation as one of the industrial applications of the WTE project.

8. Why Start with Natural Gas?

The SWA has a 30 year guaranteed contract to evaporate leachate from the Cedar Grove Landfill. The contract along with the landfill royalty guarantees the GEFA debt service. To meet the requirement, natural gas is the startup gas and will be dedicated to the first two evaporators. Evaporation using SYNGAS to steam to evaporate will always need backup. Natural Gas systems provide evaporation during times of maintenance. To enter into a guaranteed contract, you must have redundancy.

9. I thought the County owns the Landfill.

There are three landfills in the County.

1. The County owns a closed landfill that is unlined, leading on the Georgia Hazardous Site Inventory (HSI) list. Permit # 085-004D(SL). This is the Board of Commissioners and Taxpayer liability.
2. The Authority built a new lined subtitle D landfill in 1998 permit # 085-007D(MSWL). It is owned by the Authority. It is not on the HSI list.

The authority is cleaning up the County/Taxpayers groundwater contamination via reclamation and is removing the liability by repermitting the space. Reclaiming has removed contamination. It is a liability for the County. It was built by the taxpayers and the SWA stepped up and fixed it after three years of permitting. They dug it up in 2001 and have reclaimed 28 acres of the old landfill.

3. Barnesville's landfill was closed in 1992 and is still on the HSI list and is showing contaminants.

The way they designed and got it structured in 1998-2001 EPD said that they had never dug up a landfill. The County owned landfill is the closed landfill and the SWA landfill is the new landfill. EPD questioned the permit and Mr. Poore used the “Pacman” method as they dug up the old landfill. The new permit will take it over which will eliminate the permit for the old landfill. One day it will go away.

10. Is Barnesville’s trash going to Cordele?

SWA does not know because Barnesville’s trash is not under the SWA.

11. SWA Bylaws?

SWA had a legal opinion in 1993 whereby posting a notice on the door 24 hours in advance was sufficient as there was no property taxes funded. Bylaws are being reviewed by legal counsel for notifications and per diem or stipend to board members. This question has been sent to legal counsel. The per diem was \$25.00 and in 1993, the per meeting was changed to \$100.00. In 2011, it was raised to \$150.00 per meeting.

12. Why is Diesel on GEFA reimbursement?

SWA was approved by GEFA in 2015 to act as its own contractor just as it had for all the cell construction. SWA rented dirt moving equipment (trucks, excavator, roller drum, etc.) to fill subgrade for WTE construction. Separate fuel tank was kept on the construction site with separate billing.

13. Why Porta Potties?

SWA landfill employees used the office for bathroom and breakroom facilities. Porta Potties kept contractors from being in and out of the office.

14. Why were some things bid by SWA and some by Contractor?

GEFA approved paradigm as sole source for items from feedstock preparation, pyrolysis, gas cleaning and char handing. There was no comparable pyrolysis equipment and the SWA needed a single source. The sole source avoids conflict between the contractors and vendors for preparation and performance of feedstock for the pyrolysis units, and gas cleaning. Feedstock preparation was bid by Paradigm and bids were submitted to SWA for approval. Building and roads were bid by SWA with McLeRoy as the low bidder. All proposals and pricing were presented to the SWA board.

15. Why has it taken so long?

- Due Diligence/Testing
- Independent engineering review
- Funding
- EPD permitting the WTE
- Rule Change for Renewable Electricity by Public Service Commission (PSC)
- Oil Prices Drop \$38/Barrell, Destroys Gas Projects
- Enercon and Land Purchase of 34 acres
- COVID 19 delays equipment and installations
- Permit modification for Enercon and Land Protection

- Permit Modification for Enercon Air Quality
- Landfill Operations and Maintenance Agreement
- Land Purchase Parcel 1
- Land Purchase Parcel 2
- Land Purchase Parcel 3
- Enercon Permit Change to MRF
- Modifications to Enercon Building

16. 6 Years Since Original Permit Exclusive of 2 year COVIDS effect

- Synergy Energy (RENO) began in 2004 and finished 2023
- Enerkem (Canada) Began 2000 and 2018 Commercial
- Freds Building-an existing building over two years to renovate
- Building utilities and parking pre-existing-no EPD permitting need
- WTE Projects were not pre-existing

17. When will County Receive Benefit From SWA?

Taxpayer liabilities paid by SWA since 1994

- Taxpayer liabilities paid by SWA since 1994
- Closure of BOC/Taxpayer Landfill # 004 \$600,000.00
- 19 groundwater monitoring & 5 methane wells \$50,000.00
- 30 years monitoring & lab cost \$486,000.00
- 30 years County trash collection \$449,920.00
- Reclaiming County old landfill \$2,000,000.00

Total benefit provided to date: \$3,585,920.00

18. Future Landfill costs to taxpayer that may be avoided by SWA

PERMIT #004

Remainder of reclamation cost	\$3,000,000.00
Monitoring costs of 30 years	\$1,000,000.00
30 years trash collection	\$1,000,000.00
	\$5,000,000.00

SUMMARY:

- PERMIT TO BE ISSUED
- SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO COMPLETE
- AUTHORITY - FINANCIALLY STRONG \$7.229 M
- ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES
- PHASE I AND II STARTUP THIS FALL
- TAXPAYER HAS 5 LAYERS OF INSULATED FROM DEBT

16. The board heard a presentation regarding the Waste to Energy (WTE) Project from Commissioner Gilles and Commissioner Lovett.

Commissioner Gilles inquired about the million dollars for the equipment assets including asking questions to Mr. Poore. What happened with the plan when AmWaste took over? Mr. Poore replied that the equipment stayed with the landfill. Commissioner Gilles inquired about the buildings housing the feedstock preparation saying there was construction going on with this building at the landfill while simultaneously buying and upgrading an Enercon building. Now that building has to be torn down. It cost over \$2,500,000.00 to build it and no one has ever used that building. Why was it put on a landfill cell? Mr. Poore said there were plans to build two buildings; that one and another one beside it. They built the first building and then the Enercon became available. They were going to build the second building right beside it but when the Enercon became available, a large 35000 square ft. building and for the same amount of money that they were going to build another one beside it. They bought the property along with 34 acres and they put that money into the Enercon building instead. Commissioner Gilles stated that they bought the Enercon building for \$2,000,000.00 and that was taken out on draw# 7 and McLeRoy was draw# 8. They already had the building and they kept doing change orders on draw# 7; in excess amounts. Mr. Poore said that they had already entered into a contract with McLeRoy to build the building and at that point they were going to keep that building for feedstock preparation and then transport the feedstock materials over to the Enercon building.

Commissioner Lovett asked why they built it on a cell. He said they are in the landfill business and the most valuable thing with a landfill is the land and you built it on a cell and you are about to knock it down. Why would you build it on the most valuable asset that you have? Mr. Poore said that the most valuable asset is the landfill space. He said they had the cells one, two, three, four and that was going to be cell five and they still had cells six, seven and eight on the plans to build. They had ample cell space available so they put it there which was next to where they were reclaiming. Mr. Poore said the best waste for fuel is the reclaimed waste. It was right next to where they were going to mine out the old taxpayer landfill. It would be a short haul so waste could go into that building for processing or go to the landfill next door. Commissioner Lovett said that with all the available land they had they still put it on a cell. Mr. Poore said that they did not have any other available land. At the bottom of the landfill, they had leachate tanks, the leachate pumping station, the office and the pond. The only plan that was left was permitted.

Commissioner Gilles said that they purchased a lease from the people behind the building because it was built too close to the line. Mr. Poore said that the septic tank had to go on the leased property so it would not go into the landfill space; EPD allows for this on leased property. They allowed for 100 ft. of space for the septic tank.

Commissioner Gilles stated that Mr. Poore made \$125,000.00 a year with the SWA. In the first five drawdowns, he received an additional \$130,000.00 plus through the contract with your company R&R Consulting. Mr. Poore said he retired as the Executive Director in 1993 and this is what he was paid as an Executive Director. When he started the WTE project, they looked for a general contractor. They did find a general contractor, Crowder Construction but they did not have it in the budget to pay them so he took on the role of general contractor. However, he said he did not want to work for free when someone else was going to get paid millions of dollars. In 2014,

the board approved him to be the general contractor overseeing the WTE project, as well as landfill, the construction, and the reclamation. Mr. Poore said that this was all he was paid and if you divide that by 8.5 years it works out to be \$16,875.00 a year. Commissioner Gilles said Mr. Poore was to be paid a lump sum of \$273,198,00 for a period of 18 months and it was to be taken out in six draws. Mr. Poore said he has not taken this. He was paid half of this and not a penny more and when the project is finished, they will figure it out; when they are done. Mr. Poore said since 2016, you will find that he has not been given an increase even though all of the other employees received an increase. He has not received a raise in his contract in seven years. Commissioner Gilles said that a failing plant cost Cherokee County taxpayers \$100,000.00. A colleague gave her paperwork from June of 2015 where the same thing that was going on here was going on in Jasper County. The article speaks about the Director of the landfill, Karen Deggs. In her previous correspondence, on August 8th, she mentioned meeting with Harbin Engineering to see if their fiber materials might be suitable for some time of energy conversion project. In the past six months, they have had several more meetings with this firm and they affirmed there is a viable option to convert fiber into energy. They are putting together a project scope that offers a complete reclamation of all fiber. Steve Harbin has progressed his efforts to the point where he has located equipment and feels like it would be a good fit for their needs. Commissioner Gilles said the article questioned whether or not Matthew Rooper was a landfill consultant, partner, or employee. Matthew Rooper was hired by the Jasper County Board of Commissioners to set up a SWA which has led their citizens to do some investigation digging. Commissioner Gilles said this is exactly what they are seeing right now. Matthew Rooper also worked in Newton County. She said there is one common denominator in this whole situation; Harbin Engineering. Commissioner Gilles said there have been failed projects all over the State and this has taken some time to get done and we do not want the taxpayers to pay for this. Commissioner Gilles had her daughter stand up, she said her daughter will be 44 years when this gets paid off.

Commissioner Gilles asked about a report that was sent out to California. regarding further testing. Mr. Poore stated here could always be more testing done. Commissioner Gilles said after she reviewed the drawdowns, double billing on invoices, bookkeeping and billing she asked Mr. Poore to explain the “what looks like “comingling of funds for reclamation of landfills and Waste to Fuels. Mr. Poore said that there is no comingling. Mr. Poore said that he has no idea about Jasper County but he wanted to speak about Harbin Engineering. He said they went to Harbin Engineering in 1997 and they are paid to look at technology. He said that fiber is not what they are doing; pyrolysis at 1100 degrees is what they are doing. Commissioner Gilles said every County had a GEFA loan that the Commissioners signed. Mr. Poore said that the GEFA loan is protected. He said that he knows Matthew Rooper and he has been to their site but he does not know anything about Newton County. He said he did go over there about 25 years ago when they inquired about the reclamation. He said that Harbin Engineering were paid to evaluate technology. Mr. Poore said before the first draw he had a conference call with GEFA officials so they had a good understanding of what they could and could not do under the GEFA loan. The GEFA loan understanding of agreement states that that they would use a sole source of proprietary provider for the pyrolysis system. That system would be provided by Paradigm and would include feedstock preparation and pyrolysis. GEFA understood and agreed that the Paradigm system is unique. SWA would use a standard design built procurement for most elements of the project such as building site utilities. SWA would handle the preliminary site work and lease or purchase equipment that would be funded with GEFA funds. This equipment would also be used for waste handling once

the pyrolysis is placed into service. SWA would be utilizing the services of many engineers and testing firms for planning, design and instruction management services. Some of these services would include Harbin Engineering, SCS, and R&R consultants. SWA could submit and receive reimbursements for previous projects and related expenses associated with additional pyrolysis study. These expenses would also include the pyrolysis unit, building flair, lab equipment, engineering, and testing. Mr. Poore said he also got clarification from GEFA that they could purchase used equipment. This letter of information from GEFA was dated January 26th, 2015.

Commissioner Lovett said that some of the equipment could transfer over to the landfill but he did not understand about a compactor. He said he did not understand what the engineering on vertical expansion has to do with WTE. Mr. Poore said that this was for the reclamation to use the feedstock but he has not used any of it. Mr. Poore said that GEFA approved them to do anything related to the landfill operations, and the WTE. He said that they were reclaiming with the compactor. Mr. Poore again said the landfill equipment was approved by GEFA.

Commissioner Gilles said they were doing reclamation before the WTE project. Mr. Poore said the first part of the reclamation was to clean up the groundwater. Commissioner Gilles said the funds are not comingled but the projects are comingled. Mr. Poore said GEFA agreed it was an all inclusive project. Commissioner Gilles gave other statistics related to a quote from a Harbin Engineering: finalizing soil sampling letter for the waste excavation, vertical expansion area, preparing property expansion on minor modification associated with the western property line, and coordinating insulation to do survey benchmarks on site. She asked if this was for the WTE project. Mr. Poore said that the benchmarks was for the reclaiming on the west side of the old landfill so the road could go in. They had to do soil testing because when you reclaim you cannot put a road in until it goes to EPD. Commissioner Gilles asked if JMA Logistics was hired to do the feedstock preparation? Mr. Poore said that was correct. Commissioner Gilles said that he also had Paradigm installing feedstock preparation. She asked why they hired JMA, a company that was run out of South Carolina, who do bleachers and stadium seating, and was not bid out to other businesses due to COVID even though Georgia was open. Why did they not bid this out? Mr. Poore said they needed to get people and they had the Paradigm people from Savannah to get the substructure in for the equipment.

Commissioner Gilles provided a graph and pie chart she shared of the percentages of the invoices that were submitted and approved by GEFA. She also mentioned \$6,000.00 that was purchased for grass seed. Mr. Poore said when you do excavation you have to put out grass seed.

Paradigm	67.6%	Paradigm	67.6%
McLeRoy Building	10.9 %	McLeRoy Building	10.9 %
All other Companies	4.1 %		
Enercon Building	8.9 %	Enercon Building	8.9 %
RCS Consulting	2.5%	A&S Building	2.1%
Harbin	1%		

Commissioner Gilles said that this project has spent millions of dollars to develop the Pyrolysis units. In the SWA minutes, from December of 2015, it mentions 5% royalties from future projects,

and Mr. Poore serving on the GEFA committee. Commissioner Gilles asked, “Who owns the proprietary information in Lamar County that is bought through this project”. Commissioner Gilles asked, “Who owns the magic machine? Mr. Poore said Paradigm owns the machine. Paradigm owns the machine, the IP (Intellectual Property) but the SWA will own the machine. Commissioner Lovett repeated the answer, Paradigm owns the IP. Commissioner Gilles said this creation has not come to fruition but they have paid people to install it and the feedstock preparation did not even have a belt on it. Mr. Poore said that they were paid for the structural steel and to place the equipment. Commissioner Gilles said they paid JMA Logistics and they paid Paradigm. Mr. Poore said belts go on at one time. He said they are ready to be balkanized. The said that belts are sitting there. He said that the building is going to be relocated and everything will be salvaged out of that building. Mr. Poore said that they are going to move from that building in eight years and AmWaste said they would go ahead and pay for the move now. That building will be used on the other 34 acres. Commissioner Gilles asked if there was a website where she could order something from Paradigm. Commissioner Gilles said Mr. Crosby has another company called Chriscon, LLC registered with ID # 1505599. Mr. Poore said that it has nothing to do with the landfill.

Commissioner Gilles gave Mr. Poore the WTE project, the original contract and Completion of Planning from 2014. She held up the Modifications: Modification One: Completion of Construction; May 2018, Modification Two; Completion of Construction; January 2019, Modification Three; Completion of Construction, January 2020, Modification Four; Completion of Construction; April 2021, Modification Five; Completion of Construction; September 2021, Modification Six; Completion of Construction; November 2022, Modification Seven; Completion of Construction; December 2023. Commissioner Gilles asked, “Why do you want to continue down this path of demonstrated failure and non-completion”? Mr. Poore said that he appreciates GEFA working with them on extensions of completion dates and he could give a whole list of reason of things that caused it. He said they can blame him; he is an optimist and he had to dig up a landfill. Commissioner Gilles said this project has been done in other States before it was ever done in Georgia. She said she gives him credit for the first land reclamation done in Georgia. Mr. Poore said GEFA told them they do not need another extension because they are going to be up and running with the evaporators. Mr. Poore said he spoke to Director Hill with GEFA and he assured him they do not need another extension. Mr. Poore said they have gone overtime but not over budget. Commissioner Gilles said they did another GEFA loan in 1998 and paid it off through bonds. Mr. Poore agreed and said they started with zero. In 1998, they were building a landfill cell and they did not have \$2,000,000.00. The first cell included, the infrastructure, the scale, the leachate pumping station, the leachate infrastructure and the office. So, they took a GEFA loan for 20 years. About halfway through that GEFA loan, they did a bond issue in order to get a bond rating. That bond issue paid off the GEFA loan and then they paid off the bond issue. Mr. Poore said GEFA came to the SWA for the WTE project. They offered the funding to them.

Commissioner Lovett called and asked what a WTE project looks like. He showed a 40 second video from Montgomery, Alabama. He said that Chip Russell with AmWaste told him about this video. Commissioner Lovett shared a presentation via charts. He said that he attended a meeting in November and they discussed the technology that he was using. Commissioner Lovett apologized for showing up at the SWA unannounced and said he would contact them ahead of time and he would be shown what he wanted to see. On August 31st, 2023 he made a request to

seem them and contacted both Mr. Poore and AmWaste and they both gave him thumbs up. Within hours the Chairman called to say that the County Attorney had agreed to deny access. Commissioner Lovett said he would like to know who denied the request. Mr. Poore said he took ownership because it was a Thursday afternoon and the Hurricane had hit Perry Florida. He said his son lives in Perry Florida. Mr. Poore said that he called him at 2:30 p.m. and wanted to give notice that he was going to be on site, he was bringing someone with him and they were going to look at the Feedstock Preparation building. Mr. Poore said that he did not know this man so they looked him up and found that he was a sales representative for a company; Knee Hoyt. Mr. Poore said that he told him that he would not be there and Commissioner Lovett said he was going to show him around and see what it would take to finish the project. Mr. Poore said they found out he was a competitor and he actually bid on the system but he was too high and they did not go with him. So, he called the Chair and said they could not come. Commissioner Lovett said that because he was a competitor he could not come. Commissioner Lovett said on June 7th, 2023, there was a meeting he had with Commissioner Gilles and Commissioner Lovett for around three hours. He said that he gave them all the time issues. Mr. Poore said they were going to have the permits by July, evaporators by September, and Commissioner Lovett said he told him to change the evaporators to October so that the WTE project could be finished by 2024. That meeting happened June 7th, 2023, and there was letter that Mr. Poore was in full knowledge of dated April 6th, 2023, that states the completion date is December 1st, 2023 with the loan repayment scheduled for April 4th, 2024. Commissioner Lovett said the problem they are having is every time they ask him for something he gives them dates and for everyone else he gives them something different. He said that Mr. Poore knew that when they had this meeting and he had other dates that he knew about months ahead of time written on a calendar with GEFA. Commissioner Lovett was concerned Mr. Poore was misleading two new Commissioners. Mr. Poore said when they came out, they asked for multiple dates and asked when he would have the evaporator and he told them he was waiting on the permit. Mr. Poore said this is just one part of this process. Mr. Poore said that they asked them when they would be operating the WTE project and he told them he hoped by the first quarter and Commissioner Lovett told him to have it operating by the second quarter of 2024. Mr. Poore said this would be fine and said he called EPD and they told him they could get the permit out by April. He said there are two dates with GEFA; the construction completion date and then four months when the payment starts; April 1st, 2024. Commissioner Lovett said the dates are for the completion of the WTE project including the feedstock preparation, evaporators, pyrolysis, gasifiers, and everything with the project. The last draw is December 1st, 2023. There is no more money to drawdown. December 1st, 2023 is the completion date of the project. Commissioner Lovett said he knew this in the meeting and he misled them. Mr. Poore said GEFA has two dates in every one of the contracts and it is called the completion date and the dates the payment starts. There is four months in between. Mr. Poore said not being able to draw after December 1st, 2023 is incorrect because Director Hill from GEFA told him they can work with them on the final draw and it could be April 1st, 2024. When they spoke last year, Commissioner Lovett agreed to the evaporators being due in October of 2023. Mr. Poore said GEFA does not have the construction complete date as a hard fast date and there is a four months window until April 1st, 2024. Commissioner Lovett said GEFA is playing word games when they have December 1st, 2023 as the construction completion date. Mr. Poore said they do this in all of the contracts. Commissioner Lovett said they loan 27.5 million dollars on the vagueness of a contract? Mr. Poore said it is not vague they had three dates in the contract and the completion date is a standard procedure in the contract. Commissioner Lovett showed a package from Mr. Stan Siegel who issued package

987919332 on July 15th. Commissioner Lovett said he is not a patented attorney but he has enough patents to know. He asked Mr. Poore on the record before they go any further, will questions about the WTE project expose the County to potential patent violations. Mr. Poore said he had no reason to believe it would. Commissioner Lovett addressed the prototype and asked Mr. Poore if he knew about it and said it was essential to the start of the program. Mr. Poore said it was not. Commissioner Lovett said hey blamed them for the explosion but it turned out to be their welder. Mr. Poore said Mr. Siegel came to them and told them that he could distill the gas. Mr. Siegel built a prototype in Pennsylvania and brought it to them. They agreed if it separated, they would go to the next step. His prototype did not separate two gases; the propane or the butane and maybe it did not pull out the ethane; a hydrocarbon found in a gaseous state. He signed a release, took his prototype and went back to Pennsylvania. Commissioner Gilles said this was in 2015. Commissioner Lovett addressed the AmWaste Contract and said he never would have signed a contract like this in a million years and it looks like a binding operational agreement.

Commissioner Lovett said that in 2015, in a letter from Mr. Poore to the County Attorney, you said that the landfill would last for a century. In 2019, from the Georgia EPD capacity report, it projects it will last 63 years. They have no problems with what he did with the landfill. It was brilliant and he should have continued doing landfills because in this industry this is where everything matters. Commissioner Lovett said two years later in comes in AmWaste. They dropped it from 63 years to 19 years and they changed it; they took 40 years off the landfill. Mr. Poore told the citizens the landfill would be here forever. In two years, AmWaste took 40 years off the landfill. Commissioner Lovett asked him to explain the logic. Mr. Poore said those were annual capacity reports. He said for the SWA it tells you how much site life you have left. It could last 100 years depending on the flow. They went with AmWaste because the landfill was going to end and was going to be full one day; sooner or later. The WTE project does not have an ending time or a death date. It does not have a post closure. AmWaste is responsible for taking over the post closure of that landfill and go back to the capacity. The capacity has to do with flow and how much space you have on a permitted space. Commissioner Gilles said that according to the website it does not do this. Mr. Poore said that the SWA is based on the EPD reports. Commissioner Lovett said Mr. Poore stated the landfill was for the community and they needed to break even. The EPD data said he was producing around 300 tons a day before the AmWaste contract. As soon as AmWaste came on board, they were producing 970 tons a day as of last year. If 300 tons was break even, that means 670 tons of trash is coming into the Lamar County landfill a day. Commissioner Lovett said he projected AmWaste would make \$5,000,000.00 a year off the landfill; it was closer to \$4,000,000.00; 970 tons minus 300 tons and 600 tons of profit. At \$22.00, which is the rate they are giving the multiple hauler; 21 days and 12 months equals \$3,700,000.00 of profit. Commissioner Lovett said AmWaste showed up to support the WTE project because of this. Commissioner Lovett said that instead of the WTE project, where after nine years they still do not have any revenue for the community, they could have done a profit sharing. Lamar County's landfill, equipment and permits coupled with a private sector that knows how to make this thing run; \$1,800,000.00 would have been the County's cut. Commissioner Lovett asked why Mr. Poore decided not to do a revenue share but instead give them a pipe dream. Mr. Russell with AmWaste said it was free money. You financed; you took \$5,500,000.00 and financed the other for the GEFA loan repayment at 2.3 percent so this is why AmWaste does not walk away from it. Commissioner Lovett said the people are here tonight because they want to know why they lost their landfill.

Mr. Poore said that in 1994, the County had no landfill and it is not the County's landfill. The SWA built an asset that was built on another asset that would take this on through the duration called Waste to Energy. They did a lot of research and the payments from AmWaste totaled \$1,300,000.00 a year plus the \$5,500,00.00 they paid up front plus the \$1,100,000.00 they paid for the land; the 500 acres with an addition 378 acres. There was \$8,000,000.00 worth of post-closure care they have put into a reserve account. They took care of the 30 years of post-closure and it gives them about \$45,000,000.00 over the life of the landfill. The SWA got 300 acres of land and \$12.50 of their tipping fees. If you add all the savings, we felt like it was a good and fair deal. Mr. Poore said AmWaste could bring in extra but they are also reclaiming to get rid of that groundwater contamination to make more space. Mr. Poore said they would get to use this space because they are paying to get it. Part of this was because they had to pay for the reclamation and this is the \$3,000,000.00 AmWaste received. Mr. Poore said he is not sure they are going to finish it up. This divides that space. They are paying in other ways for this space. Commissioner Gilles asked who was going to do the reclamation. Mr. Poore replied AmWaste is going to do the reclamation. Commissioner Lovett said in the 19 years AmWaste is going to make just shy of \$80,000,000.00 and the SWA is going to be out of the landfill business. Commissioner Lovett said that 159 counties in Georgia and only 43 landfills. Only 28 of these are public. He said that Mr. Poore gave the landfill away. Mr. Poore said they had \$5,500,000.00 in cash, \$1,100,000.00 in land, \$8,000,000.00 in post-closure and a \$1,350,000.00 for 30 years. Mr. Poore said that AmWaste is not going to break even and the SWA goal is to break even. Commissioner Lovett said that if they had teamed up with AmWaste they could have gotten \$1,800,000.00 which is three times the TAN which is \$50,000.00 and \$1,100,000.00 for an Animal Shelter. AmWaste in a revenue share could have given it to them every single year. It is over 1 mill on the tax and it is actually closer to 2 mills that could have been reduced.

Commissioner Lovett said that leachate is the new Waste to Fuel. He said that 43 landfills in the State and 14 companies currently have Waste to Fuel that is operational. Mr. Poore said that Waste to Fuel is landfill gas and not Waste to Energy. He said that landfill gas is totally different than Waste to Energy. You put pipes in the ground and you suck methane out and you use that gas to make energy. You suck the methane out but the garbage is still there; the goal is to get the garbage gone. Commissioner Lovett said all 14 companies have Waste to Fuel. Mr. Poore noted that none of these are pyrolysis. Commissioner Lovett said that when they list what type of energy program they have, not a single one of the 14 companies list leachate evaporation because all 43 evaporate leachate. He said they are disposing of leachate and they are not creating a fuel. The projects listed in 2015 was Waste to Fuel not Waste to Leachate Evaporation. Mr. Poore said leachate evaporation is part of the Waste to Fuel project. He said in Waste to Fuel you take garbage and you extract gas. If you throw it in a landfill, it will make gas called methane and they pull it out and call it Waste to Energy. Then you can use that gas. This is taking the garbage before it goes into the landfill and extracting the gas. Then utilize that gas to evaporate leachate. He said that there are a few landfills in the United States and one or two in Georgia evaporate leachate from their landfill gas. Mr. Poore said that there are 43 "bathtub" landfills that collect leachate. He said that leachate has to go somewhere because they do not evaporate on their site and they haul it to water treatment plants. The water treatment plants are taking it less and less and Barnesville quite taking their leachate years ago and it is a massive problem. Mr. Poore said that they have created 1000 BTU gas which is double the BTU value of landfill gas. They use that gas for evaporations for steam, heat, and for electricity. This is Waste to Energy. How you use that energy is what they are talking about.

Commissioner Gilles said that Mr. Poore told them that he was going to put in a gas line to burn the leachate. So, you are buying gas to do the leachate. Commissioner Gilles said that he sounds like a "Hail Mary Pass". It is not the Waste to Fuels right now but just something to get us started on the GEFA loan. Mr. Poore said that to have a 30 year contract you have to have dual capability and redundancy to meet that contract. Commissioner Gilles said a 30 year contract with a 19 year life expectancy on our landfill. Mr. Poore said that the lifespan will change. Commissioner Lovett said that Mr. Poore is saying that the gas that he will one produce is better than the gas that is produced every single day by the 43 landfills. Commissioner Lovett asked Mr. Poore if he had every produce any of this gas. Mr. Poore said that he has done testing for years and repeatedly they have produced 25 SCFM of gas from a 50 ton a day unit multiplied by 200 tons a day and that means you will produce 1000 SCFM of 1000 BTU gas. That is equivalent to 2000 SCFM of 500 BTU gas. Commissioner Lovett asked if they have this unit. He said that no one has seen it and, on the tour, no one saw it. Early in the process a change order happened that doubled the cost of this pyrolysis unit from \$1,000,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00. per unit. Commissioner Lovett asked what changed in technology that was supposed to have already been done. If Paradigm owns the machine, why are we paying them to develop the machine. Mr. Poore said that the price on the unit was at cost and the system did not have the air lock and they have ordered a 70 ton unit and the one they have is a 50 ton unit. When you add the front in and the air locks and the char handling system it is a \$2,000,000.00 unit. They have three units that are in the building but they are not hooked up. They have one ready and two in a box. They need the air lock and the char attached to it. Commissioner Lovett said that they are three companies in the leachate market and he found eight more doing pyrolysis. He said that Mr. Poore would be about 12th on the list. They have spent \$4,000,000.00 on three units and in order to get the other two units that will have to spend another \$2,000,000.00. Commissioner Lovett said that the units have been in the boxes and they are seven years old. Mr. Poore explained that only the R&D was the only one that was seven years old.

Commissioner Lovett showed a slide on leachate that showed it needed to have been up and running by July 22nd of this year. Mr. Poore said that they had an amendment to that from AmWaste and he said they waived that date and he has that in writing. The leachate contract gives AmWaste first right of refusal to the entire project including the evaporators. Commissioner Lovett said that they actually get it all because Cedar Grove Landfill and the Waste to Fuel is producing two to four hundreds a day and they actually get it all based on their contract. Commissioner Lovett said that SWA is building it for AmWaste. Mr. Poore said it was the opposite because you have to guarantee your waste stream. Commissioner Lovett said AmWaste is the only ones that can bring waste to the Waste to Fuel plant. Mr. Poore said the first right of refusal was done so that if the SWA decided that they did not want to or could not evaporate the leachate. They are then obligated to pay that \$850,000.00 a year. He said that Mr. Russell said if you stop evaporating, he needed first right of refusal so he can come in and take it and continue to evaporate so they can meet the GEFA agreement. Commissioner Lovett agreed and said that he knew why they did this. They are making \$3,800,000.00 and they will gladly do their own leachate. He said that every landfill in the country has their own leachate. Commissioner Lovett said that between the tank and the flair is where the leachate evaporation should have happened so there is no trucking involved. He said Mr. Poore is going to have the water trucked and flair it off on someone else's property and the Enercon building is the Achilles Hill to this whole project. For \$3,000,000.00 those guys could have put in their own leachate evaporation between flair and tank they could have used free gas.

They could have done this all themselves. Mr. Poore said that there are two flaws to this: there is no landfill gas because there is no gas extraction system and there was not enough to have a landfill gas and on the landfill site there is no natural gas so that is the reason for the Enercon building. You could not put an evaporation system by the tanks.

Commissioner Lovett quoted \$850,000.00. He said here was 54,600 gallons off the first evaporator, 210 gallons of extra capacity; \$850,000.00 they could paid on the GEFA loans. Commissioner Lovett showed a map with the capacity on the GEFA obligation. It is 54,600 gallons time .07 cents a gallon equals \$3,822 a week off of evaporators one and two and because of this they are going to have trouble making the GEFA loan. Mr. Poore said the contract is for .25 a gallon and not .07 cents a gallon. Commissioner Lovett said the contract is .25 a gallon until they meet the GEFA obligation and if you do not meet the GEFA obligation it drops to .07 per gallon. Mr. Poore said they are not obligated to take any leachate beyond the first 3.4 million. He said that they are not obligated to take the .07 cents. Commissioner Lovett said it gets worse; it drops from .07 to .02 cents a gallon. Mr. Poore said they are obligated for 3.4 million at .25 a gallon. Commissioner Lovett said if he runs this at maximum capacity, 4 units, it is \$447,000.00 and this is total revenue before expenses. He said that he could have gotten \$1,800,000.00 on a revenue share.

Commissioner Lovett said that the SWA attended the Waste Expo in 2016. He said this is where you go if you want to see everyone in the industry. While at the Expo, you get bids. He showed a bid from BHS for feedstock and then there was a bid from Knee Hoyt. Commissioner Lovett showed the feedstock which is about 200 ton per day unit and other one is for a 500 ton per day unit. He said SWA did not go with any of the bids from BHS but instead they used Paradigm. They gave \$14,500,000.00 to a single contractor. Commissioner Lovett said Mr. Poore wrote an email that stated that he did not want this in Open Records because it was for Paradigm. It was written to Amanda Carroll which said they were skipping Open Records because they did not want anyone to see this. Vice-Chair Thrash requested Mr. Poore to explain. Mr. Poore said that this has been mischaracterized. Mr. Poore said that Paradigm was the sole source vendor and they bid out the contracts with BHS, eFactor3, or Veco Plant. He said Ms. Carroll, their GEFA representative, emailed him. They submitted a draw and she asked for the contract for the feedstock preparation and the gas cleaning system. Mr. Poore wrote back to her and told her these are not their contacts and this is not their property. Those were contracts between Paradigm and the gasoline system for Paradigm. Those were private contracts but told her he could problem get them for her. Those contracts contained a lot of technical information on the gas cleaning system. Mr. Poore said GEFA asked them for something that was not theirs; those contracts. He said the County Attorney said if they have a piece of paper then they have to provide it but they did not own those contracts. Those were private property. Mr. Poore said they were also under a non-disclosure agreement and they did not want to be in violation.

Commissioner Lovett admitted the pyrolysis was above his head. He said that he has welded on enough feedstocks to tell you what one looks like. He said feedstock press system and installation is a little better than \$4,100,000.00 and is actually the \$4,139,320,00.00. In 2016, this solved the feedstock program. But seven years later, you still have nothing. Commissioner Lovett showed a presentation for BHS. He thanked AmWaste because Mr. Russell was supposed to take him to RePower South (RPS) and his trip was cancelled, probably the same way his visit to the SWA was

cancelled. Commissioner Lovett said it was never rescheduled. Commissioner Lovett said he did not know who RPS or BHS was until he got invited and then it was cancelled. He showed a slide from Berkeley County South Carolina where on April 20th, 2018 RPS announced that a recycling and recovery facility was constructed in one year's time. Then in February of 2019, they did one in the City of Montgomery. RPS is a company that converts waste to renewable fuel. Commissioner Lovett contacted Paul from BHS who put a bid on a system. He told him that he did not remember how much the bid was because the system was so old that he could not find it. Commissioner Lovett requested a quote on a feedstock preparation and installation on a 200 ton per day unit and was told they cannot do that one but they could do the other one with all of the automation that was presented for \$3,500,000.00. It will take 48 to 52 weeks to get it installed. Commissioner Lovett said it was \$600,000.00 less than Paradigm bid you in 2016. Commissioner Lovett said if they had looked at this 4 to 5 years ago, it could have been savable and they could have gotten him some help.

Commissioner Lovett said that there is another WTE project in Lamar County; Piedmont Green Power. They gave the County \$680,000.00 in property tax and the SWA did not give the County a dime. They have done this for over a decade and it is a \$6,000,000.00 partner for Lamar County. Commissioner Lovett showed the pellets from RPS in Montgomery Alabama. It is designed to burn in a Waste to Fuel program. He said that if they had gone with anything that Mr. Poore is doing now, they would have had a Waste to Fuel program that would be producing these pellets that could be trucked across the street and burned in Lamar County's other Waste To Fuel Operation, Piedmont Green Power, that produces \$600,000.00 in property tax. Mr. Poore said that this could not be burned at Piedmont Green Power because their only biomass is gasification that was put in years ago. Mr. Poore said that they paid no taxes for quite a few years because they got grant money. He said that the pellet may burn in an incinerator but it is the total opposite of what they do; it is a pellet for your grill, it is made to burn low and slow. Mr. Poore said their system is designed to produce a fast pyrolysis, slow cooking gasification.

Commissioner Lovett asked what stage Mr. Poore will admit that this program needs some help. Someone that will come in with a fresh set of eyes. Commissioner Lovett said he asked AmWaste in May about this and he also spoke to Mr. Russell for two hours asking him to save this program. Commissioner Lovett said Mr. Russell is a Harbin Engineer and he made the cover on Waste360 for 40 Under 40 as an award winner. Commissioner Lovett asked Mr. Poore if he would accept help to finish this project. Mr. Poore said Mr. Russell has offered help anytime they need it. Mr. Poore said that he did not want help from a competitor and not from someone that is trying to take the technology and kill or steal the project. Commissioner Lovett said Mr. Poore is protecting Paradigm. Mr. Poore said this is not his project and he is ready to go to the beach. Commissioner Gilles said that this is the public's project. Mr. Poore said it is the SWA project and the public is fifth in line. They have been very diligent with their funds. Mr. Poore said he has been trying to get replaced for a long time and he would except Mr. Russell's help in a minute. Commissioner Lovett asked Mr. Poore if he would agree to an RFP to get people to do an evaluation of where they are at in the project. Mr. Poore said he does not vote and that is a SWA board decision. He said whoever would come into help would have to be evaluated. They have non-disclosure agreements and contracts. He said there are certain people he would trust, certain people he would not. He said again that Mr. Russell had offered to help. Commissioner Lovett said he is protecting the intellectual property that belongs to Paradigm and Mr. Crosby. Commissioner Lovett requested

that get people in to look at the project with the exception of the pyrolysis. You lock it up and you do not let anyone take a look at it and we get an analysis of the rest of the project and no one looks at Paradigm's stuff because it is seven to nine years old. Commissioner Lovett asked if he would endorse an RFP for someone to evaluate where they are in this project? Mr. Poore said he would consider anything but they are two to three months from turning on the revenue source that pays the GEFA note and they are four to ten months away from having everything going based on what Commissioner Lovett agreed to. Commissioner Lovett concluded by saying that Mr. Poore keeps referring to the GEFA loan when the citizens lost their landfill to AmWaste.

17. Public Comments

Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeple Chase Road addressed the board. She thanked Commissioner Gilles and Commissioner Lovett for their great work. Mrs. Hallada said that the Board of Commissioners main job is represent the citizens and protect them from wasteful spending. It does not matter that you made a deal with AmWaste and you are blessed that you have one. What matters is you let the SWA spend 22 plus million dollars over nine years and the monies were not borrowed for you to sign a deal with AmWaste to save yourself from ridicule. If the project was turned on in 2017, as a business owner she knows how to do her math, 2.5 million dollars in profit for six years means you have already lost 16 million dollars in the hole. As early as July 11th, 2019, previous Commissioner Heiney, based on the minutes, had questions about the finances of the SWA and suggested an audit. The matter was dropped and you knew then that this project was doomed. Mrs. Hallada mentioned an email that came in her GEFA dump. It clearly says that because these contracts where with Paradigm, who happens to be with Mr. Seaborn Crosby, who is in attendance, they saw and reviewed them but did keep a copy so that they could not be requested under Open Records. In her opinion, it appears that the bylaws of the SWA have been broken under the Sunshine Law. In the email, you have participated in an attempt to cover up under the freedom of information act and Open Records. She shared this string of emails with someone in the legal field. The wasteful spending and accounting practices are not transparent and need a forensic audit. Since no W2's or 1099's were issued to any board members over the years, was this a tax violation? Mrs. Hallada said that when she became a United States citizens she was brought to tears and was given a copy of the Declaration of Independence and a Constitution of the United States of America. She was told she had the same rights as a natural born citizen. Last Thursday, at the Board of Commissioners Workshop meeting, Chairman Traylor mentioned that he had spoken to Sheriff White and he said he would be brought in to remove anyone that would destruct or anyone who spoke up loudly about this meeting. As a new citizen to this Country, I know that you swore to uphold the Constitution when you got on this board. Mrs. Hallada asked Chairman Traylor if this comment was directed at her and she feels. Chairman Traylor stated that her three minute time was up. Mrs. Hallada said that he was stomping on her Freedom of Rights and her Freedom of Speech.

John Carroll of 530 Thomaston Street addressed the board. Mr. Carroll said he became interested in this through rumors. He said that last month at one of your meetings it was asked what the balance of the GEFA loan was and it was stated that it was 18 million dollars when in fact through a Freedom of Information request, that they found it was really 22.6 million dollars. Mr. Carroll said that Vice-Chair Thrash had stated that it was 18 million dollars on

August 3rd, 2023. He said that his professional background was capital equipment sales and looking through all of the documents, he is finding an enormous amount of overcharges and that is why he feels that an audit needs to be performed. He said \$50,000.00 week after week to install equipment should be a fraction of this cost. He said that he has setup factories in Turkey and China and all over the world. Looking at the documents, that are so opaque and there is no information from Paradigm Equipment. There is something that no one has mentioned which is the fact that the citizens of Lamar County are financing the development of the Pyrolysis equipment. Mr. Carroll said the SWA gave them \$659,000.00 in 2012, and in 2015, you gave them \$290,000.00 for the engineering cost of the Pyrolysis equipment. That is in addition to the \$2,000,000.00, \$2,000,000,000 \$2,000,000.00 \$2,000,000.00 and he doubts that the equipment is worth this at this point in time. Mr. Carroll said he feels they need some type of audit for the Paradigm invoices and how the money has been spent.

Truman Boyle of 1219 Hwy 36 East addressed the board. Mr. Boyle said the SWA is broken. It is broken bad. The bylaws state they should have elected officials on the board and the Board of Commissioners were originally put on the board to look after the taxpayers interest and that is not happening. If it is just elected official, you have the Coroner, the Probate Judge, the Magistrate Judge, the Clerk of Superior Court that could serve on this board and they cannot get their hands into our pockets.

Bill Hallada of 131 Steeple Chase Road addressed the board. Mr. Hallada said he has been closely involved with the concerned citizens and their inquiry about the construction of the SWA; the Trash to Energy Project. It has become a subject with the Lamar County citizens asking questions. They have been told not to worry when it seems that the solution to meet the monthly payments of \$100,000.00 plus is deeply flawed. The solution has completely gotten away from the original plan. There seems to be no specific dates for the operation to start up and create sales. Mr. Hallada said \$20,000.00.00 was spent over nine years and nothing is working. If the citizens question this, they are told it is okay to be quiet or they are denied access to an Open Records Request. At the Town Hall meeting, there were at least 70 concerned citizens in attendance and a lot of them signed a petition to have a forensic audit to show everyone it is on the up and up. It seems as though this is the only way to get everyone satisfied. The preserved actions of the SWA are more along the lines of hiding everything from the public rather than opening up all the records and the contracts for them to see. If there is nothing to hide, why would they not be straight forward and put all of their doubts to rest. If that cannot be done, then maybe it is time for a new board to be installed and have a closer look at the people operating the SWA that are spending the millions of dollars.

Cindy Bushby of 155 Redbone Run addressed the board. Mrs. Bushby stated she would like a full forensic audit of the SWA and where the 23 plus million dollars have been spent along with an investigation of their practices.

Harold Jackson of 200 Laurel Drive Barnesville addressed the board. Mr. Jackson said he would like a forensic audit. He stated that he submitted an Open Records request for one particular month of minutes. He received a reply back that Mr. Poore had received it. To this date, he has not seen the Open Records request for the minutes requested. Mr. Jackson said he was wondering if they are having meeting and where are the minutes because when they met

with Mr. Poore he asked for minutes and he said if you need them, I can sit down and write them.

Mike Perry of 101 Maple Drive Barnesville addressed the board. He said there is an image and an optics problem in Lamar County. The Board of Commissioners should always represent the interest of the taxpayers and how Lamar County Government operates. In most incidences, you seem to do a good job. However, some of you have both image and optic problems. The image of the SWA to spend 23 million dollars on a nonfunctioning Waste to Energy (WTE) project for the last 10 years obligating the County to guarantee repayment of \$106,000.00 a month for a loan for 30 years. Allowing the SWA to pay board members for meetings that do not take place and then allowing the SWA to hold secret board meetings that are not published. Allowing an agreement with their engineer to own exclusive rights with the Waste to Fuel System that Lamar County guaranteed to fund. The image of an authority that does not follow their own bylaws. The optics of the Board of Commissioners are to trust a small group of individuals to have an open check book with access to 27.5 million dollars line of credit and not provide continuous oversight of how and to whom that money is spent. The optics is not enforcing the State Sunshine Law. The optics of two Commissioners being members of the SWA board and supposedly the Board of Commissioners is supposed to regulate that board. The optic of accepting \$150.00 a month for attending SWA Board meetings that rarely take place. The optics of accepting campaign contributions from AmWaste and Mr. Poore. Because there are many financial issues surrounding GEFA and how the money has been spent, they are asking for Lamar County to initiate a forensic audit of the Lamar County Regional SWA as it relates to the WTE. Since Chairman Traylor and Vice-Chair Thrash are members of the SWA board the taxpayers are asking both of them to recuse themselves from any vote pertaining to this request. Commissioner Fletcher has set precedence for this early this year regarding the Board of Education.

Beth Pearce 186 Pleasant Road addressed the board. Ms. Pearce said she was present to speak as a District 4 resident in Lamar County. She said that she had a nice, prepared statement that went out the window. She thanked Commissioner Lovett and Commissioner Gilles for their attention, research and tenacity for looking out for their best interest. You would think that those two Commissioners are on the SWA board. Ms. Pearce said she appreciated them. Ms. Pearce seconded the motion for the call for a forensic audit and does not know why anyone in this County would not want a forensic audit.

Kent Kingsley of 570 Weldon Lake Road Milner addressed the board. Mr. Kingsley said the board did the right thing by denying the minor subdivision. He said he first came to Lamar County in 1968 when Lamar County was a rural county. Growing up in Florida and coming to Lamar County, his eyes were wide open and they need to maintain that rural life they have had for so many centuries in Lamar County. Mr. Kingsley asked how much money will the WTE project generate and asked if it would be worthwhile. What is the bottom line and how much will it cost to produce it and what do you have left over. They should already be planning on how to sell this to an industry for millions of dollars and get out of the business so that it becomes taxable property. Mr. Kingsley said there is an image problem with the Board of Commissioner and there is not a need for two County Commissioners to be on the SWA board so they need to replace one board member with a private citizen. He said this is one small step

towards improving the image of the Board of Commissioners.

Robert Heiney of 746 Community House Road Barnesville addressed the board. Mr. Heiney said as a Commissioner for eight years ending December 31st, 2022, he was acquainted with the SWA project that converts WTE by reports from the SWA board. He said he was repeatedly assured for eight years that the project was on track and would be completed any day now. As such he is excited to see the final product. He expects to see the project as it was explained to him, a true WTE plan that takes trash and reduces the landfill by up to 90 percent. It captures gas in the process to sell for profit. The fact that they were told that this project would produce so much revenue that the County would not need a millage rate. It is the fiduciary responsibility of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners to perform a forensic audit of the SWA and each of the subcontractors as well. Mr. Heiney said he suspects that the results of the forensic audit will confirm what he has been told by members of the SWA board that the project is liable and will be completed and the revenue generated will cover the cost of the project. Failure to perform a forensic audit creates an atmosphere of distrust. If the forensic audit is not performed, and the project does not go online, the people will ask them why they did not do their due diligence. Mr. Heiney urged them to do a complete and thorough forensic audit along with all subcontractors and he recommended that they do it soon. Mr. Heiney asked they do a forensic audit in 2019 because he wants to know how 20 plus millions of dollars were spent and suspects that everyone else does too.

Johnny Poore addressed the board and thanked Chairman Traylor. Mr. Poore said the only minutes that were not done for the SWA board meetings were the ones from the last meeting and he has not written up the minutes. He addressed Mr. Harold Jackson and said the May 2017 SWA minutes were sent to the County Attorney. Mr. Poore said one of the reasons they have been close to the vest and that acquisition of avoiding Open Records is because they did not want to violate their NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) to provide documents they did not own. They were not part of the SWA documents file. He said that GEFA has provided every document for every dollar and they know where every dollar is located. This is the same thing that was provided to Commissioner Lovett and Commissioner Gilles and the numbers are the same. The issues with the 18 million versus 22 million dollars had to do with one of the GEFA downloads that did not include the # 19 drawdown. Mr. Poore said he is not going to start something and not finish it. He said there is a real thing called Black (Operation) Ops in the Waste Management business, operations that try to kill, steal and destroy. If you do not think it is real, there are people in this room that have been a part of that and he knows these people. He said he does give a rats rear end what goes on in Alabama, Florida, McIntosh County or California because this is what has to be done and protected here. The SWA has existed successfully through 15 sets of Board of Commissioner and the SWA over the 30 years. Mr. Poore said that this project has been going on since 2011.

Round Table

- Commissioner Lovett made a motion to place the Discussion for a Forensic Financial Audit of the WTE project on the Regular Business Meeting in December whereby they can access the completion of the project per the GEFA deadline. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Commissioner Lovett stated there were as obvious oversight of the WTE project including months without meetings of the Lamar County Regional SWA. Commissioner Lovett made a motion that upon the expiration term for each and every member of the SWA no current seated member be reappointed to the SWA board. Chairman Traylor stated they did not have the authority to set the members of the SWA. Commissioner Lovett stated the members are brought to the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Traylor stated they can make that motion but the SWA does not have to adhere to that motion. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Thrash opposed the motion. Commissioner Fletcher abstained from the motion. The motion carried.
- Commissioner Gilles made a motion, to seriously recommend the Commissioners on the SWA Board take this back to the SWA Board, to go back to the by-laws and that they immediately go back to Open Records and get them done on time, transparency is key, and that they stop the \$150.00 payments. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Thrash said that it seems as if this board is taken over the SWA Board and would like to get an opinion from Legal Counsel as to whether or not this is a proper motion. Commissioner Gilles rescinded her motion and strongly asked that they go back to the by-laws, transparency and make sure that Open Records request are being filled. Commissioner Gilles said she would like to see Regular meetings of the SWA. Vice-Chair Thrash said that for the record, they make sure that they get with the Legal Counsel about looking into those things.
- Commissioner Gilles made a recommendation that they get Mr. Poore some help with the WTE project.
- Chairman Traylor thanked District Jonathan Adams for attending the meeting. He thanked Sheriff White and his team for being at the meeting. He requested they observe National Senior Center Month and National Bullying Month that is for both kids and adults. Chairman Traylor said despite the rain, the Buggy Days Festival was a success. He encouraged everyone to support Homecoming Week of the Lamar County High School including the parade on Thursday and the football game on Friday night.

18. Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:25 p.m. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ryran Traylor, Chairman

Nancy Thrash, Vice-Chair

Jarrold Fletcher, Commissioner

Jason Lovett, Commissioner

Ashley Gilles, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk