



## **LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **Workshop Meeting Minutes**

#### **Administration Building**

**November 08, 2023, 12:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:36 a.m. on October 31, 2023 . Present for the meeting were Chairman Traylor Vice-Chair Thrash, Commissioner Fletcher, Commissioner Lovett, Commissioner Gilles, County Administrator Townsend, and County Clerk Davidson.

#### **NFP-Jonathan Shaw**

Jonathan Shaw insurance broker with NPF addressed the board via Zoom. Mr. Shaw said there had been concerns about have a full time dedicated person to handle the insurance. Mr. Shaw said he did not believe they needed to have full time person dedicated to handle the insurance. He said there is a one line of contact provided by Allied and Allstate for members that is easy to navigate. However, the employee must go through procedures to make sure their hospital is covered. They also must see if their doctor is covered in the PCHS network and if not extra steps with Allstate must be taken. Mr. Shaw said they did have an issue that is ongoing with an employee being covered where Allstate and verbal confirmation that there were no issues but the employee states the doctor was never contacted. Mr. Shaw said they are working on this issue. The employees must be aware of the changes and the fee schedules when they receive their insurance card.

Commissioner Lovett addressed Mr. Shaw in regards to their conversation about needing a dedicated person to handle the insurance. Mr. Shaw said not every employee will need assistance therefore he does not feel that having a dedicated person is a full time job. Commissioner Lovett was concerned with the 12 month learning cover and thought it might be a good idea to have someone internally who could assist with various situations. Mr. Shaw said the primary job of the 1-800 number is to oversee and facilitate any issues with coverage including forms and bills. Mr. Shaw said as a fiduciary having a dedicated person would make his life easier but it would probably be best to keep that cost in house for other County activities. Commissioner Lovett noted Monroe County's experience with this type of insurance is not a win for Mr. Shaw and he needs a win with this new PCHS type of plan.

Vice-Chair Thrash asked if someone was out of town and they had an emergency would they be covered. Mr. Shaw said emergency doctor visits and hospitals are no longer "in-network". This plan allows the employee to not be confined to specific hospitals or providers. Everything is a single case agreement and is relative to what Medicare pays. There is no emergency or hospital "in-network" and employees are not confined to specific hospitals or providers. There

is no pre-authorization or pre-billing coverage. He said this is where the savings comes in with balance billings. They want balance billing to occur because the excess that the provider is trying to get from the member is above and beyond the Medicare rate. The employer gets a bill and Allstate negotiates down the bill. He said they have had 100 percent success rates with negotiating the balance billing. Mr. Shaw said claims are handled differently in emergency situations because there is no pricing agreement.

Commissioner Fletcher asked about out of State doctor or emergency visits. Mr. Shaw said this is the same principal but if they need to see a doctor contacting Allstate in advance will help the process go smoother rather than just showing up to a doctor. Mr. Shaw said there are two buckets, one for doctors and hospitals and one for emergencies.

### **No Thru Trucks-Morgan Dairy Road**

Jimmy Taylor with Southeastern Tank Lines, LLC, Matt Wimpy with M/J Propane, LLC and a host of other Propane and Tank Line Companies were present for the meeting. Mr. Taylor addressed the board. Mr. Taylor said the Ordinance in Spalding County is blocking the trucks from leaving Dixie Pipeline, traveling North through Spalding County to get an access to Hwy 16. Vice-Chair Thrash said when you are traveling out of Lamar County into Spalding County as you are entering Orchard Hill, Spalding County recently paved that portion of the road. She said she spoke to Commissioner Dutton for Spalding County and told her this has always been a “no thru truck” route and they are now enforcing it because they paved the road. No one wants their roads torn up after the road has been paved, but the issue is that some of the drivers are having to travel 45 minutes to an hour out of their way on their route. They were going out to hit Hwy 16 to get to I-75. Vice-Chair Thrash said Spalding County is not interested in negotiating this issue. Vice-Chair Thrash said the situation is they have one of the top three taxpayers in Lamar County that service companies throughout the entire State and it is causing a huge inconvenience and a financial burden on some of these companies. She said one would say because Spalding County paved their road and they are enforcing a “no thru truck” rule that is not Lamar County’s problem. Vice-Chair Thrash said it is because it is affecting one of the largest taxpayers in Lamar County and the drivers that are coming into the community.

Commissioner Lovett said every County road in Spalding County is a “no thru truck” road. They said when the State Legislature increased the truck weight to 88,000 lbs. and did not increase their LMIG funds they passed an Ordinance that said every County road is a “no thru truck” road unless you have a permitted load to stop on that road. Vice-Chair Thrash asked to define what is a “no thru truck”. Commissioner Lovett said if you do not have a bill of lading that says wherever you start you have to end up somewhere. The road in question is Old 41 Hwy and no matter where you start, you have to stop on that road, you are a “no thru truck”. However, as an example, if you are simply going from Caterpillar to Ranew, which traditionally you would have used that path, they can no longer use that path. Now, State roads must be used for the means of travel.

Mr. Taylor said they briefly spoke to Commissioner Dutton and they are not willing to budge on their “no thru truck” road rules. Mr. Taylor said the biggest issue is the safety factor. The loads are going North bound from the terminal towards Atlanta, and North Georgia, Athens and Gainesville, used to travel the Old 41 Hwy route because it is the safest. Mr. Taylor said they have used the route for decades and it was originally built as a US Highway. It has the infrastructure and the design to carry that weight. He said Commissioner Dutton was comparing this road to a tar and gravel road and their trucks were breaking his road like glass. Mr. Taylor said this road was designed for loaded trucks and has received minimal

maintenance over the years. Since this road has been repaved, it is the perfect highway especially for their use. Mr. Taylor said they access to this six mile stretch, from the County line to Hwy 16. If they are relegated to run the roads in Lamar County, they are being put back on tar and gravel roads and forced to use the southern part of Old Macon Highway south of Dixie Pipeline. This road has a deficient bridge along with the safety issues of crossing onto the four lane by-pass; Hwy 41. The trucks will have to make a left turn across a divided four lane and go down to Hwy 36 truck route and make another left turn across lanes of traffic and continue to Hwy 36 and go back up to I-75.

Mr. Taylor said they have been traveling the road for 60 years to the terminal in Milner, Georgia and the trucks were heavier. He said schools, chicken houses, mom and pop stores, nursing homes and farmers, and residential homes use propane for heat. He said there is a shortage of people with CDL licenses to drive the trucks and if there is bad weather it becomes a big concern. When they add 45 minutes to the route, the driver is going to haul less loads and the customers will suffer.

Chairman Traylor said the end user will have to bare the cost for this. He said that the State versus the County. Vice-Chair Thrash said that for four years she fought the increase in truck weights. She said other counties in the State are going to start closing their County roads to trucks because they have to repave the roads because some of the industries are carrying heavier loads. Sheriff White does not recommend opening Morgan Dairy Road and currently the trucks are going down McKenzie Road to Hwy 41. Vice-Chair Thrash said Lamar County does not have the revenue or the digest to support repairing the roads. Vice-Chair Thrash said she has not heard back from Representative David Knight and she needs to speak to Representative Beth Camp but she feels like this is going to end up in the Gold Dome. Vice-Chair Thrash said this issue will be all over the State.

Mr. Taylor said they are interstate carriers and they are still at 80,000 lbs. They are not hauling larger loads across the roads and they are not doing anything different from what they have always done. He said wintertime nights are longer and the weather is worser. They are going to be making these turns on the four lane roads in the night, rain, fog, snow and ice and asked that they do not miss the safety issue. Chairman Traylor announced that on Hwy 41 where you make a left turn onto Liz Acres Road to get to Hwy 36, the Georgia Department of Transportation is working on putting up a Red Light.

Former Representative Johnny Caldwell was present as a legal counsel for the propane companies. He said there is situation where it is impeding interstate commerce. However, they have other roads to use so something may have to be done legislatively. Mr. Caldwell said every County will end up limiting County road access but you have to let them in and out of their terminal. Chairman Traylor said there is no access because Morgan Dairy and McKenzie Roads are “no thru truck” roads. Mr. Caldwell said they can still get to another highway. There is a terminal in your County that has a bill of lading. Vice-Chair Thrash said they need legal clarification on where Lamar County stands with this.

John Jessup, President and CEO of the Southeast Propane Alliance. Mr. Jessup said he represents North and South Georgia. He said the pipeline starts in Mt. Belvieu, Texas and goes into Apex, North Carolina. He said in the Milner, Georgia terminal the trucks are loaded; three 90,000 tanks and 12, 677 loads last year. He said if they start in one County and squeezes them onto another County, then the next County will not allow them on their roads and it becomes contagious. Therefore, they will not be able to get propane to anyone and he does not know where they are headed with this. They may be forced to go to the Gold Dome. Mr.

Taylor said the Milner, Georgia terminal is actually land locked on County roads. He said because Old Macon Hwy is a County road, they do not have access from a State Road.

Vice-Chair Thrash said in Lamar County the logging trucks obtain a permit and they give them a route to follow. The legislation states they have to give them the easiest route to get to the main source. She said this is different because this is the daily work for the propane companies. Mr. Traylor said propane companies are not eligible to buy a permit because they are not picking up or delivering in Spalding County. This is only for deliveries or loads originating in Spalding County. Vice-Chair Thrash said all of the men present are taxpayers and the Lamar County Commissioners have to answer to their taxpayers. Vice-Chair Thrash said counties are mad about the truck weight increase being passed.

Chairman Traylor encouraged the propane companies to visit the Chevron Station on Hwy 41 in Lamar County to purchase gas rather than buying gas in Spalding County. He said they understand the situation the propane companies are having to deal with and they will work to rectify the issue. Mr. Taylor stated when the terminal in Milner, Georgia was built the old U.S. Hwy 41 was a State road but when the interstate was finished it was designated a County Road. He wondered if the State could designate this as a State road again so the propane companies could use it or have the road grandfathered in because when the terminal was built it was a State road. Vice-Chair Thrash said in order to designate McKenzie Road as a “thru truck” road they would need to do a deep reclamation on the road and it will cost over a million dollars. Mr. Caldwell said they cannot designate the road just for propane companies because other big trucks may want to use this road as well. Chairman Traylor said there should not be any trucks going on McKenzie Road unless they have a bill of lading. Mr. Taylor said McKenzie Road is not conducive to propane trucks because the intersection has a “Y” shaped angle and it is hard for trucks to make a right turn to get to the terminal and it is hard for trucks to make a left turn leaving the terminal to get onto McKenzie. Vice-Chairman Thrash pointed out that if they use Morgan Dairy there is the dangerous railroad crossing.

### **Recess Workshop Meeting**

Commissioner Lovett made a motion at approximately 1:40 p.m. to take a restroom break. Vice-Chair Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Reconvene Workshop Meeting**

The board reconvened the Workshop meeting.

### **Personnel Policy**

County Administrator Townsend stated there are two changes for the Personnel Policy: Vacation and Sick to a Paid Time Off (PTO) plan and the addition of two Holidays. He said most counties have 12 to 13 Holidays and there are counties that have 14 Holidays. He would like to have both changes in places by January of 2024. Currently the vacation is accrued at the beginning of the year and is based on years of service. The sick time is accrued at 3.69 hours a pay period with a cap of 288 hours. The sick time can be carried over but the vacation cannot under the current policy. The PTO plan will combine both sick and vacation with a carry over of the combined time based on years of service. County Administrator Townsend stated the two holiday additions to consider are Veteran’s Day and Juneteenth. Chairman Traylor said he would prefer to add two floating holidays. County Administrator Townsend said there are people who loose vacation time and since their sick time is capped at 288 hours, they cannot accrue any more time. Vice-Chair Thrash said if they go with the PTO plan the

employee can decide what to do with their time and if they add the two floater holidays the employee can decide when they want to take those extra two days. Chairman Traylor said they will have ten holidays plus two floating holidays. Commissioner Fletcher said he had heard there are those that wanted Juneteenth but agreed with the two floating holidays. Currently, if an employees' anniversary falls in November, then that employee has until March of the next year to take their earned vacation time. Most counties are converting to a PTO plan so that the employee has a carryover plan and they do not lose their earned time.

### **Budget Review**

Head Librarian for the Barnesville-Lamar County Library and Mayor Elect Kelly Hughes addressed the board. Mayor Elect said people come from outside of the community to the library because of the services that they offer for the public. She reported an increase in supplies due to the fees associated with copying, scanning, and emailing they do for the public. Mayor Elect Hughes said that the Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS) is open one day a week so they help computer illiterate people who cannot get in touch with their social worker so they help them to login to the accounts. They have a meeting room where various civic organizations meet. There is no fee during the library hours but the after hours fee is \$150.00 with a return on \$50.00 for the deposit. They have teen and children programs and a two adult programs; a book club and a cooking club that meets once a month. They have the summer reading program; they collaborate with the 4-H Club and the after school program for the school system. Mayor Elect Hughes said she put in a 4 percent Cost of Living Raise (COLA) for her employees. She said they used to have their retirement in the City and the County but currently the full time employees are under the Teacher Retirement plan so she put in an increase for this, along with an increase for the Health Care plan. Mayor Elect Hughes said they also increased the maintenance supplies by \$1,000.00; Clorox and other cleaning supplies.

Commissioner Lovett asked if they have seen a decrease in the number of books that people are reading since the internet has taken over. Mayor Elect Hughes responded they have kept up with technology. They have a Georgia download program called Libby where people can download eBooks, audio books and magazines with their library card. They received a technical grant from the State where students can check out laptops and also hotspots (1 per household). They can hook up 12 devices to the one hotspot. Mayor Elect Hughes said people use the library and the parking lot is always full. Commissioner Lovett inquired about funding since it is the Barnesville-Lamar County Library. She explained the County and City swapped facilities with the Water Authority Intergovernmental Agreement and the County took the Library back over from the City.

Mayor Elect Hughes inquired about why her numbers do not match in the budget. County Administrator Townsend said there is no increase in salaries for FY 2024. Mrs. Hughes said she would need to let her board know this for approval purposes. County Administrator Townsend and Chairman Traylor said no raises have been added to the budget for FY 2024.

Chairman Traylor expressed his desires for the County and the City to have a better working relationship. Mayor-Elect Hughes said she would like for their to be more cohesiveness with the Barnesville City Council and for the City Manager to be more open. She wants to bring them all together.

### **Coroner**

Lamar County Coroner Clay Tillery addressed the board. Mr. Tillery stated he has lived in Lamar County his entire life. He worked for the Lamar County Sheriff's Office in 2003 for two years before going to work in Zebulon, Georgia. He has also worked as a first responder for Lamar County. Coroner Tillery introduced the Deputy Coroner Chris Minchew who was present for the meeting. Coroner Tillery will receive the State COLA raise of \$2,000.00. There is an increase in medical examinations of \$3,000.00. County Administrator Townsend stated that there may be an increase in fuel. There is a Van for the Coroner that is designated in SPLOST IV. County Administrator Townsend said they would also like to have Coroner shirts printed so that people will recognize them. Coroner Tillery reported that Trice Funeral is the only one that has a body cooler. He would like to purchase one for the Coroner's Office/911 Center when they move into the current Tax Commissioners Office. The cost for a 10 x 10 body cooler is around \$6,900.00. They currently have mutual aid with the Pike County Coroner's Office. He said that Butts County charges \$150.00 a day to store a body and Upson County utilizes the hospital to store a body.

Commissioner Lovett asked how many bodies they have in a year. Coroner Tillery reported there are between 162 to 200 bodies in a year's time. Commissioner Lovett asked if someone dies of natural causes does the Coroner handle that body. Coroner Tillery said they do unless they are in hospice care, or a nursing home. Chairman Traylor inquired about the weight times at a crime lab. Coroner Tillery said this has gotten better and usually it is around two weeks because of the shortage of staff. Chairman Traylor asked how they are currently transporting bodies. Coroner Tillery said that Trice Funeral Home handles all transports unless the family knows what funeral home they want to use and then that funeral home will usually pick up the body. Trice Funeral home will send a bill for transport. Coroner Tillery reported that only Funeral Homes can cremate a body. The indigent fund fee (cremation) is \$500.00 and they are discussing increasing the fee to \$1,000.00. The basic charge for cremation at Trice Funeral Home is \$2,500.00 but he does it for Lamar County for \$500.00. Commissioner Fletcher asked if they pay Trice Funeral Home for the transport and storage for an indigent person. Coroner Tillery said if Trice Funeral Home has the case, he does not charge for the transport but they do charge for the GBI fee.

### **Animal Shelter**

County Administrator Townsend reported he is projecting to have the Animal Shelter construction started by August 30<sup>th</sup> 2024. He said he plans to meet with Wright Woodall from Flint Building in the next few weeks to discuss the budget for next year. The total proposed budget request for FY 2024 is \$181,826.00. County Administrator Townsend stated that Attorney Mayfield has reviewed the contract which will be signed today. The cost from Mr. Woodall will be brought to the Board of Commissioners for approval and if they do not approve it, they will start over until they can get a budget they can approve. County Administrator Townsend stated he did not want a million dollar animal shelter.

Commissioner Lovett said he had a conversation with Mayor Elect Hughes about an intergovernmental agreement. He said there is around \$280,000.00 SPLOST funds for an animal shelter that will cost around \$700,000.00 to \$800,000.00 to build. Mayor Elect Hughes said she was amenable to discussing taking the \$280,000.00 and renovating the shelter that is in Barnesville and running the shelter as a collaborative shelter between Barnesville and Lamar County. If they open a Lamar County animal shelter, Barnesville will close their shelter. The data shows you will receive three to four animals a day in the County and the

City. Commissioner Lovett said there will be community kick back because they want something new but with that \$170,00.00, they could put together the largest spay and neuter program in the Southeast. You could spay and neuter 93 animals a month for five years.

Commissioner Fletcher said a new animal shelter was voted on by the citizens. Vice-Chair Thrash said there was referendum that was voted on by the citizens to build a new animal shelter. Chairman Traylor said that the City of Barnesville could make a yearly contribution towards the animal shelter because they already have designated money for an animal shelter. Vice-Chair Thrash said the City of Milner and the Town of Aldora should contribute as well. Commissioner Lovett said the person Mayor Elect Hughes will have to deal with says that “the County has eaten at our table for years and it is time we eat at theirs”. If you think there is an opportunity for the cities to give money towards a new animal shelter, they should get it in writing.

Commissioner Lovett said the County ended up with a Recreation Department and a Library and the City of Barnesville ended up with a Water Authority and from a financial standpoint, that is not good. Commissioner Fletcher said that the Water Authority has generated a lot of revenue. Commissioner Lovett said the Water Authority is the reason the County cannot grow their industry. Vice-Chair Thrash said at the time, the Board of Commissioners had no choice. The City of Barnesville received grants they should have known the customer base was not there to support it. She said that the taxpayers were going to have to pay 12 million dollars so they had no choice but to do what they did. Chairman Traylor said there are some low hanging fruit opportunities that the County and City can work together on. One of them is the Old Jail Museum. They need to continue to work with the City of Barnesville City Council.

### **Website Upgrade-WiReD Technology**

County Administrator Townsend said WiRed Technology submitted two proposals. A complete redesign with a WIX platform is \$20,450.00 and migrating the existing website with no redesign is \$11,800.00. The SEO website package is \$2,200.00. The annual fees for the website platform usage is \$380.00, and the USERWay accessibility APP is \$1,116.00. Currently the Lamar County website is on a WordPress Platform.

Vice-Chair Thrash said she is concerned about the security with the computers in Lamar County. She has a friend in D.C. that said that ransomware is rampant and once they take over your system you are not getting it back without paying a hefty ransom. County Administrator Townsend stated that the software systems in Lamar County are on a web based or hosted platform and WiRed Technology has security in place for the website email and the servers. The current website was hijacked where medical companies were stilling our domain to create their own domain without having to pay for the service. Once they established their own domain the Lamar County website was unlocked. WiRed Technology worked to put measures in place so this will not happen. They also have a quarantine system in place for spam of phishing emails.

County Clerk Davidson stated in order to have a phone friendly design with the WIX Platform they would need to do the redesign for \$20,450.00. The total cost for the redesign is \$24,086.00 with an annual total charge of \$1,416.00. Currently the WordPress website is managed by County Clerk Davidson with IT assistance from WiRed Technology. The cost for the WordPress Platform is zero dollars. Commissioner Fletcher said a new website

platform is needed. He said he recently set up a new website and the cost was double. County Clerk Davidson stated that a website designed by Municode could cost as much as \$50,000.00 not including the support cost. She said WiRed Technology would train her on the WIX platform and the Departments would also have access to make changes to their web page. County Clerk Davidson would oversee the website along with the support from WiRed Technology which will minimize the cost of having a new website. Vice-Chair Thrash made a recommendation to have Commissioner Fletcher and County Clerk Davidson work on the website project.

### **Combined Boards-Planning Commission and Board of Appeals**

Planning and Community Development Director Buice said she has worked with the City of Barnesville and they are on board with combining the two boards. The City of Milner is making a decision about joining in on the combination of the boards. In November, there will be the first reader Ordinances for the Planning Commission Board and the Board of Appeals with second readers in December. The County is establishing a new protocol by combining the two boards and they will start fresh on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. They will need 2 members for a four year term and 1 member for a one year term. The nominations are Dwight Fleming, Gerald Thompson, Eddie Felton and Doug Walker and they are all willing to serve.

### **Public Hearings**

Planning and Community Development Director Buice said the Planning Commission will meet on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to hear the rezoning requests.

Rezoning from Agriculture-Residential to Residential 2-Christian Hardy-High Falls Road-(Tax Map 069, Parcel 005) There daughter wants to build a home on a two acre tract so they are asking for the property to be rezoned to Residential 2.

Rezoning from Residential 3 to Commercial 2-Thomas Moss-VFW Road (Tax Map 33, Parcel 71). The property is surrounded by commercial or industrial property on three sides. The property is vacant and wants to rezone it Commercial so that he can sell it. The Planning Commission will probably discuss tree buffers along the sides that are residential and possible types of business because it is a dirt road.

Rezoning from Manufacturing 1 to Agriculture-Residential -Gregg Evans-545 Hwy 41 South (Tax Map 061, Parcel 014). The new owners want to build a house on this piece of property. Commissioner Lovett noted that they are surrounded by commercial property.

### **Speed Limit Change Skinners By-Pass from 45 to 35**

The board reviewed several speed limit changes as follows.

- Skinner By-Pass from 45 to 35 mph
- Old Milner Rd. from 45 to 35 mph
- High Falls Park Rd. from 50 to 40 mph
- Skyler Rd from 45 to 35 or 25 mph with children at play signs

Commissioner Lovett said he has meet with the officers in Milner, Georgia and he feels like they are reducing the speed limit below the capacity for drivers to drive responsibly and he has had zero comments about decreasing the speed limit on High Falls Park Road. He said by reducing speed limits everywhere you are creating an environment where they turn this into a



revenue source for the Sheriff's Office. Vice-Chair Thrash said she is looking at it from a safety standpoint. She said if any road in the County needs to be reduced it is Skinners By-Pass and it needs to be less than 35. Vice-Chair Thrash said they opening pandora's box when they changed the speed limit on Five Points Road. Commissioner Lovett said for the other roads the GDOT recommendation was to increase the speed limit. Vice-Chair Thrash suggested they put a process in place in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office to raise or lower speed limits. Commissioner Gilles said while she was campaigning, she knocked on doors on Skinner By-Pass and not one person asked her to lower the speed limit. County Administrator Townsend said there was a study that suggested that increase the speed limit from 45 to 55 but he spoke to Sheriff White and there are a couple of curves where they could put a sign reducing the speed limit. Commissioner Gilles suggested they leave Skinners By-Pass on the agenda reducing the speed limit from 45 to 35 since all of the studies have been done for this road. The board agreed to have a study done on the other list of roads.

### **Emergency Executive Session**

Vice-Chair Thrash made a motion to adjourn to executive session for an emergency. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Board of Commissioners came out of executive session. Chairman Traylor and Commissioner Fletcher had to leave the meeting for scheduled appointments. Vice-Chair Thrash resumed the meeting.

### **Ross Associates-Impact Fees**

Bill Ross of Ross Associates addressed the board. Mr. Ross introduced himself saying he worked for consulting companies in Boston and Atlanta. He was head of Planning in Fulton County for ten years and relocated his business to Gwinnett County; the fastest growing County in the United States. They issued 10,000 building permits a year for single family housing. Mr. Ross said that he worked for an apartment developer with a good reputation. After that, he started his own business with planning, codes, and ordinances, and a specialty in impact fees. He said that he also works with a firm called Hatley and Associates and he collaborates with them. Vice-Chair Thrash said that they are interested in looking at impact fees and the downturn to doing this is the cost factor. Mr. Ross presented two handouts. One with a comparison of new or amended impact fee programs that he has done through the State of Georgia with contract fees from year 2006 to 2022. The prices range from \$55,000.00 to \$155,000.00. The second handout is a schedule of Key Events for the Lamar County Impact Fee Program. The project would begin in January of 2024 and end in November of 2024. The programs include assessment report, advisory committee, library, animal control, Fire, Emergency Medical, E-911, Jail, Sheriff, Parks and Recreation, Roads, Implementation Assistance and Annual Update Report included. The quote for Lamar County is \$94,500.00. There is a Methodology report that will be done that calculates the maximum fee you can charge and still be legal in the State law.

Mr. Ross stated an Advisory Committee would need to be appointed. There has to be at least five members but no more than ten members. He said 50 percent of the board members have to come from the development community; a builder, a real estate agent, a mortgage banker, or an engineering company. The other 50 percent of the board should be citizens that are interested in the community and the future of the community. Mr. Ross said his firm would meet with the advisory report and the Advisory Committee would review the Methodology report that sets the maximum fees. They are only required to be appointed by the Board of Commissioners for the first time you implement impact fees. He said Cherokee County turned theirs into an Appeals Board for recommendations. Mr. Ross said they are really only required

to meet once to review what the impacts fees would be in the Ordinance. He said you would need to hold a Public Hearing that tells the community you are going to study impact fees and it is only required for the first time you do impact fees. There will be two Public Hearings to adopt the maximum fee schedule through an Ordinance.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 3:15 p.m. 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