

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
May 21st, 2024

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance. William Perdue with the Barnesville Police Department gave the invocation.

III. Agenda Approval

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

IV. Proclamations

Commissioner Thrash presented a Proclamation to Clint Williams, a Senior at Lamar County High School who wrestled in the Georgia High School Association (GHS.A.) 1A (285-pound class), where he compiled a record of 33-5 against some of the toughest competitors in the State bringing home the State 1A Wrestling Championship title. Because of his perseverance, hard work, and dedication, he reclaimed the title of State Champion, finishing his High School career with a record of 120-21. He was recently chosen as a finalist in the 17th Annual Vincent J. Dooley Award and Scholarship Finals. Clint's State Championship win would not be possible without the exceptional leadership of his coach, Hunter Hardin. The citizens of Lamar County recognized and honored Clint Williamson for his two-time GHS.A. State 1A Wrestling Championship titles and acknowledged his place in history as the first to win this distinguished title.

Commissioner Fletcher presented a Proclamation to Makyla Watts, a Freshman at Lamar County High School and a stellar athlete. Under the leadership of Coaches Juan Diaz, Adam Ballard, Rondez Fletcher, Amanda Ogletree, and C. J. Henderson, along with Makayla's willingness to adopt new habits, work hard, make gains, and do the mental work to believe she can achieve, she won the State Championship Title in the Track and Field 100m and 200m division. Makayla recorded a Single A Division 1 Classification Record when she ran 12.17 in the 100m competition and 24.27 in the 200m competition and should be recognized not only for her hard work as a student-athlete but also for her academic achievements. Makayla's monumental athletic abilities serve as an inspiration to her fellow students. The citizens of Lamar County hereby recognize and honor Makayla Watts and acknowledge her place in history as a State Champion.

Chairman Traylor presented a Proclamation to the Lamar County Track and Field 4x100 team members, Aniya Barron, Samiya Smith, Armani Flewellen, and Makayla Watts. Under the leadership of Coaches Juan Diaz, Adam Ballard, Rondez Fletcher, Amanda Ogletree, and C. J. Henderson, the Lamar County Track and Field 4x100 team recently won the gold and claimed the State Championship title. The team thrilled the fans with an astonishing time of 49.2, and their hard work, perseverance, and dedication. They serve as an example and inspiration to their teammates, encouraging them to be better athletes, students, and individuals. The citizens of Lamar County hereby recognize and honor the Lamar County Track and Field 4x100 Team and acknowledge their place in history as State Champions.

V. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Fletcher made a motion to approve the following minutes. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Workshop Minutes-April 11th, 2024
2. Regular Business Meeting-April 16th, 2024

VI. Old Business

Hauling Rock from Vulcan to Turner Bridge Road

Jackie Faulker of Turner Bridge Road addressed the Board and the citizens. Mr. Faulkner said they have a lot of rock, 18,000 tons of rock, which is 1000 big trucks full of rock that are free to the County at Vulcan Rock Quarry. Mr. Faulkner said to imagine what 1000 trucks of gravel would do for the dirt roads, and he lives on the worst road in the County. Mr. Faulkner said to ride the road in your own vehicle, not your company car, and you will find out. He asked what the plan was for getting the rock where it needed to go since the deadline was in July. Chairman Traylor said the deadline for obtaining the rock had been moved to no deadline. Mr. Faulkner asked who the agreement was made with regarding the lack of a deadline. Chairman Traylor said the agreement was made with the Regional Director at Vulcan. Mr. Faulkner asked, for the record, if the agreement was between the Regional Director and Chairman Traylor. Chairman Traylor said he spoke to the Regional Director two weeks ago and explained that the deadline had been removed. There is no longer a deadline. Mr. Faulker asked for the names of the people making the agreement for the record. Chairman Traylor asked if he had seen the agreement. Mr. Faulker said he had not seen the agreement but that it had been published. Chairman Traylor noted the date was never published. Mr. Faulkner asked why it was extended. Chairman Traylor said this was an internal decision regarding the date. Mr. Faulkner said for the record, they need to know who that agreement was between on the county side and on Vulcan's side because if there is nothing agreed upon, then there is no agreement.

Mr. Faulkner said imagine what a 1000 truckloads of gravel will do for the roads. He mentioned Perdue, Allen, Turner Bridge Road, and Bottoms Road. He said Bottoms Road has had some work done on it. Mr. Faulkner said that according to Public Works Director Rigdon, the amount of gravel has gone from 18,000 tons to 15,000 tons. He asked Public Works Director Rigdon where that gravel went, and he told him it had gone to Bottoms Road. Mr. Faulkner says this sounds good, but 166 big trucks went to Bottoms Road? He said he road down Bottoms Road and there are not 166 big trucks loads of gravel that have been put on Bottoms Road. Mr. Faulkner noted that he has not had a County Commissioner since Ray Brinkley who has looked after them. He could call Mr. Brinkley and say the roads are bad, and

he would come to help him. Mr. Faulkner said he had been stuck several times. He said after Mr. Brinkley assisted him, he had gravel the next day. Mr. Faulker said Vice-Chair Gilles is his Commissioner, and she has done everything he has asked her to do or asked her to try and do. Mr. Faulkner said that he understands they are short on labor, but asked why are they are buying brand new dump trucks if they do not have someone to drive dump trucks?

Mr. Faulkner said he not only comes with the problems, but he also comes with the solutions. He went to the trucking companies and found out that a flat rate for hauling gravel on any road in the County would cost \$125.00. He said he does not believe the County can pay an employee the fuel cost for that dump truck and his salary. Mr. Faulkner said he went to the Public Works Director Rigdon and told him about what he found out about the cost of hiring a company with a dump truck to haul the gravel. Why not have the truck load up and spread the gravel? Public Works Director Rigdon told him he had to have a motor grader. Mr. Faulker said they do not have a driver to drive the motor grader. So, the answer to this is that it will never happen. Mr. Faulkner said he came up with a solution for this, too. He says that on Turner Bridge Road, Pike County has motor graders who come up and down that road. He said he stopped the grader and asked him to scrape the road. He said he told him he did not really want the grader from Pike County to scrape the road, but he wanted to know if Pike County would be interested in scraping the road and if they could pay him. The grader took it back to the Public Works Director in Pike County and he said he was interested in talking about doing this. Mr. Faulker said he told Vice-Chair Gilles about this, and she brought it to the Lamar County Board of Commissioners, and they told her it was not doable. Mr. Faulker said he is bringing it to this Board because Pike County is interested in scraping the roads. They drive the motor graders to get to Pike County: Turner, Walker, and Leach Road. Mr. Faulkner said he comes from a can do and let's see what we can do to make it happen, but every time he comes to the County, he gets a cannot do, and that is his beef with the County. He said he wants to know what the plan is for the gravel from the north side of the County to Turner Bridge Road.

Chairman Traylor said as far as the plan for Turner Bridge Road is concerned, they will need to speak to County Administrator Townsend about this. They have spoken to outside contractors about moving the gravel, but since they are no longer under a deadline, they are not forced to get it. They have discussed putting the gravel out at the Hwy 36 park near High Falls Road and moving it at a later time, but for feasibility, that was a waste of money because the Public Works Department would have to move it from there. Chairman Traylor said the man he spoke to at Vulcan was Barry Lawson, and he was the one who got the deadline released. The agreement was between Chairman Traylor and Barry Lawson with Vulcan Rock Quarry.

Vice-Chair Gilles asked if they got the money from GDOT. during last year's floods. County Administrator Townsend said they did not give the County any money. Vice-Chair Gilles said when they hired EXP to look at the roads, and the culvert that was washed out on Sudduth Road, she thought they would be getting money from the State for this. County Administrator Townsend replied that they never got anything. Vice-Chair Gilles said she thought that was another reason they hired EXP so they could apply for that money. She said she thought that Turner Bridge was getting \$8,000.00. County Administrator Townsend said he did not remember \$8,000.00. Vice-Chair Gilles said that was eight loads of rock. County Administrator Townsend said he did not remember this and when it comes to putting rocks out, you still have to ditch the roads. Mr. Faulkner said Turner Bridge Road had not been

ditched in 10 years. He said it used to be 40 ft. going down to the bridge. Now, it is 20 ft., and the other 20 ft. are gullies, and he has pulled several cars out of those gullies. Mr. Faulkner said he told them to call the County to fix their car. He requested they ride down Turner Bridge Road to see what he was talking about. County Administrator Townsend said he would call the Pike County Manager Brandon Rogers tomorrow. He noted that the Pike County Public Works Director had been terminated. Chairman Traylor thanked Mr. Faulkner and said he did not know about having an intergovernmental agreement. He said this is something County Administrator Townsend can work on and make phone calls. Mr. Faulkner said having a County next to you with a motor grader makes a lot of sense.

VII. New Business

1. Yancey/CAT-Purchase of Skid Steer Loader Work Tools-Public Works

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the purchase of a skid steer loader work tool from Yancey/Cat for a cost of \$24,127.00. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Georgia D.O.A.S. Starcraft Bus-Purchase of Bus-Senior Center

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the purchase of a Ford F-550 StarCraft Allstar XL bus, including an upgrade to a diesel engine with an A.C. upgrade for the Senior Center for \$179,401.75. Vice-Chair Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. List of Roadways for Speed Detection Devices

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the List of Roadways for Speed Detection Devices, which included a decrease in the speed limit on Five Points Road and Skinners Bypass. The list goes to the State, Public Safety, and the Sheriff's Office. Vice-Chair Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Widening of Van Buren and Johnstonville Road Bids

County Administrator Townsend noted that he would work with the contractors to fix the roads and requested that the Board of Commissioners reject the bids for widening Van Buren and Johnstonville Road.

Vice-Chair Gilles made a motion to reject the bids to widen Van Buren and Johnstonville Road. The lowest bid came in from C.W. Matthews for \$2,093,380.88, and the highest bid from Blount Construction was for \$2,660,321.10. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. F.Y. 2024-25 Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget

County Administrator Townsend explained that the Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget runs from July 1st to June 30th. The budget for Lamar County is based on a calendar year from January to December. He budgeted a 10 percent increase because they went up by 11 percent last year. The budget for the Towaliga Judicial Circuit increased by 6.45 percent. The Public Defender budget increased by 3.12 percent. The savings this year is a little over \$13,000.00. County Administrator Townsend said he spoke with Will Simmons, who is with the DA's office, about the caseload. Mr. Simmons said about 3 to 4 years ago, they started basing the budget on population and not caseloads. Commissioner Lovett said he would like

to see the five-year history of caseloads even though they base the budget on the population. Chairman Traylor said that the Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget includes Butts, Monroe, and Lamar County. They would have to have Butts and Monroe County support their argument about changing over to caseloads. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the FY 2024-25 Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Solid Waste Authority Invoice**

Commissioner Lovett said he was wrong about adding the Solid Waste Authority Invoice to the agenda based on 12-8-39c of the Georgia Code because he did not have all the data. He said 12-8-39c allows for \$1.00 per ton to go back to the County to repair the infrastructure of the roads and for litter control. He said that when he read that code, it was applicable to what they were doing and discussing. It is probably most prevalent because everyone knows the amount of trash that has gone over there are five times what it was three years ago, which means you have five times as much litter and five times as much road damage. The objective was to bring those funds into the County for those projects. Commissioner Lovette said he did not do his homework and found out that in July of 2021, an approved Joint Solid Waste Plan gave all the money to the Solid Waste Authority, including the funds as stated in 12-8-39c. He said as we go forward, it is something they will not be able to vote on tonight. However, the Chairman has discussed moving toward transparency and resolving these issues. He said a discussion for revising that for the future, so those funds come to the County, needs to be a part of that. Commissioner Lovett said since they could not vote on this, he would withdraw his motion.

7. **Brenda Joyce Farmer-Animal Shelter**

Brenda Joyce Farmer of 159 Yatesville Road addressed the Board. Ms. Farmer said she heard the animal shelter kennels were cut from 28 to 14. County Administrator Townsend responded that they cut them to 16. Ms. Farmer said that means it is a kill shelter, and they will kill more animals. She asked if the SPLOST funds went somewhere else because they were supposed to have gone to the animal shelter. Chairman Traylor said that when they bid out the animal shelter, it cost 1.5 million dollars to build an animal shelter that size. Ms. Farmer said she did not see anything about it in the paper. She said she is finding out they will not have a bigger animal shelter. Chairman Traylor said it had been discussed in their meetings many times but had not been in the paper. Ms. Farmer said she is a Lamar County citizen and needs to know about the animal shelter. A lot of other people want to know about the animal shelter. He said he tried to call Ms. Eskridge and Ms. Farmer about this prior to her coming to the meeting. Chairman Traylor said their goal is to hire a marketing person to publish things on Facebook and do things in the paper. He said that they currently do not buy newspaper ads except for special highlights of things happening in the community. They only put something about the animal shelter on the website if it is on the agenda or in the minutes.

Chairman Traylor explained that the number of kennels had decreased from 28 to 16. They looked at the data from the City of Barnesville regarding how many animals they were pulling in, and they could have gone smaller. The contractor they are using has donated much of the labor cost, and by bringing the cost down, they were able to build an animal shelter. He said two months ago, there was a split vote, and there was almost no animal shelter built

at all. The animal shelter they are building is patterned after the Clayton County Animal Shelter. He said they would push adoption. Ms. Farmer said there is no such thing as a no-kill shelter. Chairman Traylor said the SPLOST funds for the animal shelter went from \$250,000.00 to \$433,000.00. The animal shelter will cost the County around \$775,000.00 with the \$190,000.00 donated from the Community Foundation. They were just shy of \$120,000.00, and Tom Wellner was able to cover that cost with donations from the community. Chairman Traylor said it is now a smaller animal shelter because it would cost 1.5 million dollars. He said that because they could not afford the original cost of the animal shelter, they used a management model rather than a bid model, which reduced the number of kennels and the space. They reduced the square footage of the animal shelter from around 34 to 29 square feet.

Ms. Farmer said she did not understand why the number of kennels went from 28 to 16. She said they spend money on the bus and other things; are animals not important in Lamar County? She said she is 73 years old, picking up dogs on Sudduth Road, and has picked up three animals that people threw out in the last six months. She said they would continue to do this unless they had a shelter big enough to hold all the animals. She said she is too old to have fundraisers. Ms. Farmer said she buys food out of her own pocket. Chairman Traylor said that Tom Wellner and Fred Morris were heavily involved with the animal shelter and they had visited many animal shelters. Chairman Traylor said the goal for Phase II of the animal shelter is to do outside runs. Currently, they are doing everything to get this animal shelter under budget. He said he has also been calling suppliers and roofers and asking them to shave off a little to get this done. Ms. Farmer said she has been picking up animals since 1978 and that more than 16 runs are needed. She said the City of Barnesville is using its shelter, and she was hoping the County would have an animal shelter that people would be proud of.

8. **Board Appointments**

(a) **Region 4 Emergency Medical Service Advisory Council-Robert Cox**

Vice-Chair Gilles made a motion to approve the reappointment of Robert Cox to the Region 4 Emergency Medical Service Advisory Council for a term of three years, expiring on June 30th, 2027. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(b) **Division of Family and Children Services Board Appointment-Robert Taylor**

Vice-Chair Gilles made a motion to re-appoint Robert Taylor to the Division of Family and Children Services Board for a term of four years, expiring on June 30th, 2028.

Commissioner Lovett suggested that after tonight, he would like the Board of Commissioners to discuss how to get the community more involved with serving on the various Board of Commissioner-appointed boards. Commissioner Thrash said that at one particular time, they took applications and sent in letters of interest. Commissioner Fletcher noted that these appointments come from the actual Board and the committee they serve. He suggested we go back to the actual Board and review their process. Commissioner Thrash said that sometimes people might be interested in serving on one of the boards, but they need to know if there is availability. Chairman Traylor addressed the citizens in the meeting. He said if anyone is interested in serving on any of the boards, please contact your

Commissioner, the County Administrator, or the County Clerk. County Clerk Davidson stated that all of the Board of Commissioner-appointed Boards are listed on the Lamar County website.

Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(c) Senior Center Board

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to re-appoint Jean Buchannan and Kellie Mercer and appoint Fanny Hosley and Stephanie Durham to the Senior Center Board for a term of two years, expiring May 30th, 2024. Vice-Chair Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported the following:

- i. AmeriPro Health Report:
180 Transported, 107 Refusals, 26 Cancellations, Response Time: 7:46
Mutual Aid Report Upson County 23 Pike 0
- ii. Expenditures for the Departments should be at 33.33 percent and are at 28.28 percent.
- iii. Reported that they opened a Certificate of Deposit (CD) for \$3,000,000.00 for 90 days and received \$32,918.63 in interest.
- iv. Reported that revenues are running higher in the month of April due to receiving LMIG and LARK funds.
- v. Reported that the animal shelter is underway, and they already have the foundation and plumbing in place. The concrete should be poured soon.
- vi. Rejected the bids for widening Van Buren and Johnstonville Roads.
- vii. Reported that they received a safety grant from the GDOT for \$170,000.00 to be used for guard rails.
- viii. He reported that he is working on a plan for the Courthouse Roof, including the evaluation of the brick.
- ix. Reported that in April, \$154,926.18 was received for the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST).
- x. Reported that in April, \$271,818.16 was received for the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST IV).
- xi. Reported that in April, \$251,260.79 was received for the Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST).
- xii. Addressed Elaine Hallada regarding SPLOST. He said it took over five years to build the animal shelter because the SPLOST fund is pay-as-you-go. The intergovernmental agreements with the cities states the Town of Aldora and then the City of Milner is paid first and then there is a 60/40 split with the County and the City of Barnesville. With the animal shelter not being a current service of the County, the prior Board wanted to ensure that Fire, Road, Sheriff, Recreation, and Facilities were paid first before they started work on the animal shelter. Mrs. Hallada inquired about the cost of the Conflict Council. That cost to Ms. Cowan was \$19,483.29.
- xiii. Addressed Donald Hartman regarding the tracking of the TEAMS meeting. The meetings are tracked. February 20th, 2024; 20 total; 7 staff, 13 other; March 19th, 1 participant, and that was staff; April 16th, 9 total; 7 staff, 2 other. May 16th, 14 total: 8

staff, 4 others, and 2 conflict attorneys. The link to the Teams Meetings is found on the Lamar County website under Feature Resources on the Home Page of the website.

- xiv. Addressed Diane Perry from the May 16th, 2024 Workshop meeting. He agreed with what she said, and they are working on cleaning up the Courthouse with the maintenance staff, including cleaning up around the monuments. Recreation Director Lowe did not realize that the Recreation Advisory Board had postings regarding the Recreation Advisory Board meetings that needed to be done. Along with County Clerk Davidson, he met with her regarding these requirements. Discussed the roof leak with Recreation Director Lowe who has contacted the contractor. The contractor stated that with heavy rains, it is not the roof but the attachment to the gym that is causing the issues. They are working on fixing this issue. Regarding Hwy 36 Park, back in 2021, they spoke with John Barkley with the National Park Service, and he stated that the property could not be sold since it was given to the County by the National Park Service. A land swap with Hwy 36 Park is possible, but finding someone to split the lots has been difficult. They are meeting with the micro surfacing company next week to discuss road repairs. He also spoke with the Senior Center regarding the need to put times and dates on the calendar in the future.

Commissioner Lovett thanked County Administrator Townend for responding to the Public Comments from the citizens about their issues. He stated that the community should not wait for the meetings to reach out to the Commissioners for their issues.

IX. Public Comments

Gregg Martin of 626 Piedmont Road addressed the Board. Mr. Martin reported they had completed the mowing on Piedmont Road and weeded around the mailboxes, and they did a good job. Mr. Martin said he found the definition of transparency in the dictionary's online version. He stated that it means open, frank, obvious, or candid. Mr. Martin said that in the eyes of this person, it does not seem transparent how the Solid Waste Authority (SWA.) has been handled: open, frank, obvious, or candid. The full-page newspaper advertisements have been misleading, to say the least, compared to open records information gathered by the citizens who had to dig for the information that the Commissioners should have openly provided. Mr. Martin said they were waiting on a report from the Conflict Attorney. He asked when they would finalize the appointment for Vice-Chair Ashley Gilles to be on the SWA. board.

Bonnie Martin of 626 Piedmont Road addressed the Board. Mrs. Martin said she appreciated the fact that the Board of Commissioners has a very hard job of keeping the County from going over budget. She said you cannot please everyone all of the time, but a lot of what she sees and hears is a failure to communicate. Mrs. Martin said Clint Eastwood coined that saying. She said that she and the citizens need to keep up with what is going on in the County, but the Board also needs to communicate a little better with the citizens of the County. Mrs. Martin said she knows there are those who consider the Public Comments a real aggravation, and they wish they did not have to happen. She said sometimes the comments and requests seem trivial, repetitive, or confrontational, yet they do serve an important purpose. They are a way for the citizens to be heard and hopefully paid some attention to. Mrs. Martin said this is the reason the Commissioner was elected, appointed, or hired. She said they owe a big thank you to Mrs. Elaine Hallada for bringing the SWA issues to light. If she had not been turned away

for taking trash to the landfill last year and started investigating what was going on, we would all still be ignorant as to what is and what is not happening. It has been an amazing series of revelations, and it is enlightening to see board members' reactions when the facts finally come to light. Initially, the question was, "Why are Lamar County citizens being turned away from taking their trash to the landfill? This question evolved into " Why is the Waste to Fuel project still not anywhere near completion after nine years and many missed deadlines? What has happened to the 27.5 million dollar loan money? Since taxpayers of the County are guaranteeing the loan, why are we not keeping it up to date? Why are we not investigating? Why do two Commissioner Board members who also serve on the SWA board bring on issues that constitute a conflict of interest?" Mrs. Martin said; the big unanswered question in her mind is how much longer is this going to drag out? If we had what was promised years ago, none of this would have happened. Instead of trying to sugarcoat, hide, and cover up what is going on, we need leadership that will truly work for transparency, which means being open, frank, and candid. Mrs. Martin said they do not need full-page paid propaganda ads in the newspaper that present half-truths, and misleading facts.

Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeple Chase addressed the Board. Mrs. Hallada thanked Mrs. Martin for the compliment and County Administrator Townsend for answering the questions from the last meeting. Mrs. Hallada said the first thing she wanted to address was to Commissioner Thrash. Why do you proudly bear the badge of agitator? She said thank you for that compliment. Mrs. Hallada said, "Do you know that contrary to one of your latest Facebook rants, you were cited Monday night, sitting outside someone's home with your car parked proudly in the neighborhood; he was not hiding behind the building. Please have the few friends you have on Facebook in your life quit spreading lies and fake news about herself on her Facebook page and other pages you are connected with. Mrs. Hallada said she is not an illegal immigrant, nor does she promote illegal immigration. She said Chairman Traylor once said to her in a quote, " Your children hate you, and your business is bankrupt because of you." Mrs. Hallada said she would share with him tonight that her children do not hate her, and Village Photography is doing quite well without his verbal abuse. As far as Lamar County Solid Waste Authority goes, the citizens and taxpayers of this County do not want a traitor or trash mountain in this community. You are supposed to protect the residents of this County from harm. You both have participated in a scenario where you are more interested in the boards you sit on and the money you are paid to sit on that Board than to care for the welfare and the citizens of this County. Mrs. Hallada said she would paraphrase what Beth Pierce once said, "You should be ashamed of yourselves." Mrs. Hallada said the conflict counsel fees add up to over \$19,000.00. The citizens of this County did not ask for a conflict counsel; you did. She said the tipping fees are minor compared to the fact that the Solid Waste Authority sold the rights to the landfill to AmWaste to cover the fact that they could not make enough money to make the GEFA loan payments. Mrs. Hallada said the idea of the Waste to Fuel project in 2013 was to generate 2.5 million dollars a year without expanding the footprint of the landfill. She said there was an article about that published again on Facebook from 2013 where Mr. Poore goes on and on spreading a bunch of BS as far as she is concerned. She said since we have not received any money in 7 years, let's do the math; 2.5 times 7 equals 17 million dollars. Mrs. Hallada said, "Where is this money? Why has it not been put back into the County taxpayers?" She said she wanted to point out that Commissioner Thrash co-signed the original loan in 2014. Thanks, Nancy. In 2017, Chairman Traylor joined the Board, siding with the other board members and not caring how the rest of the residents felt. Mrs. Hallada

said she was at the board meeting where Chairman Traylor mentioned the .003 percent, which, by the way, was quoted in the rant he had in the newspaper today. Mrs. Hallada said he should be ashamed of himself.

Dixie Benson of 399 Grove Street addressed the Board. Mrs. Benson said she was not well versed in what they were given from Johnny Poore back in September. However, it was her understanding that he promoted pyrolysis. Mrs. Benson said they have leachate going, and there is a little bit of steam coming out of the building whenever she drives by there. She said this has to do with the liquids that are at the bottom of the pool. It is not reducing the mass that is growing that she sees as a mountain from her front porch. Mrs. Benson said she needs to know how overall, the mass, that is in the landfill, which she understood they are supposed to be looking for an expansion, because we are running out of space, how that mass will be reduced in size so that it does not continue to grow at the rapid rate it is growing.

Dwight Fleming, 1011 Van Buren Road. Mr. Fleming addressed the Board. Mr. Fleming said the Board had heard him a lot about the quality of the micro surfacing on Van Buren and Johnstonville Roads. He said it should not have been done to start with. It was the wrong process for the quality of the roads that were there. Now, they are discussing cutting some of the shoulders off on each side and widening it. The comment was made in the last Workshop meeting that the edge of the road is what is so bumpy. Mr. Fleming said he challenges them to ride down those roads and straddle the center line so that you are riding in the center line of each lane. He said to tell him how much difference there is between the edge of the road and the center. Mr. Fleming said if they go in there and cut some off the edges of the road, all they are doing is throwing a band-aid on a major surgical procedure. Mr. Fleming said it is not going to work. He said as a resident on Van Buren Road, he would rather see them do zero to try to fix that issue. Mr. Fleming asked that they just patch the areas that need to be fixed until they can afford to go in and grind asphalt up and redo the base it sits on and have it fixed for the next 25 years. Mr. Fleming said that with the leachate recovery, it would be nice if they received a weekly or bi-weekly report from the Solid Waste Authority reporting how many gallons are processed and the revenue that is generated. Mr. Fleming said he builds leachate facilities; opens landfills and closes landfills and he does not believe that the leachate evaporation facility is going to make anywhere near the money that they have been led to believe.

Harold Jackson of 200 Laurel Drive addressed the Board. Mr. Jackson said he had read the newspaper, and Chairman Traylor had mentioned the two lawyers. He asked who was paying for them and who they were because he wanted to make sure he did not use them. Mr. Jackson said he knew he would not get an answer tonight but requested to have an answer by the next meeting. He said he was under the impression the conflict attorney would be at the meeting tonight. Chairman Traylor stated that the conflict attorney was not scheduled to be at the meeting. Mr. Jackson said he understood nothing from the conflict attorney at the Workshop Meeting. He said they asked her two questions, and one of them was, "Was it lawful for the Counsel to vote on agendas with the Solid Waste Authority?" and "Was it lawful for Chairman Traylor to sit on the Solid Waste Authority board after his time has expired?" Mr. Jackson said they had not gotten an answer. Mr. Jackson asked, "Is it legal for the Solid Waste Authority to vote and place Mr. Traylor because the governing authority is that whole board up there?" It is not just two. Mr. Jackson asked, "Who owns the Solid Waste Authority? Who owns the Cedargrove landfill?" Mr. Jackson addressed County Administrator Townsend,

“Does the County investigate or run background checks on any of the vendors that are hired to do these jobs?” He said the only vendor he knows of is C.W. Matthews, and he is using them as an example because he knows them. Mr. Jackson asked how they knew they were dealing with honest people with the vendors doing the work for the County. Mr. Jackson reported that as of right now, Truman Boyle is winning 419 to 88.

Chip Gardner addressed the Board. Mr. Gardner said he saw in the paper that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is looking at getting ready for the signalization. He said he wanted to thank the Board for working on this issue at Hwy 36 and Hwy 41 and also incorporating doing something with Atlanta Street going onto Hwy 41. Mr. Gardner addressed County Administrator Townsend regarding finding out something from the GDOT about a turn lane on Five Points Road off Hwy 41. He said there is a creek there, which is a big problem. County Administrator Townsend said that GDOT could not do anything for Five Points Road. Mr. Gardner requested they get GDOT to trim the trees back when you pull out onto Hwy 41 from Five Points Road.

Diane Perry of 101 Maple Drive addressed the Board. Mrs. Perry complimented County Administrator Townsend for getting the post for the Memorial Marker at the Courthouse put up the same week as she had requested. She said when she mentioned the Recreation Department and their meetings, and knowing what to do, the very next night at their meeting, they announced how they would be responding to that and letting people know and putting it in the paper. Mrs. Perry said this was due to County Administrator Townsend explaining to them what needed to be done. She said she appreciated him checking on the gym leaks as well. Mrs. Perry said she appreciated County Administrator Townsend listening and following up on her issues because one of the worst things they have in the community and with this Board is communication with the public. She said she had never heard so many complaints about the “old Fred's Building.” She said if they had explained and written a letter about what was going on and how they were paying for the building, and it was the whole complex, and American Pie was paying rent, there would not have been as many complaints about it. Mrs. Perry said communication is a real issue. She said she had a lady stop her after the Workshop Meeting, saying she was new here and she did not know what the “old Fred’s Building was or where the old gym was. Mrs. Perry said they need to stop saying the “old Fred’s Building because it is not anymore. Mrs. Perry asked how many people know there are Work Orders that can be filled out online. She said those should be sent to the proper Commissioner. Mrs. Perry said communication is so bad you are talking about the animal shelter because this has been going on for years and years and years. She said people do not understand what is going on, and now you have cut it back to 15 units. The public should have known this and would have done something about it. Mrs. Perry addressed Chairman Traylor and said she is still waiting on the tailgate talks so they can discuss other things at these meetings.

James Hyde of 116 White Oak Drive. Mr. Hyde addressed the Board by saying, "What a breath of fresh air and a novel concept." He said he appreciated Mr. Lovett for thinking he was wrong, standing up and being forthright, and admitting it by saying he did not do his homework, and they need to go back to the drawing board. Mr. Hyde said, "Fortunately, you were wrong." The code section he was referencing actually dictates by law how this is supposed to be handled. It is handled as an operation of the law and not by any administrative act or invoice. It says, “Shall be remitted into a restrictive account by the participating local government.” So, unless Lamar County and the City of Milner have established a restrictive

account and that money is being deposited into it, then you are operating contrary to the law. Mr. Hyde said he learned a few things tonight; what a crying shame that they have a controversial company in the County that, as a measure of goodwill, offered to give them 18,000 tons of rock at roughly \$60.00 a ton, which is over a \$1,000,000.00. In 10 years, they can get stuff scattered on a roadway somewhere. Mr. Hyde said they do not need to hire a P.R. person; they need to hire a project manager to get things moving. He said the animal shelter is another one. Mr. Hyde said the comments on the conflict counsel had already been addressed but said he would kindly take that \$19,000.00 they paid her because he has already given them all the laws they need to know. Mr. Hyde said they did not need the conflict counsel to start with because he had told them everything, they needed to know to accomplish what they needed to accomplish. Mr. Hyde said they basically ignored him. Mr. Hyde said they needed to fire her immediately. He said that from the workshop meeting, it sounded like she was nothing but a project manager. Cdxsa0

X. Round Table

Commissioner Gilles said she did volunteer to go first with the tailgate talks, but she will need to postpone because they have moved her due date up.

Chairman Traylor responded to Joyce Farmer and said that in 2022, the dog runs were reduced from 22 to the original 28. He said that since they received the original bid of 1.5 million dollars, it has only been reduced by one dog run. So now, there are 18 dog runs, one mom, and two isolations, and they lost one isolation.

Chairman Traylor said his letter to the editor was not written in the sense of a rant. He said that when the ballot was presented to him, he contacted County Clerk Davidson and requested for her to send him the minutes. He said when he received the minutes and reviewed it, there was a discrepancy with the question. He sent this to the Board of Elections and the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Traylor said he was sorry if they took that as a rant. It was not intentional but only for the purpose of the people to understand that was not intended in that question. Chairman Traylor said he did not have a problem with the question about the Forensic Audit because that is totally up to the Republican Party if they want to put that on the ballot. He said if you are looking at qualitative or quantitative data, whatever or however you are looking at it, you want to know how many people will answer yes or no to the question without any other misleading data or any other information around it. Chairman Traylor said he is in the middle of working on a dissertation now and has several of his questions changed and sent back to him because if you are looking at data to change something, you want clear, precise questions so you can get the answers. He said if they remember that meeting, he said he was comparing it to the animal shelter as far as putting that question on a ballot. He said he was totally not opposed to the question. It was simply the fact that he was quoted improperly.

Chairman Traylor said that Mr. Fleming brought up Johnstonville Road. Several months ago, he said they talked about a lady who went off the edge of the road and almost wrecked. Chairman Traylor said the part they are working on now is that Public Works Rigdon is working on some equipment they used to use all the time is an opportunity to improve the shoulder. He said he knows that once a car runs off into that gravel, it will spread out, so that became an extreme focus for the County.

Chairman Traylor said they have two Commissioners who have completed their Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (A.C.C.G.) Core Lifelong Learning Certification: Vice-Chair Gilles and Commissioner Fletcher. Chairman Traylor said he serves on the Lifelong Learning Academy Board, a partnership between A.C.C.G. and the Carl Vinson Institute. They provide courses for all Commissioners throughout the State. They encourage Core Certification, but then there is an opportunity for Specialty Track Courses at multiple levels. It is an opportunity to learn and communicate and work together with other counties to make things better. Chairman Traylor congratulated both Vice-Chair Gilles and Commissioner Fletcher along with the Barnesville Herald Gazette.

Chairman Traylor said he hopes and prays that the delivery of Vice-Chair Gilles's new baby goes well. He said they had a fun time at her employee baby shower early this evening. Chairman Traylor said a lot of people love her and they pray to God that he keeps her and the new baby safe. He said that when it happens, they will celebrate.

XI. Adjournment

Vice-Chair Gilles made a motion to Adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ryran Traylor, Chairman

Ashley Gilles, Vice-Chair

Jarrod Fletcher, Commissioner

Jason Lovett, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk