

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Business Meeting Minutes**  
**January 28, 2025 - 7:00 PM**  
**Administration Building**

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

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Invocation**

Jim Hood Associate Pastor of Lasting Impact Church gave the invocation. Pastor Hood invited everyone to come to their church services Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to amend the agenda to include the following items. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion.

- SWA Appointment
- Closure of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Account
- Sheriff Facility Needs

**5. Minutes Approval**

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

- Public Hearing - December 10, 2024
- Workshop Meeting - December 10, 2024
- Regular Business Meeting - December 17, 2024

**6. Annual Appointments**

1. **2025 Vice-Chair:** District 1 – Commissioner, Dr. Jarrod Fletcher

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve Commissioner, Dr. Jarrod Fletcher, as the 2025 Vice Chair. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The term is for one year and will expire on 12/31/2025. Vice-Chair Fletcher abstained from the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

**2. County Attorney:** Scott Mayfield - Smith Welch, Webb and White

Vice-Chair Fletcher made a motion to approve Scott Mayfield with Smith Welch, Webb, and White as the County Attorney. The term is for one year and will expire on 12/31/2025. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Open Records Officer:** County Clerk - Carlette Davidson

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve County Clerk Carlette Davidson as the Open Records Officer. The term is for one year and will expire on 12/31/2025. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. County Physicians:**

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the County Physicians listed below. Vice-Chair Fletcher seconded the motion. The term is for one year and will expire on 12/31/2025. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Doctors Woodall, Wilson, Manley, Aaron Buice (Family Medical Center, Griffin, GA)
2. Hughston Clinic (Orthopedic Surgery)
3. Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Surgery (Thomaston, GA & Barnesville, GA - Brandon Boyce)
4. Resurgens Orthopedics (Griffin, GA & Fayetteville, GA)

**5. County Surveyor:** James Butler

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve James Butler as the County Surveyor. Vice-Chair Fletcher seconded the motion. The term is for one year and will expire on 12/31/2025. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Board Appointments**

**1. Three Rivers Regional Board County Representative**

Vice-Chair Fletcher made a motion to appoint District 2 Commissioner Jason Lovett to the Three Rivers Regional Board as the County Representative. The term is for one year and will expire on 12/31/2025. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. Commissioner Lovett abstained. The motion passed 3-0.

**Three Rivers Regional Board Non-Public Representative:** Irvin Trice

Commissioner Boyle made a motion to appoint Irvin Trice as the Non-Public Representative on the Three Rivers Regional Board. The term is for one year and will expire on 12/31/2025. Vice-Chair Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. E-911 Committee Appointee**

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve District 4 Commissioner Truman Boyle to the E911 Committee. The term is for one year and will expire on 12/31/2025. Vice Chair Fletcher seconded the motion. Commissioner Boyle abstained from the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

**8. Old Business**

None

**9. New Business**

**1. Alcohol License Addition**

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve the addition of wine sales for the Majik Market, 919 Veterans Parkway (Shezan Battiwala). Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Fire Department PTO Policy Update**

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the addition of the Fire Department PTO Policy, an update that will be added to the Lamar County Personnel Policy. Vice-Chair Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lamar County Board of Commissioners Personnel Policy and Employee Handbook  
 Changes: Delete entire section of: Accrual of Paid Time Off effective 01/01/2024  
 Adopt the entire section below: Accrual of Paid Time Off effective 01/28/2025.

Accrual of Paid Time Off. Full-time and Probationary Employees shall accrue Paid Time Off upon completion of each 80-hour bi-weekly pay period. Employees will not accrue PTO if they are not working during the 80-hour bi-weekly pay period. The PTO accrual rate is shown below. PTO accrual shall begin on January 1, 2025. Leave is accrued as follows: 80 Hour Pay Period

(Hours)		Accrual		Roll-Over	
Limit		Cap			
One year, but less than five years	7.00	182	22.75	320	320

Five years, but less than ten years	9.00	234	29.25	320	340
Ten years, but less than 20	10.00	260	32.50	320	360
20 +	11.00	286	35.75	320	380
<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Accrual Rate Per Month</b>	<b>Hours Accrued Per Year</b>	<b>24 Hour Shifts Per Year</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	
<b>24 Hour Shifts</b>	<b>Accrual</b>		<b>Roll-Over</b>		
<b>Limit</b>			<b>Cap</b>		
<b>One year, but less than five years</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>390</b>
<b>Five years, but less than ten years</b>	<b>24.00</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>430</b>
<b>Ten years, but less than 20</b>	<b>26.00</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>450</b>
<b>20 +</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>470</b>

### 3. Approval of 2025 Holidays

Vice-Chair Fletcher made a motion to approve the 2025 Holidays. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Lovett noted that all offices should abide by the 2025 Holiday schedule.

New Year's Day	Wednesday, Jan 01, 2025
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, Jan 20, 2025
Good Friday	Friday, Apr 18, 2025
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26, 2025
Juneteenth	Thursday, June 19, 2025
	Close at 2 for Holiday
	Thursday, July 03, 2025
Independence Day	Friday, Jul 04, 2025
Labor Day	Monday, Sep 01, 2025
Veterans Day	Tuesday, Nov 11, 2025
	Close at 2 for Holiday
	Wednesday, Nov 26, 2025
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, Nov 27, 2025
Friday After Thanksgiving	Friday, Nov 28, 2025
	Close at 2 for Holiday
	Tuesday, Dec 23, 2025

Christmas Eve - Observed	Wednesday, Dec 24, 2025
Christmas Day - Observed	Thursday, Dec 25, 2025
Friday after Christmas	Friday, Dec 26, 2025
	Close at 2 for Holiday
	Wednesday, Dec 31, 2025

#### 4. **SWA Appointment**

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to appoint Commissioner Truman Boyle to the Lamar County Solid Waste Authority (SWA). Commissioner Boyle will replace Lamar County Coroner Clay Tillery. The term is for four years and will expire on 12/31/2028. Commissioner Lovett thanked Coroner Tillery for his short-term service on the SWA board. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 5. **American Relief Fund Account (ARP) Funds Closure**

County Administrator stated that the American Relief Plan (ARP) were funds received from the Federal Government about three years ago. The funds totaled around \$3.7 million dollars and were spent on several projects. In order to close the ARP account, it has to be formally approved by the Board of Commissioners. There was around \$6,700.00 left in the account that was used for Epson scanners to be used for scanning documents in the Laserfiche records software and all other government needs. Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve the closure of the ARP account. Vice-Chair Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 6. **Sheriff Facility Needs**

Sheriff White addressed the board regarding the need for facility space because Sheriff's Office is out of space. He stated that files stored in the Courthouse basement had a black mold issue and files are stored in various offices in the Courthouse; Superior Court Clerk, the District Attorney's (DA) Office, and the Public Defender's office. After speaking with DA Jonathan Adams, he mentioned the Martin Building located on the first floor of the old Administration Building. Sheriff White said that the office space in that location is in need of major repairs so he is suggesting they utilize the second floor of the Administration Building and would like to move the investigations team upstairs.

DA Jonathan Adams: Martin Building needs repairs; moving investigations upstairs.

Sheriff White said that the investigations office was an old gas station and used to sit where Zaxbys is located but was moved by Sheriff Waller across the street to the right of the Sheriff's Office. There was some flooding, so Sheriff Buice moved it to the left side of the Sheriff's Office where it is currently located. In 2015, they need more office space, and the

Town of Aldora donated money so they could add on an evidence room, and about four more offices.

Sheriff White reported that County Administrator Townsend noted that there was around \$250,000.00 earmarked in SPLOST for the Sheriff's Office to add to the investigations building. This would give them about five more offices, but the space will still not be adequate. The old Administration building upstairs is move-in ready. The SPLOST money will not fix the structural or foundation issues, but it will free up office space for the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff White said last week the Georgia Swat team was called in and people had to stand outside to do their briefing because they are out of file and office space. They would like to utilize that building and use SPLOST funds to purchase camera equipment and furniture. They are asking to utilize this space for at least five to ten years. Sheriff White noted that the jail is also full as Pike County is using their jail space.

Chairman Traylor noted that patrol is out of space as well. Sheriff White agreed that they are out of space, and they need space for five investigators, a few secretaries, and a few narcotic investigators. The goal once they are moved is to take the SPLOST money and fix up the current investigation building and move the patrol and warranty division into that building. They purchased laptops for the patrol cars where they can do all of their reporting without coming to an office. Sheriff White said there is a small office in the lobby that they can use as a whole.

Commissioner Lovett inquired about the length of time before they have to build a new jail. Sheriff White said a new jail is expensive so since he has been a Sheriff they have fixed all the locks and replaced all the plumbing. However, the jail is poorly designed, but it has been in operation for over 25 years. Sheriff White said within the next 15 years there needs to be a plan to build a new jail. They put it on the ballot in 2015 or 2016 and it was turned down by the voters. Lamar County was ready to take on the debt of a new jail which was around seventeen million dollars, but it would have cost around twenty-one million dollars. Commissioner Lovett noted that the price has tripled since then and would cost around forty million plus dollars to build a new jail. Sheriff White said new jails have pod centers and pods can be added to have more space.

Commissioner Lovett noted that if you leave a building vacant the government will find something to put in it. They bought the new Administration building because they did not want to renovate it but moving the investigations to the old Administration building is a stop gap to building a 40-million-dollar jail. Sheriff White noted that he did not necessarily like them separated from the Sheriff's Office but agreed they would be closer to town. Vice-Chair Fletcher noted that the Sheriff's Office and their team put their lives on the line for everyone, every day and he believes that they should get what they want to make their lives easier. He also agreed that having them closer to town would be a benefit. The Board

of Commissioners agreed to add the Sheriff Office Facility Needs to the March Regular Business Meeting agenda.

## **10. Administrator's Report**

Updates from County Administrator Townsend on county projects, financial status, and tax revenue.

- Revenues for the Month of December are \$11,843,827.21.
- Expenditures for the Month of December are \$15,943,724.61.
- Excess Deficiency of Revenue over and under Expenditures are \$4,099,897.30.
- Property Taxes Received for the month of December are \$1,237,593.93.
- General Fund Revenues are \$1,722,028.32 for the month of December.
- Special Revenue Funds are \$25,925.37 for the month of December.
- Capital Project Funds are \$2,979,541.98 for the month of December.
- TSPLOST sinking funds are \$2,684,422.01 for the month of December.
- Total Governmental Funds are \$7,411,917.68.
- Animal Shelter grand opening is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Senior Center bus was received on Friday.
- The Courthouse roof work was completed but a minor leak will need to be fixed.
- GDOT Project: Atlanta Street improvements, pipe extension plans could cost more. Plans for the R-Cut is I the works.
- Working on Resolution to obtain right of way with citizens on Rocks Springs and Chappel Mill Road.
- Collections for LOST for December were \$142,163.54.
- Collections for SPLOST for December were \$249,431.57.
- Collections for TSPLOST for December were \$230,706.83.
- Ameri-Pro Health: Requested 314, Transport 182, Refusal 86, Cancellation 46, Response Time 7:31 1 mutual aid with Pike and one mutual aid with Upson.
- Ameri-Pro ambulances have had issues because the hospitals are slammed with illnesses. There are eight ambulances between all of the mutual aid counties and delays could be expected.

## **11. Public Comment**

- Bonnie Martin (626 Piedmont Rd): Newspaper editorial on SWA issues.
- Harold Jackson (200 Laurel Dr): Legal issues, subpoenas for Federal Court.
- Elaine Hallada (131 Steeple Chase): Concerns over SWA operations.
- Donald Hartman (507 Old Milner Rd): Thanks to public safety during winter storm.
- Dwight Fleming (1011 Van Buren Rd): Calls SWA a "joke"; suggests restructuring.
- James Hyde (116 White Oak Dr): Requests public meetings in evenings for accessibility.

**12. Round Table Discussion**

- Commissioner Lovett: SWA lawsuit concerns; calls for transparency.
- Commissioner Gilles: Requests to have a personal email account from SWA board. Refused to open a personal email account and will use the County email address for all business per the open records compliance.
- Commissioner Boyle: Stands firm against legal issues.
- Chairman Traylor: Called for measured legal approach, not emotional decisions.

**13. Executive Session**

- Vice-Chair Fletcher made a motion at approximately 8:07 p.m. to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The board took a short recess for photos prior to going into Executive Session.

**14. Adjournment**

The board came out of Executive Session with no action taken. Commissioner Lovett made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at 9:15 p.m. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lamar County Board of Commissioners

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Ryran Traylor, Chairman

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Jarrold Fletcher , Vice-Chair

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Jason Lovett, Commissioner

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Ashley Gilles, Commissioner

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Truman Boyle, Commissioner

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