

**LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Workshop Meeting**  
**Administration Building**  
**March 13, 2025, 12:30 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

Vice-Chairman Fletcher called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. on March 13, 2025. Present for the meeting were Vice-Chair Fletcher, Commissioner Lovett, Commissioner Gilles, Commissioner Boyle, County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, and County Attorney Mayfield. Chairman Traylor and Commissioner Lovett were absent from the meeting.

**2. Workshop Meeting Items for Discussion**

Discussion of Lot Size Regulations on Unpaved County-Maintained Roads-Tax Assessor Haddock.

- Perkins Road (Dirt Road) - More gravel and more scraping needed.
- Maintenance calls increased:
  1. Zero in previous years, then 1-2 requests.
  2. 2022-23: 4 lots sold, and houses built.
  3. 2024: 11 requests for scraping and gravel.
  4. 2025: Already nine requests.
- County has fifty more miles of dirt roads to maintain.
- Potential solution: Require larger lot sizes on dirt roads (10-12 acres to qualify for conservation).
- No budget numbers for rock procurement.
- Growing issue—5-acre lots work on paved roads, but 300-ft spacing may strain dirt road infrastructure.

**ii. Sheriff's Office Facility Needs**

- New Admin Building:
  1. Sheriff's Office gathering quotes for furniture, computers, and security.
  2. They will need eight offices and a conference room.
  3. They are awaiting move-in approval.
- Evidence Storage:
  1. The main building evidence room is full.
  2. There will be temporary use of a closet if necessary.
  3. They plan to destroy or sell what can be disposed of legally.
  4. All guns are stored securely.
  5. They have to wait for court approval before narcotics can be destroyed.
  6. Disposal of narcotics: Transport to landfill for burial due to lack of incinerator.

- SPLOST Revenue:
  1. Anticipated revenue will allow forward movement in the next month.
  2. \$250,000 allocated from SPLOST; use the remainder for repairs.
  3. Add Sheriff's Office Facility Needs to the Regular Business meeting agenda. Anticipate quotes and bids to Tuesday's agenda.

### **iii. Industrial Development Authority (IDA) Executive Director - Alison Nally**

1. Background: Comes from Columbus, with experience. Native of Thomaston Georgia. Attended Gordon State College and West Georgia College.
2. Transitioning phone numbers and website.
3. Former IDA Director Kathy Oxford is assisting with the transition.
4. Plans to meet all elected officials and department directors over the upcoming year.
5. Expressed enthusiasm for building strong relationships.
6. Will provide updates on specific projects as they arise.

### **3. Regular Meeting Discussion**

Review of agenda for the upcoming regular business meeting.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Invocation
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Minutes Approval
  1. Joint Meeting with Cities and County – February 7, 2025
  2. Workshop Meeting – February 13, 2025
  3. Regular Business Meeting – February 18, 2025
6. New Business
 

(No items listed under this section.)
7. Old Business
  - 2nd Reader Ordinance 2025-02: Acquisition by Sale or Donation of Property with a Low Fair Market Value.
8. New Business
  - Resolution 2025-03: Rock Quarry Road Swap – The resolution was discussed, and Scott will provide the final version.
9. Board Appointments
 

None
10. Administrator's Report

- **Roger Brown Road Culvert:** Quotes received ranging from \$115,000 to \$175,000, with potential GDOT LMIG funding.
- **Animal Shelter Updates:**
  1. Countertops installation.
  2. Certificate of Occupancy for the building received March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
  3. Soft opening planned for April pending approval from the State AG office to accept animals.
  4. Grand opening scheduled for April 12, 2025, with various activities.
  5. Removeable Murals from local artist are planned to be placed on the side of the building.

## 11. Public Comment

- **James Whitten of 388 Harmony Hill Road:** Discussed road conditions on Harmony Hill Road and concerns regarding road maintenance costs, particularly the use of over blast. Noted that the material currently used on Harmony Hill Road costs \$32.00 per ton, while GAB (Graded Aggregate Base) could be purchased for \$16.20 per ton, and milling for \$40.00 per ton, which would provide a longer-lasting solution. Reported that Commissioner Lovett and Public Works Director Rigdon stated the budget for that road had already been spent for the year.
- **William Zullo of 343 Harmony Hill Road:** Expressed concerns regarding the paving of Harmony Hill Road and the continued use of over blast (a sand-like substance), stone, and fifty-seven rock (crushed stones), which have provided a decent surface over the years but are seen as temporary fixes. Noted that previous applications of GAB (graded aggregate base) on Harmony Hill Road had lasted significantly longer. Suggested that, to ensure durability and cost-effectiveness, the County should use GAB or milling instead of over blast (sandstone), which could ultimately save money in the long run.
- **Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeple Chase:** Expressed concerns regarding reports on the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) and the lack of communication from the Board of Commissioners about its current status. Noted that residents frequently inquire about updates on the SWA wherever she goes.
- **Donald Harman of 507 Old Milner Road:** Reported witnessing asphalt paving on Industrial Drive or Fellowship Drive but was unsure of the specifics, though the work appeared to be appreciated. Noted that trash pickup at the landfill was in reasonably good condition. Observed traffic cones near the City of Milner and speculated they were for the upcoming turn-lane project on Hwy 41. County Administrator Townsend clarified that the work involved resurfacing bridges on a Georgia highway, and the state had not contacted him regarding the project. Mr. Harmon mentioned that while driving around, he noticed highway signs were dirty and suggested efforts to brighten them. Recommended improvements for Murphy Avenue and Hwy 41 to enhance road safety, including the installation of a traffic signal. Expressed anticipation for the addition of a new Fire Inspector for Code Enforcement.

## 12. Round Table Discussion

Commissioner Truman reported on several issues.

1. After seeing the accident on Hwy 18 in front of the school he spoke to a former Georgia State Patrol contacts and having a traffic signal put there requires a GDOT traffic study, and most are done over an eight-hour period. Even though there is traffic in the morning and the afternoon they will not support a traffic signal because of the traffic pattern. Discussed taking the speed limit from forty-five miles an hour to a thirty-five mile an hour school zone. Discussed the forty-five mile an hour zone in front of Zaxby's on Hwy 41 compared to the fifty-five mile an hour zone on Hwy 18 all the way to the Ingle's intersection. Discussed speed limit reductions in these locations. Noted that County Administrator could put in a request letter to GDOT for these speed limit reductions. Noted that a traffic study would need to be for a traffic signal at the intersection of Murphy Avenue and Hwy 41.
2. Reported that Hwy 36/Mill Street is a concern about the curve and a stop sign and truckers dumping their loads. Solution from GDOT is put in some red blinking stop signs.

County Administrator Townsend reported on several issues.

1. Work is in progress on the intersection at Murphy Avenue and Hwy 41.
2. Work in progress on Atlanta Street and the turn-lane into Hwy 341.
3. Road patching demonstration done by Reynolds Warren and a machine that can fix potholes rather than patching. It costs about \$6,000.00 a month to rent plus ten pallets.
4. Reported the Fire Hydrants belong to the City of Barnesville and any maintenance and painting is their responsibility. Concerned about accidents being reported in the County if fire hydrants are guardrails are damaged.

County Clerk Davidson reported that the patching demonstration with Reynolds Warren, the County Administrator and Public Works was posted on the Lamar County Facebook.

County Attorney Mayfield gave a litigation update. Reported he is not the Attorney Record for any of the three cases.

Amy Cowan is the Attorney for one that was filed in State Court for Lamar County. They would not accept service, so they have been served the 30 days from the time of response and a motion has not been passed.

The two federal cases; one by the Solid Waste Authority against Lamar County and the one by the Engineer Liquid Solutions against Lamar County, have been filed. Tim Buckley with Associations of the County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) is handling both of these. He has filed responsive pleading and motions to dismiss the various things. There is time to respond to those motions that have not passed.

Attorney Cowan can update the Board of Commissioners directly. Tim Buckley goes through the County Attorney Scott Mayfield and the cases are forwarded to the Board of Commissioners per ACCG. The last thing received from Tim Buckley was forwarded to the Board of Commissioners with attachments. Attorney Cowan copies Attorney

Mayfield as well and reshares without charging the County. Expected responsive pleadings would have been filed and will be shared at the May workshop. If the Board of Commissioners do not hear anything from Attorney Cowan he can check to see if anything is filed that they do not know about.

**13. Executive Session**

No Executive Session for the following.

- Real Estate
- Litigation
- Personnel

**14. Adjournment**

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to adjourn the Workshop meeting at approximately 1:06 p.m. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Ryran Traylor, Chairman

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Jarrod 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