

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting Minutes
March 18th, 2025 - 7:00 PM
Administration Building

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 joined the meeting via Teams.

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Fletcher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Invocation

Dave George pastor of Graceview Baptist Church gave the invocation. He explained that Pineview Baptist was dissolved and his church from Henry County was able to acquire the building and start a new church in that location. The church has grown, and they now have two services. Pastor George invited attendees to their upcoming Easter services.

4. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the following three sets of minutes. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Joint Meeting with Cities and County – February 7, 2025
- Workshop Meeting – February 13, 2025
- Regular Business Meeting – February 18, 2025

6. Old Business

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-02 – Acquisition by Sale or Donation of Property with Low Fair Market Value

County Attorney Mayfield explained that State law requires an appraisal but can be waived if this ordinance is adopted. This Ordinance gives the County the ability to speak to individuals who are willing to donate property to the County. Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-02 – Acquisition by Sale or Donation of Property with Low Fair Market Value. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. New Business

Resolution 2025-03 – Rock Quarry Road Swap

County Attorney Mayfield explained that the Rock Quarry towards Forsyth is making improvements. The Resolution allows the County and the Rock Quarry to swap land. The plan is for the County and the Rock Quarry to swap one triangle of land for another to create a safer 90-degree intersection. Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-03-Rock Quarry Road Swap. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff's Office Facility Needs

Sheriff White addressed the board with an estimated cost of \$55,136.29 for moving the CID building to the old Administration building. The funds will be covered by the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) allotted to the Sheriff's office. The total SPLOST budget allotted to the Sheriff's Office for the CID building is \$250,000.00. County Administrator Townsend pointed out that a Fire alarm system update is required. Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve the cost of moving the CID to the old Administration building for a cost up to and not to exceed \$80,000.00. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Board Appointments

- None

9. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend gave the March Report.

Revenue Update:

- General Fund: \$1,338,152.00
- 30-Day CD Investment: \$2,000,000
- Special Revenue Funds:
 - \$51,331.73
 - \$2,784,080.90
 - \$3,395,656.23

Total: \$10,956,197.48

Projects:

- Animal Shelter
 - Cabinet and countertop installation completed (March 13).
 - Final inspection by the State AG scheduled for March 21.
- GDOT Project – Atlanta Street & Highway 7
 - Changes include new red lights and R-cut modifications.
- Chappell Mill Road and Rock Springs Project

- Erosion plan submission to the state next week.
- Roger Brown Road Improvements
 - Special Revenue Funds (LMIG) requested.
 - Engaging local representatives in Thomaston.
- Rock Springs Project
 - Estimated cost: \$2 million.
 - Seeking funding sources: LOST, SPLOST, TSPLOST, AmeriPro

Other Updates:

- Turner Bridge Road Cleanup and BRACE Grant
 - Two hundred tires collected.
 - Commissioner Lovett and his wife Linda Lovett spearheaded and received a \$5,000 BRACE Grant a part of the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation. This will be a secured free tire disposal event on April 25-27 (updates will be posted on the Lamar County Website and Facebook).
- Senior Center Closed Due to COVID
 - Used closure time to replace sink and dishwasher.
- Harmony Hill Ranch Road Update
 - Vendor confusion with rock pricing due to clerical error at Vulcan.
 - Commissioner Lovett offered to go with Mr. Whitten to Vulcan on Friday to confirm the correct pricing.
- Speed Limit Study
 - Initiated by Daniel Trevorrow with GDOT.
 - Crash data being analyzed.
 - Potential changes: 45 mph in certain areas, reducing to thirty-five mph.

10. Public Comment

Elaine Hallada (131 Steeple Chase)

- Thanked commissioners for their support in the SWA legal case.
- Requested updates on lawsuit and discovery timeline. County Attorney Mayfield said that when a lawsuit is filed you have a short period of time and a very short time in Federal Court due to Discovery which is written questions and depositions. He believes that Mr. Buckley filed a motion to stay that period; stop it, pause it while the motions to dismiss are working their way through the system. He said he

thinks the clock will stop ticking on the County's time to finish discovery until the motion to dismiss is ruled on.

Donald Hartman

- Praised emergency response efforts during a recent storm.
- Inquired about updates on the Legacy 75 project.

11. Round Table Discussion

Commissioner Lovett:

- Apologized for missing a prior meeting.
- Planned visit to Vulcan with James Whitten.

Commissioner Gilles

- Praised everyone involved with the emergency response efforts due to the storm.
- Stayed at the Fire Station 1 until around 1:00 a.m.
- Watched Commissioner Boyle program on the radios.

Commissioner Boyle

- Reported he is also with the Volunteer Fire Department.
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated.
- Heavy rescue unit/Fire Truck went down after responding to an accident.
- Public Works employees came out late and it was stored securely at the Public Works Facility. Public Works had the Fire Truck running the next morning. It was determined to be a fuel leak.

County Attorney Mayfield – Legal Updates

Three lawsuits pending:

- One in Lamar County (Lamar County is the plaintiff suing Solid Waste Authority (SWA) for injunction and various things. Conflict Council Amy Cowan is handling this case. The Defendant, the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) has been served, there time for a valid response has not passed. They have 30 days.
- Two federal cases in Macon (The Defendant is the Solid Waste Authority (SWA), and the Other Defendant is Engineering Liquid Solutions, and they are suing the County. Both of these cases are being handled by Tim Buckley, and he is with the Insurance Company, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) . He has filed a response and motions to dismiss, for various reasons; Some technical and some substance. The technical issues mean there are problems with how it is filed and the substance means that the case itself is bad. Their time to respond to the motions has not passed. It is 20 days in Federal Court versus 30 days in State Court. The time is close, and he will share with the Board of

Commissioners. The judge may decide on the written briefs and motions, but he may want a hearing.

12. Executive Session

None

13. Adjournment

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at 7:31 p.m. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lamar County Board of Commissioners

Ryran Traylor, Chairman

Jarrod Fletcher , Vice-Chair

Jason Lovett, Commissioner

Ashley Gilles, Commissioner

Truman Boyle, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk