

Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
July 16th, 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. Pastor Cole Smith with the Barnesville Christ Chapel 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. Recess for Public Hearing

Commissioner Fletcher made a motion to recess for a Public Hearing. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Hearing

Planning and Community Development Director Buice addressed the Board. The applicants are LOR Properties who are asking for a rezoning from A-R (Agriculture-Residential) to M-2 (Manufacturing-2) subject to the following conditions:

- An opaque physical barrier of a height of no less than 10' must be placed along all property lines that are shared with residential properties.
- A 50' natural buffer must be maintained along all property lines.

Commissioner Lovett inquired if there had been any responses from the neighbors. Planning and Community Development Director Buice responded that she had not, but the applicant had spoken to them.

VI. Reconvene Regular Business Meeting

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to reconvene the Public Hearing. Vice-Chair Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Minutes Approval

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

1. Workshop Minutes-June 13th, 2024
2. Regular Business Meeting-June 18th, 2024

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business

Resolution 2024-03: Line of Credit Recreation Lighting Upgrade

Vice-Chair Gilles made a motion to table Resolution 2024-03: Line of Credit Recreation Lighting Upgrade. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2024-05: LOR Properties Rezoning from AR to M2 for Property on Breezy Point Way (061-002)

Planning and Community Development Director Buice addressed the Board. This is a rezoning request for approximately 22 acres from A-R (Agriculture-Residential) to M-2 (Manufacturing-2) subject to the following conditions embedded in the Ordinance.

- An opaque physical barrier of a height of no less than 10' must be placed along all property lines that are shared with residential properties.
- A 50' natural buffer must be maintained along all property lines.
There is also a long list of permitted uses in Manufacturing. Planning and Community Development Director Buice said if this is approved tonight before any development is done, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) would need to approve any type of access. As of now, the plans for the property are for spec buildings. The applicant had an emergency and has been delayed. Commissioner Fletcher suggested they delay a vote for the Ordinance until the applicant arrives at the meeting.

X. Solid Waste Authority

Commissioner Lovett made a motion, " I hereby make a motion that a formal written request be sent by this Commission's conflict counsel, Amy Cowan, to the Solid Waste Authority Board requiring that all Solid Waste Authority facilities be made available for an Industrial Engineering Review and that this review be performed by a Waste to Energy expert of Counsel Cowan's choosing, to include a full demonstration of all Waste to Fuel equipment purchased by the Solid Waste Authority. Acknowledgment and acceptance of this request must be received by Commission's Conflict Counsel on or before Wednesday, August 14th, 2024, with all proceedings to be completed by Friday, September 6th, 2024." Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion.

Commissioner Thrash said Conflict Counsel Amy Cowan has publicly confirmed that the County has no authority to have an engineering review, audit, or inspection of the Solid Waste Authority. The requested review is merely an act of political theatrics and an attempt by a

politician, with who he himself is conflicted, to gain access to protect the proprietary information under the protection of a Federal investigation that Commissioner Lovett claims to have instigated, any financial concerns by the County are unproven and unwarranted because the loan is in repayment status now. GEFA has publicly stated the Authority is in full compliance with the loan documents. If the actual motivation is truly a financial concern, the 2014 Environmental Facility Agreement already covers that issue because the County is the guarantor of the GEFA loan, irrespective of the viability of the project. As a further note, there has been absolutely no admission by the Authority that the project is not viable; exactly the opposite. Continuing to pursue the engineering review issue could be seen as a breach by the County of the Environmental Facility Agreement One Way Operation Clause in favor of the Authority and would then open Commissioner Lovett up to disclosing who is really behind his efforts.

Vice-Chair Gilles said she would not get into who was right or wrong and asked that they do this civilly. She said there were a lot of misstatements going around and requested they keep it straight to the facts.

Commissioner Lovett addressed Commissioner Thrash. He said no one had paid a greater price for the continuation of this project. If you feel this project is viable, then this is the way to show this Community, many of whom are here tonight and many who have expressed their discontent at the ballot box, that this is a viable project. If it is not a viable project then they need to take other action. Commissioner Lovett told Commissioner Thrash that she is in a great position because, for the next six months, she is at the head of this. He said that either she gets to have a review where they say, This is a viable project, and they all have to apologize for that, or you find out that you have been misled by people that are supposed to be reporting to you and you have a great opportunity to correct those actions. The Community is simply asking for a review. Commissioner Lovett said he could not go and he would not go. He said he is not a pyrolysis expert, and no one has asked him to do this except the Community he represents. Commissioner Lovett said he did not instigate an FBI investigation. The FBI came to him and Vice-Chair Gilles and said these are things that are facts.

Commissioner Lovett said all they are asking is that Commissioner Thrash endorse someone who is an expert in this field. He said he does not get access, and he does not get to go, but an expert walks in and says this is viable, and this is not viable. Commissioner Lovett said he did not believe this was a lot to ask for, especially after last night. He said that the councilman for the City of Milner, who sits on the Solid Waste Authority Board, publicly stated, and it is recorded for review, that this project will never make money, and if he could kill it, he would. Commissioner Thrash said she did not believe he said that. Commissioner Lovett said several people in attendance heard it, and it has been recorded. He said all they are asking is, as a community, Commissioner Fletcher had just seconded this motion, that someone else, besides the people who have been working on it for ten years, walk in and take a look. Commissioner Lovett said he does not get to go, so have Vice-Chair Gilles or anyone you want escort that person so that a Solid Waste Authority personnel goes, a Commissioner goes, and an expert walks through and gets to investigate. He said he was positive that any expert they bring is familiar with non-disclosure agreements and would certainly be willing to sign one.

Commissioner Lovett said as of this moment, no one can find a single thing at the patent office that says there is proprietary information. Commissioner Lovett said it behooves the rest of them because they know what is there, and he is asking her not just to vote for it but also to lead the effort to show this Community that this is a viable project.

Commissioner Thrash asked Chairman Traylor what happened to the Engineer they were going to use. Commissioner Lovett said if she is speaking of Thomas Miles, he will still pay for his fee. He said that Mr. Miles is an expert in the field and will still be coming to Charleston. Commissioner Lovett said this is a guy who can consult and can tell you whether your project is viable or not. He said a project like this should have multiple engineers who are concentrated on a single discipline. Commissioner Lovett said that currently, only one Engineer is working on the project full-time, and he is a water engineer. He said they should not be talking about just engineers. They are looking for experts in their field and said this is what Mr. Miles is. Commissioner Lovett said if they want someone else, he will back whomever the Conflict Counsel decides is capable of doing this review. He said that he, Vice-Chair Gilles, and the Community agreed to pay for Mr. Miles to get off of an airplane and walk through the Solid Waste Authority facility. Commissioner Thrash said she would like to have someone who is an engineer who is not dead. Vice-Chair Gilles said Johnny Poore and Seaborn Crosby are not engineers; they have been over the whole project. Commissioner Lovett suggested they have Mr. Miles bring in an engineer with him. He said that Mr. Miles is a project manager in Atlanta, where multiple engineers are capable of escorting him through this and participating in the review. Commissioner Lovett said Commissioner Thrash's request was perfectly amicable with him; Mr. Miles and an additional engineer join the Solid Waste Authority staff and have Commissioner Fletcher or Vice-Chair Gilles walk through as the Board of Commissioners representative.

Chairman Traylor called for clarification on two items. The first one was that public funds cannot be used for the engineering audit, so it would have to come from the County's General Fund. He said this is not an issue, and he appreciates those who volunteered to donate money towards the engineering audit. The second one was the fact that there is a potential FBI investigation and also potential additional litigation. Chairman Traylor said he is glad that Conflict Counsel Cowan was able to have a conversation and believes it will be pertinent for them to have an engineer involved in this review. As Commissioner Thrash pointed out, he is not a stamped engineer. Chairman Traylor said that with this magnitude, he would definitely be subpoenaed to Court and would definitely need to have an Engineer's stamp.

Chairman Traylor said there was a motion on the floor by Commissioner Lovett and a second from Commissioner Fletcher to have a formal written request be sent by this Commission's conflict counsel, Amy Cowan, to the Solid Waste Authority Board requiring that all Solid Waste Authority facilities be made available for an Industrial Engineering Review and that this review be performed by a Waste to Energy expert of Counsel Cowan's choosing, to include a full demonstration of all waste to fuel equipment purchased by the Solid Waste Authority. Vice-Chair Gilles was in favor of the motion. Commissioner Thrash was opposed to the motion. The motion was approved 3-1.

XI. Solid Waste Authority Board Appointment

Commissioner Fletcher made a motion to appoint Vice-Chair Gilles to the open and vacant seat of the Solid Waste Authority Board with the outlined term. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Gilles abstained from the motion. Commissioner Thrash opposed the motion. The motion carried 2-1.

XII. Ordinance 2024-05: LOR Properties Rezoning from AR to M2 for Property on Breezy Point Way (061-002)

Planning and Community Development Director Buice addressed the Board. This is a rezoning request for approximately 22 acres from A-R (Agriculture-Residential) to M-2 (Manufacturing-2) subject to the following conditions embedded in the Ordinance.

- An opaque physical barrier of a height of no less than 10' must be placed along all property lines that are shared with residential properties.
- A 50' natural buffer must be maintained along all property lines.

The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Commissioner Fletcher asked the applicant with LOR Properties what his plans are for the property. He said the 22 acres on Breezy Way is under contract and is not actually theirs yet. They had a client who wanted to build a 20,000-square-foot building with 6 to 8 acres designated for equipment trucks. This plan has fallen by the wayside. They intended to build small business incubators for the remaining portion of the property. Buildings that were less than 10,000 square feet could be divided and adjusted according to the tenant's needs. They do not own the property, but they believe the property has value for Manufacturing or business purposes. Commissioner Lovett said the resident at tax map 061-004 said they were told they had contacted that resident. The applicant said he spoke to Keith Leggett, and he had concerns about it being apartment complexes, but that was not the case. Mr. Leggett was also offered the first opportunity to buy the property. The applicant said his boss is Lester Ranew. Commissioner Lovett asked if they were aware of the conditions that were placed on the property. The applicant said they were.

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-05 LOR Properties Rezoning from AR to M2 for Property on Breezy Point Way (061-002) with the following conditions embedded in the Ordinance.

- An opaque physical barrier of a height of no less than 10' must be placed along all property lines that are shared with residential properties.
- A 50' natural buffer must be maintained along all property lines.

Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townsend reported the following:

- i. AmeriPro Health Report:
Transported: 193 Refusals: 100 Cancellations: 39 Response Time: 7:42
Mutual Aid Report Upson County 24 Pike County 0
Mutual Aid is an agreement with Upson County that gives Upson and Lamar County 7 ambulances. Upson has four ambulances, and Lamar has three, for a total of 7 ambulances. They are working towards a mutual aid agreement with Pike County to give them ten ambulances.
- ii. Expenditures for the Departments should be at 50.00 percent and are at 50.61 percent.
- iii. Reported that revenues are running higher in the month of May due to receiving LAR funds of \$580,534,94.
- iv. Reported on the animal shelter: The trussers are up, and the decking board with felts should be completed this week. The interior doors and metal windows have all been installed.
- v. Reported they are waiting on an RFP for guardrail repairs.
- vi. Reported that a few bids for the roof gutters have been received for coating the brick and replacing the remainder of the roof sections for the Courthouse. One bid was from Certified Roof and Gutter. Reported that this will be added to the August agenda.
- vii. Reported that in the month of June, \$143,137.34 was received for the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST).
- viii. Reported that in the month of June, \$251,095.61 was received for the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST IV).
- ix. Reported that in the month of June, \$226,359.47 was received for the Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST).
- x. Reported that overall, the finances are doing really well.
- xi. Reported that on July 17th, there will be a Constitutional Officer and Department Mid-year Review of the budget.
- xii. Reported that he met with the GDOT and in August he will present plans for Atlanta Street and Hwy 41.

XIV. Public Comments

Mike Perry of 101 Maple Drive addressed the Board. Mr. Perry said there were 1539 registered voters in Lamar County; of that, 2485 voted. This is 16 percent of the voting population over an 18-day period. The cost for this is about \$40.00 a vote; therefore, they need to get the voters of Lamar County more involved and requested the Commissioners to do more to encourage the voters and to pay attention to who is running. Mr. Perry said they elected a Congressman and a Commissioner on 16 percent of the vote. He thanked the Commissioners for what they do.

Elaine Hallada 131 Steeple Chase addressed the Board. Mrs. Hallada thanked Commissioner Fletcher for voting for Vice-Chair Gilles to serve on the Solid Waste Authority board. She also thanked Commissioner Fletcher for voting for the possible engineering assessment and using T.R. Miles, which was discussed at the Board of Commissioners Workshop meeting. Mrs. Hallada stated she did not believe that the Solid Waste Authority Chair, Nancy Thrash, or the Solid Waste Authority Board would allow anyone to enter the premises. Johnny Poore always said there was some secret sauce that they needed to keep hidden, and it was about time they knew what it was. The Solid Waste Authority Board claims the Waste to Fuel project is a

success but said that success is measured in different ways. Mrs. Hallada said if you think making enough money to pay the loan is enough, then you, as a Solid Waste Authority, are wrong. Lamar County and the City of Milner were promised 2.5 million dollars in net revenue since 2017. Until that \$50,000.00 a month is put without fail every single month into a joint account, the project will continue to be a failure in her eyes. Mrs. Hallada asked when the arrears will be paid since the project will not be finished until 2025. Mrs. Hallada said she watched the Facebook post multiple times, and Skip Seda mentioned her name: Skip Seda lied. Mrs. Hallada said, yes, I went on a tour to see the facility, and yes, she went there. When I went there in July of 2023, there was no equipment up and running. I never said there was not any equipment. I said I never saw any equipment up and running.” Mrs. Hallada said that at the meeting last night, they lied to the citizens of the City of Milner because she knew what she saw when she went on that tour. She said there was equipment there not put together. There was an "MRF" that was supposed to make the waste to fuel, and the belts were sitting drying up on the floor, and nothing was connected or turned on. Mrs. Hallada said Mr. Poore even mentioned that the equipment had been sitting there for years. She asked when the Solid Waste Authority Board would stop lying about the success of the project, and they have done everything you have asked for. Mrs. Hallada quoted Skip Seda, “ Everything they ask for has been given to them.” Mrs. Hallada said she had an email that proved that Mr. Poore sent the contract between Seaborn Crosby and Paradigm Engineering by courier to GEFA. She said it said to write an email and send it so they could avoid open records. Mrs. Hallada said they had never been given that, and she had asked for it more than once. Mrs. Hallada asked, “Is that the secret sauce? Show us that contract.” Mrs. Hallada said to let T.R. Miles and an Engineer into the facility because the 90 percent that voted in this County deserve the truth.

Bonnie Martin of 626 Piedmont Road addressed the Board. Mrs. Martin thanked the Board of Commissioners for their vote to pursue an engineering audit of the Solid Waste Authority project. She said, hopefully, it will show that the project is viable and will generate the projected income, and this audit should show your intentions regarding what they should be taking care of in Lamar County. Mrs. Martin said she still had questions and asked if the Solid Waste Authority was viable and transparent. Why were Commissioner Thrash and Chairman Traylor opposed to asking for an engineering audit? They need it, and they need to know that this is going to work. Mrs. Martin said they recently found out a 4.5 million dollar draw was taken and asked what it was being used for. How much income is the current Leachate producing monthly? She said that Mr. Poore had told Fox 5 News it would be up and running this summer and said surely he knew that this was not true. Mrs. Martin asked why they were not concerned about another year's delay on top of the 10-year delay that had already happened. She said they needed an audit before spending all 27.5 million dollars. The Solid Waste Authority needs to go along with the request, and she said she hoped they would.

James Hyde of 116 White Oak Drive addressed the Board. Mr. Hyde said that, in the approved December 19th, 2023 minutes, Commissioner Lovett put forth a motion for the conflict counsel to determine whether the vote they just took is allowed under the County rules. He said he could not answer that question per the County rules but could answer it per the superseding State Law. Mr. Hyde held up a paper and said these are the State ethics laws, and it is about a 60-second read. He said it says, "Each member of all Board of Commissioners and Authorities shall never take any official action with regard to any matter under circumstances in which he knows or should know that he has a direct or indirect

monetary interest.” Both of the Commissioners, who sit on the Solid Waste Authority Board, have stated openly in this forum that they have received compensation from the Solid Waste Authority. Mr. Hyde said that it is a monetary interest regardless of what you call it. He said the making of motions and taking votes, as Commissioners, are official actions and are therefore illegal. Mr. Hyde held up another piece of paper and said that this was the Georgia Statue that tells them in detail how to dissolve the Solid Waste Authority. It is about a 30 minute read. Mr. Hyde said as far as an engineering audit, and the Solid Waste Authority does not want to cooperate, you authorize your Authority under OCGA 12-3-54 and replace any member of the Board who objects or appoint more members to the Board who will override any dissenting votes. Mr. Hyde said he just answered all three questions in less than three minutes. These are answers you could have easily answered for free if you had simply bothered to read the law. We need answers as to why, in three months and an excess of \$20,000.00, the conflict counsel has yet to answer two of these. We have seen no fruitful outcome from the time and expense involved. This is not your money. We want to see billing statements explaining in vast detail the justification for every billable quarter-hour. Until we see such, and it justifies the time, you are authorized to pay her \$2,500.00 and are ordered to terminate her services immediately. That sum will more than cover the less than one hour of actual research and her needless travel. We, the people, will happily entertain her lawsuit to try and recover the excessive charges and let her explain in an open court what took her three months and 20 plus thousand dollars to do two-thirds of what he did in three minutes. We will use the discovery process to find out what relationships are in play and if anyone is enriching their friend at the taxpayers’ expense. We will no longer tolerate the waste of our money or an abusive and non-responsive government.

Mike Maddox of 120 Magnolia Farms, Milner addressed the Board. Mr. Maddox said he wished they would stop all the back-biting. He said that as a nation, they are asking the Federal Government to be transparent in making things right, but we cannot get Lamar County to do that. Mr. Maddox said as far as the Solid Waste Authority, he is about tired of it, and they need to straighten it out somehow, someway, and they need to be concerned about it. He said they know the State Law, the Attorney knows laws, and he knows machinery. Mr. Maddox said he does not know how long the machines have been sitting over there but said the worst thing that can happen to any machine is for it to sit there. He said he did not know if there was a warranty on them, but when they fire them up, you will find out there are problems from where they are just sitting there. If they let the new bus sit there for five years and do not run it, they could see what happens. Mr. Maddox said he has been coming to the meetings and has heard Chairman Traylor tell heartwarming stories about the Community. He said he had a story to tell them. “A farmer took his mule out to his farm. The mule fell down a dry well. He did not know what he was going to do. So, he went and got his farmer friends from the Community, and they looked down in the well and said there was no way they could get him out; they were going to have to bury him. They all got their shovels and started dumping dirt on the mule. Then they noticed he was shaking his back and standing up on the dirt. They kept shoveling until the mule came to the top. When he walked out, the first thing he did was to go over to the farmer and bite him on the butt.” Mr. Maddox said the morale of the story is, “Cover your ass, or it is going to come back and bite you.”

Dwight Fleming of 1011 Van Buren Road addressed the Board. Mr. Fleming said the only way the Solid Waste Authority will regain any standing with the Community in creditability is to stop all of the freedom of information requests, and when you get a question, answer

the blooming question. There is no reason to force the citizens to go through the process when it would take the Solid Waste Authority less time to answer the question through the freedom of information request. Mr. Fleming requested that the Administrator's report be printed or attached to the agenda because he says he cannot see it on the screen. He requested it be made available so people can see it.

Donald Hartman, 507 Old Milner Road, addressed the Board. Mr. Hartman said they need transparency; let them know what is going on and whether it is viable or if they are dead in the water. He said this is technology and, in some instances, computer driven. Mr. Hartman said the computer he bought ten years ago probably will not work because it is not compatible; windows three or five. Cellphones have changed no more analogy because they are digital. He said stuff is old, computers are supposed to run, and asked where they were with all of those costs. Mr. Hartman said he has done research and tried to get educated. Mr. Hartman said he was at the big meeting last year at the Courthouse where Johnny Poore did a large presentation. He kept mentioning his Daddy and told his story. Mr. Hartman said this is what he thinks about the project, "I hear you clucking, but I don't see any eggs. Show us what is going on. Let's get some transparency because we really need it for the project." Mr. Hartman said a lot of people wanted to see it fail, but if it works, great; but we need more transparency. Mr. Hartman said he attended the last Solid Waste Authority meeting. When they went into the Executive Session, they were asked to leave the room they were sitting in, and that room was not even used for the Executive Session. Mr. Hartman said he thought that was pretty pitiful.

Diane Perry of 101 Maple Drive addressed the Board. Mrs. Perry said the City of Milner's Council member, who also serves on the Solid Waste Authority Board, made a statement last night at the monthly Council meeting. He said, "GEFA audits us every single year and they don't just audit the books, they physically come in and take inventory every year of everything that we have and they have got not problems with it." Mrs. Perry said they intend to file an Open Records request tomorrow with GEFA requesting all annual inventories performed by GEFA staff that have involved the Solid Waste Authority facility in Lamar County based on this comment.

Representative Robert Dickey addressed the Board. Mr. Dickey said he was a part-time Legislator and a full-time farmer. He said he wanted to introduce himself and looked forward to representing Lamar County and Barnesville next year in the Legislature. Representative Beth Camp will also continue, and he looks forward to working with her and Senator Marty Harbin. Representative Dickey said he was available to the citizens of Lamar County if anyone needs anything on the State level, and he is looking forward to helping this County move forward. It is a great place to live and work, and he thanked everyone for their friendship.

XV. Round Table

Commissioner Fletcher requested that they keep the injured Barnesville police officer and his family in their prayers.

Commissioner Thrash said she knows there was a comment tonight that said she is opposed to the engineering audit, but that is not true. Commissioner Thrash said she is standing by what the Conflict Council has advised them. She said this is the biggest fraud ever betrayed on the citizens of Lamar County in this County's history. The fearmongering, the lies, the half-

truths, are just baffling. Commissioner Thrash said that when Commissioner Lovett was elected his first priority was that he wanted to see the Solid Waste Authority project and immediately began insisting. Last night at the City of Milner's Council meeting, Commissioner Lovett started to say, "At no point has anybody ever allowed them to come out." She said he stopped because he knew that was simply not true. Commissioner Lovett and Vice-Chair Gilles, without notifying anyone, showed up at the landfill, where the feedstock prep machines are currently stored, and were taking pictures and videos. Commissioner Lovett and Vice-Chair Gilles spent over five hours with Johnny Poore at the Enercon building. Commissioner Thrash said he further stated, "I've been a Commissioner for over a year and I have never seen it." She said what he is not telling them is that he has not seen the technology, which is what he wants his hands on. Commissioner Thrash said that almost everything Commissioner Lovett has said has either been proven untrue with documented facts or by his own public admission that he was wrong. She said that he has stated numerous times that the Solid Waste Authority has failed as a project like this in 2008. The truth is that the Solid Waste Authority did look at another piece of technology and they knew it would fail and did not spend a penny on moving forward with that technology. Commissioner Thrash said that the Solid Waste Authority has looked at numerous waste to energy technology and again never spent a penny on that technology. She said if Commissioner Lovett is allowed to continue on this dangerous destruction path, the taxpayers of Lamar County and the City of Milner will suffer drastically. Commissioner Thrash said, in her opinion, there is no chance of ever recovering from it, and the multiple lawsuits will be crippling, not to mention the contracts that will have to be paid off, and then there is the GEFA loan. Commissioner Thrash said, "You see, ladies and gentlemen, Commissioner Lovett is guaranteeing this will happen if this continues. Right now, the citizens of Milner are not on the hook for the GEFA loan, he said in the City of Milner's Council meeting. Commissioner Lovett apparently wants to make sure they are on the hook for the 27.5 million dollars, but he really could care less about the taxpayers of this County or the City of Milner. He wants the technology of this project." Commissioner Thrash said in her opinion, he is playing dirty politics and has ulterior motives which certainly do not align with the citizens of Lamar County or the City of Milner.

Chairman Traylor congratulated the Recreation Department for going to Baton Rouge Louisiana and representing Lamar County. They finished 3rd out of 26 teams, and it was pretty exciting. Chairman Traylor said the one thing he was going to talk about regarding Pastor Benny Tate was from his message a couple of weeks ago, where he talked about the mule in the well and being buried under so much stuff and things being tossed on top of it. He said that the more that was tossed on top of it, the more people thought it would have buried it. But, according to Pastor Tate's story, the farmer was saying his mule was going to die, so I am going to bury it. However, to their surprise, when they put more dirt on him, the mule started to rise to the top. Chairman Traylor said he talked about what was being planted and how we, as Christians and fellow citizens, need to be planted in what we understand and have the facts about what we believe in. Chairman Traylor said the reason he wanted to share this is because everything we do in life is about the advantage point. He said when he was coaching recreation ball, he was in Buddy Lanier's office every week complaining about what Pike had that we did not have. It was not until he became a Commissioner and saw the budget that he was amazed at what we did have because of how low the budget was. Chairman Traylor said that before he became a Commissioner, he would not say he did not care about the Senior Center, but when

his mom was old enough to go to the Senior Center, the Senior Center became very important to him. Chairman Traylor said for those in the room there are things that are important to you at this point in life that maybe were not as important to you before. He said that sometimes they talk about roads that they have never traveled down, and they really do not have an appreciation for that road as the person who has to travel that road every single day. Chairman Traylor said so many new people have moved into the Community, and he appreciates these great people.

Chairman Traylor said he was at a training session over in Jackson, Georgia, and Planning and Community Development Director Buice and Butt's County's Zoning Department was talking about the water treatment plant and the efforts that went behind it. He said he started talking about Carter's impact on this Community and the need for a large water treatment plant. When Carter's closed and went overseas, we had an opportunity to have County water in the County. Chairman Traylor said it is important that we understand some of the things in our Community. He said he was talking to someone in the grocery store, and they asked him about former Commissioner Van Baker. They said they remembered when he was on the Solid Waste Authority Board. He told them he was on the Board for about seven years. They said former Chairman Jay Matthews was also on the Solid Waste Authority Board. Chairman Traylor said that person said they never hear about any of those people who had been on the Solid Waste Authority Board and all they ever hear about is Chairman Traylor and Commissioner Thrash. He said when they stand for something, he knows all of them are passionate.

Chairman Traylor addressed Mr. Perry and said he appreciated the wonderful comment he made to him last week about appreciating what they do, but for any of the Commissioners, this is not an easy job; it is a very difficult job. He said sometimes, unfortunately, they get emotional and fired up, but their intentions and goals are to continue to improve the County; even if they make mistakes along the way, they learn from it and keep going. He said he said all that to say he appreciated them being there tonight and thanked the citizens in the room for coming out. He thanked the Commissioners for what they do and above all thank you to the staff. He said when the County Administrator was out on vacation, there was no hiccup. They had a dump truck that caught on fire, but still, it was flawless, and everyone did a great job, and he truly appreciated that.

XVI. Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:03 p.m. Vice-Chair Gilles seconded the motion. Commissioner Lovett said he had discussion and Chairman Traylor asked if he had discussion on the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lovett said he did not want to adjourn the meeting until he was able to respond to Commissioner Thrash's remark. Chairman Traylor said that was not part of the motion. Chairman Traylor said all in favor signify by saying I. Commissioner Lovett said all he wanted to say was what Commissioner Thrash thinks about him is irrelevant and the easiest way to do this is for her to capitulate to an engineering review of the project. He said personnel attacks on him are fine and they could do that, but this Community has asked for, and they deserve to see what they are paying for. To see what they gave up their landfill for. That is what they are entitled to, and that is all he has asked her to do. He said no other response is necessary, but he simply is asking her again to reconsider and to join this Community in looking at an engineering audit.

Chairman Traylor called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting and 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