

Workshop Meeting
Lamar County Board of Commissioners
5-16-2024
12:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:30 p.m. on March 19th, 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.

Update from Amy Cowan-Conflict Counsel Attorney

Conflict Attorney Amy Cowan addressed the board and said she was not there to discuss any legal advice or legal strategy that has been discussed with the Commissioners. She asked if any of the Commissioners had any follow-up comments or questions that relate to specific legal advice or specific legal strategy because they do not get into that information here; they discuss that at the appropriate time. As far as an update, they sent a demand to the Solid Waste Authority (SWA). It asked for four items: The current project schedule for the Waste to Fuel Project, including each remaining action and dates of completion; the current budget for the Waste to Fuel Project schedule; the expected date as to when the Waste to Fuel Project will begin operation, and the names and contact information of each entity or individual currently employed by the SWA or those that are under contract on the Waste to Fuel Project.

Ms. Cowan said she received a response from the SWA's attorney. The response was that he would discuss this with the SWA at the next meeting. Her understanding was that the next meeting was coming in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Cowan said she had a follow-up call with the attorney, and he indicated a willingness to communicate on this. She said she expected that a response of some sort would be forthcoming after the SWA has had time to consider the specifics of the request. Ms. Cowan said she plans to attend the SWA meeting once it is scheduled. Ms. Cowan said she would also be sending a written follow-up to the SWA's attorney as a reminder that this will be a topic of discussion at the SWA meeting so they can move forward with the requested information.

Ms. Cowan said that, additionally, they sent an open records request for SWA records. The SWA did provide a response to that request. The response was about the scope of the request. She said she had a conversation with the SWA attorney about the scope of that response, the scope of the request, and the logistics of the production. Ms. Cowan said they would be moving forward with working through the logistics of getting those items produced as well. Ms. Cowan said she would keep the Commissioners advised as she receives additional information regarding the Waste to Fuel Project.

Vice-Chair Gilles said she was wondering about the questions they had at the meeting when they authorized the hiring of a conflict council. Ms. Cowan said in terms of specific legal advice, that was not something she was going to get into today; in terms of specific strategy and legal advice. She said they have had some discussions, and if Vice-Chair Gilles needs any additional information from her, she would be happy to address that. It just needs to be in a quorum.

Commissioner Fletcher said he appreciated Ms. Cowan's work in getting them some answers, both privately and publicly. He said they have nothing to hide, and he feels this is the way they need to move forward.

Commissioner Lovett said he sent Ms. Cowan some information on O.C.G.A. 12-8-39c. Ms. Cowan said she wanted to avoid getting into any specific legal advice or legal strategy that would

be attorney/client privilege. She said she would be happy to respond to him separately to the extent that he would like her to. Ms. Cowan said she would return at his request to provide further updates anytime he wants her to.

Commissioner Lovett requested that sending a bill to SWA be put on the agenda based on 12-8-39c. He requested advice from Ms. Cowan prior to the regular business meeting on Tuesday night. Ms. Cowan said she would get further clarification after the Workshop meeting.

Chairman Traylor applauded Ms. Cowan for driving down her legal cost by joining the meeting via Teams rather than driving down and attending the meeting in person.

Commissioner Lovett stated he had additional discussion. Chairman Traylor requested that Ms. Cowan remain on Teams for the additional discussion. Commissioner Lovett stated that the EPD sent out a tonnage report with the expected lifespan of the landfill. He said that this was public information. His research said that 12-8-39c provides information that the Solid Waste Authority, which runs the landfill, must send \$1.00 per ton to the County. He said that this act has been here since 1992. The data on the EPD website only goes back to 2003. Commissioner Lovett said that based on the EPD website, the total that should have been paid to the County is \$1,689,348.00. He said he understood that the County had received zero dollars. Commissioner Lovett said he was unsure how far back they want to go but would like to go back as far as 2021. He said that in 2021, the landfill was given operationally over to AmWaste, and since then, they have put in 706,335 tons. Commissioner Lovett said this means the Solid Waste Authority, per state law, owes the County \$706,335.00. Commissioner Lovett requested that to send a bill to the SWA, per 12-8-39c be put on the agenda for Tuesday night for \$706,335.00 which is legally obligated to be sent to the County.

Discussion of Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) & Transportation Special Local Option Tax (TSPLOST)

County Administrator Townsend presented a LMIG/TSPLOST report received from EXP back in September of 2022 with phases 1, 2, and 3. The estimated totals for phases 2 and 3 were \$3,454,000.00. Since then, he has requested for updated numbers as of May 7th, 2024. The total for phases 2 and 3 is \$4,114,000.00. This is an increase for two years of \$660,000.00 due to the increased cost of asphalt. In 2023, the revenues received were \$468,772.00 LMIG funds, \$542,000.00 Special LMIG Funds, \$580,535.00 LAR funds, \$1,000,000.00 Rock Springs funding commitment, Current TSPLOST, \$2,414,853.00, \$487,471.00 projected LMIG 2024, \$506,970.00 projected LMIG 2025, and \$836,937.00 projected TSPLOST excess funds. The total revenue is \$6,837,487.00. After the note for the bond for TSPLOST is paid, it should be around \$1,986,541.00. County Administrator Townsend stated that the bond payments and the excess funds collected are \$12,200,000.00. In March of 2027, they will meet the \$12,200,000.00 around September or August. The projections were around \$200,000.00 a month, but the collections have been around \$230,000.00 to \$240,000.00. He said that with the new law, you cannot collect any more than the dollar amount stated in the agreement. The TSPLOST lasts for five years.

The expenditures for the Widening Project for Van Buren and Johnstonville are estimated to cost \$2,093,381.00 and the estimated cost for High Falls, Chappell Mill & Rock Springs for grading, widening, patching, overlay, and striping is \$2,757,566.00. The total expenditures are \$4,850,974.00, with a balance left of \$1,986,541.00. Once the new Phases 2 and 3, a total of \$4,114,000.00, are added, there will be a shortage of \$2,127,459.23. Originally, the estimates were around \$1,200,000.00 for the widening projects once phase 3 was removed. Public Works Director Rigdon is working on a quote for a milling machine that will mill the edges of the road, and then they can fill it in with materials. County Administrator Townsend said they recommend

that the board reject the bids for Van Buren and Johnstonville Roads and do phases II and III, leaving them short an estimated \$34,078.55.

Vice-Chair Gilles stated that she has not been happy with EXP. She said the roads are horrible and the overlay they did on Brooks Road has been atrocious, and she is unhappy with the results. Vice-Chair Gilles asked if there was any way they could put out bids with other companies. County Administrator Townsend said they have a running contract with EXP. Chairman Traylor said this was a timing issue that happened. It is not so much about the product they put down but the fact the County needed to add gravel and fillers. Vice-Chair Gilles said if you go to the doctor for a procedure and then tell them you ate the night before; you can't do that. She said this is millions of dollars. County Administrator Townsend stated that EXP put out the bid, but the contractor, C.W. Matthews and Asphalt Paving came in earlier than the Public Works Director expected. County Administrator Townsend explained that in March of 2023, there was a lot of flooding. Public Works was supposed to be prepping the roads, but instead, they had to repair culverts and creeks, trying to get the roads re-opened. Some things should have been done to the roads before they came in and started paving.

Commissioner Fletcher inquired about the length of the contract. County Administrator Townsend said he thought it was three years. Chairman Traylor said C.W. Matthews is the vendor responsible for the paving. He said you can eliminate the contractor, but the new contractor can still use the same subcontractors. County Administrator Townsend said they have not paid the retainage fee and they are coming back in the next couple of weeks to make repairs. Commissioner Thrash asked who from Public Works supervises the contractors who are paving the roads. County Administrator Townsend said the Public Works Director and his crew do this when they can, but no engineers are on staff. EXP goes in and fixes reported issues.

Vice-Chair Gilles asked how they would widen Van Buren and Johnstonville Roads. County Administrator Townsend responded that the material that was supposed to be put down was supposed to have been a preservative. He said that when they pave any road, they go there and they knock the grass off. When this happens, the Commissioners get a number of complaints about grass being dumped into someone's ditch. County Administrator Townsend said one of C.W. Matthews's sub-contractors tripled sealed out further than the road. When the company came in to do the topping, the preservative, they actually went out to where the triple seal was laid. He said this is where the edges are breaking off.

Chairman Traylor said he looked at the machine in question yesterday and said there were 20 employees in the Public Works Department back in the day. He said that there is equipment to do the outsourced things, but they need the staff to do the work. Public Works has a widening machine that can go down any road and load the gravel in front of it. The machine widens the road. Chairman Traylor said that the issue with Van Buren and Johnstonville Road is that they paved out wider than what the road was originally. County Administrator Townsend said that on Community House Road, C.W. Matthews put a launch ramp up, and on Burnette Road, they built up the road at their cost.

Commissioner Thrash asked if they are holding the contractors accountable. County Administrator Townsend said they have a 10 percent retainage. Currently, they are holding C.W. Matthew's retainage. Commissioner Thrash asked about the jobs that are complete and if they are having the same problem: Five Points Road and the edging. County Administrator Townsend said only a couple of roads were affected. Commissioner Thrash requested that the contractors fix Five Points Road.

Vice-Chair Gilles said she was tired of paying people for making the same mistakes over and over again. Chairman Traylor said in the past, they have always relied on in-house abilities. Over the

last few years, some suggestions have been received from people who attended the meetings. However, they use general contractors for almost all of our projects. They had contractors who gave suggestions on how to do the roofing at the Courthouse and the Jail. The same holds true for EXP. They came in as a contractor to tell them the expectations. Chairman Traylor said he has had conversations at the grocery store about who oversees the projects and how they are getting the recommendations. Chairman Traylor said they are using a third-party consulting firm for advice. Vice-Chair Gilles said this is what she is disappointed with, and they are wasting money on experts telling them things like having reflectors on each side of the road when it is not a State Road; she said they should know this. County Administrator Townsend said this was a sub-contractor. Vice-Chair Gilles asked if EXP was supervising them. County Administrator Townsend said that EXP does the inspection, but they came back and said something about the reflectors and the fact that it was not done right. County Administrator Townsend said the RFP stated for them to put one down the middle every sixty feet but this did not happen. He said Public Works had to go out there and pop them up.

Chairman Traylor said that they need to hold the general contractors accountable. County Administrator Townsend said this is what they are trying to do, but one thing about it is the process. He said he tried to hold C.W. Matthews accountable once and told them he was not paying them a dime until it was fixed. He was told that was what the retainage was for. County Administrator Townsend said he spoke to Attorney Mayfield about this, and according to the contract, the retainage was correct. County Administrator Townsend said they are having a hard time hiring Public Works employees. He said it would cost around \$140,000.00 to \$160,000.00 to have a road engineer on staff. Currently, they are paying EXP \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 to do the RFP and the inspections. Vice-Chair Gilles suggested they put this money back into Public Works instead of having EXP. County Administrator Townsend said they could not use it for Operations because it comes from TSPLOST.

Discussion of Senior Center Bus

County Administrator Townsend presented a quote of \$179,401.75 for a Ford F-550 Starcraft Allstar XL bus, including an upgrade to a diesel engine with a diesel engine AC upgrade. County Administrator Townsend said he heard from Commissioner Fletcher that there was a request to split the cost of the bus with the City of Barnesville and wanted to make sure the Board of Commissioners were aware of this request. County Administrator Townsend explained that the purchase of the Senior Center Bus is coming out of SPLOST. He said that the County helped them test the fire hydrants. County Administrator Townsend explained that the current bus has issues with dying on the road, but when Public Works puts it on the computer, they cannot duplicate this issue. The bus driver refuses to drive it because she is afraid to have 25 passengers on a bus that has died in the middle of nowhere. They do not have an extra bus to pick them up or for them to use. County Administrator Townsend said he is working on trading the current bus for the new bus. The current bus will go into surplus before they trade it. Chairman Traylor said Mayor Hughes was unaware of the City of Barnesville's involvement in splitting the cost of the bus, but she had not spoken to the City Council about it. Chairman Traylor said across the State, everyone is trying to find better ways for Cities and Counties to work together. He said he is glad someone reached out from the City Council about this issue, but he does not want to delay the process because he does not know if this is something the City of Barnesville can do, and he does not want to slow down the process of purchasing the bus. County Administrator Townsend pointed out that the citizens of Barnesville pay taxes to both the County and the City, and this would be double-dipping for the citizens. Commissioner Fletcher stated he spoke with Councilman Sims and had spoken with Acting County Manager York, who said they had some money to add to this purchase. County Administrator Townsend said the bus was

budgeted for \$130,00.00, and he put an additional 20 percent towards the cost of bringing the cost to \$160,000.00. Then, with inflation and other factors, the cost of the bus went up to \$195,00.00 with a diesel engine and delivery cost. After more negotiations, he got the cost of the bus, with a diesel engine and other features, down to \$179,000.00.

The Board Reviewed the Regular Business Meeting Agenda.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance-William Perdue of the Barnesville Police Department
3. Invocation
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Proclamation-2024 School Athlete Recognition
6. Minutes Approval
 1. Workshop Minutes-April 11th, 2024
 2. Regular Business Meeting Minutes-April 16th, 2024
7. Old Business
 1. Hauling Rock from Vulcan to Turner Bridge Road
8. New Business
 1. Yancey/CAT-Purchase of Skid Steer Loader Work Tools-Public Works

County Administrator Townsend said the cost of the Skid Steer Loader is \$ 24,127.00. He explained that he is restructuring the Public Works Department by pushing the salary of a paving position listed at \$48,00.00. Instead of hiring a sub-contractor to run the machines, they can push the salary into five open positions for the Public Works Department. He said they lost an employee making \$22.00 an hour to a company making \$32.00 an hour. Monroe County is paying \$25.00 for someone to do patching. County Administrator Townsend said purchasing this equipment will help Public Works with the edging on Van Buren and Liberty Hill Roads. He said counties the size of Lamar County are paying more, and larger county salaries are even higher.
 2. Georgia DOAS Starcraft Bus-Purchase of Bus-Senior Center
 3. List of Roadways for Speed Detection Devices

County Administrator Townsend explained that the list of Roadways for Lamar County on-system roadways and all on-system routes have been verified by the Georgia Department of Transportation State Route. The roadways must be approved for the use of speed-detection devices. This was updated due to the speed limit changes on Five-Points Road and Skinners Bypass in 2023. County Administrator Townsend said he received it in April of 2024, but it was in his junk email. There is a new person who verifies the road list that he is working with regarding the road list. Vice-Chair Gilles inquired about the road list being dated 2022 and the difference between the roads verified and not verified by the Georgia Department of Transportation. County Administrator Townsend said he would get with the GDOT for clarification and send it to the board. He also suggested that since they keep adding roads and lowering speeds here and there, why not run radar on any road that has 500 ft. Vice-Chair Gilles said that the speed limits that need to be lowered on certain roads depend on the number of houses and traffic added to the roads. She

said that she would rather do it road by road as needed. County Administrator Townsend said Sheriff White thinks running radar on all roads 500 ft or more makes the best sense to him. He said that if the road is not on the list and someone complains about someone going up and down their road a couple of times, they cannot run radar, and they can just get them for reckless driving. Vice-Chair Gilles said she did not understand why getting the new speed limit signs for the speed limit change on Five-Points Road has taken so long. County Administrator Townsend said they have to provide the study. Vice-Chair Gilles said they no longer have to do the study to change the speed limit.

4. Courthouse Roof Repairs

County Administrator Townsend explained that Mr. Hearn was the consultant for the roof repair at the Courthouse. He prepared the RFP, and when he did, sections 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 needed repair. Mr. Hearn said they would last five years, but apparently, those sections have leaks. Now, he says they need to do an entire new section. County Administrator Townsend has a new company out of Columbus, Georgia, MJR Solutions, to do the Courthouse roof again because a lot of the sections are bad. Their quote is for \$214,520.00. The quote from Certified Roofing, which did the job previously, is for \$203,245.92. Mr. Hearn looked at both bids and said MJR Solutions had a roof priced at \$19.00 a square ft., and another roof would be priced at \$30.00 a square ft. Mr. Hearn said he was pleased with the roof that Certified Roofing had done previously; therefore, the staff recommends Certified Roofing for \$203,245.92.

Commissioner Thrash asked if this was on top of the work that had just been completed. County Administrator Townsend said they did patching work that would get them down the road for five years, but now the sections are in desperate need, especially section 1. He is also getting someone to look at the bricks. Vice-Chair Gilles asked if the issue was with the bricks. County Administrator Townsend said Mr. Hearn said there is water under each of the TPOs, sections 1,2, 5, and 6. He said the bricks are holding water, and they are getting someone to do a study on the bricks. Commissioner Fletcher suggested that they wait until they get the study of the bricks. County Administrator Townsend said he was giving them the quotes now but wanted to make sure that they get it right, and that is why they are working with Mr. Hearn again. He said the bricks go back to 1931. Chairman Traylor said that with the amount of leaks he would imagine the issues are also with the TPO. The board agreed to remove the Courthouse Roof Repair bids from the Regular Business Meeting agenda until he could get the study on the bricks.

5. Widening of Van Buren and Johnstonville Road Bids

County Administrator Townsend stated that the bids for the widening of Van Buren and Johnstonville Road were originally \$1,200,000.00, but the lowest bid from C.W. Matthews came in at \$2,093,380.88, and the highest bid from Blount Construction came in at \$2,660,321.10. He suggested that the board keep it on the Regular Business Meeting agenda and reject the bids. County Administrator Townsend said he needs to get the contractors back out there to see what can be done. He said that he got the four bids from C.W. Matthews, McElroy, Blount Construction, and Piedmont Paving, but rejecting the bids is what he recommends to the Board of Commissioners.

6. FY 2024-25 Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget

Chairman Traylor thanked all of the Board of Commissioners for attending the Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget meeting. Most counties only have two or three Commissioners come to the meetings. County Administrator Townsend presented the Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget to the board, showing the budgeted amounts over the last three years. (attached to the minutes). The budget runs from July 1 to June 30th. He said last year, he was \$13,625.00 under budget, and the year before, he had \$9,740.00 that was over budget. This year's budget is \$13,000.00, and he will

be in the good. He budgeted a 10 percent increase, but this year, the Towaliga Budget came in at a 6.5 percent increase, and the Public Defender came in at a 3.1 percent increase. The District Attorney's budget includes the 6.5 percent increase. The total quarterly portion for Lamar County is \$56,561.40. The Towaliga Judicial Circuit Budget is attached to the minutes. Commissioner Lovett requested a caseload study. He said that this should be used for moving percentages around.

7. Board Appointments

1. Region 4 Emergency Medical Service Advisory Council-Robert Cox
2. Division of Family and Children Services Board Appointment-Robert Taylor
3. Senior Center Board Appointments

Jean Buchanan

Fannie Hosley

Kellie Mercer

Stephanie Durham

8. Administrator's Report

9. Public Comment

10. Round Table

11. Executive Session

1. Real Estate
2. Litigation
3. Personnel

12. Adjournment

9. **Administrator's Report**

County Administrator reported the following:

- 1) Restructure of the Public Works Department
- 2) Lamar County was approved for 2 Weather Sirens
- 3) All County Departments are taking Juneteenth and Veterans Day as their Floating Holiday.

10. **Public Comments**

Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeplechase addressed the board. Mrs. Hallada said that anyone can go online and look up 12-8-39. The Lamar County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) became effective on January 1st, 1992. She said Commissioner Lovett stated that the SWA had not paid any money to the County, so she suggested they go back to its inception because they owe this money to the County. "A surcharge of \$1.00 per ton or volume equivalent, in addition to any other negotiated charges or fees which shall be imposed by and paid to the host local government for the facility." Mrs. Hallada referenced the ad from the SWA that was in the paper. She said AmWaste is paying \$500,000.00 per year to take over the landfill. If you take 16 months (it has a lot of 6's in it; it is like the devil has touched us) and \$41,660.00 per month, in 16 months, the cost is \$666,560.00. Ms. Hallada said that Commissioner Thrash, as the Chairman of the SWA board, in her letter, referred to the \$220,000.00 and the \$250,000.00 that has been paid to date on the GEFA loan. This money is only to service the GEFA loan. Mrs. Hallada said she wanted her to explain where the other \$196,000.00 had gone. She said they went to see Johnny Poore a year ago. He told them they were bringing in about 300 tons a day. He also told them they had 60 years left on the landfill. In the meeting in September, it was down to 19 years, and now the new EPD reports

show they are accepting up to 1600 tons, and there are only 7.5 years left on the landfill. The AmWaste contract says that \$200.00 per ton will be paid after the GEFA loan obligation is met. Once the GEFA loan is paid off, the County will benefit from \$2.00 per ton. Mrs. Hallada said they should return to 1993, when the SWA was formed, and get the money owed to the County.

Diane Perry of 101 Maple Drive addressed the board. Mrs. Perry said she thought Commissioner Lovett had made a motion to present an invoice to the SWA for what they owed on the \$1.00 per ton. She thought it was put on the floor for discussion or vote. Mrs. Perry said the City of Barnesville started with "Keep Barnesville Beautiful," they are redoing and upgrading many things: uptown flower baskets and cleaning parks. Mrs. Perry said she would love to see the County take it upon themselves to get the employees over to the Courthouse to do the yards and power wash the front of the building because it looks terrible. After seeing how the tables and benches were cleaned at the City Park this past Saturday, she knows they can make it look a lot better. Mrs. Perry asked what was going on with the Lamar County Recreation Board Advisory. She heard a meeting was tonight, but nothing was posted in the paper or online. Mrs. Perry asked what they were doing and what their projects were. She heard a rumor this week that the roof on the old gym was leaking again, and Truman Boyle agreed. Do we have a warranty? Do we have anyone that will come out and fix it? Mrs. Perry said they need a park on Hwy 36, and since we have the land, has anyone thought about putting a proposal together and going to Vulcan and talking to them about sponsoring that park and using their new road to be the entrance to the park? She said Vulcan was willing to work with the community because they have a bad reputation. This would be a perfect time and a perfect example of what can be done for the children and the adults/parents. Mrs. Perry said if the road repairs are not done properly, why continue with the same company? Why are we paying them if they are not being done right? What recourse do they have for them? Mrs. Perry said the Senior Center calendar lists three or more events each day, but there are no times or phone numbers. How do people know when to go because, more days or not, the Senior Center is closing every day at 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Perry asked the Board of Commissioners to recognize the sports teams at Lamar County High School and Middle School, such as golf, soccer, etc. She said they need to recognize all of these young people for the education and sports they have accomplished.

Donald Hartman, 507 Old Milner Road, addressed the board. Mr. Hartman said for those who are listening and can see him, and for those who received the Herald Gazette, he said he is sorry, but this is not transparency. Some people on social media have said this is a keyboard warrior. He said if you are going to be transparent about the SWA that sits in his front yard, the Enercon building; be transparent. Unfortunately, some of the past Commissioners signed off and guaranteed them on the loan. He said one of the Commissioners is present today, and if he asked that person to co-sign off on a \$500,000.00 motor coach, they would not co-sign a loan. Why would you co-sign and put the whole County on the hook? Give us some transparency. Mr. Hartman addressed County Attorney Mayfield and said if they co-signed on the loan, did they not deserve better updates for the County? Do they not have some leverage here? He said he did not know; he was not a lawyer, but he went to school. The last update was the first of the year. They get another update in the paper: transparency, keyboard warrior. Mr. Hartman said they need better representation. They need answers. Mr. Hartman said Chairman Traylor talked about a hostile environment and representing the community. There is a Commissioner who brings too much drama to Facebook, so much that the lawyer almost has to say, get off Facebook. Mr. Hartman said a lot of them stay off Facebook, and that is probably a good thing; too much drama. He said they are starting to look like all the drama in Dalton, Illinois, and the Super Mayor Tiffany Henyard. Look at all the drama she has brought to that community and the FBI: a lot of wrongdoing. Mr. Hartman said he spoke about respect, co-signing the loan and needing better updates, and leachate being hauled to the new facility. He said that is about 60 truckloads and wanted to know how it was getting over there. He said he had not seen the first tanker truck over there. Mr. Hartman said they need to do a better job of patching the roadways. He has seen no town hall meeting posted. Mr. Hartman said the 1941 truck area, Yancey, is being used for a yard, and an additional grave driveway has been added. He believes they are doing some fabrication

in that facility and does not know if it is zoned for this. Mr. Hartman said this is a restricted road for commercial motor vehicles.

11. **Round Table**

Commissioner Fletcher said he heard the comments about recognizing the students and said they are working on Proclamations to recognize them at the Regular Business Meeting. There are a number of them that broke State records. Commissioner Fletcher requested to add this to the agenda as 2024 High School Athlete. Chairman Traylor noted that Commissioner Fletcher and Commissioner Thrash are working on getting the necessary information from the school system.

Commissioner Lovett requested that the SWA invoice be put on the Regular Business Meeting agenda.

County Administrator Townsend said businesses in the City of Barnesville are getting letters about backflow testing. He said the quotes are for around \$19,000.00 to \$23,000.00. Therefore, he is sending the Maintenance Director to training in Griffin for backflow certification. The course is \$750.00. The equipment will be ordered after he is certified. The equipment will cost anywhere from \$1,900.00 to \$2,300.00. Commissioner Fletcher asked if the equipment prices would increase if they waited. County Administrator Townsend said they need to make sure they order the right piece of equipment. The training will be held June 11th through June 19th. It is a 32-hour course.

Chairman Traylor said that, along with County Administrator Townsend, he met with Judge Wilson and his staff at the Courthouse; they walked around the building and looked at everything. They contacted a local vendor for pricing on pressure washing the Courthouse but have yet to receive it. It will be broken down in phases so the cost will be reduced. They have discussed utilizing the road to access the park on Hwy 36 with Vulcan. They cannot do that because there is a berm they have built all the way around the property. Chairman Traylor stated that Beverly Eskridge met with County Clerk Davidson and requested Joyce Farmer to be placed on the agenda to discuss the Animal Shelter. He said he has reached out to both of them to see if there is anything that he can discuss with them prior to the meeting but has not been able to speak with them. Chairman Traylor said several questions and statements were made during the Public Comments, but sometimes there are questions and ideas about things that can be improved. He told them not to wait until the Workshop or Regular Business Meetings to address their issues to contact the Department, County Administrator, Commissioner, or Chairman. The issue with the Senior Center Calendar or the issue with the roof leaking at the gym is an easy one to address.

12. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at approximately 1:50 p.m. Vice-Chair Gilles 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