

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Business Meeting
Administration Building
November 18th 2025

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.

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

Pastor Sam Bennett of Ramah Primitive Baptist Church provided the invocation. Pastor Bennett noted that Ramah Church as a program much like the “Boy Scouts of America” called Trail Life Troop for boys age 5 to 17 and added that they are also working on having a girls Trail Life Troop for girls age 5 to 17 in the Spring.

4. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Boyle made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Certificate of Appreciation – Bill Christopher

Recognized Bill Christopher with a plaque of appreciation for his 7 years of service on the Board of Elections as member of the Board of Elections and as the Chairman for the Board of Elections, a Science teacher at the Lamar County Comprehensive High School, and a for his service on the Milner Library Board. He moved to Lamar County and Milner Georgia when he was 15 years old where he has lived his entire life. Mr. Christopher stated he loves Lamar County and this community. He served in the Military and as a pastor in a house the Church he attended owned.

6. Presentation – Lamar County Department of Public Health

Presenter: Nurse Manager Sherry Farr and Additional Speaker: Brett Sims, Environmental Health Manager

Nurse Manager Farr thanked the Lamar County Board of Commissioners for their concerns towards the needs of the Lamar County Board of Health and the Lamar County citizens.

Board of Health Members

- Dr. Lee Woodall, Chairman
- Dr. Samantha Bishop, Vice Chairman
- Robert Taylor
- Mayor Kelly Hughes
- Dr. Jessica Watson
- Laura Trice
- County Commission Chairman Rylan Traylor

Nurse Manager Farr explained that their responsibilities include ensuring compliance with public health rules and regulations. They are tasked to make sure they are meeting the needs of the individuals in Lamar County.

District 4 Health Leadership Team

- Beverley A. Townsend, MD, MBS, FAAFP- Acting District Health Director
- Amy Fenn, RN, BSN- Director of Nursing
- Barbara Stephens- Director of Business Operations
- Miranda Helms- Senior Manager of Accreditation, and QI & Community Health
- Linda Jones-District Administrator
- Seth Woodrow-Environmental Health Director
- Freda Mitchum-Nutrition Service Director
- Robert Baldwin-Emergency Preparedness Director

Lamar County Health Department Staff

Clinical

Sherry Farr, RN, BSN County Nurse Manager
 Stephanie Durham, RN
 Sarah Buckle, LPN
 Valerie Presley, Adm Asst
 Kali Vickers, CSR

Environmental Health

Brett Sims, Environmental Health Manager

Other

WIC Nutritionist and CSR 2-days a week
 Dental Hygienist and Dentist 1-day a week

LCHD: Clinical Services

- Women's Wellness
- Immunizations
- STD Screenings/Treatment
- TB Screenings/Treatment

- Children's Wellness Checks
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Pregnancy and Women's Health Medicaid/Case Management
- Lab work with provider order
- Community Education
- Child Passenger Safety Program- Free Car seats with an hour class time.

Nurse Manager Farr stated that the Health Department services are preventative, not clinical care for sick individuals. They do go into the primary, elementary and middle schools for wellness checks with guardian signed approvals. They serve around 150 children annually. These students would otherwise not see a doctor, and they also do not miss class. One of only counties has a dental clinics of its kind in the region, and it is unique to Lamar County. They have offer dementia screenings and they have recently was selected as one of six health departments in Georgia to serve as telehealth appointment locations through Georgia Memory Net. After receiving a primary care doctor's referral, an individual can now come with a loved one to a telehealth appointment at the Lamar County Health Department, where a private, designated area is available for them to visit with a specialist through an online video call. They also have a Women's Health and Healthy Babies Initiatives.

They also have the following services:

- HIV Prevention Testing
- Home Visting Program for women with troubled pregnancies
- Children's first and early prevention hearing test
- Emergency Preparedness Group
- Department that deals with infections and diseases

LCHD: Environmental Health:

Brett Sims, Environmental Health Manager handles inspections and complaints and monitors safety concerns related to the following areas. He explained his role and their services offered:

- Permitted Usage
- Septic Systems
- Permitted and Testing Wells
- Routine Food Inspections
- Permitting New Restaurants and Mobile Food Units
- Rabies
- Work with Animal Controls and two State Labs for animals in fights and euthanizations
- Complaints from citizens regarding sewage on the ground or in the home
- Food Service Complaints regarding Restaurants

LCHD: COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

- Lamar County Family Connection Collaborative
- Lamar County School System
- First Readers
- Gordon State College and University
- Lamar County DFACS
- Lamar County Counseling Center
- Lamar County Senior Center
- Barnesville/Lamar County Boys and Girls Club

LCHD: Health Department Budgets

Typical Health Department Funding/Operating Budgets Come From:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • GGIA funding 65% | LAMAR 41% |
| • County contributions 5% | LAMAR 13% |
| • Fees (minimal and variable) [20-50%] | LAMAR 46% |

LCHD 2025 FINANCE REPORT

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| • GIA: | \$296,649 |
| • COUNTY: | \$100, 000 |
| • FEES/OTH REV: | \$336,979 |
| • TOTAL REV: | \$733,628 |

Nurse Manager Farr encouraged everyone to follow them on Social Media and to visit the DPH Website: [Lamar County - District 4 Public Health - Georgia Public Health Department](#).

Chairman Traylor said that when he was elected as the Chairman of the Lamar County Board of Commissioner, the only board he knew he was guaranteed to serve on was the Lamar County Health Board. Commissioner Traylor said working in health care/physical therapy for 22 years, they have a blessing in Nurse Manager Sherry Farr. He said when he goes to conferences, people are bragging about the Lamar County Health Department. Across the State the Lamar County Health Department gets recognized almost every year. Chairman Traylor said that while working at Gordon State College he realized that one day he will need a PHD and he was not interested in anything in particular that he wanted to study. He said that Nurse Manager Farr invited him to a conference in Jekyll Island, and he decided to do his PHD work in this field. Chairman Traylor expressed appreciation for the value Nurse Manager Farr brings to the County also thanking Environmental Health Manager Sims for what he does.

7. Recreation Board Appointment – Christa Newcomb

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to appoint Christa Newcomb to the Recreation Board. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Minutes Approval

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

Workshop Agenda – October 16, 2025

Budget Workshop Agenda – October 17, 2025

Public Hearing Minutes – October 21, 2025

Regular Business Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2025

9. Old Business

None.

10. New Business

1. Ordinance 2025-20 – Rezoning AR to R2

Applicant: Ronald and Gloria Cobb

Location: 1307 McCollum Road (Tax ID 050 072)

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-20. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Ordinance 2025-21 – Rezoning R3 to Neighborhood Commercial

Applicant: Justin Laney

Location: Francis Street (Tax ID 049 095)

On the advice of Attorney Mayfield, Commissioner Gilles made a motion to remove Ordinance 2025-21 from the agenda and send it back to the Planning Commission Board. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Resolution 2025-22 – Special Exception Application

Applicant: T-Mobile

Location: Crane Road (Tax ID 010 012)

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-22 Special Exception. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Beer and Wine License Renewals

2026 ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICANTS				
LICENSE TYPE	NAME	BUSINESS	STREET	ELIGIBILITY
Beer By the Drink	Hugh Mangham	Deer Trail Country Club	1782 Hwy 341 South	MEETS
B/W By the Drink	Jennifer Hovis	Honeywood Gardens	894 Hwy 18 West	MEETS
B/W By the Drink	Ronald L. Horton	The Rendevouz Goodwood LLC	134 Crawford Rd	MEETS
B/W Package	Rujuta Patel	Arihant C Stores I, LLC dba TJ Outfitters	1054 Hwy 36 West	MEETS
Farm Winery	Stephanie Thomas	The Goth Gardener	356 Cook Rd	MEETS
B/W Package	Anitaben Patel	A AND S 2023 LLC dba C&B Store	402 Fredonia Church Rd	MEETS
B/W Package	Sohel Battiwala	Majik Market	919 Veterans Pkwy	MEETS

Vice-Chairman Fletcher made a motion to approve the above listed 2026 Alcohol License Applicants. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Probation Services Agreement – Judicial Alternatives of Georgia (JAG)

County Administrator Townsend explained that this agreement is necessary so that the Courts can release information and other items for Probation Services. The agreement is for a period of three years.

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia (JAG) Probation Services agreement between the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia, Inc and Magistrate Court of Lamar County. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Courthouse Windows Replacement

County Administrator Townsend presented two bids for the Courthouse window replacements.

- Storefront: \$119,550.00
- Manley Glass & Glazing LLC: \$112,187.50

Discussion:

- Consideration for warranty, tinting, historical appearance, and local business support.
- Both companies receive glass from Bankston Lumber.
- Recommendation to verify details with Doug Cherry.
- Final decision to select the staff recommended Manley Glass & Glazing LLC, 472 Cannafax Road, with tint included.

Vice-Chairman Fletcher approved a proposal from Manley Glass & Glazing for a cost of \$112,187.50. Commissioner Gille seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Motion carried.

11. Administrator's Report

November Report Highlights:

- Revenue: \$2,033,933.61
- Expenditures: \$1,489,357.96
- Forecasted Cash Flow: Approximately \$13,112,216.38 (variance between budget and actual)
- Updates provided for:
 - General Fund: \$887,046.04
 - Special Revenue Funds: \$51,091,76
 - Capital Projects: \$3,143,039.81
 - Sinking Fund / TSPLOST projects \$2,992,557.85

Project Updates:

- Atlanta Street / GDOT: guardrail, cross-drain widening, work expected to resume in spring.
- Chapel Mill and High Falls: deeds obtained.
- EXP land disturbance permit ongoing (Nov–Dec).
- CW Matthews behind on paving due to recent cold snap.

Tax and Revenue Collections:

- LOST: \$153,277.43
- SPLOST: \$268,910.27
- TSPLOST: \$250,255.97

County Administrator gave an overview of the Collections.

TSPLOST collection rate for 2025 was 5.3 percent. The collection rate for LOST and SPLOST is 3.6. The collection on gas tax goes to the Local Maintenance Agreement (LMIG) which is where the paving projects come from.

LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) is Split between the municipalities in Lamar County and disbursed directly to each entity per month.

SPLOST (Special Local Option Sales Tax) is split between the municipalities in Lamar County based on an agreement among each entity. The Town of Aldora was paid first, then the City of Milner received their distribution up front. After these two entities are paid, Lamar County receives the remaining distributions and sends the portion based on the split below that belongs to the City of Barnesville. This is based on the Intergovernmental Agreement between all municipalities in Lamar County.

Lamar County : 60%

City of Barnesville : 40 %

Other Items:

AmeriPro Health:

Request: 254 Transport: 137 Refusal: 87 Cancellation: 30 Response Time: 6:14

- Mutual Aid between Upson County: 8
- AmeriPro Ambulance service: 5 out-of-county transports.
- Wednesday had 33 EMS calls.

Commissioner Lovett thanked County Administrator Townsend for his work with the Rock Springs Road work and his efforts acquiring the rights-of-way. County Administrator in turn thanked Commissioner Lovett for his tremendous help with this task.

12. Public Comment

None.

13. Round Table

Vice-Chairman Fletcher:

- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He said regardless of what you believe they all have something to be thankful for.

Commissioner Lovett:

- Reported he had a very brief meeting with several people last night. Thanked Commissioner Boyle and Commissioner Gilles for what they are doing. It is a big hurdle, and it has taken a long time. He hears, feels, and sees the frustrations from those guys and how difficult it is to put with it. Commissioner Lovett said he is choosing his words carefully because he ends up in a Federal Lawsuit every time they talk about it. Commissioner Lovett said he appreciates the work they are doing, holding the line for the County, and trying to find the truth in the matter.

Commissioner Gilles:

- The Haunted House was a huge success, and they charged \$5.00 per person. They made \$3,600.00. That was 144 people that came through the door per hour.
- Gave much thanks and appreciation to the following people and businesses:
Mitch's Automotive and the donation of the Rage Car, Bethany Bridges, Shannon Ramey, Collen Kiefer and her son, Jennifer Hudson and her two kids, Carlos Vargas, Michael Searcy, Gabe Tosh, Cassie Gilles, Peyton & Hailey Stanley, and a group of their friends, the Barnesville-Lamar County Historical Society and its members, the Fire Department for walking through and checking the fire extinguishers to make sure everyone was safe.
- Thanked Walter Geiger for his huge write up in the Herald Gazette regarding the Haunted House.
- Reported the Haunted House was a great success, and they would be doing this next year.
- Reminded everyone of the Christmas Parade on December 13th. The Commissioners will be in the parade so be on the lookout for their float.

Commissioner Boyle:

- Echoed Commissioner Lovett's appreciation
- Noted a stalemate with the Solid Waste Authority but they are being included in the emails with correspondence.
- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving

County Administrator Townsend

- Encouraged everyone to follow the Lamar County Commissioners' Facebook Page. The Facebook page has reached 50,000 views.

County Clerk Davidson

- Wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and said to eat a lot of Turkey.

Chairman Traylor:

- Reported news that the Courthouse Windows will have a 10-year glass warranty per the manufacturer.
- Announced Continental Tire is closing their doors and the significant financial and personal impact on the community.
- Emphasized gratitude during the holiday season.
- Thanked Elaine Hallada for increasing citizen involvement, noting that the room used to be empty.

- Encouraged residents to stay engaged in local government.
- Noted difficulty reaching state-level officials like the Governor vs. local accessibility.
- Commented on recent accidents; one involving himself who still cannot throw or play sports due to a back injury.
- Urged safe driving and community awareness to reduce accidents.
- Encouraged safe holiday travel.

14. Executive Session

None

1. Real Estate
2. Litigation
3. Personnel

15. Adjournment

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at 7:57 p.m. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lamar County Board of Commissioners

Ryran Traylor, Chairman

Jarrod Fletcher , Vice-Chairman

Jason Lovett, Commissioner

Ashley Gilles, Commissioner

Truman Boyle, Commissioner

Attest: _____ Carlette Davidson, County Clerk