

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, May 12, 2008

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Vice Chairman J. Edgar Roberts
Commissioner Richard C. Lee
Commissioner G. Robert Carter

Chairman Casey was not in attendance.

Vice Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPOINTMENTS

Lowndes County South Regional Joint Development Authority, Vice Chairman Roberts introduced the item. Commissioner Lee stated that he was under the impression the authority and appointments were going to be discussed with the Industrial Authority. Commissioner Carter concurred with Commissioner Lee's statement.

Lowndes County Public Facilities Authority, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, stated that the current appointments would expire June 30, 2008. Commissioner Lee added that the Chairman was serving as a current appointee; however, his elected term will expire December 31, 2008. Commissioner Lee asked if a member of the Commission had to serve. County Attorney, Walter Elliott, stated that he would research the matter and report back to the Commission.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of April 21, 2008, and the regular session of April 22, 2008. No changes to the minutes were requested.

Local Government Fiscal Impact of Land Use in Lowndes County, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, requested that the Commission acknowledge the presence of Dr. Jeffrey Dorfman. Further, Dr. Dorfman was in attendance for the purpose of formally presenting the Lowndes County Fiscal Impact Study that was previously distributed to the Commission at their annual planning retreat. Dr. Dorfman addressed the Commission regarding the contents of his report to include data regarding the importance of planning and the impact current growth has on the fiscal viability of Lowndes County. Dr. Dorfman further stated that Lowndes County government was doing an excellent job managing the cost of providing services to residents. Mr. Pritchard added that County Planner, Jason Davenport, and Dr. Dorfman would be meeting with members of the Home Builder's Association in an effort to answer any of their questions related to the study.

PUBLIC HEARING

Special Tax Lighting District, Northlake Subdivision Section IX, North Valdosta Road, 160 lots, County Planner, Jason Davenport, presented the item with two conditions. County Manager, Joe Pritchard, stated that the resolution needed to include the conditions. Mr. Davenport stated that he would have the resolution updated prior to the regular meeting the following evening. Commissioner Lee asked if there was any cost to the County to which Mr. Davenport stated no. Mr. Davenport added that this request was being presented under the new policy, saving the County \$17,000.00 that would have taken twenty years to recover.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Lake Julian Trust Indenture, Utility Director, Mike Allen, presented the item. Commissioner Lee asked how close the development was to County water to which Mr. Allen replied 400 feet outside of the 1,000 feet required. Mr. Allen added that lots would be served by County sewer. Commissioner Lee asked if there was potential for a partnership with the developer being that the distance was only 400 feet. Mr. Allen replied that he would ask, adding that Interstate 75 was an issue.

Utility Rate Study from BP Barber, County Manger, Joe Pritchard, stated that the Commission had previously approved adding a rate study to the master plan review. Vice Chairman Roberts stated that he hoped the study would not indicate the need for a rate increase. Commissioner Lee added that hopefully it would reflect that the rates are currently healthier than expected.

Alltel Air Cards for Mobile Data Terminals, ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Further, Mr. Kostyu stated that current coverage for the in-car computers was not consistent throughout the County and that the cards would ensure consistency. Commissioner Carter asked if the battery system in the cars would be able to handle the system to which Mr. Kostyu replied yes, they would only add connectivity.

Request to Abandon a Portion of Indian Ford Road, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, informed the Commission that Engineering had received a request to abandon a portion of Indian Ford Road due to the amount of illegal dumping and trespassing experienced by property owners. Mr. Fletcher added that due to the fact that the portion of road in question was already a dead end, he did not feel it would have an adverse effect on current infrastructure.

Contract between Lowndes County and Lake Bowden LLC for the Paving of Peat Moss Road, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, stated that when Mr. Bowden requested that a portion of Peat Moss Road be closed in 2007, he agreed that he would be financially responsible for paving the road. Further, Mr. Fletcher added that upon the Commission's approval Mr. Bowden would agree in writing to reimburse the County for paving costs within ten days of the County's invoice.

Adopt Resolution Accepting Infrastructure for Miller Farms Subdivision, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, stated that final issues were being addressed and that the infrastructure was ready for acceptance. Commissioner Lee asked if Davidson Road had been paved to which Mr. Fletcher replied that paving began the week prior.

Beer license, Mary Wadle for Mad Dogs located at 4030A Bemiss Road, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, informed the Commission that the request was being made by a new establishment and that all requirements had been successfully met.

Jail Expansion Project – Phase II Drawings, RFP, Form CM Agreement, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, stated that he and Construction Technician, Chad McLeod, had been working with the architect and County Attorney in an effort to present the Commission with the documents before them. A representative from Clemons, Rutherford and Associates, provided the Commission with a brief explanation of the documents and the construction schedule. Commissioner Lee stated that the process seemed basically the same as Phase I of the project to which County Attorney, Walter Elliott, stated that Commissioner Lee was correct. Vice Chairman Roberts stated in looking at the factors by which proposals would be evaluated, he thought experience was more important than the current scale reflected. Further, he wanted to make sure local contractors were given as much opportunity to participate as possible. Commissioner Lee asked for specific numbers regarding current local participation.

BIDS

Patching Truck for Public Works, Purchasing Agent, Lisa Burton, stated that the vehicle would be responsible for all the patching in the county. Further, Beck Motors presented the lowest bid that met specs. Ms. Burton added that the low bidder did not attend the mandatory pre-bid meeting. Commissioner Carter stated that he would like to award the bid locally, if possible.

Fuel Truck for Public Works, Purchasing Agent, Lisa Burton, presented that Beck Motors submitted the low bid. Vice Chairman Roberts asked for the percentage difference between the low bid and the local bid to which Finance Director, Stephanie Black, replied 2.3%. Public Works Director, Robin English, added that the International Truck the County currently owned had been in the shop for repair forty percent of the time since purchase.

Peat Moss Road Paving, Purchasing Agent, Lisa Burton, presented the bid for paving, recommending Reames & Sons as the low bidder. Ms. Burton added that Lake Bowden, LLC, would reimburse the County for all paving costs within ten days of being invoiced.

Traffic Signal Installation at Val Tech Rd. and Shiloh Road, Purchasing Agent, Lisa Burton, stated that a study completed by ASA Engineering & Surveying had determined a need for a traffic signal. Further, the County had received one bid, from Corbett Electrical Construction.

New Bridges for Skipper Bridge Road, Purchasing Agent, Lisa Burton, stated that the request before the Commission would provide for a vendor to install the previously approved bridges. Further, staff recommended that the bid be awarded to low bidder, Southern Concrete.

REPORTS

Third Annual World Culture Folk Dance Competition Presentation, Suzanna Patterson, Valdosta State University, with assistance from Michael Knowles, presented the Commission with information to include a request for funding for the national folk festival. Vice Chairman Roberts stated that he had attended the festival in the past and that it was a worth while event.

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, informed the Commission that the online auction of surplus property had proven to be more lucrative than the average auction. Further, the City of Waycross had requested to purchase a low boy that was posted online prior to the end date of the auction. The Commission agreed that the County needed to take advantage of the competitive bid process and leave the equipment online until the end of the auction.

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, also asked the Commission to consider rescheduling the May 26, 2008, work session due to observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. The Commission agreed to hold the work session on Friday, May 23 at 8:00 a.m.

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, stated that the 2008 Quarterly Report – Planning 1st Quarter, was before the Commission for review.

Vice Chairman Roberts adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Rodney N. Casey, Chairman

K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk