

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, August 12, 2019

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Vice Chairman Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Joyce E. Evans
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall
Commissioner Clay Griner

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

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of July 22, 2019, and the regular session of July 23, 2019. No changes to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENT

Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat currently held by Mr. Randall Crews expired June 30, adding Mr. Crews has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Commissioner Orenstein asked how many terms Mr. Crews has served, to which Mr. Pritchard replied at least two. Chairman Slaughter commented that Mr. Crews may be in his third term. Chairman Slaughter also stated the City of Valdosta has recently filled vacancies on the board, adding the community may see more activity from them soon.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Applications

Fire Chief/EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented a hazard mitigation grant request in the amount of \$1,176,015.51 to include a \$392,005.17 match from Pruitt Health Corporation. Mr. Tye stated the grants are usually only available to local governments and not for profit facilities; however, for profit nursing homes are now allowed to apply for assistance through a local government. Mr. Tye further stated if funded, the grant will pay seventy-five percent and Pruitt Health Corporation will pay twenty-five percent toward the total cost of generators that will be used to power Pruitt nursing home facilities in the event of a power outage. Chairman Slaughter clarified that the request includes five separate grant applications, to which Mr. Tye replied yes. Mr. Tye stated one or all of the applications could be funded based on his conversations with GEMA.

EMGrants User Access Agreement

Fire Chief/EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the agreement. Mr. Tye stated Lowndes County receives \$32,770.00 in funding each year from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Tye further stated the funds are received in return for the County agreeing to maintain an Emergency Management Agency, adding the agreement is a renewal of the existing terms.

Dell Lease Purchase Schedule

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented a lease agreement schedule in the amount of \$43,178.61, to cover laptops for the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Kostyu stated the actual purchase was approved at the Commission's May 14, 2019, regular meeting.

Signing of Master Services Agreement (MSA) between IBM and Lowndes County.

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated approval of the Master Services Agreement covers support services for IBM data storage hardware. Chairman Slaughter asked if the item is budgeted, to which Mr. Kostyu replied yes.

Annual Contract Renewal for Mosquito Identification and Testing

Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, presented an agreement in the amount of \$45,790.00, between Lowndes County and Valdosta State University for the trapping, identification and testing of mosquitoes for the purpose of monitoring the County for mosquito borne diseases. Mrs. Cumbus stated the agreement is a renewal of the current terms.

Howell Lane R/W Property Just Compensation

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the County needs to acquire 0.05+/- acres of real property along Howell Lane for road right of way. Mr. Fletcher further stated the Commission must determine the "just compensation" purchase price to offer property owner, Cecelia Carr, and approve a related resolution. Mr. Fletcher added Bajalia & Associates, LLC's appraised value for the property is \$1,489.00.

SPLOST VIII

County Attorney, Walter Elliott, stated Lowndes County and the cities of Valdosta, Hahira, Lake Park, Remerton and Dasher have all approved the SPLOST VIII Agreement. Mr. Elliott further stated the Commission must now approve the required Resolution calling for the tax. Commissioner Marshall questioned the deadline to submit the Resolution. Mr. Elliott stated the goal is to forward the information the following day, adding the deadline is next week.

BIDS

LAS & Pump Station Improvements

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented bids received for improvements to the County's Land Application Site and Bevel Creek, Francis Lake and Coleman Road lift stations. Mr. Stalvey stated all bids were higher than anticipated. Mr. Stalvey further stated staff negotiated with low bidder, Doyle Hancock & Sons Construction, Inc., to an agreed upon cost of \$1,520,858.00. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked if the County has done business with Doyle Hancock & Sons Construction, Inc. in the past, to which Mr. Stalvey replied no. Mr. Stalvey stated staff did check references and received

favorable reviews. Commissioner Marshall questioned the drop in cost from \$2,495,140.00 to \$1,520,858.00. Mr. Stalvey stated some items initially included had to be eliminated to reduce project costs.

Paving on Howell Lane and a portion of Lester Road

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the County solicited bids for the paving on Howell Lane and a portion of Lester Road. Mr. Fletcher stated The Scruggs Company submitted the low bid in the amount of \$849,354.00.

Replacement of Hickory Grove Road Bridges

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item with Southern Concrete Construction Company submitting the sole bid in the amount of \$2,613,684.00. Mr. Fletcher stated the project will replace two bridges on Hickory Grove Road, one over Mud Swamp and one over Grand Bay Creek. Mr. Fletcher further stated the projects represent the County's first constrained project under TIA. Chairman Slaughter questioned how long the road would be closed. Mr. Fletcher stated that once GDOT approves the bridge plan, the contractor will have 180 days to complete the project and have the road open.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, informed the Commission that staff will have the millage rate prepared for consideration during the August 27 Regular Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Evans second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:46 a.m.