

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
Tuesday, January 14, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

District Census Representative, Thad Wright, addressed the Commission and those in attendance regarding the importance of being counted during the upcoming Census.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Griner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Griner

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of December 9, 2019, and the regular meeting of December 10, 2019. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Valdosta Lowndes County Conference Center and Tourism Authority

Chairman Slaughter stated the seat currently held by Mrs. Molly Deese expired December 31. Chairman Slaughter nominated Mrs. Deese for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Deese was appointed by acclamation.

Lowndes County Board of Health

Chairman Slaughter presented the appointment stating the seat held by Dr. Frances Brown expired on December 31, 2019. Chairman Slaughter further stated Dr. Brown would like to be reappointed. Commissioner Orenstein nominated Dr. Brown for reappointment. There being no other appointments, Dr. Brown was appointed by acclamation.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Special Assessment Rate for 2020

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the county is required to set the special assessment rate each year at two percent above prime, which is 4.75%. Commissioner Griner made a motion to set the 2020 Special Assessment rate at 6.75%, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Pine Straw Harvesting Agreement

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, stated staff solicited bids for the harvesting of pine straw at the county's Land Application Site in south Lowndes County. Mr. Stalvey stated Southern Pine Needles of NC, LLC, submitted the highest proposal in the amount of \$36,250.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to accept the high bid as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Request to Purchase New Firefighter Turnout Gear

EMA Director/Fire Chief, Ashley Tye, presented a request to purchase fourteen sets of firefighter turnout gear from Ten-8 Fire Equipment, in the amount of \$28,327.04. Commissioner Griner asked if it would be a problem to table consideration of the purchase until after the Commission discusses Fire Rescue at their upcoming retreat. Chief Tye stated it will take twelve weeks for the gear to deliver once ordered, adding it is needed. Chief Tye further stated the year is provided for in the current budget. Vice Chairman Marshall asked how many volunteer firefighters the county currently has, to which Chief Tye replied seventy-seven. Vice Chairman Marshall asked which stations the gear would go to. Chief Tye stated the order is based on replacement need instead of by station. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to table the purchase until the Commission meeting following the annual retreat, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Standard Utility / Contract Item Agreement for Exit 2 Utility Relocation

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented an agreement between Lowndes County and the Georgia Department of Transportation for the relocation of county utilities impacted by the Exit 2 realignment project. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Lease Agreement with the State Properties Commission for the Division of Family & Children Services (DFACS)

Project Manager, Chad McLeod, presented a lease agreement between Lowndes County and the State Properties Commission, in the amount of \$407,304.96. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

2020 Stop Loss Insurance Coverage Through Symetra Life Ins. Company

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the annual renewal in the amount of \$906,684.00. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the renewal based on Option 2 and as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Set Qualifying Fees

Chairman Slaughter presented a resolution to set the qualifying fees for the 2020 election cycle. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the fees as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Bid for a 3,000 Gallon Tanker for the Fire Department

Chairman Slaughter presented the bid and asked the Commission if they would like to table consideration until after the annual planning retreat, during which Fire Rescue will be discussed. Commissioner Griner made a motion to table consideration until the meeting after the retreat, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Paving - Quail Hollow Acres Subdivision

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the project includes Grouse Road, Setter Drive, Bob White Drive, Pointer Drive, Covey Trail and .24 miles of Vann Road. Mr. Fletcher further stated The Scruggs Company submitted the low bid, in the amount of \$985,483.31. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the low bidder as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS

No additional information was reported.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

Bob Dewar, 6720 Clyattstone Road, addressed the commission regarding his concerns related to the width of the right of way proposed on Clyattstone Road. Chairman Slaughter stated the Commission and staff will meet with Mr. Dewar and any other interested residents present immediately after the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 6:06 p.m.