

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, February 22, 2021

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

2021 Comprehensive Plan Kick-off Presentation (Work Session only)

Elizabeth Backe, Planning Director with the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, spoke regarding the 2021 Comprehensive Plan update for Lowndes County and all of the cities (Dasher, Lake Park, Remerton, Hahira and Valdosta). Ms. Backe stated the last update was in 2016. Commissioner Marshall asked for a copy of the presentation Ms. Backe presented, Mr. Dillard responded he would email the presentation. Commissioner Orenstein asked regarding the citizens and community who may like to attend these meetings, Ms. Backe stated there is a kick off meeting being held tomorrow, after the regular session meeting of the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and additional meetings/workshops would be held and dates made available through social media or by contacting the Southern Georgia Regional Commission's office.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of February 8, 2021 and the regular session of February 9, 2021. No changes to the minutes were requested.

FOR CONSIDERATION

TIA Local Agreement for Briggston Road, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the Georgia Department of Transportation has reviewed and approved the Briggston Road improvements project.

TIA Local Agreement for Shiloh Road, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the Georgia Department of Transportation has reviewed and approved the Shiloh Road widening and bridge replacement project. Chairman Slaughter asked how far was the widening, Mr. Fletcher stated to Snake Nation Road. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the timeline, Mr. Fletcher stated he believed it was October 2023, but would verify.

Approval of Hightower Road and Cooper Road Right of Way Purchases, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented a request in the amount of \$10,195.00, for the purchase of right of way. Mr. Fletcher stated Lowndes County has negotiated purchase of right of way related to the proposed paving projects for property numbers 13,14,15,16,17,18,19,22 and 33. Mr. Fletcher additionally stated the Commission is required to approve each of the acquisitions in a public vote.

Purchase of Wetland and Stream Credits for Old US 41 North Widening Project, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented a proposal from Williams Investments, LLC, in the amount of \$168,880.00, for the purchase of wetland and stream credits as a result of the Old US 41 North widening project.

Just Compensation - Right of Way Parcel 10 Hightower Road and Cooper Road, TSPLOST Project, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated Lowndes County needs to acquire fee simple right of way for a drainage easement on Cooper Road. Mr. Fletcher stated the Commission must approve a "just compensation" cost, which in this case has been determined to be \$339.00.

Approval of the Solicitor General's VAWA Competitive Grant Award, Solicitor-General's Office Representative, Karen Hayes, presented the item. Ms. Hayes stated the Solicitor's office has been approved to receive \$50,000.00, in federal funds, adding the grant cycle is a four-year period with continuation funding required annually. Ms. Hayes further stated the cash match required by the county is \$19,167.00.

Request for the Purchase of Motorola Radios for Public Works, Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, presented a request in the amount of \$34,024.64, to purchase sixteen radios from Motorola. Mrs. Cumbus stated the current radios are outdated and no longer supported.

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Loan Application for the Lake Park Bellville Road Widening Project, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request to apply for a Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) loan in the amount of \$1,974,139.00, to be used for the widening of Lake Park Bellville Road which requires county utilities to be relocated.

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Loan Application for Lift Station & Manhole Rehab Project, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request to apply for a Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) loan in the amount of \$2,500,000.00, to be used for utility projects. Mr. Stalvey stated there is a component which allows for forgiveness up to \$625,000.00.

GMASS Rural Land Maintenance Contract, Chief Appraiser, Silas Hrobar, presented a contract in the amount of \$6,000.00, for the maintenance updates to the rural land schedule for the 2021 digest. Mr. Hrobar stated the Board of Assessors approved the contract prior to the Commission's consideration.

Approve Purchase of West Savannah Avenue and Briggs Street Properties, Senior Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the county has negotiated the purchase of two properties on West Savannah Avenue and one property on Briggs Street from the Southern Georgia Regional Commission for \$219,000.00.

Contract with Condrey and Associates, Inc., Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the contract in the amount of \$59,500.00. Mr. Beals stated Condrey and Associates, Inc., will conduct a complete position classification and compensation plan study. Mr. Beals stated the last review was in 2014, with job descriptions updated in 2016. Commissioner Marshall asked when this process would begin, Mr. Beals responded as soon as approved and the preliminary results would be available in May.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, introduced Mrs. Meghan Barwick, Lowndes County's Public Information Officer. Chairman Slaughter and the Commission welcomed Mrs. Barwick.

ADJOURNMENT

City of Valdosta Councilwomen, Vivian Miller Cody and Planning and Zoning Administrator, Matt Martin were in attendance and recognized by Chairman Slaughter. Commissioners Orenstein and Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chairman Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:56 a.m.