

motion to deny the request for the abandonment of a portion of Salem Church Road (CR#68) and a portion of Wells Road (CR #68 & CR #69), Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor of denial, no one opposed. Motion carried.

American Rescue Plan Funding Application for Utilities Repairs and Expansion, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item, stating the American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides funding for local municipalities to make repairs and improvements to their water and wastewater infrastructure. Lowndes County, in conjunction with Carter & Sloop Engineering, has identified several projects that meet the criteria for this funding opportunity. The total amount of these projects is \$10,500,000.00. The grant amount requested would be \$5,250,000.00, with Lowndes County matching with \$5,250,000.00. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the American Rescue Plan Funding Application for Utilities Repairs and Expansion for \$5,250,000.00, Vice Chairman Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Improvements to the Historic Carnegie Library Museum, Engineering Services Director, Chad McLeod, presented the item, with Kellerman Construction Company presenting the sole bid in the amount of \$237,168.00 and 120 days. Mr. McLeod stated improvements to the Historic Carnegie Library Museum is an approved project for SPLOST VIII. Vice Chairman Evans made a motion to award the bid to Kellerman Construction Company in the amount of \$237,168.00 and 120 days, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated over the past couple of months and the direction the commission has given staff to explore opportunities for broadband expansion in Lowndes County, several providers have been met with and there is APRA funding available, through the state, with the grant deadline being moved until the end of October. These meetings included Jason Shaw, Georgia Public Service Commissioner for our district, with the most viable grant request being received from Windstream. Staff would like to request permission to move forward as the lead applicant with Windstream, there is no financial obligation on the part of the county. The Windstream plan does include 18,900 locations at a total cost of 36.3 million and a grant request 16.2 million and Windstream plans an investment of 20.1 million. There's also a proposal from Hargray for 10,300 locations at a total cost of 54 million and they plan to split that amount if awarded. Mediacom has a proposal as well which hasn't been reviewed yet. Mrs. Dukes stated if any of these proposals are approved, these are all great providers. The Commission gave their approval for staff to proceed with the Windstream proposal. The Southern Georgia Regional Commission Area Officials Appreciation Evening will be held Tuesday, October 26th in Adel and at the Chairman's direction, the regular session commission meeting will be rescheduled for Monday, October 25th at 5:30 p.m. Flu shots will be available for employees on October 26-28, 2021 through the end of November at Airport Medical. The Lowndes County Sheriff's Department and the Valdosta Police Department announced Trick or Treating will be held Saturday, October 30th and a Halloween event will be held by the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Miller Business Park as a drive thru event. Lastly, Mrs. Dukes wanted to thank those for attending the Valdosta/Lowndes Love Your River Clean Up held on October 9th.