

Griner Lot Improvements, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County purchased the Griner property located just north of this building, at the corner of Webster Street and North Ashley Street in 2009. Recently, staff has been working on a design for the property and held a pre-bid conference a month ago, which three contractors attended. Staff received one (1) bid from Rountree Construction Company for \$2,542,586.00. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the timeline. Mr. McLeod stated the contract is 270 days. The delivery of pipe takes 3-5 months. Commissioner Wisenbaker stated he thinks this is not a top priority project and should be delayed. Commissioner Griner made the motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Marshall second. Those voting in favor of the motion to approve the request: Vice Chairman Orenstein, Commissioners Evans, Marshall, and Griner. Commissioner Wisenbaker opposed the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS – County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated on Friday, September 9, 2022, Utilities and Finance submitted six applications for a total request of \$44,000,000.00 in ARPA funding. This is a recent allocation made available through the State with a 10% match. The County will use existing ARPA funds for the match, if awarded. Mrs. Dukes recognized Rachel Bowen, Finance Department, for her diligence and hard work with ARPA funding guidelines. Mrs. Dukes thanked Stephanie Black, Finance Director, for allocating Mrs. Bowen's time on ARPA funding. Mrs. Dukes thanked everyone that made the 9-11 week a success and Mrs. Barwick for her work in promoting the event; because of this, Lowndes County was mentioned in the *ACCG Local Lens*. Mrs. Dukes stated Ron Isom, Utilities Department, came in first in his age group in the 9/11 5k run. Natasha Rathcamp, Human Resources, and Rachel Bowen, Finance, also participated in the 5k. She further stated the Fire Department had the largest group represented. Mrs. Dukes stated the kick off meeting for the Val Del Road traffic study was held on September 12, 2022, and it went well. The Water Assistance Days with Coastal Plain will begin Friday, September 16, 2022, and Mrs. Rachel Thrasher will be the point of contact. The County will host this event in the multi-purpose room for the county utility customers only. Staff is meeting next week for updates to the County's website. Several staff members will be attending DCA's Georgia Academy for Economic Development meeting in Moultrie next week. The third recruit class graduation and rank pinning ceremony will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at the Rainwater Conference Center at 10 AM. Mrs. Dukes thanked everyone who attended the last ceremony and encouraged everyone to attend this one, if possible. New banners will be placed in the parking lot and will be changed for the holidays, and electrical improvements to the exterior of the building will occur in order to hold Christmas activities (Santa and the Christmas tree) in the parking lot while the renovations to the historic Courthouse are conducted. Mrs. Dukes thanked Robin Cumbus, Director of Public Works, Mrs. Barwick, and Mrs. Thrasher for their work with this project. Mrs. Dukes wished Chairman Slaughter, Commissioner Evans and Commissioner Griner a happy birthday.