

single family residential does allow for two stories up to thirty-five feet. Commissioner Griner stated it would have to be single family residential, not an apartment complex, Mr. Dillard answered correct. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked for more detail as to why six members of the Planning Commission board voted to deny this request, Mr. Dillard responded the main concern and motion was focused on Commissioner Willis and the resources being out of character for the area and recognizing most of the surrounding buildings were one story single family, larger lots and the idea that a three-story complex seemed a drastic departure from the neighborhood. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked when was James Road rebuilt, Mrs. Dukes responded it was widened in 2009. Chairman Slaughter stated there is infrastructure that has been invested on James Road, not only by the City of Valdosta on the north end, but also by Lowndes County. Chairman Slaughter stated James Road is a four-lane highway, with a newly built school, Westside Elementary, and this is potentially going to be a growth area. Commissioner Marshall asked as far as plans to widen or improve Smith Street, Chairman Slaughter answered there are no plans at this time. Commissioner Marshall asked if approved, with 144 units, most units could have up to two vehicles and with the number of vehicles being added to travel Smith Street improvements will be needed, Chairman Slaughter stated it would be addressed at that time. Commissioner Evans stated at the Planning Commission meeting one of the concerns was the traffic on Smith Street. Commissioner Evans stated citizens mentioned the traffic during school hours. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked if the engineers were opposed to entering and exiting onto James Road, Mr. Dillard stated the main reason for the Smith Street entrance is to get the traffic off of James Road. Chairman Slaughter asked if the TRC had no objections, there would be no objections to the Smith Street entrance at this point, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod answered that is correct.

**Addition to Basic Decorative Lighting District: Ballantyne Subdivision (81 lots) and Quarterman Estates Subdivision, Phase 4, Section 1 (27 lots),**

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request has been advertised as required and staff recommends approval of adding the eighty-one (81) lots of the Ballantyne Subdivision and twenty-seven (27) lots of Quarterman Estates Subdivision, Phase 4, Section 1 into the County's basic decorative street lighting district. Mr. Dillard stated the current charge for the basic decorative street lighting is \$61.50 per lot, per year.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Dell Laptop Lease for Signature**, IT Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented a lease agreement schedule in the amount of \$150,900.00, over a three-year period. Mr. Kostyu stated the actual purchase was approved at the Commission's January 9, 2023, regular meeting.

**Abandonment of a Section of Hightower Road**, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated as part of the Hightower Road TIA project, staff worked with Moody Air Force Base to relocate a section of Hightower Road for the purposes of promoting security of aircraft at Moody Air Force Base. This project anticipates abandoning the highlighted 1693.52 foot section of the road located approximate to Moody Air Force Base. Mr. McLeod stated in order for a section of county road to be abandoned, Georgia Statute requires an initial determination either (a) "that the section of the county road system has for any reason ceased to be used by the public to the extent that no substantial public purpose is served by it" or (b) "that its removal from the county road system is otherwise in the best public interest," or both. If the Board makes either or both of these determinations, the statute provides for notice to adjoining property owners, notice to the public by newspaper publication, and a public hearing. Mr. McLeod stated removing the highlighted section of Hightower Road from the county road system is in the best public interest for the reason that it will