

Manager, Paige Dukes, stated the request from the haulers is they would like to know if the increase could be approved. Mrs. Dukes stated if the vote tonight is to approve the increases, we will revise the franchise documents and bring back before you for approval, with the ordinance being revised at a later date. County Attorney, Walter Elliott, stated if the Commission honors their request, the ordinance needs to be amended and then enter into the agreement after the ordinance is approved. Mr. Elliott stated both could be done at the same meeting, but the ordinance needs to be amended first and then the agreement based on the amended ordinance. Mr. Elliott stated the documents presented before the board now do not include any revisions mentioned. Chairman Slaughter stated approval tonight would be for the franchise agreement only and stated possibly the next meeting approval of the revisions to the ordinance which will change the hours and increase rates. Mr. Elliott stated you would be able to approve amended agreements at the same meeting, if the board chooses to do so. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked the number of customers for each business, Mr. Beals stated Advanced Disposal has 9,000 customers and Deep South Sanitation has 6,900 customers. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the renewal agreement with Deep South Sanitation, LLC, Commissioner Wisenbaker and Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Advanced Disposal Services Residential Solid Waste Franchise Renewal**

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals stated the current franchise for residential solid waste collection services expires March 31, 2023. Mr. Beals stated Advanced Disposal Services has applied to renew their existing franchise agreement. Mr. Beals stated Advanced Disposal Services has asked for two items to be adjusted, the monthly amount and the hours of the collection centers. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the renewal agreement with Advanced Disposal Services, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Windstream Build Agreement**

Finance Senior Accountant, Rachel Bowen, presented the item. Mrs. Bowen stated this item is regarding the Build Agreement for the Broadband Expansion Project between Lowndes County and Windstream. The State of Georgia provided a competitive grant using their ARPA allocation to address broadband access needs for citizens currently unserved or underserved in our area. The County partnered with Windstream to prepare an application for this funding, which resulted in the County receiving a grant award of \$21,783,961.00. The total project cost of \$39,420,865.00 will be comprised of the grant award from the state as well as \$17,636,904.00 in matching funds provided by Windstream. Mrs. Bowen stated this project will provide our citizens with reliable internet access that they previously did not have. Upon completion of the project, broadband access will be available to 16,193 residential locations and 1,434 business locations in Lowndes County. Commissioner Marshall asked County Manager, Paige Dukes regarding a registration link on their website or our website being available for citizens, Mrs. Dukes responded yes there is a link available. Vice Chairman Orenstein stated in addition to the grant amount of \$21,783,961.00 million, Windstream is matching funds with \$17,636,904.00 million into this project and wanted to recognize them for their contribution. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioners Evans and Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **PowerPhone Emergency Medical Dispatch with CAD Integration**

911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented the item. Mr. Weeks stated the PowerPhone has been used for many years in public safety and this will allow staff to do away with flip chart books and make direct entry into the CAD system to allow more efficient delivery of pre-arrival medical instructions to callers. Mr. Weeks stated training will be included in this package. Mr. Weeks stated \$85,000.00 will be coming out of this year's budget with the remaining \$31,286.00 being paid in the fiscal year 2024.