

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, September 25, 2023

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall was not in attendance.

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

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of September 11, 2023 and the regular session of September 12, 2023. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Quiet Pines Golf Course Ezgo Golf Cart Lease Agreement

Community Development Director, Rachel Thrasher, presented the item. Mrs. Thrasher stated Quiet Pines Golf Course has twenty-two semi-operational carts for use, aging between two - nine years old. Rather than replace the carts through purchase, the request is to proceed with a lease agreement with EZGO carts which will cover maintenance, warranty and ensure a full working fleet. The lease agreement is for forty-eight (48) months and will be financed through Wells Fargo Bank with a monthly payment of \$4,100.00 and an annual fee of \$50,160.00. Commissioner Griner asked how many carts? Mrs. Thrasher answered a quantity of thirty-eight (38) carts, which is what the cart barn is built to hold. Commissioner Orenstein asked if there was any value to the old carts and if the carts were owned by the County? Mrs. Thrasher responded the County does own the carts and possibly the carts could be sold on GovDeals. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked if there was a trade-in option available through the company? Mrs. Thrasher answered they will not take these carts since the new carts will have lithium batteries and the current carts are older with Yamaha batteries.

Mental Health Model Resolution for ACCG

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) has forwarded the resolution to all counties in Georgia with mental health being a conversation with the upcoming session of the General Assembly. As part of that, the ACCG is asking every county in the state to adopt this resolution, to show a collected and consolidated support to hopefully move the General Assembly in a good direction the next session. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked what are the improvements? Mrs. Dukes responded we don't have any details as of yet, more information will be forth coming. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker stated he is hoping for relief

for the jail. Mrs. Dukes stated if someone is on mental health medication and they are in jail, even though the medication is provided, you can't make them take it. If they commit additional crimes to end up in prison, the prison system can make them take it. Chairman Slaughter stated with the changes made ten years ago, mental health issues have come up short in being addressed in local communities and hopefully the state will look for improvements.

Purchase of Wetland Credits for Shiloh Road Bridge Project

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County is required to purchase 7.12 wetland credits as a result of the Shiloh Road Bridge Project. Mr. McLeod stated staff recommends the purchase of 7.12 wetland credits from Williams Investments, LLC in the total amount of \$85,440.00. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked is a credit an acre? County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, answered it depends on the type of wetland, some could be four (4) credits, per acre and some could be eight (8) credits, per acre. Chairman Slaughter asked what prompted this action? Mr. McLeod answered the bridge itself is being elevated and there will be a run around bridge with the original structure being temporarily closed. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked how many acres are needed? Mr. McLeod answered we will get that number for you.

FY25 5311 Regional Transit Resolution

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this is a continuing resolution with the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) 5311 Regional Transit. Mr. Dillard stated the FY2025 grant submission due date is October 31, 2023.

BIDS

Grove Pointe Lift Station Access Road

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the Grove Pointe lift station is located at the end of Courtland Circle cul-de-sac. For the past few years, the County has had issues getting to this site to perform the required maintenance, due to the area bordering wetlands. Lowndes County Utilities and Engineering staff have determined the only solution is to build a concrete drive and turn around area to the lift station. Two bids were received, Rountree Construction for \$320,031.25 and Southland Contractors, Inc. for \$222,377.49. Mr. Stalvey stated both bids had clerical errors that did not affect the price. Staff recommends the low bidder, Southland Contractors, Inc. for \$222,377.49. Commissioner Orenstein asked why is this being requested? Mr. Stalvey answered due to the area being so wet, the amount of base, as well as several utilities that go through and use this area, including power, water and communications. Commissioner Orenstein asked if additional property was being purchased? Mr. Stalvey answered no sir, it is all on our easement. Chairman Slaughter stated in the past when clerical errors were made on bids, the bids were not considered. In this situation, staff reviewed the bids and both parties had clerical errors which were made, but did not affect the price.

TIA 2023-05 Briggston Road Grading, Drainage, Base, and Paving Bids

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Briggston Road is a TIA approved project, 4.06 miles long, located just north of Clyattville and runs between Madison Highway and Old Clyattville Road. Mr. McLeod stated two bids were received with the low bidder being Reames and Son in the amount of \$3,892,229.54.

NC-TIA 2023-01 Rocky Hill Church Road Grading, Drainage, Base, and Paving Bids

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Rocky Hill Church Road is approximately 0.14 miles long and is located off of Clyattstone Road. Mr. McLeod stated three bids were received with the Scruggs Company being the low bidder in the amount of \$194,166.66.

Fire Rescue Station 10 Pavement Resurfacing Bids

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Fire Rescue Station #10 pavement resurfacing includes removing 6,578 square feet of asphalt and replacing it with approximately seven - nine inches of concrete. The sole bidder is Rountree Construction Company in the amount of \$240,119.00.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, requested an executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communication regarding the acquisition of real estate. At 8:44 a.m. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communication regarding the purchase of real estate, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:52 a.m. Chairman Slaughter reconvened the work session with no additional information being discussed. Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Commissioner Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting.