

### **Joint Funding Agreement with USGS for Stream Gauge Maintenance**

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the agreement in the amount of \$27,850.00. The stream gauge for the Little River site is \$17,000.00, and the Withlacoochee River site is \$10,850.00. Mr. Tye stated there is an increase in cost due to USGS charging for the maintenance of the rain gauges which are attached to each stream gauge. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked to verify the cost increase? Mr. Tye responded the maintenance of the rain gauges is being charged now, which is \$3,025.00.

### **BID**

#### **Sprayfield Expansion Phase I**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated an expansion plan was submitted to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to expand the sprayfield to accommodate increased flow due to growth. Mr. Stalvey mentioned currently, the county is permitted for two million gallons per day and Georgia EPD has approved up to three million gallons per day. This additional capacity requires approximately 150 acres of additional field for spraying. Mr. Stalvey stated four bids were received, ranging from \$3,369,213.71 - \$4,053,303.00. Southeast Connections, LLC from Conyers, Georgia submitted the low bid in the amount of \$3,369,213.71. Vice Chairman Marshall asked if ARPA funding could be used for a disaster relief? County Manager, Paige Dukes responded the ARPA funds have already been obligated. Vice Chairman Marshall asked for the balance of the ARPA funding. Mrs. Dukes responded that balance would be available this afternoon. Chairman Slaughter stated the ARPA funding has already been obligated or utilized. Vice Chairman Marshall asked for the SPLOST balance for Utilities, Mrs. Dukes responded Finance Director, Stephanie Black, will get that updated list. Commissioner Griner asked how many more gallons per day could be obtained? Mr. Stalvey responded four million gallons. Chairman Slaughter stated the sprayfield expansion capacity is four million. Chairman Slaughter stated discussions have been had at retreats and meetings with the direction moving forward being a treatment facility, not a Land Application System (LAS).

#### **Grove Pointe Nelson Hill Watermain Interconnection**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated staff recommends installing an 8" interconnection between Grove Pointe Subdivision and Nelson Hill Subdivision to create a second feed and looping of the water system. Easements have been acquired and the interconnection will be installed from the southwest corner of Nelson Hill Place to the northeast corner of Hatfield Circle. Mr. Stalvey stated three bids were received ranging from \$78,392.60 - \$187,565.40. Mr. Stalvey stated RPI, Inc. submitted the low bid in the amount of \$78,392.60.

### **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye to update the commission regarding Hurricane Helene. Mr. Tye stated we are in the recovery process with debris being the largest part of the operation with contractors being active for a week. As of Saturday, 200,000 cubic yards of debris had been picked up. There is a Disaster Recovery Center located at one of the churches on Forrest Street Extension with 150+ people being seen daily. In addition to this location, there is also a DSA, Disaster Surveyor Assistance, team going out setting up mobile sites for people to be able to meet with FEMA within their community. The shelter is still open with four people and we're hopeful that in working with the Red Cross, those people can be transitioned. Commissioner Orenstein asked to clarify about contaminated debris? Mr. Tye answered if there is mixed debris, the citizen will be notified as to why it is not being picked up. The goal is to be finished within ninety (90) days. In the unincorporated areas, there are one hundred trucks hauling to remove the debris. Mrs. Dukes stated