

from 2024. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adopt the 2025 millage rate of 5.051, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Adoption of Special District Millage for the Industrial Authority for 2025

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated prior to 2025, the Georgia Department of Revenue required the millage assigned to the authorities to be included in the county-wide millage. However, with the adoption of HB 581 and related legislation, millage assessed for authority funding is now considered a special district and is adopted separately. The Industrial Authority rate was set at 1.00 mill since it was first implemented, but was reduced to 0.823 mills in 2024. The proposed millage for 2025 for the Industrial Authority is 1.00 mills, but there is an option to use 1.10 mills. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adopt the special district millage for the Industrial Authority for 2025 for 1.10 mills, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Adoption of Special District Millage for the Parks and Recreation Authority for 2025

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated that prior to 2025, the Georgia Department of Revenue required the millage assigned to the authorities to be included in the county-wide millage. However, with the adoption of HB 581 and related legislation, millage assessed for authority funding is now considered a special district and is adopted separately. The Parks and Recreation Authority rate was set at 1.25 mills since it was first implemented. The proposed millage for 2025 for the Parks and Recreation Authority is 1.25 mills. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked what year this was initiated, Ms. Black answered 2008 or 2009. Chairman Slaughter stated this was part of the enabling legislation. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adopt the special district millage for the Parks and Recreation Authority for 2025 for 1.25 mills, second by Commissioner Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Adoption of Special District Millage for Fire Services for 2025

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated following the Board's approval to expand fire services in Lowndes County beginning with the FY 2022 budget, a special fire district was created that includes the unincorporated area of Lowndes County. Fire services was moved into a special fund and is supported by a millage from the special fire district. The Board is required annually to set the millage rate for this fire district. The 2025 rate should be set at 2.50 mills, which is no change from the prior year millage. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked did the legislature set this amount, Chairman Slaughter answered no. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adopt the special district millage for Fire Services for 2025 for 2.50 mills, second by Commissioner Marshall. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Opioid Litigation - Purdue Pharma

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated at the August 12, 2024 meeting you authorized special counsel for the County to join in a proposed statement of interest in reaching a settlement with Purdue Pharma. Purdue Pharma has now reached a settlement through the bankruptcy process to resolve all pending governmental opioid-related claims. Lowndes County has been advised by special counsel to participate in this settlement in order to receive funds aimed at addressing the opioid crisis. In order to participate, the County must agree to the terms set forth by the State of Georgia and Local Governments and authorize the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning National Settlement with Purdue and execute the Subdivision Participation and Release Form.