

### **Update of Budget and Equity Reserve Policy**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item stating this is a proposed amendment to the County's Financial Policy regarding the recognition of grant funds, specifically FEMA reimbursements. She explained that while there is a standard 60-day recognition period after the fiscal year ends, FEMA funds often arrive later due to processing delays. The proposed policy change would extend the recognition window only for grant funds, primarily FEMA related, to ensure these funds can be accounted for in the appropriate fiscal year. The amendment was suggested by Lowndes County's Financial Consultant, Harrison Tillman, and is consistent with steps taken by other governments facing similar delays. Commissioner Smith asked whether the change would affect audit timelines. Ms. Black clarified that most audit-related work is completed within the current 60-day window, and this change would not significantly delay the audit process. Chairman Slaughter emphasized the goal is to better capture delayed grant revenue, noting the Commission could later revert to the original 60/90-day policy once extraordinary events subside. Commissioner Wisenbaker questioned whether the policy would revert automatically and raised a concern about a discrepancy in the policy language defining a quarter as 120 days. Ms. Black acknowledged this may be a scrivener's error, according to County Attorney, Walter Elliott. The policy change is a proactive measure to accommodate delayed FEMA reimbursements without disrupting standard audit procedures. Any revision to prior policy would require formal Commission action.

### **REPORTS - County Manager**

Chairman Slaughter noted that County Manager, Paige Dukes was not in attendance due to travel to Washington, D.C. in support of Moody Air Force Base.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session meeting at 8:41 a.m.