

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, January 22, 2018

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall was not in attendance.

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

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of January 8, 2018, and the regular session of January 9, 2018. No changes to the minutes were presented.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Abandonment of a Portion of Bradford Road N.**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the Commission realigned and closed the portion of the road in question in 1987, but never officially abandoned the road. Mr. Fletcher further stated the portion of the road has not been opened or maintained. Chairman Slaughter asked if the official determination was ever voted on, to which Mr. Fletcher replied no.

**Special Assessment Rate for 2018**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to set the special assessment rate every year to address paving and utility assessments that are not paid off during the initial ninety-day phase. Ms. Black further stated the rate is based on two percent above prime, which is 6.50%.

**Beer & Wine License - Narayanbhai Chaudhary of Khodiar 89 Corporation DBA JK Food Mart - 3663 New Statenville Hwy., Valdosta, GA**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated there had been compliance issues with the location in the past; however, the business is now under new ownership. Ms. Black further stated all requirements for the license have been met.

**Community and Economic Development Strategy**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the item. Mr. Pritchard stated the Commission previously approved the preparation of memorandum of understanding to all participants, and funding from the

county in an amount up to and not to exceed \$25,000.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if the change in leadership at Georgia Power would change the direction of the project. Chairman Slaughter stated no, Ms. King and Mr. Manley have worked together on the initiative from the beginning.

**Stop Loss Insurance Coverage through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia**, Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the renewal through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia. Mr. Beals stated the county's insurance broker, EPIC, heavily marketed the service in an effort to provide the best available rates based on plan utilization.

## REPORTS

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, asked Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, to report on the recent scrap tire event hosted by Public Works. Mrs. Cumbus stated staff collected five thousand tires, disposal of which will be reimbursed by the state. Chairman Slaughter thanked Mrs. Cumbus for the efforts of her department in eliminating waste that contributes to environmental issues and mosquito habitat.

Chairman Slaughter informed the Commission the county has received a request to support House Resolution 158, which if approved will prevent the reallocation of dedicated fees at the state level. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to add consideration of the resolution to the agenda for the regular meeting, Commissioner Evans second.

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

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Bill Slaughter, Chairman

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K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk

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MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, January 23, 2018

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter  
Vice Chairman Scott Orenstein  
Commissioner Joyce E. Evans  
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker  
Commissioner Clay Griner  
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

Chairman Slaughter called the regular session to order at 5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of January 8, 2018, and the regular session of January 9, 2018. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Abandonment of A Portion of Bradford Road N.**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the proposed portion of the road was closed by the Commission via realignment in 1987, but never officially abandoned. Commissioner Griner made a motion determining the section of the county road system has ceased to be used by the public to the extent no public purpose is served by it, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Special Assessment Rate for 2018**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the special assessment rate for 2018, at two percent above prime which is 6.50%. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the special assessment rate as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Beer & Wine License - Narayanbhai Chaudhary Of Khodiar 89 Corporation DBA JK Food Mart - 3663 New Statenville Hwy., Valdosta, GA**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the request is due to a change in ownership and all requirements have been met. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the license, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Community and Economic Development Strategy**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented a memorandum of understanding prepared at the request of the Commission in order to finalize funding for the initiative. Mr. Pritchard stated the Commission previously approved funding in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. Commissioner Marshall asked when the project would be completed. Chairman Slaughter stated 365 days from the start date. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the agreement, Commissioners Evans and Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Stop Loss Insurance Coverage through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia**, Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the renewal through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia. Mr. Beals stated the county's insurance broker, EPIC, heavily marketed the service in an effort to provide the best available rates based on plan utilization. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the coverage as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**House Resolution 158**, Chairman Slaughter stated the Commission added consideration of the resolution during the previous morning's work session. County Manager, Joe Pritchard, stated the resolution supports action by the General Assembly that would eliminate the state's ability to reallocate dedicated funds that are collected at the local level for a specific purpose. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the resolution, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**REPORTS** – no additional information was reported.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD** - none

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 5:40 p.m.

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Bill Slaughter, Chairman

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K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk