

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, January 23, 2017

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Chairman Bill Slaughter

Vice Chairman Joyce E. Evans

Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker

Commissioner Clay Griner

Commissioners Scott Orenstein and Demarcus Marshall were 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 January 9, 2017, and the regular session of January 10, 2017. No changes to the minutes were requested.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**REZ-2016-21 Seago, 4678 US Hwy 41 S, R-1 to R-A, Well & Septic, ~2.35 acres,** County Planner, Jason Davenport, presented the item. Mr. Davenport stated that the case has been withdrawn.

**GA DCA – 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG),** County Planner, Jason Davenport, presented the item. Mr. Davenport stated that if the Commission chooses to move forward with an application, staff has verified interested applicants. Mr. Davenport further stated that staff's recommendation would be an application on behalf of Habitat for Humanity since the other interested agencies did not meet the criteria required by the grant.

**Crossing Closure - Dasher Johnson Road,** County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the Commission made the required determination on January 10, 2017, adding the request is ready for a public hearing. Mr. Fletcher further stated staff is expecting some opposition at the regular meeting.

**Crossing Closure - Kinderlou Road,** County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the Commission made the required determination on January 10, 2017, adding the request is ready for a public hearing. Mr. Fletcher further stated staff has been in contact with Langdale staff regarding the impact the closure could have on their truck traffic. Mr. Fletcher added there could be opposition present at the regular meeting.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**GEMA Sheltering Memorandum of Agreement,** EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the agreement. Mr. Tye stated GEMA has identified Lowndes County as a predetermined location for the sheltering of evacuees and that in return, supplies are housed locally in the event sheltering is needed. Mr. Tye further stated there are no changes to the existing

agreement, other than the extension of a four-year term so that the matter does not have to be addressed annually.

**Request to purchase Public Safety Radios**, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented a request to purchase twenty-two public safety radios from Mobile Communications, in the amount of \$81,822.40. Mr. Tye stated the price quoted includes a trade in of twenty-two radios that are no longer supported by Motorola. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if any additional salvage value exists, to which Mr. Tye replied no.

**Crossing Closure Agreement Between CSX Transportation, Inc. and Lowndes County**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the agreement remains ready for approval if the Commission chooses to close the CSX crossings at Dasher Johnson Road and Kinderlou Road.

## **BID**

**Purchase of Vehicle for Magistrate Court**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item with Cass Burch presenting the low bid in the amount of \$19,467.00, for a truck to replace a vehicle in the Magistrate Court's fleet. Ms. Black stated the bid from Cass Burch came in under the state contract price, with a delivery time of one week.

## **REPORTS**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, thanked all those that worked in the Emergency Operations Center during the recent storm that moved through the area and asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye, to update the Commission on regional response efforts.

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, stated local responders provided mutual aid to Cook County when the storms initially hit, then some had to pull back when the National Weather Service issued warnings for Lowndes County. Mr. Tye stated local damage was limited to downed trees, power lines, and damage to homes, adding there were no injuries reported. Mr. Tye further stated local responders would continue to support efforts in neighboring counties, as needed. Chairman Slaughter thanked Mr. Tye and everyone involved for their efforts, adding he was very proud of everyone's willingness to respond.

Chairman Slaughter added those that lost lives and property in neighboring counties will remain in Lowndes County's thoughts and prayers.

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, requested an executive session for attorney client privilege to discuss potential litigation. Commissioner Griner made a motion to enter into executive session, Vice Chairman Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

---

Bill Slaughter, Chairman

---

K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, January 24, 2017

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

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

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

Chairman Slaughter stated former County Clerk and Rental Property Coordinator, Phyllis Waters, recently passed. Chairman Slaughter asked everyone to keep the Waters family in their thoughts and prayers. Chairman Slaughter also asked that everyone continue to remember all those that have suffered loss of life and property due to the recent storms.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of January 9, 2017, and the regular session of January 10, 2017. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Vice Chairman Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**REZ-2016-21 Seago, 4678 US Hwy 41 S, R-1 to R-A, Well & Septic, ~2.35 acres,** Chairman Slaughter introduced the item and stated the request has been withdrawn.

**GA DCA – 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG),** County Planner, Jason Davenport, presented the item. Mr. Davenport stated staff needs direction from the Commission with regards to applying for the next round of community development block grants. Chairman Slaughter asked Mr. Davenport if staff has a qualified agency. Mr. Davenport stated that while six agencies expressed interest, Habitat for Humanity was the only official, qualifying proposal submitted. Commissioner Marshall questioned the other agencies. Mr. Davenport explained that most of them did not meet the unincorporated eligibility criteria required by a county application. Executive Director for Habitat, Stuart Mullis, spoke in favor of Habitat, stating that if awarded the funds would allow Habitat to provide more services in the county. Mr. Mullis added that the proposed project would provide new administrative offices, a new store, and other improvements to be built on a location just outside city limits. Chairman Slaughter asked Mr. Mullis if he sees a greater need for housing in the county. Mr. Mullis stated that there is a need for

rehabilitation in the unincorporated area and that Habitat would like to focus on that. Commissioner Griner thanked Mr. Mullis for the work Habitat does in the community. No one spoke against the request. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to move forward with the application on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and to use the Regional Commission for grant services, Vice Chairman Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Crossing Closure - Dasher Johnson Road**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. No one spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to close the crossing, Commissioners Orenstein and Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Crossing Closure - Kinderlou Road**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated CSX Railroad has submitted a request to close the crossing, adding the section of Spain Ferry Road was abandoned close to a year ago. No one spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to close the crossing, Vice Chairman Evans second. Chairman Slaughter indicated some concern related to trucks crossing the track to access Kinderlou Farms. Chairman Slaughter stated an option could be to have a gate installed instead of closing the crossing. Commissioner Wisenbaker withdrew his original motion and made a new motion requiring the property owner to install a gate on their property instead of closing the crossing, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

**GEMA Sheltering Memorandum of Agreement**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, submitted the renewal, stating EMA Director, Ashley Tye, had an out of town matter that had to be addressed. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Request to purchase Public Safety Radios**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, submitted the renewal, stating EMA Director, Ashley Tye, had an out of town matter that had to be addressed. Mr. Pritchard stated the County has received a proposal from Mobile Communications in the amount of \$81,822.40, for the purchase of twenty-two new public safety radios. Mr. Pritchard added the current radio models are no longer supported by Motorola. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the purchase, Vice Chairman Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Crossing Closure Agreement Between CSX Transportation, Inc. and Lowndes County**, in light of the change made to the Kinderlou Crossing, Commissioner Marshall made a motion to table consideration of the agreement until it can be updated, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**BID**

**Purchase of Vehicle for Magistrate Court**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a request to purchase a truck from magistrate court with Cass Burch submitting the low bid in the amount of \$19,467.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the low bid as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

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

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

---

Bill Slaughter, Chairman

---

K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk