

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, June 25, 2018

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Commissioner Marshall was not present.

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

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of June 11, 2018, and the regular session of June 12, 2018. No changes to the minutes were requested.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2019 Budget, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the proposed budget. Ms. Black stated the budget remains ready for consideration during the regular meeting.

Hotel/Motel Tax FY 2019 County Budget, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated Lowndes County is required to adopt a county budget plan for the use of hotel/motel tax proceeds. Mr. Chris Hamilton, Valdosta-Lowndes Tourism and Conference Center President, addressed the Commission regarding the proposed budget. Mr. Hamilton stated he is pleased with the budget, adding it will increase the conference center's presence in the eye of the traveling public. County Manager, Joe Pritchard, questioned changes to funding that has historically supported the Crescent and the Sports Commission. Mr. Hamilton stated the tourism authority has contributed financially to both entities in the past; however, the new budget provides for the authority to do business with them instead of making a donation. Mr. Hamilton stated the authority is phasing out the process of donating and will instead work to promote both organizations.

Lowndes County 911 Additions and Alterations: New Consoles for the 911 Dispatchers, Project Manager, Chad McLeod, presented a request to purchase twelve new consoles for Lowndes County 911 from Watson Furniture Group, in the amount of \$183,171.51. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if the purchase represents a total

replacement. Mr. McLeod stated twelve consoles will replace the existing nine and add three additional units.

Wisconsin Public Finance Authority Bond Issue, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the item. Mr. Pritchard stated the Commission previously approved a resolution as required; however, a change in the financed amount provided for a new resolution. County Attorney, Walter Elliott, stated a new TEFRA hearing was held on the matter. Mr. Elliott further stated no one attended the hearing, which is not unusual.

Contract with Parks and Recreation Authority, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the item. Mr. Pritchard stated the agreement is the result of the authority borrowing up to \$3,000,000.00, to fund the authority's portion of the Miracle Field project. Mr. Pritchard stated the agreement indicates the county will not ask the General Assembly to amend local legislation that currently requires the county to fund the authority through 1.25 mills. Further, that if the General Assembly lowers the funding amount below 1.25 mills, Lowndes County will continue to fund the authority at the current level.

Contract with Valdosta Continuing Land Bank Authority, County Manager, Joe Prichard, presented a contract between Lowndes County, the City of Valdosta, and the Land Bank Authority for the continuance of the authority. Commissioner Evans thanked everyone for moving forward with the matter to include the Chairman for listening to everyone's concerns.

Francis Lake Lift Station Repair, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request to replace the impellers and rings in the pumps that support the Francis Lake lift station, from Goforth and Williams in the amount of 19,594.00.

BID

LAS Storage Pond Improvements, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request to use GEFA loan funds to address an algae issue at the county's land application site storage pond. Mr. Stalvey stated Southern Civil, LLC, submitted the low bid in the amount of \$274,718.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker questioned the county's experience with Southern Civil, LLC. Mr. Stalvey stated that while the company is not local, staff received positive feedback while checking their references.

REPORTS

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented two items to be considered as additions to the agenda for the regular meeting. Mr. Pritchard stated the accountability courts in both state and superior courts submitted items needing consideration, after the meeting agenda was completed.

Accountability Court Administrator, Jennifer Fabbri, presented a request to apply for the grant that funds accountability programs in Superior Court to include a ten percent cash match representing an \$8,000.00, increase over last year.

DUI Court Administrator, Stacey Bass, presented an agreement between State Court and Pronto Trak for monitoring services. Mrs. Bass stated the agreement will be funded from grant funds. Commissioner Griner asked if the agreement is a duplication of the services used by Lowndes County Probation, to which Mrs. Bass replied yes.

There being no objection from the Commission, Chairman Slaughter asked that both items be added to the agenda.

Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:47 a.m.

Bill Slaughter, Chairman

K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, June 26, 2018

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

Vice Chairman Orenstein gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Slaughter announced the swearing in of Lowndes County Probation's first probation officers by State Court Judge John K. Edwards, the following morning at 8:45 a.m. in courtroom 4a.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of June 11, 2018, and the regular session of June 12, 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

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2019 Budget, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the proposed budget, stating the document remains ready for the Commission's consideration. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the budget as presented, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Hotel/Motel Tax FY 2019 County Budget, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the budget as required. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the budget as submitted, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Lowndes County 911 Additions and Alterations: New Consoles for the 911 Dispatchers, Project Manager, Chad McLeod, presented a request to purchase twelve consoles from Watson Furniture Group in the amount of \$183,171.51. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked if the consoles include any audio/visual equipment, to which Mr. McLeod

replied yes. Commissioner Marshall questioned how staff chose the vendor. Mr. McLeod stated 911 Director, Danny Weeks and his staff researched the equipment and cost, then leveraged pricing available through the National Procurement Purchasing Alliance. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to purchase the twelve consoles as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Wisconsin Public Finance Authority Bond Issue, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the item. Mr. Pritchard stated a new resolution is required due to a change in the amount financed. Mr. Pritchard further stated a new TEFRA hearing was held and all related information has been reviewed by the County Attorney. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Contract with Parks and Recreation Authority, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the contract. Mr. Pritchard stated the Parks and Recreation Authority has requested an intergovernmental contract in order to borrow up to \$3,000,000.00, from Ameris Bank, for the authority's share of the Miracle Field project. Mr. Pritchard further stated the contract insures Lowndes County will not ask the General Assembly to lower the minimum mileage funding below 1.25 mills, and if the General Assembly does lower the rate below 1.25 mills, Lowndes County will continue to fund the authority at 1.25 mills. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked if the action is more of a line of credit. Mr. Pritchard replied, yes. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the contract as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Contract with Valdosta Continuing Land Bank Authority, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented a contract between Lowndes County, the City of Valdosta and the Land Bank Authority to continue the authority. Commissioner Marshall asked if the county has had any transactions, to which Mr. Pritchard replied no. Mr. Pritchard stated Commissioner Evans serves as an appointee and Zoning Administrator, Carmella Braswell, serves at the staff level. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the contract, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Francis Lake Lift Station Repair, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request to repair the Francis Lake lift station with Goforth and Williams submitting the low bid in the amount of \$19,595.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Lowndes County Accountability Court Grant Approval and Cash Match, Chairman Slaughter presented the request in the amount of \$24,228.76, for the continuance of accountability court programs in Superior Court. As presented during the work session, the amount requested represents the county's cash match requirement. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Agreement from Prontotrak, Inc., for Electronic Monitoring-DUI Court, Chairman Slaughter presented the agreement on behalf of DUI Court Administrator, Stacey Bass. Mrs. Bass reported during the work session that the agreement will be funded by grant funds. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the agreement, Vice Chairman Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

LAS Storage Pond Improvements, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request to address an algae issue at the county's land application site with Southern Civil, LLC submitting the low bid in the amount of \$274,718.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Commissioner Marshall reminded those in attendance that the Georgia "Hands Free" law goes into effect July 1.

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, informed the Commission GDOT will be closing the overpass on Loch Laurel Road for repairs.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Bill Slaughter, Chairman

K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk