

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, September 21, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of September 8, 2020 and the regular session of September 8, 2020. No changes to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENTS

Board of Tax Assessors (Appointing Members), County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated this is the first time in Lowndes County's history to have members of the Board of Tax Assessors appointed. Chairman Slaughter reminded the commissioners that names would need to be submitted for this board by tomorrow night's meeting.

FOR CONSIDERATION

FY2021 Joint Funding Agreement with USGS, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the agreement in the amount of \$22,500.00. The stream gauge for the Little River site is \$14,200.00, and the Withlacoochee River site is \$8,300.00. Chairman Slaughter stated these stream gauges are extremely important for our citizens living in flood areas.

Acceptance of Infrastructure for Val Del Villas, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the County is being asked to accept all infrastructure, adding the work is substantially complete. Commissioner Marshall asked the size of the lots, Mr. Fletcher responded 10,000-15,000 square feet.

Motorola SUAll (Evergreen), 911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented the item stating this renewal agreement with Motorola SUAll (Evergreen), will allow Lowndes County to maintain a current system by providing system upgrades every two years, as well as 24/7 support.

Grant Submission Request - COVID-19 Response Grant Application, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated funds are available for the Board of Elections to

receive additional amenities / equipment as a result of COVID-19. Mrs. Dukes stated staff has been working with Ms. Cox, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, HR Director, Kevin Beals and Finance Director, Stephanie Black have been involved to verify no funds will be spent without reimbursement. Chairman Slaughter stated this is extremely important due to the large upcoming election and in helping the Board of Elections to have a good election, it is also imperative to make sure funding is reimbursable. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding any relief for small businesses, Chairman Slaughter responded, he hasn't had any requests personally, for that type of grant. Commissioner Marshall stated small business owners have contacted him.

Foxborough Lift Station Pump, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a proposal in the amount of \$41,217.60 for a new pump at the Foxborough lift station. Mr. Stalvey stated due to the age of the pumps, staff recommends a new pump be purchased from Xylem, Inc.

Land Application System (LAS) Expansion Agreement, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item and stated due to growth and increased flow, additional spray fields are needed at the County's Land Application System (LAS). Nutter & Associates submitted a proposal to perform this work for \$19,800.00.

Firefighter Personnel Request, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the addition of three paid full-time firefighters, one added to each shift at station 10, will provide for two apparatus to respond to each structure fire call instead of one. This will improve response time and to be able to control the fire until volunteers arrive. Commissioner Wisenbaker, asked what the amount of \$170,767.42 covered, Mrs. Dukes responded this would be for salary and benefits to add three full-time firefighters.

BID

Drainage Improvements to Brinson Lane and Oak Hill Drive, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the bid for drainage improvements to Brinson Lane and Oak Hill Drive. Mr. Fletcher stated this is needed to eliminate flooding issues as a result of paving Oak Hill Drive. JWA submitted the low bid in the amount of \$34,169.28.

Grading, Drainage, Base, and Paving of Clyattstone Road and Simpson Lane, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item with the Scruggs Company submitting the low bid in the amount of \$1,681,770.84. Mr. Fletcher stated this project is being funded entirely by T-SPLOST. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked the length of the road, Mr. Fletcher responded 2.6 miles. Mr. Fletcher also stated paved access out of Grove Pointe will be provided which is needed for first responders. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if county sewer was being provided, Mr. Fletcher answered no.

Clyattstone Water Main Extension, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated this water main extension is in conjunction with the Clyattstone paving project and will provide additional coverage.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, mentioned an email from Planning and Zoning Director, Mr. J.D. Dillard regarding an annexation request from Bates Precast Concrete. Mrs. Dukes stated the County Attorney reviewed this request and if the commission would like to object to this request, then it would

need to be added to the agenda. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked regarding the agenda item related to the three firefighter personnel request, were the firefighters certified and ready to begin work, Mrs. Dukes replied yes,

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:45 a.m.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, September 22, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

Chairman Slaughter recognized Jordan Willis aka "Sparky" from Lowndes County Fire Rescue. Chairman Slaughter mentioned a video was created to show in the school system, since visitations by Lowndes County Fire Rescue were restricted due to COVID-19.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of September 8, 2020 and the regular session of September 8, 2020. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Board of Tax Assessors (Appointing Members), County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointments. Mrs. Dukes stated all members' terms will begin January 1, 2021. One member will be appointed for an initial term of three years, one member will be appointed for an initial term of four years and one member will be appointed for an initial term of five years. All future appointments and reappointments to the Board of Tax Assessors will be for a term of three years. Mr. Gene Felts, Mrs. Gretchen Quarterman, Mr. Gary McMillan, Mr. Barry Barr, Mrs. Felicia Williams and Mr. James Puckett have expressed an interest in serving on the Board of Tax Assessors. Chairman Slaughter

called for a vote with Mrs. Felicia Williams being nominated for an initial term of five years, with Vice Chairman Griner, Commissioners Evans, Orenstein and Marshall voting in favor. Mr. Barry Barr received no votes from the commission for an initial term of four years. Mr. Gary McMillan received no votes from the commission for an initial term of three years. Mrs. Gretchen Quarterman being nominated for an initial term of four years, with Commissioners Evans, Orenstein, Wisenbaker and Marshall voting in favor. Mr. Gene Felts being nominated for an initial term of three years, with Commissioner Wisenbaker voting in favor. Mr. James Puckett being nominated for an initial term of three years, with Vice Chairman Griner, Commissioners Evans, Orenstein and Marshall voting in favor. Mrs. Felicia Williams was appointed for an initial term of five years, Mrs. Gretchen Quarterman was appointed for an initial term of four years and Mr. James Puckett was appointed for an initial term of three years by majority vote. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

FY2021 Joint Funding Agreement with USGS, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the annual agreement in the amount of \$22,500.00. Commissioner Marshall made the motion to approve the agreement, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Infrastructure for Val Del Villas, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented a resolution to accept all infrastructure for Val Del Villas off of Val Del Road. Commissioner Orenstein asked why do we have this process for a resolution, Mr. Fletcher stated so the plat can be signed when finished. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Motorola SUAll (Evergreen), 911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented a renewal of the Motorola System Upgrade Agreement, in the amount of \$489,310.00 for maintenance and upgrades related to the system used by 911. Mr. Weeks stated the agreement provides for all maintenance and upgrades and will be paid monthly in the amount of \$40,776.00. Commissioner Orenstein asked how many years was the contract, Mr. Weeks responded ten years. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the payment of the renewal agreement as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Grant Submission Request - COVID-19 Response Grant Application, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the grant for the Board of Elections for funding for additional election supplies and additional temporary staff for the election season. Staff has been working with Ms. Cox, Mr. Ashley Tye, Mr. Kevin Beals and Ms. Stephanie Black have prepared a recommendation for approval that will help the Board of Elections through this process so the finance department can work with Ms. Cox to verify what funds should be spent and if those items would qualify for the grant. Commissioner Orenstein asked what was the amount, Mrs. Dukes responded based on the formula we could receive up to \$346,000 in qualified reimbursement. Commissioner Marshall asked if this would include voter education, Mrs. Dukes responded yes. Commissioner Marshall asked if all the polling locations would

be open, Mrs. Dukes responded yes, that is the intent. Chairman Slaughter stated the motion needs to be verify specific so the communications between the Board of Elections and Lowndes County staff can verify all requests for reimbursement, before being purchased. Commissioner Orenstein asked if Ms. Cox provided any idea what the cost would be, Mrs. Dukes stated Ms. Cox has asked for a total number of poll workers and part-time employees; Mrs. Dukes stated FICA numbers and additional information would need to be calculated. Motion by Commissioner Orenstein to accept grant funds for the purchase of ballot drop boxes, non-partisan voter education, poll worker recruitment funds, and/or training expenses, polling place rental and cleaning expenses for early voting or Election Day, temporary staffing, and vote-by-mail/absentee voting equipment or general equipment and supplies. Expenditures and reimbursement must be coordinated with finance prior to the funds being expended, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Foxborough Lift Station Pump, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the proposal in the amount of \$41,217.60, for the purchase of one of the pumps at the Foxborough lift station. Mr. Stalvey stated the replacement is due because of the age of the pumps. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to purchase a new pump from Xylem, Inc. in the amount of \$41,217.60, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Land Application System (LAS) Expansion Agreement, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the land application system expansion agreement. Mr. Stalvey stated due to growth and increased flow, additional spray fields were needed. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the land application system expansion agreement with Nutter & Associates for \$19,800.00, Vice Chairman Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Firefighter Personnel Request, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the county has considered expansion of services to provide an increased response by Lowndes County Fire Rescue. The addition of three fulltime firefighters, one added to each shift at station 10, will provide for two apparatus to respond to each structure fire call. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the firefighter personnel request for the remaining fiscal year at \$128,075.58 and an annual cost of \$170,767.42, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Bid

Drainage Improvements to Brinson Lane and Oak Hill Drive, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item stating this bid is for drainage improvements to Brinson Lane and Oak Hill Drive. Mr. Fletcher stated JWA submitted the low bid in the amount of \$34,169.28. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Grading, Drainage, Base, and Paving of Clyattstone Road and Simpson Lane, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated this is the second Transportation Investment Act (TIA) constrained project with three bids received and the recommendation to approve the low bid by The Scruggs Company. Vice Chairman Griner made the motion to approve the request as presented and award The Scruggs Company the project for \$1,681,770.84, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Clyattstone Water Main Extension, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item stating this bid was in conjunction with the paving project and would add additional coverage. Vice Chairman Griner made the motion to approve the request with Thrift Brothers submitting the low bid for \$1,417,333.98, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated there would be a river clean-up on Saturday, October 10th with Lowndes County, the City of Valdosta and the WWALS group. This has been advertised throughout social media and hopefully the community participation will be good.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD - None

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Marshall second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 5:56 p.m.