

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, October 8, 2018

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter  
Vice Chairman Mark Wisenbaker  
Commissioner Scott Orenstein  
Commissioner Joyce Evans  
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 September 24, 2018, and the regular session of September 25, 2018. No changes to the minutes were requested.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Lowndes County Library Board**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat held by Dr. Linda Most is expiring and that Dr. Most would like to be reappointed. Chairman Slaughter stated that if there were any additional interested candidates, their information needs to be submitted prior to the regular meeting.

**Lowndes County Public Facilities Authority**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment, stating the seat currently held by Commissioner Clay Griner is expiring. Mr. Pritchard further stated Commissioner Griner has expressed a desire to continue to serve.

**Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat held by Mr. Jim Scruggs is expiring, adding Mr. Scruggs would like to continue to serve.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**REZ-2018-17 The Settlement North, 5999 Val Del Road, E-A to R-1, Well & Septic, ~98.95 Acres**, Planning Representative, Molly Stevenson, presented the item. Mrs. Stevenson stated the request is the result of the property owner wishing to develop approximately sixty-eight residential lots on the property. Mrs. Stevenson further stated the Planning Commission voted to deny the request and the TRC was split with Planning and Zoning finding the request inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan. Further, Utilities found that development in this area is not supported by the County Water System

Growth Plan. Commissioner Orenstein asked if there were any issues presented by citizens other than those at the Planning Commission meeting. Mrs. Stevenson stated that drainage, wetland areas, and traffic have been comments most referenced by opposition.

**Abandonment of a Portion of Union Road**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item stating the request has been properly advertised and remains ready for consideration.

## FOR CONSIDERATION

**Union Road Quit Claim Deeds**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated that if the Commission chooses to abandon the road as requested, the required quit claim deeds are ready for approval and execution.

**USGS Funding Agreement for Hwy 122 Stream Gauge**, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented an annual renewal in the amount of \$15,100.00, for the continued monitoring and maintenance of the stream gauge on the Little River. Chairman Slaughter asked if it would be fair to say the stream gauge has been very useful in identifying areas of early flooding, to which Mr. Tye replied yes.

**Stone Creek Antenna Space License Agreement Termination**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a request from the Stone Creek Homeowners Association to terminate the Antenna Space License agreement the association has with Lowndes County. Chairman Slaughter asked Mr. Stalvey if the reason for the termination is related to the technology used by the Association not meeting the subdivision's needs, to which Mr. Stalvey replied yes.

**Val-Tech Road 16" Force Main Emergency Repair**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated this section of pipe has been the location of repeated issues, adding the completion of a recent repair exposed another issue that could have at any moment resulted in a major spill and an interruption of services.

## REPORTS

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye, to provide an update regarding Hurricane Michael. Mr. Tye stated that while the storm path remained uncertain, the forecast calls for a major hurricane to make landfall along the gulf coast area. Mr. Tye further stated Lowndes County might expect tropical storm force winds in excess of 60 mph.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the work session, Commissioner Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 8:51 a.m.

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Bill Slaughter, Chairman

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K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, October 9, 2018

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

Commissioner Scott Orenstein gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Presentation of Government Finance Officers Association award**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, announced the award. Chairman Slaughter thanked Finance Director, Stephanie Black, and her staff for their ongoing commitment to preparing and presenting financial information in a very clear and precise way. Chairman Slaughter further stated that the Lowndes County Finance Department continues to set the bar for excellence in governmental accounting.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of September 24, 2018, and the regular session of September 25, 2018. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Lowndes County Library Board**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat held by Dr. Linda Most is expiring and that Dr. Most would like to be reappointed. Chairman Slaughter nominated Dr. Most for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Dr. Most was appointed by acclamation.

**Lowndes County Public Facilities Authority**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, stated Commissioner Griner would like to continue his service for another three-year term. Chairman Slaughter nominated Commissioner Griner for a new term beginning June 1, 2018, and ending May 31, 2021. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Griner was reappointed by acclamation.

**Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals**, County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat held by Mr. Jim Scruggs is expiring, adding Mr. Scruggs would like to continue to serve. Chairman Slaughter nominated Mr. Jim Scruggs for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. Scruggs was reappointed by acclamation.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**REZ-2018-17 The Settlement North, 5999 Val Del Road, E-A to R-1, Well & Septic, ~98.95 Acres**, Planning Representative, Molly Stevenson, presented the item. Mrs. Stevenson stated the request is the result of the property owner wishing to develop approximately sixty-eight residential lots on the property. Mrs. Stevenson further stated the Planning Commission voted to deny the request and the TRC was split with Planning and Zoning finding the request inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan. Further, Utilities found that development in this area is not supported by the County Water System Growth Plan. County Manager, Joe Pritchard, reminded those in attendance that staff's recommendation is not based on their support or opposition to the project, only to indicate any problems they may see based on the discipline they represent. Commissioner Marshall questioned Utilities' opposition. Chairman Slaughter answered by pointing out the county does not provide water or sewer in the area. Chuck Dunman, 5920 Val Del Road, spoke in opposition of the request and expressed his concerns related to a decline in property values, storm water run-off and traffic. Paul Lane, 5970 Val Del Road, spoke in opposition stating he lives directly across the road, adding the development will destroy the beauty and character of the area. Mr. Lane echoed Mr. Dunman's concerns and spoke to the overall increase in density being a problem. Linda Marr, 5909 Val Del Road, spoke in opposition, stating there is already an issue with drainage in the area. On behalf of GW Farms, Tom Call, spoke in favor of the request as the owner's agent. Mr. Call stated there is a "not in my backyard" mentality toward the project that is not warranted. He stated there is not an issue with drainage and that the project will include any required retention areas. Mr. Call also addressed traffic by stating the County Engineer has indicated Val Del Road can accommodate the additional vehicle per day projections. Mr. Call also stated the development will benefit residents in Hahira and Moody Air Force Base. Commissioner Orenstein stated that with regards to land use, it is important to consider what the end result will be. Commissioner Griner stated that he agrees and asked if the property owner would consider larger lots. Mr. Call stated that would require a larger conceptual plan. Commissioner Marshall asked if the property had been offered to neighbors in the area. Mr. Call stated the property has been for sale for over a year. Commissioner Orenstein stated he would like to look at a slight increase in the lot sizes, similar to Commissioner Griner's suggestion. Commissioner Griner made a motion to table the request until the November meeting, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Abandonment of a Portion of Union Road**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item stating the request has been properly advertised and remains ready for consideration. No one spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to abandon the road, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Union Road Quit Claim Deeds**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the deeds as a result of the abandonment of a portion of the road. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the deeds, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**USGS Funding Agreement for Hwy 122 Stream Gauge**, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the agreement in the amount of \$15,100.00. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the agreement, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Stone Creek Antenna Space License Agreement Termination**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the request. Mr. Stalvey stated staff recommends termination in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to terminate the agreement, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Val-Tech Road 16" Force Main Emergency Repair**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented a quote from RPI in the amount of \$99,935.00, for the purpose of funding an emergency force main repair. Mr. Stalvey stated this section of pipe has been the location of repeated issues, adding the completion of a recent repair exposed another issue that could have at any moment resulted in a major spill and an interruption of services. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the repair, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye, to provide those in attendance with an update on Hurricane Michael. In addition to the latest forecast, Mr. Tye announced plans to activate the Lowndes County Emergency Operations Center the following morning at 5:00 a.m.

Vice Chairman Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 6:06 p.m.

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Bill Slaughter, Chairman

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K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk