

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, October 26, 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 work session to order at 8:30 a.m.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of October 12, 2020, and the regular session of October 13, 2020. No changes to the minutes were requested.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Public Facilities Authority**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the terms of Mr. Michael Walker, Mr. Crawford Powell and Mr. Scott Purvis have expired with all expressing an interest in being reappointed. Mrs. Dukes further stated there is one additional vacant seat, which needs to be filled.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Abandonment of Artherman Lane**, Senior Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Commission made the initial determination at their last regular meeting, October 13, 2020. Mr. McLeod further stated the request has been advertised as required.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Solicitor-General's VOCA Continuation Grant, Senior Victim Advocate**, Karen Hayes, presented the item. Ms. Hayes stated the grant provides for additional staff assigned to assisting victims. Ms. Hayes further stated the requested \$6,000.00, will offset the funding required to provide health benefits to the employees funded by this grant. Chairman Slaughter stated this grant serves to help many victims; however, keeping in mind the amount of \$6,000.00, would be paid by the County.

Commissioner Marshall asked how would the funds be paid, Ms. Hayes responded from the Solicitor's Office general fund budget.

**Solicitor-General's Office 2021 VAWA Competitive Application**, Senior Victim Advocate, Karen Hayes, presented the item. Ms. Hayes stated the \$17,326.00, cash match will fund the continuation of the grant used by the Solicitor General's Office to address crimes against families and women.

**Adoption of the 2021-2022 Budget Calendar**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the budget calendar. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to adopt a balanced budget by June 30, adding the other dates are presented as guidelines to keep the process on track.

**Approval of DA's Federal VOCA Grant Application Renewal**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented this request. Mrs. Dukes stated the District Attorney's office has received this grant since 1997, adding it benefits all five counties in the Southern Judicial Circuit. Mrs. Dukes further stated that the funds from the grant, along with "five percent" funds, pay for victim services.

## **BID**

**Stone Creek Elevated Tank Coating**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the bids ranged from \$148,000.00 - \$215,115.00, with Southeastern Tank & Tower, Inc. submitting the low bid for \$148,000.00.

**Bid for Four 10-Wheel Dump Trucks for the Public Works Department**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the bid with Beck Motors in Albany, Georgia, submitting the one bid that met specifications, in the amount of \$464,196.00.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated information received before the meeting from Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, was regarding a draft proposal for consideration of an agricultural entertainment district. Mrs. Dukes stated this is the first draft and any feedback or questions the Commission may have, please notify her. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes informed the Commission the draft proposal has to go before the Planning Commission, before being adopted by the County.

## **Georgia Forestry Presentation (Work Session)**

Georgia Forestry Chief Ranger, Randy Spells, presented the Commission with an annual report for 2019-2020 detailing forestry operations in the region. Chairman Slaughter asked regarding the controlled burns, Mr. Spells stated a forestry representative is present at the location for all controlled burns. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the illegal burning throughout the county, County Manager, Paige Dukes, responded a report with the citations given this year would be printed for him. Chairman Slaughter thanked Mr. Spells for the information and for Forestry's service to Lowndes County.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the work session, Commissioner Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 9:00 a.m.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, October 27, 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 regular session to order at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Slaughter recognized Ms. Jeanette Coody with the Azalea City Women's Club. Ms. Coody presented County Manager, Paige Dukes, a plaque in recognition of her being the first female county manager in Lowndes County, Georgia.

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Marshall

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Marshall

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of October 12, 2020, and the regular session of October 13, 2020. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Public Facilities Authority**, Chairman Slaughter stated the seats currently held by Mr. Michael Walker, Mr. Crawford Powell and Mr. Scott Purvis have expired. All have expressed an interest in being reappointed. Chairman Slaughter recommended reappointing Mr. Michael Walker with his term expiring May 31, 2022, reappointing Mr. Crawford Powell with his term expiring May 31, 2023 and reappointing Mr. Scott Purvis with his term expiring May 31, 2023. There being no other nominations, Mr. Walker, Mr. Powell and Mr. Purvis were reappointed by acclamation. Chairman Slaughter stated for the vacant seat that still needs to be filled, that appointment will be placed on the next meeting in November. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if there was a list of duties that could be sent to him regarding this board.

## **Public Hearing**

**Abandonment of Artherman Lane**, Senior Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Commission made the initial determination at their last regular meeting held October 13, 2020, adding the item has been advertised and remains ready for consideration. No one spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to abandon Artherman Lane, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Solicitor-General's VOCA Continuation Grant**, Chairman Slaughter stated Ms. Karen Hayes presented this grant request during the work session. There being no additional questions, Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Solicitor-General's Office 2021 VAWA Competitive Application**, Chairman Slaughter stated Ms. Karen Hayes presented this grant request during the work session. There being no additional questions, Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the request, Vice Chairman Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Adoption of the 2021-2022 Budget Calendar**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the upcoming budget calendar for consideration. Ms. Black stated while the budget must be approved by June 30, the other dates can be adjusted if needed. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the calendar as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Approval of DA's Federal VOCA Grant Application Renewal**, Chairman Slaughter stated Mrs. Paige Dukes presented the item on behalf of District Attorney, Brad Shealy, during the work session meeting. There being no additional questions, Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **BID**

**Stone Creek Elevated Tank Coating**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the bids ranged from \$148,000.00 - \$215,115.00, with Southeastern Tank & Tower, Inc. submitting the low bid for \$148,000.00. Commissioner Orenstein asked if this work would interfere with the services provided by the Lowndes County Utilities Department, Mr. Stalvey responded no. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Bid for Four 10-Wheel Dump Trucks for the Public Works Department**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the bid for a quantity of four 10-Wheel Dump Trucks for the Public Works Department. Ms. Black stated Beck Motors was the only bidder to meet specifications for a 2021 Peterbuilt 348, for \$116,049.00 each, with a total cost of \$464,196.00. Commissioner Marshall asked how long does it take to receive the trucks, Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, stated 120 days.

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the purchase, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, spoke in response to Commissioner Marshall's question at the work session meeting, there were six unauthorized burns this year, 33 authorized controlled burns by permits, and 158 other types of grass related fires, outside debris, etc. Mrs. Dukes further explained fire rescue staff have been trying to educate the community when called out for burnings and leaving a copy of the burn ordinance for the citizens to review. Commissioner Marshall thanked Mrs. Dukes for the information. Mrs. Dukes also stated that she has asked Fire Chief, Lloyd Green, to update the current burn ordinance. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated 911 Director, Danny Weeks, informed her that the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC), went through the audit process this morning at their office and GCIC found no issues. Mrs. Dukes stated Halloween events will be held by the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Miller Business Park as a drive thru event and beginning 3:30 p.m. on Highway 84 West, at the Rivers Radio Group, they will have an event with 'Sparky' the fire rescue dog in attendance.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD** - None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chairman Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 5:50 p.m.