

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, August 12, 2019

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of July 22, 2019, and the regular session of July 23, 2019. No changes to the minutes were requested.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat currently held by Mr. Randall Crews expired June 30, adding Mr. Crews has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Commissioner Orenstein asked how many terms Mr. Crews has served, to which Mr. Pritchard replied at least two. Chairman Slaughter commented that Mr. Crews may be in his third term. Chairman Slaughter also stated the City of Valdosta has recently filled vacancies on the board, adding the community may see more activity from them soon.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Applications**

Fire Chief/EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented a hazard mitigation grant request in the amount of \$1,176,015.51 to include a \$392,005.17 match from Pruitt Health Corporation. Mr. Tye stated the grants are usually only available to local governments and not for profit facilities; however, for profit nursing homes are now allowed to apply for assistance through a local government. Mr. Tye further stated if funded, the grant will pay seventy-five percent and Pruitt Health Corporation will pay twenty-five percent toward the total cost of generators that will be used to power Pruitt nursing home facilities in the event of a power outage. Chairman Slaughter clarified that the request includes five separate grant applications, to which Mr. Tye replied yes. Mr. Tye stated one or all of the applications could be funded based on his conversations with GEMA.

### **EMGrants User Access Agreement**

Fire Chief/EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the agreement. Mr. Tye stated Lowndes County receives \$32,770.00 in funding each year from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Tye further stated the funds are received in return for the County agreeing to maintain an Emergency Management Agency, adding the agreement is a renewal of the existing terms.

### **Dell Lease Purchase Schedule**

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented a lease agreement schedule in the amount of \$43,178.61, to cover laptops for the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Kostyu stated the actual purchase was approved at the Commission's May 14, 2019, regular meeting.

### **Signing of Master Services Agreement (MSA) between IBM and Lowndes County.**

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated approval of the Master Services Agreement covers support services for IBM data storage hardware. Chairman Slaughter asked if the item is budgeted, to which Mr. Kostyu replied yes.

### **Annual Contract Renewal for Mosquito Identification and Testing**

Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, presented an agreement in the amount of \$45,790.00, between Lowndes County and Valdosta State University for the trapping, identification and testing of mosquitoes for the purpose of monitoring the County for mosquito borne diseases. Mrs. Cumbus stated the agreement is a renewal of the current terms.

### **Howell Lane R/W Property Just Compensation**

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the County needs to acquire 0.05+/- acres of real property along Howell Lane for road right of way. Mr. Fletcher further stated the Commission must determine the "just compensation" purchase price to offer property owner, Cecelia Carr, and approve a related resolution. Mr. Fletcher added Bajalia & Associates, LLC's appraised value for the property is \$1,489.00.

### **SPLOST VIII**

County Attorney, Walter Elliott, stated Lowndes County and the cities of Valdosta, Hahira, Lake Park, Remerton and Dasher have all approved the SPLOST VIII Agreement. Mr. Elliott further stated the Commission must now approve the required Resolution calling for the tax. Commissioner Marshall questioned the deadline to submit the Resolution. Mr. Elliott stated the goal is to forward the information the following day, adding the deadline is next week.

### **BIDS**

#### **LAS & Pump Station Improvements**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented bids received for improvements to the County's Land Application Site and Bevel Creek, Francis Lake and Coleman Road lift stations. Mr. Stalvey stated all bids were higher than anticipated. Mr. Stalvey further stated staff negotiated with low bidder, Doyle Hancock & Sons Construction, Inc., to an agreed upon cost of \$1,520,858.00. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked if the County has done business with Doyle Hancock & Sons Construction, Inc. in the past, to which Mr. Stalvey replied no. Mr. Stalvey stated staff did check references and received

favorable reviews. Commissioner Marshall questioned the drop in cost from \$2,495,140.00 to \$1,520,858.00. Mr. Stalvey stated some items initially included had to be eliminated to reduce project costs.

#### **Paving on Howell Lane and a portion of Lester Road**

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the County solicited bids for the paving on Howell Lane and a portion of Lester Road. Mr. Fletcher stated The Scruggs Company submitted the low bid in the amount of \$849,354.00.

#### **Replacement of Hickory Grove Road Bridges**

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item with Southern Concrete Construction Company submitting the sole bid in the amount of \$2,613,684.00. Mr. Fletcher stated the project will replace two bridges on Hickory Grove Road, one over Mud Swamp and one over Grand Bay Creek. Mr. Fletcher further stated the projects represent the County's first constrained project under TIA. Chairman Slaughter questioned how long the road would be closed. Mr. Fletcher stated that once GDOT approves the bridge plan, the contractor will have 180 days to complete the project and have the road open.

#### **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, informed the Commission that staff will have the millage rate prepared for consideration during the August 27 Regular Meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Evans second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:46 a.m.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, August 13, 2019

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

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

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

**INVOCATION**

Vice Chairman Wisenbaker

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Vice Chairman Wisenbaker

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of July 22, 2019, and the regular meeting of July 23, 2019. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat held by Mr. Randall Crews expired June 30, 2019. Mr. Pritchard further stated Mr. Crews has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Chairman Slaughter nominated Mr. Crews for appointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. Randall Crews was reappointed.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Applications**

Fire Chief/EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented a Hazard Mitigation grant request in the amount of \$1,568,020.68. Mr. Tye stated that if funded, the grants will allow Pruitt Health Corporation to purchase generators for five nursing homes. Mr. Tye further stated that the Georgia Emergency Management Agency will fund seventy-five percent of the approved cost with Pruitt Health providing the other twenty-five. Mr. Tye added that Lowndes County will not incur any costs related to the project beyond handling disbursement. Commissioner Orenstein asked if nursing home residents

have had to be relocated in the past. Mr. Tye replied that back-up generators and temporary air conditioning units have been borrowed during past power outages. Chairman Slaughter commented this has been an issue in other communities. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the grant as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **EMGrants User Access Agreement**

Fire Chief/EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the agreement in the amount of \$32,770.00. Mr. Tye stated the Georgia Emergency Management Agency provides annual funding to local governments that maintain emergency management agencies, adding approval of the agreement will allow staff to utilize GEMA's online portal to request available funds. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Dell Lease Purchase Schedule**

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated the lease schedule agreement addresses the \$43,178.61, in funding previously approved for the purchase of laptops for the Sheriff's Office. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Signing of Master Services Agreement (MSA) between IBM and Lowndes County.**

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated the agreement will cover support services for IBM hardware that is used for data storage. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Annual Contract Renewal for Mosquito Identification and Testing**

Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, presented the agreement in the amount of \$45,790.00. Mrs. Cumbus stated the agreement represents the annual renewal of the work Dr. Mark Blackmore and his students perform with regards to the trapping, identifying and testing of mosquitoes for disease. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Howell Lane R/W Property Just Compensation**

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the County needs to acquire 0.05+/- acres of real property along Howell Lane for road right of way. Mr. Fletcher further stated the Commission must determine the "just compensation" purchase price to offer property owner, Cecelia Carr, and approve a related resolution. Mr. Fletcher added Bajalia & Associates, LLC's appraised value for the property is \$1,489.00. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **SPLOST VIII**

County Attorney Walter Elliott, presented the item. Mr. Elliott stated all five cities have approved the SPLOST VIII agreement. Mr. Elliott further stated the next step requires the Commission to approve the Resolution presented during the work session so that the information can be forwarded to the Board of Elections. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the Resolution calling for the tax to be imposed, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **BIDS**

### **LAS & Pump Station Improvements**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated staff solicited bids for improvements to the County's Land Application Site, and Bevel Creek, Francis Lake and Coleman Road lift station repairs. Mr. Stalvey further stated all bids were higher than anticipated with Doyle Hancock & Sons submitting the low bid, in the amount of \$2,495,140.00. Mr. Stalvey stated staff negotiated with the low bidder down to an agreed upon amount of \$1,520,858.00. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker made a motion to award the bid to the low bidder at the negotiated rate of \$1,520,858.00, Commissioners Orenstein and Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Paving on Howell Lane and a portion of Lester Road**

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item with The Scruggs Company submitting the low bid in the amount of \$849,354.00. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to award the bid to the low bidder as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Replacement of Hickory Grove Road Bridges**

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item with Southern Concrete Construction submitting the sole bid in the amount of \$2,613,984.00. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker made a motion to award the bid to the sole bidder as presented, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

No additional information was reported.

## **CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens to be heard.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Slaughter announced to the Commission, staff and other in attendance his intentions to seek a third term as Chairman. Chairman Slaughter stated it has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve, adding he would like to continue his service for another term.

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 5:46 p.m.