

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, May 24, 2021

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 8:30 a.m.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of May 10, 2021 and the regular session of May 11, 2021. No changes to the minutes were requested.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Lowndes County Development Authority**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the three seats currently held by Clay Griner, Crawford Powell, and Barry Broome are set to expire June 8, 2021, and all have expressed a desire to continue to serve.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Insolvent List - Tax Commissioner**, Tax Commissioner, Rodney Cain, presented the item. Mr. Cain stated this request is to have the Commission approve the 2021 Insolvent Property Tax list and to write off taxes and associated late fees. Vice Chairman Griner asked were these seven or more years delinquent, Mr. Cain responded yes. Vice Chairman Griner inquired as to how much there would be next year, Mr. Cain stated if he were guessing, less than \$100,000.00. Commissioner Marshall asked if the fees could be waived, Mr. Cain stated these were being written off due to being uncollectible. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if mobile homes were considered personal property, Mr. Cain responded no. Commissioner Orenstein asked regarding the real estate amount, as to why those properties did not go to sale, Mr. Cain stated they did, but did not sell. Chairman Slaughter mentioned to Mr. Cain regarding the Land Bank Authority and the possibility of those properties being transferred into the Land Bank to help them from a funding source as well. Chairman Slaughter stated this is an opportunity to help the community by working with the Land Bank. Commissioner Marshall asked if the insolvent list would be presented annually, Mr. Cain answered yes.

**Wine License - Teresa D. Griffin of Georgia Pecan House, Inc., DBA Georgia Pecan House - 3473 Madison Hwy., Valdosta, GA**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms.

Black stated this existing business is requesting to add wine for consumption off premise and may also provide samples.

**Lease-Purchase Agreement for Radios**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a request in the amount of \$1,445,153.56, to purchase radios for the Sheriff, Animal Control, Public Works and 911. Ms. Black stated these are needed to replace existing radios which are no longer supported. Lastly, Ms. Black stated she has a copy of the proposed resolution approving the equipment lease purchase agreement and the related communications products agreement.

**Acceptance of Infrastructure for Two Oaks Subdivision Phase II**, 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 at this time.

## **BID**

**Bids for Bottled Water Service**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black presented the bid for bottled water service for all county buildings, with DS Services of America submitting the low bid in the amount of \$4.25, per bottle. Additionally, Ms. Black stated the estimated annual cost is based on average usage for the prior year.

**Purchase of Trucks for Various Departments on State Contract**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a request to purchase three trucks each for the Utilities Department, Code Enforcement and Fire Department. Ms. Black stated these would replace existing high mileage vehicles in those departments. Additionally, Ms. Black stated a local vendor, Langdale Ford, agreed to meet the state contract prices. Langdale Ford quoted the following prices: F-150 Supercab w/towing \$31,444.84 each x 3= \$94,334.52, F-150 Supercab \$28,074.84 each x 3= \$84,224.52 and F-150 Supercab XL \$32,073.76 each x 3= \$96,221.28.

**Bid for Washers/Dryers for Fire Stations**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black presented the request to purchase large capacity washers and dryers for the Lowndes County Fire Department. Ms. Black stated these are for the new full time stations and to complete a set for Station 10. Additionally, Ms. Black stated one bid was received that met specifications from Tri-State Laundry Company, in the amount of \$60,421.00. Commissioner Marshall asked for the number of washers and dryers being quoted, Fire Chief, Lloyd Green, responded three washers and four dryers.

**Bid for Four (4) Bat-Wing Mowers for Public Works**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item with Southern Tractor submitting the low bid in the amount of \$71,600.00, for a quantity of four bat-wing mowers for the Lowndes County Public Works Department. Ms. Black stated these mowers would be used for the county right of ways.

**Bid for Four (4) Tractors for Public Works**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black presented the item with Atlantic & Southern presenting the low bid, in the amount of \$236,056.00 for a quantity of four Massey Ferguson 5710 tractors. Ms. Black stated these tractors would be used to maintain county right of way. Commissioner Marshall asked if these were enclosed, Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, responded yes.

**Val-Tech Booster Station Generator**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey presented the item with Cowart Electric presenting the sole bid, in the amount of \$47,500.00. Mr. Stalvey stated this is for the purchase and installation of a 100KW generator, automatic transfer switch, and a concrete pad.

**REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, reminded the Commissioners of the Hurricane Preparedness Kick-Off meeting being held Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lowndes County Emergency Operations Center. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated that over the weekend, the City of Valdosta had an apartment fire and Lowndes County Fire Rescue was able to assist.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:48 a.m.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, May 25, 2021

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Vice Chairman Griner was not in attendance.

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

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Orenstein

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Orenstein

**Recognition of the Lowndes County 4-H Archery Team (Regular Session)**

Chairman Slaughter recognized the 4-H Archery Team for their accomplishments.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of May 10, 2021, and the regular session of May 11, 2021. No changes to the minutes were requested. 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 Development Authority**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the seats held by Commissioner Clay Griner, Mr. Crawford Powell and Mr. Barry Broome will expire June 8, 2021. Chairman Slaughter nominated Commissioner Griner, Mr. Powell and Mr. Broome for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Clay Griner, Mr. Crawford Powell and Mr. Barry Broome were reappointed by acclamation.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Insolvent List - Tax Commissioner**, Chairman Slaughter asked County Manager, Paige Dukes, for additional clarification regarding this request. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to table this request until the next meeting being held June 8, 2021, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Wine License - Teresa D. Griffin of Georgia Pecan House, Inc., DBA Georgia Pecan House - 3473 Madison Hwy., Valdosta, GA,** Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Mrs. Black stated this is a license for wine for consumption off premise and samples may also be provided. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the wine license, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Lease-Purchase Agreement for Radios,** Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a request in the amount of \$1,445,153.56, to purchase radios for the Sheriff, Animal Control, Public Works and 911. Ms. Black stated these are needed to replace existing radios which are no longer supported. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked what is the shelf-life of the radios, EMA Director, Ashley Tye, responded 10-15 years. Commissioner Orenstein asked what happens to the existing radios, Mr. Tye stated the price quoted was due to trading the existing radios in for their trade in value. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached Resolution approving the referenced Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement, Communication Product Agreement, related documents and other actions, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Acceptance of Infrastructure for Two Oaks Subdivision Phase II,** County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the County is being asked to accept all infrastructure related to Phase II, adding the work is substantially complete at this time. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **BID**

**Bids for Bottled Water Service,** Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented this item for bottled water service for all county facilities. Ms. Black stated the estimated cost per year would be \$6,000.00. Commissioner Orenstein asked if this included all county buildings, Ms. Black responded yes. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the contract with DS Services of America, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Purchase of Trucks for Various Departments on State Contract,** Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a request to purchase three trucks each for the Utilities Department, Code Enforcement and Fire Department. Ms. Black stated these would replace existing high mileage vehicles in those departments. Additionally, Ms. Black stated a local vendor, Langdale Ford, agreed to meet the state contract prices. Langdale Ford quoted the following prices: F-150 Supercab w/towing in the amount of \$94,334.52, F-150 Supercab in the amount of \$84,224.52 and F-150 Supercab XL in the amount of \$96,221.28. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to award the bid to Langdale Ford, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Bid for Washers/Dryers for Fire Stations,** Finance Director, Stephanie Black presented the request to purchase large capacity washers and dryers for the Lowndes County Fire Department. Ms. Black stated these are for the new full time stations and to complete a set for Station 10. Additionally, Ms. Black stated one bid was received that met specifications from Tri-State Laundry Company in the amount of \$60,421.00. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Bid for Four (4) Bat-Wing Mowers for Public Works**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item with Southern Tractor submitting the low bid in the amount of \$17,900.00 (each) for a total amount of \$71,600.00, for a quantity of four bat-wing mowers for the Lowndes County Public Works Department. Ms. Black stated these mowers would be used for the county right of ways. Chairman Slaughter wanted to verify the specifications of the low bidder, Southern Tractor, that they met specifications, Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, stated yes, they met the specifications. Commissioner Marshall asked when is the expected delivery, Mrs. Cumbus responded some mowers may be available currently. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to award the bid to Southern Tractor in the amount of \$71,600.00, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Bid for Four (4) Tractors for Public Works**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black presented the item with Atlantic & Southern presenting the low bid in the amount of \$59,014.00 (each) for a total amount of \$236,056.00, for a quantity of four Massey Ferguson 5710 tractors. Ms. Black stated these tractors would be used to maintain county right of way. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to award the bid to Atlantic & Southern in the amount of \$236,056.00, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Val-Tech Booster Station Generator**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey presented the item with Cowart Electric presenting the sole bid, in the amount of \$47,500.00. Mr. Stalvey stated this is for the purchase and installation of a 100KW generator, automatic transfer switch, and a concrete pad. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

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

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated Leadership Lowndes and Local Government Day was held last Thursday, with Meghan Barwick and J.D. Dillard playing an instrumental role for Lowndes County. Mrs. Dukes stated the favorite part of the afternoon was the rodeo held at Public Works, in which the Leadership Lowndes class was able to operate the equipment. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated Commissioners Evans and Wisenbaker were at Public Works to help celebrate National Public Works Week. Mrs. Dukes made the Commission aware that the annual property assessment notices would be mailed out to include the county fire millage on those notices. Mrs. Dukes stated a 41 North Widening Kick-Off meeting was being held May 26, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. and the budget work session would be held on June 2, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. Mrs. Dukes stated some citizens residing on Gaines Lane were in attendance and Gaines Lane is the first private road accepted and completed for County maintenance.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD** - There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Marshall thanked South Georgia Medical Center EMS Chief, David Bauch, for the EMS Commemorative Coin that he gave all of the Commissioners before the meeting. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session at 5:54 p.m.