

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Tuesday, May 28, 2019 - 4:30 PM

**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 work session to order at 4:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of May 13, 2019, and the regular session of May 14, 2019. No changes to the minutes were requested.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated a vacancy exists due to a resignation. Mr. Pritchard further stated Mrs. Berinda Nwakamma has expressed a desire to serve. Mrs. Nwakamma addressed the Commission stating she has been a social worker for twelve years and feels she has something to offer based on her experience. The Commission thanked Mrs. Nwakamma for her willingness to serve.

**Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated Commissioner Joyce Evans has served on the board for many years, adding her current term will expire June 30. Chairman Slaughter stated he has spoken with Commissioner Evans and she has agreed to continue to serve, but is also supportive of anyone else on the Commission that might also be interested.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**TWR-2019-01 Value Concepts, Inc., US Hwy 84 E. E-A, New 300'  
Telecommunications Tower**

Planning Representative, Molly Stevenson, presented the item. Mrs. Stevenson stated the applicant would like to construct a 300' telecommunications tower. Mrs. Stevenson further stated staff has obtained the documentation the Commission requested from stake holders with the FAA and Moody Air Force Base. In addition, the Planning Commission voted in favor of the request and there were no objectionable comments from the TRC.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Motorola Support Agreement**

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented an agreement with Motorola in the amount of \$59,412.00. Mr. Kostyu stated the agreement provides for the support and maintenance of Offendertrak and the Oracle data base used by the Lowndes County Jail from July 1, 2019, until June 30, 2020.

### **Lease Agreement for Sheriff's Office Laptops**

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented a request in the amount of \$130,350.51, to lease laptops to serve as in-car computers for the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Kostyu stated the terms of the lease require three annual payments of \$43,178.61. Mr. Kostyu further stated since tablets were originally budgeted, the cost savings will provide for the purchase of ten hand-held units used to write citations.

### **Beer and Wine License - Mohammad Zahid of M & H Food Stop Inc. DBA M & H Food Stop - 8235 Hwy. 122 W., Hahira, GA**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a request for sale of beer and wine for consumption off premise. Mrs. Black stated the request is due to the opening of a new business, adding all requirements have been met. Ms. Black further stated the location previously operated as Little River Groceries.

### **Extension of Corrections Software Solutions Probation Tracking System Agreement**

Probation Director, Ferlisha Rountree, presented the item. Mrs. Rountree stated Probation needs to move to a more permanent software solution, adding the current vendor has offered a contract extension to address the change to the new vendor. Mrs. Rountree stated approval of the letter drafted by the County Attorney will provide for an extension expected to be no more than ninety days at a cost of \$1,448.00 per month.

### **Pronto Software for Probation Monitoring and Tracking of Probationer Compliance.**

Probation Director, Ferlisha Rountree, presented the item. Mrs. Rountree stated Pronto Software is the new software vendor recommended by staff. Mrs. Rountree further stated the vendor requires a one-time set up fee of \$3,500.00 and a monthly fee of \$1,320.00. Commissioner Griner asked if the monthly cost is based on the number of probationers. Mrs. Rountree replied that the cost is based on the number of personnel using the system, instead of the number of probationers.

**Agreement from Life Hope Labs for 2019 Lab Services Price List for Drug Test Confirmations and Drug/Alcohol Supplies**

Probation Director, Ferlisha Rountree, presented the item. Mrs. Rountree stated the price list before the Commission represents the cost of testing for probationers, adding there is no cost to the county since the probationers pay for their own testing. Commissioner Marshall asked if a local lab could handle the testing. Mrs. Rountree stated staff could see what is available, adding not every test is confirmed by the lab. Commissioner Marshall asked if a probationer could dispute the results, to which Mrs. Rountree replied the disputed tests are the tests sent off to the lab for additional confirmation. Chairman Slaughter stated that a local lab would follow the same protocol. Commissioner Griner asked Mrs. Rountree to confirm that the individual pays the cost of the testing, to which Mrs. Rountree replied yes.

**Standard Utility Agreement/Preliminary Engineering Agreement**

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the updated agreement in the amount of \$49,270.00, between Lowndes County and the Georgia Department of Transportation is required for the CR 274/Lake Park Bellville Road project, adding GDOT will bear one-hundred percent of the cost.

**REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, requested an executive session for attorney-client privilege to discuss pending litigation. At 4:46 p.m., Vice Chairman Wisenbaker made a motion to enter into executive session as requested, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Slaughter called the work session back to order at 5:01 p.m. No further discussion took place. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session as requested.

---

Bill Slaughter, Chairman

---

K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, May 28, 2019 - 5:30 PM

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 regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Griner

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Griner

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of May 13, 2019, and the regular session of May 14, 2019. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)**  
County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated there has been a resignation on the DBHDD Board and Mrs. Berinda Nwakamma has expressed a desire to serve. Mr. Pritchard further stated Mrs. Nwakamma introduced herself to the Commission during the work session. Commissioner Marshall nominated Mrs. Berinda Nwakamma for appointment. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Nwakamma was appointed by acclamation. Chairman Slaughter stated Mrs. Nwakamma is also a member of the Leadership Lowndes, Class of 2019.

### **Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment, stating the seat currently held by Commissioner Evans expires June 30. Commissioner Marshall nominated Commissioner Evans for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Evans was appointed by acclamation. Chairman Slaughter thanked Commissioner Evans for her willingness to continue to serve.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **TWR-2019-01 Value Concepts, Inc., US Hwy 84 E. E-A, New 300' Telecommunications Tower**

Planning Representative, Molly Stevenson, presented the item. Mrs. Stevenson stated the applicant would like to construct a 300' telecommunications tower, adding the request was tabled at the last meeting due to the need for additional information related to the impact the tower could have on Moody Air Force Base. Mrs. Stevenson further stated staff has received confirmation from Moody that their personnel has no objections and that the project also presents no hazards from the FAA. No one spoke against the request. Clay Brogdon, Southern Linc Representative, spoke in favor of the request and volunteered to answer any questions the Commission might have. Audrey King, Georgia Power, 805 West Savannah Avenue spoke in favor of the request stating the new tower will improve communication capabilities for Georgia Power personnel which will in turn improve restoration times and employee safety. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the tower as requested, Commissioners Evans and Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **Motorola Support Agreement**

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented an agreement with Motorola in the amount of \$59,412.00. Mr. Kostyu stated the agreement provides for the support and maintenance of Offendertrak and the Oracle data base used by the Lowndes County Jail from July 1, 2019, until June 30, 2020. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the renewal as presented, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Lease Agreement for Sheriff's Office Laptops**

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented a request in the amount of \$130,350.51, to lease laptops to serve as in-car computers for the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Kostyu stated the terms of the lease require three annual payments of \$43,178.61. Mr. Kostyu further stated since tablets were originally budgeted, the cost savings will provide for the purchase of ten hand-held units used to write citations. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Beer and Wine License - Mohammad Zahid of M & H Food Stop Inc. DBA M & H Food Stop - 8235 Hwy. 122 W., Hahira, GA**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black presented the item. Mrs. Black stated the request for consumption of beer and wine off premise is due to a change in ownership, adding all requirements have been met. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Extension of Corrections Software Solutions Probation Tracking System Agreement**

Probation Director, Ferlisha Rountree, presented the item. Mrs. Rountree stated Probation needs to move to a more permanent software solution, adding the current vendor has offered a contract extension to address the change to the new vendor. Mrs. Rountree stated approval of the letter drafted by the County Attorney will provide for an extension expected to be no more than ninety days at a cost of \$1,448.00 per month. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioners Evans and Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Pronto Software for Probation Monitoring and Tracking of Probationer Compliance.**

Probation Director, Ferlisha Rountree, presented the item. Mrs. Rountree stated Pronto Software is the new software vendor recommended by staff. Mrs. Rountree further stated the vendor requires a one-time set up fee of \$3,500.00 and a monthly fee of \$1,320.00. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Agreement from Life Hope Labs for 2019 Lab Services Price List for Drug Test Confirmations and Drug/Alcohol Supplies**

Probation Director, Ferlisha Rountree, presented the item. Mrs. Rountree stated while the price list requires approval by the Commission, there will be no cost to Lowndes County. Mrs. Rountree explained probationers are responsible for paying for their own testing. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the price list as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Standard Utility Agreement/Preliminary Engineering Agreement**

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the updated agreement in the amount of \$49,270.00, between Lowndes County and the Georgia Department of Transportation is required for the CR 274/Lake Park Bellville Road project, adding GDOT will bear one-hundred percent of the cost. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, announced to the Commission and those in attendance that the Lowndes County Finance Department has received the Distinguished Budget Award from the Government Finance Officer's Association for the thirteenth consecutive year. Finance Director, Stephanie Black, provided the Commission with details related to the information evaluated. Chairman Slaughter and the Commissioners thanked Ms. Black and her staff for their continued excellence in financial reporting.

**Citizens Wishing To Be Heard - Please State Your Name and Address**

Ed Barr, 2609 Green Meadow Drive, addressed the Commission regarding his support for a new animal shelter and encouraged the Commission to consider factors related to creating a better environment at the shelter for both employees and pets.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular meeting at 5:48 p.m.

---

Bill Slaughter, Chairman

---

K. Paige Dukes, County Clerk