

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, June 7, 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 24, 2021 and the regular session of May, 2021. No changes to the minutes were requested.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the seat held by Bubba Highsmith will expire June 30, 2021, adding Mr. Highsmith would like to continue to serve.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Agreement for HVAC Service for Additional Lowndes County Buildings**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the recently entered agreement with ABM for an energy management project, that will include upgrades of HVAC equipment in a number of facilities as well as maintenance for a period of time, did not include some county buildings in that original agreement. Additionally, Ms. Black stated ABM has provided an agreement to extend the HVAC service to these facilities for two years. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the payment schedule, Ms. Black responded \$28,842.00, is the annual payment on that agreement to cover all the buildings. Commissioner Marshall inquired if local vendors would be used, County Manager, Paige Dukes, responded that ABM has looked for local technicians in our area to perform those services.

**Acceptance of Quitclaim Deeds for a portion of Gaines Lane**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated that Lowndes County has received signed quitclaim deeds for a portion of Gaines Lane, a private dirt road. Mr. Fletcher stated Lowndes County will add Gaines Lane into the county road inventory for maintenance.

**Insolvent List - Tax Commissioner**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented this item stating it was tabled from the last meeting, due to questions regarding paving assessments. Mrs. Dukes stated the list is in order and ready for the commission's consideration.

## **BID**

**Fender Road Improvement Project**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the project includes Fender Road being paved from Whitewater Road to its intersection with Williams School Road. Mr. Fletcher further stated The Scruggs Company submitted the low bid, in the amount of \$618,767.14.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated annual assessment notices mailed from the Tax Assessors office did not include the exemptions for the county fire millage. Mrs. Dukes stated the notices were being revised and remailed this week. Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker asked what is the next step regarding this process, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, stated the budget approval is at the end of June and the millage is set in early August.

County Manager, Paige Dukes, requested an executive session at 8:45 a.m. for the purpose of a privileged attorney-client communication regarding potential or pending litigation. Commissioner Evans made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of a privileged attorney-client communication regarding potential or pending litigation, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:29 a.m. Chairman Slaughter reconvened the work session, no additional information was discussed. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Marshall second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 9:29 a.m.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, June 8, 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 5:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Marshall

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Marshall

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of May 24, 2021, and the regular session of May 25, 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.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the seat held by Bubba Highsmith will expire June 30, 2021, adding Mr. Highsmith has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Being that no additional candidates were presented, Chairman Slaughter stated Mr. Bubba Highsmith will be reappointed by acclamation.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Agreement for HVAC Service for Additional Lowndes County Buildings**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated a previous agreement with ABM did not include other county buildings for HVAC service. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the agreement with ABM in the amount of \$28,842.00, Vice Chairman Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Acceptance of Quitclaim Deeds for a portion of Gaines Lane**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated that Lowndes County has received signed quitclaim deeds for a portion of Gaines Lane, a private dirt road. Mr. Fletcher stated Lowndes County will add Gaines Lane into the county road inventory for maintenance. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to accept the quitclaim deeds and to adopt the resolution accepting dedication of the private dirt portion of Gaines Lane, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Insolvent List - Tax Commissioner**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item stating this item was tabled from the last meeting in order for staff to provide additional information regarding this list. Mrs. Dukes stated after conversations with the Tax Commissioner's staff and Finance Director, Stephanie Black as well as County Attorney, Walter Elliott, reviewing the information, a recommendation is being made to honor the Tax Commissioner's request and approve this item. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the insolvent list as presented, Commissioner Marshall second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **BID**

**Fender Road Improvement Project**, County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the project includes Fender Road being paved from Whitewater Road to its intersection with Williams School Road. Mr. Fletcher further stated The Scruggs Company submitted the low bid, in the amount of \$618,767.14. Vice Chairman Griner made a motion to approve the low bidder as presented, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated The Bandit movie is currently filming in Downtown Valdosta and will be filming next week in the Lowndes County Historic Courthouse. Mrs. Dukes stated staff will be meeting with our Southern Marketing Coordinator, with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Beth Meeks next week regarding a Farmer of the Year recognition. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes mentioned State Court Judge, John Edwards, was notified that Judge Melton has sent the last order extending the emergency order for the courts through June 30th. Lastly, Mrs. Dukes commended Mr. Tye's leadership in providing a renewal of our 'storm ready' designation in Lowndes County; Mrs. Dukes asked Mr. Tye to give the commission an update. Chairman Slaughter stated this would not have happened without the partnerships with emergency management and thanked Mr. Tye for his efforts and dedication.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the time frame with the revised assessment notices, Mrs. Dukes responded they were being mailed this week. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session meeting at 5:44 p.m.