

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, September 27, 2021

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter  
Vice Chairman Joyce Evans  
Commissioner Scott Orenstein  
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker  
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 September 13, 2021 and the regular session of September 14, 2021. No changes to the minutes were requested.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Motorola SUAll (Evergreen)**, 911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented the item stating this agreement with Motorola SUAll (Evergreen), will allow Lowndes County to maintain a current system by providing system upgrades every two years, as well as 24/7 support. Additionally, Mr. Weeks stated the latest version of hardware and software from Motorola would be installed. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if there was any additional cost for having the latest software/hardware installed, Mr. Weeks responded no. Commissioner Orenstein asked the location for these upgrades, Mr. Weeks responded the majority would be at the tower sites.

**Architect Agreement for The Mae Wisenbaker McMullen Southside Library Addition & Renovation**, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item stating the Mae Wisenbaker McMullen, Southside Library addition and renovation project was approved on the SPLOST VIII referendum for \$175,000.00. Mr. McLeod stated the total project cost is estimated at \$2,000,075.00, but the amount of this request, \$113,750.00, is for the architect portion of the project. IPG, Inc. was the original architect of the current building and has been working with the library board on this proposed project. Chairman Slaughter wanted to verify the \$113,750.00 was coming out of the \$175,000.00 approved SPLOST VIII referendum, Mr. McLeod responded yes.

**Consideration of Service Delivery Strategy Agreement Language**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated that after many years of negotiations with the City of Valdosta, the language is before you that the city council will be considering this week. Mrs. Dukes stated this is the next step in the process; if the commission would like to consider and approve this tomorrow evening and following, the County Attorney will be given direction to update the service

delivery agreement as well as forms needed to be sent to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Chairman Slaughter stated this is consideration of the language which was verbally agreed upon between the city and county. Chairman Slaughter stated Mr. Elliott will be revising the documents and incorporating the language. Commissioner Orenstein asked if the language submitted for review from the City of Valdosta was approved by the other cities, Chairman Slaughter answered yes; to his knowledge the Mayor had spoken to Hahira, Lake Park and Remerton. County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated Mayor Matheson is also aware while we're approving, this will be revised for the attorneys to be able to work this into the agreement. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked County Attorney, Walter Elliott, how long it would take to get the documentation ready, Mr. Elliott responded by the next meeting.

## **BID**

**Purchase of Motor Graders for Public Works**, Purchasing Agent, Amy Woods, presented the item with Flint Equipment Company submitting the low bid in the amount of \$349,736.00 (each). Mrs. Woods stated these motor graders are available on state contract. Chairman Slaughter asked if the two motor graders being replaced would still be used, Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus, answered they are going to keep the motor graders to use for parts. Chairman Slaughter asked how many motor graders will be in inventory now, Mrs. Cumbus responded the current total is six. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if there was a difference between Caterpillar and John Deere, Mrs. Cumbus responded there was not much of a difference in the maintenance records. Chairman Slaughter asked Mrs. Cumbus if she is satisfied with the John Deere product, Mrs. Cumbus responded yes.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, introduced Ranger Travis Redish, with the Georgia Forestry Commission. Mr. Redish presented the Commission with an annual report for the 2020-2021 year detailing forestry operations in the region. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the fee schedule, Mr. Redish answered that the fees were recently changed September 1, 2021. County Manager, Paige Dukes, thanked Mr. Redish for the information and for Forestry's service to Lowndes County.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:45 a.m.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, September 28, 2021

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

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

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and recognized the presence of City Councilwoman, Sandra Tooley and also class members of Leadership Lowndes.

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Orenstein

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Orenstein

**National Cybersecurity Awareness Month Proclamation**

Chairman Slaughter read the proclamation for National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Chairman Slaughter thanked Mr. Kostyu and the IT Staff for their continued efforts in keeping Lowndes County Offices protected from possible cyberattacks.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of September 13, 2021, and the regular session of September 14, 2021. Vice Chairman Evans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Motorola SUAll (Evergreen)**, 911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented an agreement with Motorola in the amount of \$489,310.00, for maintenance and upgrades related to the system used by 911. Mr. Weeks stated the agreement provides for all maintenance and upgrades and will be paid monthly in the amount of \$40,776.00. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Vice Chairman Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Architect Agreement for The Mae Wisenbaker McMullen Southside Library Addition & Renovation**, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item for the architect agreement for the Mae Wisenbaker Southside Library addition and renovation projects with IPG, Inc.

for \$113,750.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Consideration of Service Delivery Strategy Agreement Language**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated Lowndes County and the City of Valdosta have worked together to develop Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) language that is acceptable to both governments related to water and sewer and the county road system and this is before you for your consideration. Chairman Slaughter made a motion to approve the document marked #2, presented to the Board at this meeting, subject to approval by the Board and the required cities, of a complete SDS Resolution and Agreement, with the required DCA Forms, prepared by the County Attorney incorporating the substance of the document marked #2, Commissioner Marshall second. Vice Chairman Evans, Commissioners Orenstein, Wisenbaker and Marshall voted in favor of the request, Commissioner Griner opposed. Motion carried.

## **BID**

**Purchase of Motor Graders for Public Works**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item with Flint Equipment Company submitting the low bid in the amount of \$349,736.00 (each). Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the bid as presented to include the associated 60 month lease agreement with Flint Equipment Company, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated Governor Kemp has announced a \$1,000.00, supplement for all eligible sworn law enforcement officials and first responders in Georgia. Information will be available through the portal which opens October 1, 2021. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated ABM is moving forward with new water meter installations for commercial customers only. There will be two teams from Lowndes County participating on Friday, October 1, at the historic courthouse for the Rotary Corporate Cup Challenge. There will be a ground-breaking on the shooting range cover for the Sheriff's Office held on Monday, October 4, at 10:00 a.m. Lastly, Mrs. Dukes stated Chief Green was notified by ISO that after additional review, Lowndes County Fire Rescue has maintained our ISO rating of 4/4X.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the regular session, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.