

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, June 22, 2021

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall was not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the 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 June 7, 2021, and the regular session of June 8, 2021. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Vice Chairman Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Lowndes County Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) Board**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the seat held by Raymond Conner will expire June 30, 2021, adding Mr. Conner would like to continue to serve. Chairman Slaughter nominated Raymond Conner for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mr. Raymond Conner was appointed by acclamation.

**South Georgia Regional Library Board**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated Mr. Gene Toffolo has resigned from his seat and his term will expire June 30, 2023. Mrs. Dukes stated Mr. Steve Boatner has been recommended to fill the remaining term expiring on June 30, 2023. Being that no additional candidates were presented, Chairman Slaughter stated Mr. Steve Boatner will be reappointed by acclamation.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Beer License - Jayagauri Patel of Gauri & Ekta LLC, DBA Quick Stop #1 - 1255 Lakes Blvd., Lake Park, GA**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the applicant

is requesting a license for the sale of beer for consumption off premise. Ms. Black stated the request is a new location previously operated as Palak Corp., but has been closed since 2019. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court Grant Award - State Court**, Chairman Slaughter presented the item, stating the Commission heard from Judge Golden during the work session. Vice Chairman Evans made a motion to approve acceptance of the grant in the amount of \$109,888.00, to include a ten percent match in the amount of \$12,210.00, and \$39,135.00 in additional funding for the surveillance officer's salary, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Echols County 9-1-1 Agreement**, 911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented the item. Mr. Weeks stated this agreement between Lowndes County 911 and Echols County is to provide the dispatching and 911 call answering services, and is updated to include receiving wireless 911 calls. Mr. Weeks also stated Echols County would be required to submit 911 fees collected to Lowndes County. Commissioner Orenstein asked if this was a new agreement, Mr. Weeks stated it is not a new agreement, Lowndes County 911 has been dispatching Echols County for years and this will allow wireless 911 calls to be dispatched as well. Commissioner Orenstein asked if there was an additional cost, Mr. Weeks responded no. Commissioner Orenstein asked if there would be increased workload and Mr. Weeks answered no. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Whitewater Lift Station Control Panel Emergency Repair**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the control panel deteriorated beyond repair due to the sewer gases coming from the lift station and staff deems this an emergency repair to prevent failure. Mr. Stalvey stated three quotes were received to rebuild and relocate the control panel with Cowart Electric submitting the low bid in the amount of \$53,140.00. Commissioner Orenstein asked if this is more than repairs since we're relocating, Mr. Stalvey responded yes, that is correct. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve emergency repair with Cowart Electric submitting the low bid for \$53,140.00 Vice Chairman Evans and Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Bemiss Low Pressure Sewer Main Replacement Change Order**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated this project was awarded to RPI at the January 12th commission meeting. Mr. Stalvey stated part of this project involves replacing a section of piping; the new pipe will not fit in the existing casing and will require a new casing. Commissioner Orenstein asked is this going under Bemiss Road, Mr. Stalvey responded under the railroad tracks near Bemiss Knights Academy Road. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the change order as presented by RPI for \$33,989.00, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**GEFA Loan - Sewer System Rehabilitation Project**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) has approved the loan request in the amount of \$2,500,000.00, for the rehabilitation of the sewer collection system. Mr. Stalvey stated the loan agreement is attached and staff recommends approval. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the loan agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the loan agreement,

resolution and promissory note, Vice Chairman Evans and Commission Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**GEFA Loan - Lake Park Bellville Road Utility Relocation**, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) has approved the loan request in the amount of \$1,904,500.00, for the relocation of water and sewer mains and related appurtenances in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) widening of Lake Park Bellville Road. Mr. Stalvey stated the loan agreement is attached and staff recommends approval. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the loan agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the loan agreement, resolution and promissory note, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Lowndes County Accountability Court Adult Drug Court Program - Grant (Cash Match)**, Chairman Slaughter presented the item, stating the Commission heard from Superior Court Accountability Court Administrator, Jennifer Fabbri, during the work session. Vice Chairman Evans made a motion to approve acceptance of the grant and the required match of \$23,557.16, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court - Drug Court Program - Grant (Cash Match)**, Chairman Slaughter presented the item, stating the Commission heard from Judge Jim Tunison during the work session. Vice Chairman Evans made a motion to approve acceptance of the grant and the required match of \$10,000.00, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Compute and Storage for South Lowndes Data Center**, IT Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated this item represents replacement of some equipment moved from the South Lowndes Data Center to the 911 Data Center in order to accommodate the public safety software project to replace equipment in the south Lowndes data center for the purpose of serving the Sheriff's Office, Animal Shelter and Public Works as well as being a backup for the north Lowndes data center and 911 data center. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request for compute and storage for South Lowndes Data Center in the amount of \$48,307.21, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **BIDS**

**Bid for Pest Control Service**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item with Astro Exterminating Services presenting the low bid, in the amount of \$6,734.40. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to award the bid to the low bidder as presented, Commissioner Griner second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Purchase of a Truck for Public Works**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated Public Works needs a truck to replace a truck which was totaled last month. Ms. Black stated a local vendor, Langdale Ford, agreed to meet the state contract price in the amount of \$28,074.84, for a Ford F-150 Supercab. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Purchase of Fire Turnout Gear**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a request to purchase new sets of turnout gear for fifteen new employees, for Lowndes County Fire Rescue. Ms. Black stated Municipal Equipment Company submitted the state contract pricing, in the total amount of \$46,777.50. Commissioner Orenstein asked how long does the turnout gear last, Fire Chief, Lloyd Green, responded usually about ten years. Commissioner Griner made the motion to approve the purchase of the protective gear from Municipal Equipment Company in the amount of \$46,777.50, Commissioners Orenstein and Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Bid for Grounds Maintenance for County Buildings**, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated bids were received for the grounds maintenance services for county buildings and one proposal was received that met all specifications. Commissioner Griner made a motion to approve Proficient Pool and Lawn Service, Inc. in the amount of \$158,140.00, for a one year contract, Commissioner Orenstein second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**REPORTS - County Manager**, County Manager, Paige Dukes, congratulated Commissioner Evans on being elected Chairperson of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission Board. Mrs. Dukes mentioned that there have been seventy local citizens trained through the Mental Health First Aid training partnership. Mrs. Dukes stated regarding the Griner property, Mr. McLeod is waiting on the elevations and the pipe has been ordered. Lastly, Mrs. Dukes mentioned staff will be attending a smart cities presentation, sponsored by the City of Valdosta being held tomorrow.

#### **CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD**

George Conner, 5995 Westlake Drive, addressed the commission regarding the water issues in Naylor, the speeding which takes place within the neighborhood, and the handrails, on one bridge going back into Hidden Cove, are no longer there.

Rhonda Wright, 2407 Gaines Lane, addressed the commission regarding a civil matter she's involved in with Mr. Thomas in her neighborhood. Chairman Slaughter asked Ms. Wright to wait until the meeting was over and he would speak with her.

Robert Dinkins, 6275 Southern Shore, addressed the commission regarding the borrow pit agreement which Lowndes County has with a neighbor in the subdivision. Chairman Slaughter asked County Attorney, Walter Elliott to respond, Mr. Elliott stated he had spoken to Mr. Dinkins last week and the County has discontinued digging and is currently waiting to hear from the attorney representing Mr. Sanders, the owner of the property.

Andrea Huguley, 6112 Southern Shore, addressed the commission regarding the conditions of the road, asked when the road construction would begin and also mentioned the water quality within the subdivision.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the regular session meeting at 6:03 p.m.