

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, March 25, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Commissioner Joyce Evans
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Clay Griner

Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall and Commissioner Scott Orenstein were not present.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session meeting of March 11, 2024 and the regular session of March 12, 2024. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

Georgia 811 Safe Digging Month Proclamation

Chairman Slaughter read a proclamation for the Lowndes County Safe Digging Month, declaring the month of April 2024.

APPOINTMENT

Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the reappointment. Mrs. Dukes stated Mrs. Jill Maine's term has expired and she has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Chairman Slaughter asked the Commissioners if they knew of anyone who might like to be appointed to this board, to please have them complete the Board/Agency Appointee Information sheet on our website. Commissioner Evans mentioned an upcoming seat that needs to be filled on the Land Bank Authority Board.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Coleman Road NW Right of Way Purchases

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the request in the amount of \$63,176.00, for the right of way purchases. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County has negotiated purchase of the right of way for parcels 1-37 for the Coleman Road TSPLOST project. Mr. McLeod added the agreements and plans are in the room and the parcel list is being shown on the screen for viewing as well.

Purchase of Property on Harbin Circle from Second Harvest; Short-term Lease to Second Harvest

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated staff has negotiated the purchase of property located on Harbin Circle from Second Harvest for \$1,931,000.00, for use for recreational purposes. A short-term lease of the property back to Second Harvest is integral to the purchase of the property and the use of the property for recreational

purposes. Second Harvest will use the sales proceeds to improve the new facility to which it will relocate. The County will use the rent from the short-term lease to improve the property for use for recreational purposes. The rental impact is estimated to be \$161,500.00.

Speed Zone Ordinance

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the changes include adding all roads on the proposed existing City of Valdosta and City of Remerton radar permits. Mr. McLeod stated that once approved, staff would forward an executed copy of the ordinance to the Georgia Department of Transportation. Chairman Slaughter stated Sheriff Ashley Paulk was available for any questions. Commissioner Wisenbaker mentioned the speed limit on Hickory Grove Road. Sheriff Paulk stated regarding this speed zone ordinance request, this is another tool to give access to stolen weapons and drugs within the cities.

Georgia County Internship Program Grant for Summer 2024 Grant Period

Probation Director, Ferlisha Rountree, presented the item. Mrs. Rountree stated the Lowndes County Probation Department was awarded a grant from the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) to cover a paid internship for a record retention project. Mrs. Rountree thanked Community Development Director, Rachel Thrasher, for her assistance with this grant. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked how many males work in the probation department? Mrs. Rountree responded currently only one. Commissioner Evans asked regarding the time frame of this grant? Mrs. Rountree responded May 2024 - September 2024. Commissioner Evans asked if there was an opportunity to hire the intern after the grant period is over? Mrs. Rountree answered she was unsure at this time.

Lowndes County Board of Health Environmental Health Fees

County Manager, Paige Dukes, asked District Environmental Health Deputy Director, Blake Lowery, to address the Commission. Mr. Lowery explained the Board of Health's recent action increasing environmental fees. Mr. Lowery stated the fees have not increased since 2017.

Advanced Disposal Services Residential Solid Waste Franchise Renewal

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals stated the franchise is set to expire March 31, 2024, adding Advanced Disposal has submitted the required documents for renewal. Mr. Beals stated the franchise agreement is for a term beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025. The current number of residents served in the county is 8,517 with a rate of \$20.00 per month.

Deep South Sanitation, LLC, Residential Solid Waste Franchise Renewal

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals stated the franchise agreement is set to expire March 31, 2024, adding Deep South Sanitation has submitted the required documents for renewal. Mr. Beals stated the franchise agreement is for a term beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025. The current number of residents served in the county is 7,814 with a rate of \$20.00 per month. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if there were any issues with Advanced Disposal or Deep South Sanitation? Mr. Beals responded there were no requests or suggestions of any changes from either company. County Manager, Paige Dukes added there are some customer service questions and issues with Advanced Disposal. Mrs. Dukes stated all of their customer service has been relocated out of our region. Additional questions and recommendations may be discussed in the coming year as to how to proceed. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if there are any potential new business providers? Mr. Beals answered there had been no indication from any other providers.

Golden Oaks Subdivision Force Main Change Order

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated Holly Lane is located off Shiloh Road near exit 22, beside Golden Oaks Subdivision. Mr. Stalvey stated due to this neighborhood being older and septic systems as well as drain systems beginning to fail, pricing was requested from James Warren and Associates to install E/One sewer on Holly Lane in conjunction with the Golden Oaks contract. James Warren and Associates submitted a cost of \$42,652.50, which includes a 10% contingency. Staff recommends approval of this change order.

Hospital Authority Revenue Certificates

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the Hospital Authority would like to move forward with issuing a not to exceed \$140 million Revenue Certificates. The Board of Commissioners approved a resolution on March 12, 2024 approving a similar intergovernmental contract to provide similar additional security for these 2024 Revenue Certificates and other related matters. The Hospital Authority will approve a supplemental resolution approving the final terms of the 2024 Revenue Certificates and the final form of the 2024 Intergovernmental Contract. The Hospital Authority is requesting the County to approve a supplemental resolution approving the final terms of the 2024 Certificates and the final form of the 2024 Intergovernmental Contract, with a not to exceed amount of \$140 million dollars in Revenue Certificates.

Hospital Authority Revenue Certificates (TEFRA)

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the TEFRA resolution is a required part of the process. The Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulations provide that the issuance of these revenue certificates must be approved by the Board of Commissioners since the facilities financed or refinanced with the 2024 Certificates are located in the County.

BID

Bid for Quantity of 25 - 1/2 Ton Trucks for Various County Departments

Purchasing Agent, Amy Woods, presented a request to purchase a quantity of twenty-five (25) half-ton pickup trucks for various departments. Mrs. Woods stated the county received three bids that met specifications, with Langdale Ford being the low bidder in the amount of \$1,082,688.00.

Bid for Quantity of 60 SCBA Cylinders for the Fire Department

Purchasing Agent, Amy Woods, presented the request for a quantity of sixty (60) SCBA Cylinders for the Fire Department, with Fisher Scientific submitting the low bid, in the amount of \$76,200.00.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, requested an executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communications regarding the purchase of real estate. At 8:49 a.m. Commissioner Griner made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communication regarding discussion of real estate acquisition, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55 a.m. Chairman Slaughter reconvened the work session with no additional information being discussed. Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting.