

Commissioner Marshall asked if there has been any indication regarding an amount that might be received for these services provided, Ms. Black answered she was unsure regarding Purdue Pharma, but she could get the amount received to date on the opioid funds and there are restrictions on how this money is used. Commissioner Smith asked if this is a final payment, Ms. Black responded no, this continues to come in. Commissioner Orenstein asked the County Attorney, Walter Elliott, if he saw anything in the Memorandum of Understanding that needs to be highlighted, County Attorney, Walter Elliott responded this is identical to the documents signed previously regarding the opioid litigation. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the item as presented, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Quit-Claim Deed of Abandoned Section of Hightower Road

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item stating that on May 9, 2023 Lowndes County abandoned a section of High Tower Road. Mr. McLeod stated the United States Air Force has requested a quit claim deed for the abandoned section of right of way. The proposed quit claim deed and the plat of the abandoned section of right of way are both attached. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request as presented, second by Commissioner Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

SPLOST IX

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated Lowndes County approved the SPLOST IX Agreement on August 4, 2025, and all five cities have approved the SPLOST IX agreement as well. Mrs. Dukes further stated the next step requires the Commission to approve the Resolution so that information can be forwarded to the Board of Elections. Commissioner Smith asked if the timeline was able to stay on track, Mrs. Dukes responded yes. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

TREES Act Resolution

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated this item provides for tax relief for those harvesting timber for the last quarter of 2024 and all of 2025. There is a formula by which any relief which is granted by Lowndes County will be reimbursed by the State of Georgia. This resolution will allow Lowndes County to move forward in the process. Chief Appraiser, Lisa Bryant, will be the point of contact for coordinating the necessary forms. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated for Lowndes County this is about \$46,000 on average annual impact. Commissioner Marshall asked for the timeline for reimbursements, Mrs. Dukes answered she hasn't checked for that information yet. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the resolution, second by Commissioner Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

AFFF/PFAS Groundwater Claims

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the Aqueous Film Forming Foams (AFFF), used to fight liquid fuel fires, contain PFAS ("forever chemicals") identified by the EPA as carcinogenic. Manufacturers 3M and Dupont have paid billions in lawsuit settlements. Local governments must file claims by January 1, 2026, and begin testing by September 2025 to join the litigation. Two law firms, Stag Liuzza located in New Orleans and Carothers and Mitchell located in Georgia, have offered legal services to Georgia municipalities, including Lowndes County, on a contingency basis (no upfront cost; fees only if a settlement is received). Staff recommends the Board approve and authorize the Chairman to sign agreements with the firms and adopt the resolution.