

### **GEFA Loan for Lift Station Bypass Pumps**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated Lowndes County has been preselected for a GEFA loan to install bypass pumps at our lift stations that are currently not equipped with backup capabilities. The loan amount is \$2,812,500.00, with a principal forgiveness of \$703,125.00. This will allow for back-up capabilities at all of our lift stations. Even though we have applied for FEMA mitigation money, this will allow us to lock in current pricing and potentially, have equipment in place before the next hurricane season. Commissioner Marshall asked to verify this is wastewater being referenced. Chairman Slaughter answered yes, this is the lift stations for wastewater. Commissioner Smith asked which fund this could be paid from, Mrs. Dukes answered the enterprise fund. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the item as presented, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **BIDS**

#### **Demolition for Lowndes County Fire Rescue Station 3**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County advertised for bids to demo the former restaurant building (formerly Rascals) at 4875 U.S. Highway 41 South in Lake Park. In order for Lowndes County to begin the process for a new Fire Station #3, the demolition of this building is the next step. Six bids were received with two bids being disqualified due to incomplete paperwork. Standard Contractors submitted the low bid in the amount of \$85,174.00. Commissioner Marshall asked for clarification on what was meant by the term "discarded." Mr. McLeod answered that any hazardous materials would be disposed of in accordance with all local and state regulations. He explained that the disposal of any other items would be at the contractor's discretion, with the majority of materials being sent to the landfill. County Manager, Paige Dukes, added that staff had conducted a walk-through of the facility and determined that none of the items could be used by other departments. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve Standard Contractors as the low bidder in the amount of \$85,174.00, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Bid for Bemiss Road Right of Way Mowing**

Finance Assistant Director, Rachel Bowen stated bids were received for Right of Way Mowing on Bemiss Road. This mowing will include the initial clean up, full cuts and the median. Outdoor Living submitted the low bid in the amount of \$414,988.00 for a five-year contract. The Georgia Department of Transportation will be reimbursing Lowndes County for the entire cost of the mowing and the Lowndes County Public Works Department will be maintaining the contract. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to award the bid to Outdoor Living in the amount of \$414,988.00, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **REPORTS - County Manager**

- County Manager, Paige Dukes, asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye, to provide the commission with an update on the reimbursement process related to Hurricanes Idalia and Helene. Mr. Tye reported that the majority of funding from Hurricane Idalia has been received, except for administrative costs associated with time spent by himself and department heads compiling and submitting documentation. Those remaining administrative reimbursements are estimated at approximately \$56,000.00. Hurricane Debby has already been fully closed out. Regarding Hurricane Helene, Mr. Tye stated that debris removal costs remain outstanding, with approximately \$9 million still owed to the County. He explained that the County had received \$13 million in expedited funding upfront to assist with immediate recovery expenses and