

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, December 9, 2025

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Bill Slaughter  
Vice Chairman Scott Orenstein  
Commissioner Joyce Evans  
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker  
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall  
Commissioner Michael Smith

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall

**PRESENTATIONS**

**GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated that Lowndes County has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), of the United States and Canada, Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for this fiscal year 2026 budget. There are over 1,700 participants in the award program throughout the United States and Canada and Lowndes County has received this award for twenty consecutive years. Chairman Slaughter congratulated Ms. Black and her staff for their consistency and continued excellence in financial reporting.

**Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation Check Presentation (Work Session)**

Chairman Slaughter stated that the check presentation to the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation was made during the work session. Chairman Slaughter thanked the fire department for raising \$3,350.00 through the golf tournament.

**Historic Preservation Award Presentation by Daughters of the American Revolution (Regular Session)** The Daughters of the American Revolution presented the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners with an award recognizing the historic preservation of the Lowndes County Historic Courthouse. The Daughters of the American Revolution focus on three main objectives: Patriotism, Education and Historic Preservation. The organization stated it was an honor to present the Commission with an award in recognition of the work completed on the historic courthouse, particularly noting the attention to detail in the woodwork and furnishings. Chairman Slaughter thanked the Daughters of the American Revolution for the award and stated that the community supported the SPLOST campaign that provided the funding necessary to preserve and renovate the historic courthouse.

## **Recognition of EMA Director Ashley Tye for receiving the Prestigious Clayton R. Christopher Memorial Award by the International Association of Emergency Managers (Regular Session)**

Chairman Slaughter commended Emergency Management Director, Ashley Tye, for receiving the Clayton R. Christopher Memorial Award from the International Association of Emergency Managers. Chairman Slaughter stated that it is the highest honor an emergency manager can receive nationwide. Chairman Slaughter stated Lowndes County is extremely proud of Mr. Tye and expressed appreciation for his leadership and assistance during the hurricanes that impacted our community, emphasizing that the county is better prepared and stronger because of his efforts. Mr. Tye stated that this recognition represents a team effort, extending his sincere thanks to all who contributed along the way.

## **MINUTES**

Chairman Slaughter stated he appreciates having Commissioner Evans back at the meeting and commended her hard work during her recovery, as well as her continued service to the citizens and the Lowndes County community. Chairman Slaughter stated that Commissioner Evans remained engaged with ongoing matters during her absence and expressed his blessings and well wishes for her.

The minutes were presented for the work session and regular session of November 12, 2025. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Greater Lowndes Planning Commission**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the term of Tommy Willis expired October 25, 2025 and he has expressed an interest in being reappointed. Mrs. Dukes stated Mr. John McCall has also expressed an interest in being appointed. Vice Chairman Orenstein nominated Mr. John McCall. Commissioner Wisenbaker nominated Mr. Tommy Willis. Vice Chairman Orenstein, Commissioners Marshall and Smith voted in favor of appointing Mr. John McCall. Motion carried.

### **Lowndes County Board of Assessors**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated the term of Mrs. Felicia Williams will expire December 31, 2025. Mrs. Williams currently serves as the Chair of the Assessors and has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Mrs. Dukes stated Mrs. Gretchen Quarterman has also expressed a desire to serve. Commissioner Evans nominated Mrs. Felicia Williams for reappointment. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Williams was reappointed by acclamation.

### **Lowndes County Library Board**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated Ms. Catherine Ammons resigned from the Lowndes County Library Board leaving an unexpired term that will expire June 30, 2026. Dr. Kendal Crawford, Mr. Dean Poling, and Mr. Gary Wisenbaker have all expressed an interest in being appointed. Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker requested to be recused from the vote. Commissioner Evans nominated Mr. Gary Wisenbaker. There being no other nominations, Mr. Gary Wisenbaker was appointed by acclamation.

### **Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center and Tourism Authority**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the term of Mr. Jonathan Vigue will expire December 31, 2025. Mr. Donald Spiller, III, who is the current general manager with Wild Adventures, has expressed an interest in being appointed. Commissioner Smith nominated Mr. Donald Spiller, III. There being no other nominations, Mr. Donald Spiller, III was appointed by acclamation.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **Basic Decorative Street Lighting Districts – Grove Pointe, Phase V, Sec. 3, The Landings, Phase 4, and Val Del Estates, Phases 4 & 5**

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request is to add fifty-two (52) lots of Phase V, Section 3 of the Grove Pointe Subdivision, fifty-two (52) lots of Phase 4 of the Landings Subdivision and forty-nine (49) lots of Phase 4 and 5 of the Val Del Estates Subdivision into Lowndes County's basic decorative street lighting district under the Street Lighting Ordinance. Mr. Dillard stated the current charge for the basic decorative street lighting is \$61.50 per lot, per year. No one spoke for or against this request. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the request as presented, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**REZ-2025-16 Copeland Road Subdivision, 2480 Copeland Rd, ~18ac, County Utilities, R-10/c to R-10** County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request seeks to remove several of the conditions that were placed on the property as a result of REZ-2018-07, which was ultimately approved for R-10 with the following conditions:

1. All lots, including the existing residence, shall front interior roads.
2. If there are any proposed entrances off of Lester Road, then the developer will be required to pave Lester Road from the entrance to Copeland Road. The Developer will also be responsible for the design, any acquisition of necessary right-of-way, relocation of utilities, and construction costs for the paving of Lester Road from the development's southernmost entrance to Copeland Road.
3. The developer will be required to construct a pedestrian crossing and sidewalk from the subdivision to Lowndes Middle School. The developer will be responsible for the design, relocation of utilities, and construction costs for those improvements.
4. All lots adjacent to the western border and the southern border of the subject property shall meet or exceed a minimum lot width of 100'.
5. No manufactured homes or mobile homes.
6. No two-family or duplex residences.
7. Minimum lot size of 1/3 acre lots (14,520 sq. ft.) instead of 1/4 acre lots.

The applicant has applied for straight R-10 zoning and given the property's history, it is within the Urban Service Area, Valdosta Airport (VLD) Overlay, a drastic groundwater recharge area, and Suburban Character Area, which recommend R-10 zoning. The subject property possesses road frontage on Copeland Road and Lester Road, a county-maintained major collector and local road respectively, with proposed access from Copeland Road only.

The TRC analyzed the request, the standards governing the exercise of zoning power set forth in 10.01.05 of the ULDC, and factors most relevant to this application, including the neighboring land uses and lot sizes, the availability of County Utilities, the nearby existing school campus (Lowndes

Middle), the adjacent undeveloped Board of Education owned property, and some of the previously imposed conditions that have already been resolved or are under GDOT guidelines, and therefore recommends approval of the request for R-10 zoning with the following conditions:

1. All new lots shall front interior roads.
2. All lots adjacent to the western border and the southern border of the subject property shall meet or exceed a minimum lot width of 100'.
3. No manufactured homes or mobile homes.
4. No two-family or duplex residences.
5. Minimum lot size of 1/3 acre lots (14,520 sq. ft.) along the southern border instead of ¼ acre lots.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the request with the five (5) new TRC conditions. No one spoke against this request. Matthew Inman, Axis Engineering, 2759 Cotton Bay Crossing, spoke as the engineer of the project and was available to answer any questions. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if the ingress/egress could be onto Lester Road instead of Copeland Road. Mr. Inman stated Copeland Road was chosen due to the layout of the road and the traffic. Mr. Inman stated one entrance was considered, but two entrances served the subdivision better. Commissioner Wisenbaker stated one of the main obligations to this county is public safety and financial responsibility. Commissioner Wisenbaker stated his preference would be to have one entrance and exit onto Lester Road. Mr. Inman stated if emergency services were needed, the preference would be two points of ingress/egress. Commissioner Wisenbaker stated he would consider two entrances onto Lester Road in an effort to keep the traffic away from the students attending the middle school. Mr. Inman stated the neighbors on Lester Road would prefer Copeland Road to be used. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked if there was an effort to resolve this matter with the residents. Mr. Inman responded yes. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked, assuming there is no exit onto Lester Road, would a condition asking the developer to provide fencing and a buffer to Lester Road be an option. Vice Chairman Orenstein added that versus selling individual lots to builders and different fencing being used, to have everything be consistent. Mr. Inman responded the houses should all be built at the same time with privacy fencing being installed and a condition could be made to build the lots at the same time. Chairman Slaughter stated consistency with the buffer on the fencing instead of leaving it up to the property owners and making the developer install the fencing. Commissioner Smith asked if Copeland Road was going to be widened in the future will it be designed to handle the additional traffic, Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod answered yes it will be designed for traffic improvements in that area. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the rezoning request with the five conditions presented, adding another condition that the developer be responsible for fencing against Lester Road prior to selling lots to the builder, second by Commissioner Smith. Vice Chairman Orenstein, Commissioners Evans and Smith voted in favor. Commissioners Wisenbaker and Marshall opposed. Motion carried.

#### **REZ-2025-17 Shiloh Road, ~8.2 ac 6641 Shiloh Road, E-A to R-A, Well & Septic**

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request represents a change in zoning on the subject property from E-A (Estate Agricultural) to R-A (Residential Agricultural) in order for the property to be subdivided into legally conforming parcels. The subject property is within the Rural Service Area and Agricultural Character Areas, which recommend R-A zoning, while access to the property is from Shiloh Road, a County maintained Collector. There is a small pond/wetland area in the southwest corner, and an existing residence and accessory structure in the northeast corner. The TRC analyzed the request, the standards governing the exercise of zoning power set forth

in 10.01.05 of the ULDC, and factors most relevant to this application, including the neighboring land uses and lot sizes, the viability of well and septic systems, the potential environmental impacts, and the ability to properly apply the standards of the ULDC, and therefore recommends approval of the request for R-A zoning only on the 2.5-acre portion (Tract 1) as depicted by the Carter Surveying plat dated 10-31-2025. The Planning Commission also recommended approval. No one spoke against this request. Mr. Seth Carlo, 512 Barco Street, spoke in favor of the request, as the applicant and offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request as presented, second by Vice Chairman Orenstein. Commissioner Wisenbaker opposed. Motion carried.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **FY2027 5311 Rural Transit Authorizing Resolution**

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated the Southern Georgia Regional Commission voted at their August 28, 2025, meeting to apply for the FY2027 5311 Rural Transportation Program Grant Funding from the Georgia Department of Transportation in order to continue operating the regional transit system on behalf of the participating local municipalities. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, second by Commissioner Evans. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Abandonment of Grice Road**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated a request to abandon Grice Road was received from Dale Grice who owns the property at 3532 Grice Road. Staff asked for comments from stakeholder departments and public safety regarding this abandonment. All comments were from Public Safety relating to access to all the parcels in case of an emergency. The owners will be required to install a pre-planned access gate in the event they install a fence in the future, and they must maintain the driveway. The abandonment will also landlock a three-acre parcel that is owned by Joy M. Bassford, the sister of Dale Grice. They understand if they ever want to build on that parcel they will have to get a variance. Georgia statute requires an initial determination either (a) "that the section of the county road system has for any reason ceased to be used by the public to the extent that no substantial public purpose is served by it" or (b) "that its removal from the county road system is otherwise in the best public interest," or both. If the Board makes either or both of these determinations, the statute provides for notice to adjoining property owners, notice to the public by newspaper publication, and a public hearing. Chairman Slaughter stated with the concern of Mr. Grice's sister, Joy Bassford, would it be construed that we were landlocking the property. Chairman Slaughter stated this will become a private road and further research is needed. Commissioner Evans made a motion to table this abandonment until the January 13, 2026, meeting, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **PI# 0016280 Twin Lakes Road Paving and Drainage Improvements Georgia Power Relocation Agreement**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Twin Lakes Road Paving and Drainage Improvements is a TIA 1 project. The design and documents are in the final stages of being complete. Georgia Power will have to relocate seventeen (17) poles and the lines for these poles. Georgia Power has proved prior rights and provided Lowndes County with a relocation agreement with a not to exceed amount of \$721,989.00. This is a planned cost and will be covered by TSPLOST. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the request as presented, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **PI 0016280 Twin Lakes Road Right of Way Purchases for Parcels 19 and 20**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated staff has negotiated purchase of the right of way for Parcels 19 and 20 for the Twin Lakes Road TSPLOST project. The attached detailed schedule identifies the property, the grantor, and the purchase price for each parcel. Lowndes County is purchasing 0.080 acres from Brenda Johnson, Parcel 19, for \$1,714.00 and 0.069 acres from Katrina Moore, Parcel 20, for \$3,000.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the item as presented, second by Commissioner Evans. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **PI 0016280 Twin Lakes Road Right of Way Purchases for Parcels 2, 6, and 10**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated staff has negotiated purchase of the right of way for parcels 2, 6, and 10 for the Twin Lakes Road TSPLOST project. The attached Purchase Agreement identifies the property, the grantor, and the purchase price and other consideration regarding gates, fencing, trees, access to water, and CUVA application fees for all three parcels. Lowndes County is purchasing 1.612 acres from L. Warren Turner, Jr. The purchase price is \$6,008.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the request as presented, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Local Delivery Application for Hickory Grove Road Shoulder Widening and Skipper Bridge Road Shoulder Widening**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Hickory Grove Road Shoulder Widening and Skipper Bridge Road Shoulder Widening are on the TIA II list to bid in July 2026. The Local Delivery Application starts the process by allowing Lowndes County to manage the project at the local government level. If approved, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will send an approval letter and agreement to be approved by the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners. The project will include a 2' widening on each side of the road, resurfacing, new signage, audible edge rumble strips, and drainage structure improvement, if required. The Hickory Grove Road project will begin at US Hwy 41 and end at the Echols County/Lowndes County line. The Skipper Bridge Road project will begin near Bemiss Road and end at Hwy 122. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request as presented, second by Vice Chairman Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Local Delivery Application for Val Del Road Widening**

Director of Engineering, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Val Del Road Widening is on the TIA II list to bid in January 2030. The Local Delivery Application starts the process by allowing Lowndes County to manage the project at the local government level. If approved, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will send an approval letter and agreement to be approved by the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners. Staff has already started preliminary programming and traffic studies to help determine the final typical section. The project will begin at North Valdosta Road and end at McMillian Road with the widening, and the remaining portion going north being resurfaced. Commissioner Smih made a motion to approve the request as presented, second by Vice Chairman Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Design-Build Contract for Lowndes County Animal Shelter**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Lowndes County Animal Shelter project was on the SPLOST VIII referendum, which was voted on by the public and approved. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County solicited for Design-Build contractors with proposals due on September 12, 2025. Seven Design-Build firms turned in a proposal. The scoring

committee reviewed the proposals and scored each proposer on the specific information requested. The Design-Build firm of Kellerman Construction, Inc. lead all firms in scoring from the scoring committee. The breakdown of the contract is \$450,000.00 for sitework, \$4,050,000.00 for construction, \$200,000.00 for contingency, and \$300,000.00 for Architectural & Engineering. If approved, the design process will begin immediately and the Design-Builder will submit a final proposal for construction to Lowndes County for approval in April 2026. Mr. McLeod stated this is a design build in which a contractor is going to be hired, if the board approves, then the contractor hires the architect and begins the design process. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve Kellerman Construction, Inc. as the Design-Build contractor, second by Commissioner Marshall. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Quit Claim Deed (QCD) for Navigable Waters, LLC at 4939 Bemiss Road**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Parcel 0145B 185B, owned by Navigable Waters, LLC on Bemiss Road, shows a drainage easement on plats dating back to 1968. Lowndes County does not have any record of any rights to the drainage easement. The owner has requested a Quit Claim Deed from Lowndes County stating that Lowndes County has not had or claimed, and does not now have or claim, any interest in said described property, including any interest in the "25' drainage easement." Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the item as presented, second by Commissioner Evans. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Adoption of 2027 Budget Calendar**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the proposed budget calendar for fiscal year 2027. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to adopt a balanced budget by June 30, 2026, adding the other dates are presented as guidelines for the process. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adopt the fiscal year 2027 budget calendar, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **2026 Public Defender Contracts**

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the Commission heard from Mr. Wade Krueger during the work session meeting and there are no changes to the contracts. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the contracts as presented, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **2026 ACCG Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal**

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals stated the 2026 renewal premium for Lowndes County is \$301,680.00. Due to a dividend credit of \$21,228.00, the total premium due is \$280,452.00. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the renewal as presented, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **2026 Stop Loss Insurance Coverage Renewal**

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the annual Stop Loss coverage related to Lowndes County's self-insured employee insurance plan. Mr. Beals stated that EPIC Brokers & Consultants represents Lowndes County as our health insurance broker and Swiss Re is currently offering the lowest available rates for the upcoming 2026 plan year at a spec coverage level of \$150,000.00. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the 2026 Stop Loss Insurance Coverage renewal as presented, second by Commissioner Marshall. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Enhancement and Innovation/Law Enforcement Grant**

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the Commission heard from Mr. Geoffrey Martin during the work session meeting regarding the grants. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the grants as presented, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Motorola Migration Assurance Plan (MAP)**

911 Director, Tonya Davis, presented the item. Mrs. Davis stated the Motorola Migration Assurance Plan (MAP) is a continuation of our existing evergreen agreement, which has been in place since 2017, that provides the ongoing maintenance, upgrades, and system enhancements required to sustain the Public Safety Radio System. Our current agreement expires in August 2027. The agreement presented for consideration allows us to secure pricing at current rates, with the new term beginning in September 2027 and extending through August 2032. The total cost is \$5,039,730.00, of that amount, approximately \$2,143,327.00, will be for equipment planned for use with future SPLOST funds. Mrs. Davis thanked Motorola Account Manager with the Southwest Georgia Area, Corey Miller, and Motorola MR Representative at Mobile Communications America, Ben Bray. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the Motorola Migration Assurance Plan in the amount of \$5,039,730.00, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **BID**

#### **LAS Pump Station Upgrade**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the next step in upgrading the LAS and increasing the permit capacity is replacing the existing pump station. The current station has three pumps, with additional fields under irrigation; the new station will have four pumps. Additionally, we will be installing a back-up generator to provide emergency power to the pump station. The project was advertised, and three bids were received. Doyle Hancock and Sons Construction Company, Inc. \$3,487,498.00, RPI Underground, Inc. \$3,700,144.00, and James Warren & Associates, \$3,932,804.15. Bids included an alternate manufacturer, USEMCO, for the pump station. After consultation with the engineer and references, staff chose the alternate manufacturer, resulting in a \$922,192.56 savings. Staff recommends approval and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement with Doyle Hancock and Sons Construction Company, Inc. for \$2,565,305.44. Commissioner Marshall inquired if Doyle Hancock and Sons Construction Company, Inc. was a local company. Mr. Stalvey responded that the company is located in Doerun, Georgia and they have done some work for Lowndes County in the past. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the low bidder, Doyle Hancock and Sons Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$ 2,565,305.44, second by Commissioner Marshall. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, recognized Josh Dawson, an extension agent, with the Fort Valley State University Extension Office. He is a recent graduate of Leadership Lowndes, and he continues to lead our agriculture community, also he will be updating the commission in January. Mrs. Dukes recognized Mr. Gary Doddard and explained he is in layman's terms, our community liaison with Moody Air Force Base. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes recognized Mr. Alvin Payton whom she serves with on the Valdosta-Lowndes Parks and Recreation Authority, and she greatly appreciates his leadership. Mrs. Dukes mentioned the bicentennial events coming to a close with a few events left before the end of the year. Mrs. Dukes thanked the Public Information Officer, Meghan Barwick, and her staff for all of their efforts in coordinating all the events related to the bicentennial celebration. Mrs. Dukes



provided a brief overview of the agenda items from the past year that had been approved by the Commission. Mrs. Dukes concluded by thanking the Commission for their leadership and, on behalf of staff, welcoming Commissioner Evans back.

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

Felicia Williams, 2393 Smith Street, addressed the commission and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Lowndes County. Mrs. Williams stated that during her tenure at the Tax Commissioners Office, a ninety percent tax collection rate was achieved, which she stated is uncommon. She thanked the Commission for their leadership and for the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board of Assessors.

Robert Niewoonder, 4027 Liska Circle, addressed the commission regarding road contamination caused by leachate from the Waste Management garbage trucks. Mr. Niewoonder requested assistance from the Commission in resolving this issue.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Evans thanked the department heads and employees of Lowndes County for their dedicated service to the community and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Smith expressed his appreciation to staff for their support during his first year in office and thanked his fellow commissioners for their continued guidance.

Chairman Slaughter reflected on the challenges faced by the community and commented that the progress achieved demonstrated the professionalism of county leadership and staff, as well as God's guidance over the community. Chairman Slaughter stated that it is an honor and pleasure to work with the Commissioners, the County Manager and staff, and he expressed gratitude for the trust and support of the community.

Chairman Slaughter wished those in attendance, staff, and the Commission a very Merry Christmas. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Vice Chairman Orenstein. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.