

asked have there been any issues with the rebuilt pumps. Mr. Stalvey answered that there have not been any issues, that the cost of a repaired pump is sometimes very close to the cost of a new pump, but not in this instance. Commissioner Smith asked regarding the warranty for a repaired pump versus new. Mr. Stalvey answered that the new pumps do have a longer warranty and the repaired pumps have a ninety-day warranty.

Resolution to Sell Surplus Water Meter Components

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated Lowndes County Utilities is replacing water meters that have reached the end of their useful life. The attached resolution will allow the Utilities Department to sell the brass components of the surplus meters under the best terms available at the time of the sale. Staff recommends approval and to authorize the Chairman to sign the attached resolution. County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated our team, along with Pedal Valve, will start replacing residential meters that have not been replaced in the next week. No billing cycles will be missed. More than a year ago, commercial and industrial meters were changed out, with no issues with accounts or billings. All of the new subdivisions that have been approved on the county's water system over the last year and a half have new meters being installed. Mrs. Dukes stated there would be no disruptions to service. Chairman Slaughter asked if these meters are at end of life and are being sold as scrap. Mr. Stalvey answered yes. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked about the new meters going into new subdivisions. If those have been tested with the new software, Mrs. Dukes responded that those are working with the current software and there should be no issues with the new software. Commissioner Smith asked when the water meter components are sold does the money go into the water/sewer enterprise fund. Mrs. Dukes answered yes.

Condemning Right of Way and Drainage Easement for Twin Lakes Road TSPLOST Paving Project; Parcel 3

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated as part of the Twin Lakes TSPLOST project, the County needs to acquire from the owners of the real property identified for purposes of the project as Parcel 3 (i.e., tax parcel 0171 090) (i) certain areas of fee simple ROW totaling 0.15 +/- acres in the aggregate and (ii) 0.07 +/- acres of said parcel for a drainage easement. Parcel 3 is owned by Virginia G. Tyson, Charles F. Hobby, and Nancy G. Hobby. Additional information regarding the ROW areas and the drainage easement can be found in the proposed Declaration of Taking attached hereto. Efforts to acquire the needed property and property rights by negotiation have not resulted in an agreement, and an offer of just compensation pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 22-1-9 sent on January 13, 2026, has not been accepted by the property owners. Staff has determined that acquisition by condemnation is now required in order to keep the subject project on schedule. Vice Chairman Orenstein asked if any dialogue had been with the property owners since our last vote. Mr. McLeod responded yes, since the last vote there had been contact made with the representative, who is the brother-in-law of Virginia Tyson.

Special Assessment Rate for 2026

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to set the special assessment rate every year to address paving and utility assessments that are not paid within ninety days. Ms. Black further stated the rate is based on two percent above prime, with the current prime rate being 6.75%; therefore, the rate for special assessments should be set at 8.75%. The prime rate for last year was 7.5%.