

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%. Commissioner Smith asked if you have ninety days before any interest occurs would you pay in thirty-day net terms. Ms. Black responded you can pay it off within the first ninety days and, after that, it becomes an assessment that will appear on your tax bill, and it will be paid over ten years off of that interest rate. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the special assessment rate at 8.75% for 2026, seconded by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Approval of the Solicitor General's FY26 VAWA Continuation Grant Application

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the Commission heard from Ms. Karen Hayes with the Solicitor's Office during the work session. No further discussion took place. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the FY2026 VAWA Continuation Grant Application with federal funding in the amount of \$79,112.00 and Lowndes County is responsible for \$26,371.00 in matching funds, seconded by Vice Chairman Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the events below:

- February 6th: Ribbon Cutting at Quiet Pines beginning at 10:00 a.m.
- February 7th: A softball tournament which Lowndes County Fire Rescue started to benefit Toys for Tots due to the weather before Christmas, it was delayed and has been rescheduled for February 7th
- February 7th: Denise Peters, who is hosting this year's Community Mardi Gras celebration, will have a Golf Tournament at Stone Creek and will be hosting Community Day in the green space next to our building on February 14th from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm.
- February 11th: Lowndes County Bird Supper is being held with 225 RSVPs to date.

CITIZENS WISHING TO HEARD

Mary Roe, 4515 Jones Lane, addressed the commission regarding the paving of Green Road. Ms. Roe stated she has spoken to Commissioner Evans and has also turned in a paving petition to engineering.

Michael Noll, 2305 Glyndale Drive, addressed the commission regarding data centers. Mr. Noll gave the commission a flyer and stated that he opposes data centers. Mr. Noll stated data centers use large amounts of water, high electricity demands, create noise pollution, and cause fewer jobs and loss of revenue.

Maria Chung Willoughby, 741 East Brookwood Place, addressed the commission regarding growth partnerships and community development block grant (CDBG) programs.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Evans. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.