

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
Tuesday, May 26, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

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

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Smith

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Smith

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of May 11, 2026, and the regular session of May 12, 2026. No revisions to the minutes were requested. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Coleman Road NW Paving and Drainage Improvements, P.I.0016279 Supplemental Agreement No. 2**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated this is Supplemental Agreement No. 2 for Coleman Road NW Paving and Drainage Improvements. Mr. McLeod stated the project has been completed and this is an additional supplement of \$424,000.00, from TIA to Lowndes County to fulfill the remainder of the contract. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the Coleman Road NW Paving and Drainage Improvements for Supplemental Agreement No. 2 in the amount of \$424,000.00, seconded by Vice Chairman Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Lowndes County Animal Shelter Design-Build Amendment A141-2024 Exhibit B**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated in December 2025, the board approved Kellerman Construction as the Design Builder for the Lowndes County Animal Shelter. Kellerman Construction has finished the design process, completed the bid process and provided the Design-Build Amendment A141, Exhibit B for approval. Exhibit B is the final approval to begin construction and includes part B of the contract, the schedule of values, specifications, and construction plans. If approved, Kellerman Construction will begin construction in June 2026. The schedule of values adds up to a total of \$5,000,000.00, which includes a contingency of \$32,880.00.

Commissioner Marshall asked about a project timeline. Mr. McLeod stated Kellerman Construction is expected to begin mid-June 2026, with 12 months' construction of the new building followed by several additional months for transition activities and demolition of the existing building. Commissioner Smith asked what is the square footage. Mr. McLeod answered 15,360 square feet. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the Design-Build Amendment A141-2024, Exhibit B and authorize the Chairman to sign the Amendment, seconded by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, mentioned the items below:

- Mrs. Dukes congratulated Commissioners Wisenbaker, Orenstein and Marshall on beginning their new terms.
- Gave an update regarding SPLOST IX.
- Mentioned the burn restrictions being lifted beginning June 1st.
- Gave an update on the hurricane season workshop, stating there is a 90% chance of a normal to below normal season, which is the same as this past year. Mrs. Dukes stated our preparedness efforts are ongoing.

## **CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD**

Jimmy LeFiles, 3561 Riverchase Drive, addressed the commission regarding his concerns and opposition to a data center in our community. Mr. LeFiles asked the commission to consider the risks associated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), commonly referred to as "forever chemicals," which may be used in certain data center operations and fire suppression systems.

George Fisher, 5278 Hall Road, addressed the commission regarding his opposition to a data center in our community. Mr. Fisher mentioned he has been studying the local aquifer and expressed his concerns about its fragility. Mr. Fisher cautioned that development associated with a data center could pose a risk of contamination to the community's drinking water supply.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman Orenstein. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.