

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the supplemental bond resolution as presented, seconded by Commissioner Marshall. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Proposed Local Act for LHOST *Agenda Item Added*

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the proposed Local Act for LHOST. Mrs. Dukes stated the Senate Bill 33 passed in 2026 authorizes a Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST) to fund homestead exemptions granted by local Act of the General Assembly and approved by voters by referendum. Staff and the County Attorney have prepared an attached draft proposed local Act providing for a LHOST in Lowndes County. Mrs. Dukes stated if approved, it will be sent to Representative John LaHood, who will forward it to legislative counsel and will prepare the bill language needed for the General Assembly to consider approving this during the special session in June. If approved, we have recommended a referendum this fall, so collections begin in January 2028. Mrs. Dukes presented a presentation regarding the financial considerations of Lowndes County and the impact of rising costs on the community. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve submitting the attached proposed local Act to the local delegation of the General Assembly representing Lowndes County, seconded by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Twin Lakes Road Bids, P.I. # 0016280 - Transportation Investment Act (TIA)

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Twin Lakes Road is a TIA 1 approved project. The project is 1.71 miles long and begins at Loch Laurel Road and ends at State Route 7 (Highway 41 S). The contract time is 365 calendar days. Bids were opened on May 21, 2026, and two (2) bids were received from Reames and Son Construction in the amount of \$2,664,355.90 and the Scruggs Company in the amount of \$3,713,497.24. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve Reames and Son Construction Company as the low bidder in the amount of \$2,664,355.90, seconded by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the items below:

- Mrs. Dukes thanked County Attorney, Walter Elliott, for his assistance with Senate Bill 33.
- Mrs. Dukes asked Probation Director, Ferlisha Rountree, to speak regarding the services at Leila Ellis. Mrs. Rountree provided an update on the collaboration with Legacy and the use of the Probation department. Mrs. Rountree met with Mallory Tire and Jennifer Taylor last week to discuss the services they provide to the community. She was informed that there is a community therapist within their department. Her job is to serve the community at certain locations. However, they can only serve clients within that location, such as LAMP. Only their clients can use her at that location. Partnering with Lowndes County Probation will not only benefit our offenders, but also the community. The location will now provide Legacy with a central location for citizens who cannot make it to their Oak Street location, a closer alternative. Also, it provides the use of the Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) as another location for support. A CPS is a citizen who has experienced mental health or substance abuse issues and works for Legacy, so they now in turn help the citizens. At this time, we are waiting for Legacy to finish finalizing everything on their end and meet with their community therapist. They will come visit the building at a later date. Commissioner Smith asked to tour the location and Mrs. Rountree responded that she would contact County Manager, Paige Dukes, once the location is cleaned