

BID

Hickory Grove Road Widening P.I. 0020527 and Skipper Bridge Road Widening P.I. 0020528 - Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Hickory Grove Road widening and Skipper Bridge Road widening are TIA 2 approved projects. The project mainly consists of adding 2' of pavement widening to each side of the existing road width, overlaying with OGI, resurfacing the entire new width with 12.5 MM super paving, rebuilding the shoulders, and temporary & permanent striping. Mr. McLeod stated Hickory Grove Road begins at State Route 7 (US 41) and ends at the Echols County line, which is 7.8 miles. Skipper Bridge Road begins at the end of the curb and gutter section north of the bridge at the Valdosta City Limits line and ends at the Cook County line, which is 8.8 miles. Mr. McLeod further stated the contract time is 180 calendar days. Bids were opened on June 25, 2026, and two (2) bids were received. The Scruggs Company submitted the low bid of \$5,039,798.50, and Reames and Son Construction submitted a bid of \$5,248,172.38. Commissioner Orenstein stated this does not include a rumble shoulder and asked if this is only flat pavement widening two feet. Mr. McLeod responded that is correct with restriping and rebuilding the shoulders. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve The Scruggs Company as the low bidder. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes recognized 911 Director Tonya Davis and stated that almost 30 years ago, Lowndes County was the second local government in this area and one of the first in the nation to be CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) certified as a 911 center. Mrs. Dukes further stated Mrs. Davis and her team recently returned from receiving that accreditation and Mrs. Davis will speak at a later meeting about what it means from a customer service standpoint. Mrs. Dukes congratulated Mrs. Davis and her team on receiving the accreditation.

Mrs. Dukes stated the 100 Black Men Organization is hosting their annual barbecue on the historic courthouse square this weekend. It begins on Friday and extends through Saturday. Mrs. Dukes encouraged everyone to attend and enjoy some barbecue. Mrs. Dukes went on to say this organization does a phenomenal job with philanthropy and some of the organizations they support in our community. She further stated if you do not want barbecue, you can give a donation. Your money will go a long way in our community. She thanked the 100 Black Men Organization for what they do.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

Chairman Slaughter stated he is going to make a few changes to the Citizens Wishing To Be Heard portion of the meeting. Chairman Slaughter further stated after the meeting is adjourned tonight they will have a discussion session that will involve a presentation by Mrs. Dukes and after the presentation the Board of Commissioners will make themselves available for questions that citizens may have. Chairman Slaughter stated they will address a few questions on the subject, and if there are opportunities in the future and this works out well, we will continue to have these sessions on this subject. There were three citizens who submitted forms to speak on data centers and Chairman Slaughter stated he thinks they can be covered during the discussion session, if there are no objections. He proceeded with the Citizens Wishing to Be Heard section of the meeting.

Charles Dennis, 4759 Otter Creek Road, addressed the commission on behalf of the citizens who live on Howell Road regarding the annexation of Howell Road. Mr. Dennis stated there are many places