

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
Monday, January 13, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall
Commissioner Joyce E. Evans
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Clay Griner

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of December 9, 2019, and the regular session of December 10, 2019. No changes to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENTS

Valdosta Lowndes County Conference Center and Tourism Authority

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the appointment. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat currently held by Mrs. Molly Deese expired December 31, adding Mrs. Deese would like to be considered for reappointment.

Lowndes County Board of Health

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented the item. Mr. Pritchard stated the seat currently held by Dr. Frances Brown expired December 31, 2019, adding Dr. Brown has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Chairman Slaughter stated he serves on the Board of Health with Dr. Brown, adding she is very active and faithful in her service.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Special Assessment Rate for 2020

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the county is required to set the interest rate on special assessments each year. Ms. Black stated the rate is to be set at two percent above prime, adding the 2020 rate is calculated at 6.75 percent. Chairman Slaughter asked how many special assessments the county has at this time. Ms. Black stated the county has not approved a special assessment in the last twenty years, adding there are still some outstanding.

Pine Straw Harvesting Agreement

Utility Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated staff solicited bids to harvest pine straw at the Land Application Site in south Lowndes County. Mr. Stalvey stated the highest bid submitted was provided by Southern Pine Needles of NC, LLC, in the amount of \$36,250.00.

Request to Purchase New Firefighter Turnout Gear

EMA Director/Fire Chief, Ashley Tye, presented a request to purchase firefighting turnout gear in the amount of \$28,327.04, from Ten-8 Fire Equipment. Chief Tye stated the fire department recently conducted an annual gear inspection and identified 14 sets of gear that were near expiration or in poor condition. Chairman Slaughter asked if the turnout gear is custom fitted to which Chief Tye replied yes. Chief Tye explained that standard sizes may not fit as well and can work against firefighters, making it more difficult for them to move. Vice Chairman Marshall asked if the cost included helmets, to which Chief Tye replied no.

Standard Utility / Contract Item Agreement for Exit 2 Utility Relocation

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the contract. Mr. Stalvey stated the agreement between Lowndes County and the Georgia Department of Transportation will provide for the relocation of county utilities for the Exit 2 realignment project. Mr. Stalvey further stated the work will be completed at no cost to Lowndes County.

Lease Agreement with the State Properties Commission for the Division of Family & Children Services (DFACS)

Project Manager, Chad McLeod, presented a lease agreement between Lowndes County and the State Properties Commission for 26,500 square feet of space for the Division of Family and Children Services, in the amount of \$407,304.96. Mr. McLeod stated the agreement includes three additional one-year periods of lease if allowed to renew.

2020 Stop Loss Insurance Coverage Through Symetra Life Ins. Company

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the annual Stop Loss coverage related to Lowndes County's self insured employee insurance plan, in the amount of \$906,684.00. Mr. Beals stated that after EPIC shopped rates for the new year, Symetra offered the best terms with the lowest available rate.

Set Qualifying Fees

County Manager, Joe Pritchard, presented a resolution for consideration to set the qualifying fees for the 2020 election cycle.

BIDS

Bid for a 3,000 Gallon Tanker for the Fire Department

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented a bid to purchase a tanker for Lowndes County Fire Rescue.

Ms. Black stated Innovative Fire Group submitted the low bid, in the amount of \$399,414.00. Commissioner Griner questioned how long it would take for the apparatus to be delivered, to which EMA Director/Fire Chief Ashley Tye, replied one year.

Paving - Quail Hollow Acres Subdivision

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated the project includes Grouse Road, Setter Drive, Bob White Drive, Pointer Drive, Covey Trail and .24 miles of Vann Road. Mr. Fletcher further stated The Scruggs Company submitted the low bid, in the amount of \$985,483.31. Commissioner Wisenbaker confirmed that the project is for paving and not resurfacing, to which Mr. Fletcher replied yes.

REPORTS

Chairman Slaughter informed the Commission that Mr. Stalvey and his staff are testing water samples at three locations in the unincorporated area on the Withlacoochee River in response to a recent sewage spill by the City of Valdosta. Chairman Slaughter stated the county will continue to test until acceptable levels are routinely collected.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 8:56 a.m.