

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, October 26, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

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

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of October 12, 2020, and the regular session of October 13, 2020. No changes to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENT

Public Facilities Authority, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the terms of Mr. Michael Walker, Mr. Crawford Powell and Mr. Scott Purvis have expired with all expressing an interest in being reappointed. Mrs. Dukes further stated there is one additional vacant seat, which needs to be filled.

PUBLIC HEARING

Abandonment of Artherman Lane, Senior Projects Manager, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Commission made the initial determination at their last regular meeting, October 13, 2020. Mr. McLeod further stated the request has been advertised as required.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Solicitor-General's VOCA Continuation Grant, Senior Victim Advocate, Karen Hayes, presented the item. Ms. Hayes stated the grant provides for additional staff assigned to assisting victims. Ms. Hayes further stated the requested \$6,000.00, will offset the funding required to provide health benefits to the employees funded by this grant. Chairman Slaughter stated this grant serves to help many victims; however, keeping in mind the amount of \$6,000.00, would be paid by the County.

Commissioner Marshall asked how would the funds be paid, Ms. Hayes responded from the Solicitor's Office general fund budget.

Solicitor-General's Office 2021 VAWA Competitive Application, Senior Victim Advocate, Karen Hayes, presented the item. Ms. Hayes stated the \$17,326.00, cash match will fund the continuation of the grant used by the Solicitor General's Office to address crimes against families and women.

Adoption of the 2021-2022 Budget Calendar, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the budget calendar. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to adopt a balanced budget by June 30, adding the other dates are presented as guidelines to keep the process on track.

Approval of DA's Federal VOCA Grant Application Renewal, County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented this request. Mrs. Dukes stated the District Attorney's office has received this grant since 1997, adding it benefits all five counties in the Southern Judicial Circuit. Mrs. Dukes further stated that the funds from the grant, along with "five percent" funds, pay for victim services.

BID

Stone Creek Elevated Tank Coating, Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the bids ranged from \$148,000.00 - \$215,115.00, with Southeastern Tank & Tower, Inc. submitting the low bid for \$148,000.00.

Bid for Four 10-Wheel Dump Trucks for the Public Works Department, Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the bid with Beck Motors in Albany, Georgia, submitting the one bid that met specifications, in the amount of \$464,196.00.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated information received before the meeting from Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, was regarding a draft proposal for consideration of an agricultural entertainment district. Mrs. Dukes stated this is the first draft and any feedback or questions the Commission may have, please notify her. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes informed the Commission the draft proposal has to go before the Planning Commission, before being adopted by the County.

Georgia Forestry Presentation (Work Session)

Georgia Forestry Chief Ranger, Randy Spells, presented the Commission with an annual report for 2019-2020 detailing forestry operations in the region. Chairman Slaughter asked regarding the controlled burns, Mr. Spells stated a forestry representative is present at the location for all controlled burns. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the illegal burning throughout the county, County Manager, Paige Dukes, responded a report with the citations given this year would be printed for him. Chairman Slaughter thanked Mr. Spells for the information and for Forestry's service to Lowndes County.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the work session, Commissioner Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session at 9:00 a.m.