

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, April 10, 2023

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Vice Chairman Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Joyce Evans
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall
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 March 27, 2023 and the regular session of March 28, 2023. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

RECOGNITIONS

National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week

County Manager, Paige Dukes, asked the Director of Animal Services, Linda Patelski and the Assistant Director of Animal Services, Mike Brown, to share with the Commission the daily work of the officers. Mr. Brown thanked the Commission and the County Manager for their support. Mr. Brown stated the veteran officers are certified with two new officers beginning certification in the future. Additionally, Mr. Brown stated the Animal Control Officers attend schools to educate the children, as well as school staff, regarding enforcement and resources within the community. Mrs. Patelski stated she is proud of all of her staff and commended all of them for a job well done. Additionally, Mrs. Patelski thanked the Commissioners for being an advocate for their office.

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week

County Manager, Paige Dukes, asked 911 Director, Danny Weeks to address the Commission. Mr. Weeks thanked the Commission for their support and providing the resources needed to do a good job. Assistant 911 Director, Tonya Davis, spoke regarding the 911 Center's call volume and stated their office is Georgia POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) certified and can receive emergency and nonemergency calls and dispatch for Lowndes County and Echols County with the exception of state agencies, Valdosta State University and Moody Air Force Base. Mrs. Davis stated the 911 Center has received approximately half a million calls this year, not including the radio call volume. Mrs. Davis stated she's very proud of the staff and the work that is done on a daily basis. Chairman Slaughter thanked Mr. Weeks, Mrs. Davis and their staff in attendance, for their work and stated their office is "the first" of the first responders, to deal with the citizens calls and dispatch to the

correct departments. Chairman Slaughter also commended their office for the continued CALEA certification throughout the years and wished them continued success.

APPOINTMENTS

Lowndes County Board of Health

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Dr. Randy Smith's term has expired and he has not expressed a desire to continue to serve. Mrs. Dukes stated Ms. Brenda Mims has been recommended for the seat.

Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBOA)

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated there are two County Zoning Board of Appeals members whose terms are expiring on May 7, 2023. Mr. Marion Ramsey and Ms. Victoria Copeland have both expressed a desire to continue to serve.

South Georgia Regional Library Board

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item, Mrs. Dukes stated Dr. Darlene Ridley has stated she will no longer be able to serve on the board. Ms. Jane Peebles would like to be considered for appointment to fill the unexpired term.

Chairman Slaughter reminded the Commission if they had other applicants to be considered for serving on the boards, to have them complete the online appointee/information sheet before tomorrow night's meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

REZ-2022-10 The Campus Transitional Care Facility, 2193 Howell Road, E-A to P-D, Well & Septic, ~23 acres,

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this request is to rezone from E-A to P-D, in an agricultural-character area with some wetlands on the north end of the property. Mr. Dillard stated the Planning Commission recommended denial.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Probation Department Service Agreement

Probation Director, Ferlisha Rountree, presented the Probation Department's Service Agreement required by the Misdemeanor Probation Oversight Unit (MPOU) for probation service provided by Lowndes County Probation. Mrs. Rountree stated the Probation Service Agreement is valid for a five-year period. Mrs. Rountree stated there are two changes in the agreement; the effective date is July 1, 2023 and regarding the number of probationers supervised, it has been changed from 350 to 250. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the probationers who are unable to pay, Mrs. Rountree responded if someone is unable to pay, there is a walk-in revocation hearing and at that time they can present their financials to the judge. Mrs. Rountree stated there are options like converting the fine and/or probation fees into community service or the judge may terminate the case. County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated a common misconception by the community is related to how much authority the probation officers have. When someone goes to court and the judge places them on probation, the judge signs an order and on that order is listed everything that needs to be done to meet probation requirements. Lowndes County Probation has no legal authority to amend an order without going before the judge again.

Amend 2015 Solid Waste Ordinance

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals stated recently the 2023-2024 Residential Solid Waste Franchise Renewal during that process, both franchisees requested amendments and/or adjustments to the Solid Waste Ordinance. Mr. Beals stated Advanced Disposal Services and Deep South Sanitation have both asked regarding the below franchisee's proposed changes: Increase the basic service not to exceed fee from \$20.00 per month to \$25.00 per month. (Solid Waste Ordinance Section 3.1.(c)) & (Franchise Agreement -Item Number 14 (Pricing for Basic Service)). Adjust Hours of Operation of Collection Centers from 42 hours per week to 35 hours per week. (Change schedule from Friday, Saturday, and Monday 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.). Solid Waste Ordinance Section 3.6. & Franchise Agreement - Item Number 23 (Hours of Operation of Collection Center). Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked regarding the wording stating an increase due to labor and fuel costs and stated there is also a fuel surcharge being charged, Mr. Beals responded commercial businesses are not being monitored, this relates only to residential solid waste. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding the amount for the residents, Mr. Beals answered that currently there has not been an amount given. Chairman Slaughter asked regarding any concerns the Commission may have regarding this request and stated that with the previous increase of only \$3.50 in eight years, he has no issue with increasing up to \$25.00 per month. Chairman Slaughter stated this request could occur again in a year to increase or decrease the amount. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker suggested there needs to be a change in the wording regarding the difference between residential and commercial surcharges, Mr. Beals responded that language could be changed within the Solid Waste Ordinance.

BID

Brookridge Drive Grading, Drainage, Base, and Paving

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated that Brookridge Drive is located south of Hahira and is approximately 0.42 miles long. Mr. McLeod stated staff received two bids, the Scruggs Company in the amount of \$647,831.28 and Reames and Son Construction in the amount of \$768,703.15.

Bid for a Crop Sprayer for the Utilities Department

Purchasing Agent, Amy Woods, presented the item. Mrs. Woods stated bids were solicited for a new crop sprayer for the Utilities Department, to be used at the Land Application System (LAS). Mrs. Woods stated one bid was received that met specifications from Flint Equipment Company in the amount of \$36,750.00.

REPORTS - County Manager

Extension Office Update Presentation by Joshua Dawson (Work Session)

County Manager, Paige Dukes, introduced Mr. Joshua Dawson, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent with the Lowndes County Extension Office. Mr. Dawson thanked the Commissioners for their support and presented a brief update, with information packets given to the Commissioners detailing the Lowndes County Extension Office operations in the area. Additionally, Mr. Dawson invited the Commission to attend the 4-H Banquet being held May 18th at the Lowndes County Extension Office. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked regarding the satsumas crop, if it is close to maxing out as far as production, Mr. Dawson stated that was a problem last year and due to the cold weather this year, there is a concern since we currently have 3,000 acres of satsumas planted. Commissioner Marshall

asked regarding the training events, if there was a cost to attend, Mr. Dawson responded there is no cost to attend. Chairman Slaughter thanked Mr. Dawson for the update and for his continued service to Lowndes County.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Slaughter stated the rotation of the Vice Chairmanship is now changing to Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 9:07 a.m.