

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, January 22, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Commissioner Joyce Evans
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker

Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall and Commissioner Clay Griner were not present.

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

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of January 8, 2024 and the regular session meeting of January 8, 2024. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

APPOINTMENTS

Appointment to the Board of Tax Assessors

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the appointment. Mrs. Dukes stated Mr. Gene Felts was appointed to fill the expired seat of James Puckett at the January 8th meeting. Mr. Felts was sworn in and accepted the position, but then decided that he needed to resign for personal reasons. Mrs. Dukes stated this appointment is to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Gene Felts.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Special Assessment Rate for 2024

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to set the special assessment rate every year to address paving and utility assessments that are not paid within ninety days. Ms. Black further stated the rate is based on two percent above prime, which is 10.5%. Chairman Slaughter asked if there were currently any special assessments? Ms. Black answered no. Chairman Slaughter asked if there were special assessments, would this interest rate change? Ms. Black answered that this is the interest rate for the entire term.

Approval of the District Attorney's Federal VOCA Grant Application Renewal

District Attorney, Brad Shealy, presented the item. Mr. Shealy stated this is an annual request in which the District Attorney's office has received the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant since 1997 and this is a renewal application. Mr. Shealy stated the amount is less this year.

InfoSend Bill Print Contract

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated with the replacement of the utility billing software, several customer service processes have been reviewed with one being the outsourcing of the bill printing and mailing. Mr. Stalvey stated this contract with InfoSend will coincide

with the 'go live' in March. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked is the location of this vendor in California? Mr. Stalvey responded the bills will be mailed from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida or from Dallas, Texas, and the postmark will not show a location.

Agreement with Cornerstone

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the agreement. Mrs. Dukes stated at the Commission's direction, lobbying representation is needed at the state level. Lowndes County already has an agreement with Cornerstone at the federal level that has been in place for several years, with this being an extension of that to the state level.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, requested an executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communication regarding the purchase of real estate. At 8:36 a.m. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communication regarding the purchase of real estate, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:41 a.m. Chairman Slaughter reconvened the work session with no additional information being discussed. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Commissioner Orenstein second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting.