

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, expressed concerns about the annual assessment notices, and she discussed potential solutions to address this matter. Mrs. Dukes noted that EMA Director, Ashley Tye will be traveling to Atlanta, to pick up two checks for reimbursements for Hurricanes Idalia and Helene. Mrs. Dukes spoke regarding long-term recovery and mentioned our Public Information Officer, Meghan Barwick will be hosting a local public information officers meeting on Friday. This meeting will include discussions related to the mental health concerns regarding our community as it relates to the upcoming hurricane season. Mrs. Dukes asked Mr. Tye to provide the Commission with an update on long-term recovery efforts. Mr. Tye explained that short-term recovery typically spans approximately six months and includes debris clean-up, roof tarping, and stabilization of essential items. Over the past two years, Lowndes County has experienced a series of severe weather events, including three hurricanes, two tornadoes, two floods, a straight-line wind event in the Gornito area and an ice storm. Following Hurricane Idalia, a COAD, Community Organizations Active in Disaster, was established. The purpose of a COAD is to unite agencies in and around Lowndes County to collaboratively address community needs before, during and after disasters. Frank Richards, with Second Harvest of South Georgia, has taken the lead in organizing the COAD and facilitating its meetings, and coordinating efforts with United Way. Lastly, Mr. Tye stated Second Harvest will host FEMA and GEMA on July 1-2, 2025, for training focused on sustaining and strengthening the COAD.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD - There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Commissioner Marshall. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.