

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, May 28, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall was not present.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Clay Griner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Clay Griner

PRESENTATIONS

GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated that Lowndes County has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for this fiscal year 2024 Budget. Ms. Black explained budgets must be rated proficient in all four categories and in fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award. Ms. Black stated there are over 1,700 participants in the award program throughout the United States and Canada and this is Lowndes County's 18th consecutive year receiving this award. Chairman Slaughter congratulated Ms. Black and her staff for their continued excellence in financial reporting.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of May 13, 2024 and the regular session minutes of May 14, 2024. No revisions to the minutes were requested. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Evans seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

FOR CONSIDERATION

2024 Local Road Assistance (LRA) Administration Funds Application

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented this item. Mr. McLeod stated the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) announced the Governor and Legislature included \$250 million dollars in Local Road Assistance (LRA) funds in the amended fiscal year 2024 budget. These funds

will be distributed using the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Application System and will require no matching funds. The amount for Lowndes County is \$1,656,734.49. Mr. McLeod stated if approved, these funds will be used for the Val Del Road at North Valdosta Road intersection improvements and restriping approximately 35 miles of paved roads. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioner Griner seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

A New Addition to the Lowndes County Jail Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP)

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County Staff, the architect, and the Construction Manager have been working on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) since the subcontractor bids were received in March. This project includes constructing a new sixty (60) cell facility that will join the existing medical area at the jail. The Construction Manager has submitted a GMP of \$8,965,053.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked when this project would begin? Mr. McLeod responded thirty to forty-five days, if approved, to go through the contractual process. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioners Evans and Orenstein seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

RAVE Alert Service Agreement

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated this agreement with RAVE Alert would be a system that will replace the Code Red System. After reviewing several options, this will maintain our current level of service, but increase our services we're able to provide as well. Notable agencies that are using RAVE Alert System which were notified for recommendations were GEMA, VSU, most of the schools in the University System of Georgia, and Chatham County, which all gave good recommendations. Commissioner Orenstein asked during the transition if citizens will need to register again? Mr. Tye responded yes, citizens will need to register. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the item as presented, Commissioners Griner and Orenstein seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Crisis Track Damage Assessment Software

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated Crisis Track is a damage assessment software that can be installed as an app on any smartphone or tablet for users, with there being no limit to the number of users, allowing access for first responders and our damage assessment team in the field, to quickly collect damage assessment information and provide it to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This will allow Emergency Management to provide damage assessment numbers more quickly to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) enabling them to notify FEMA of a request for assistance more quickly. Mr. Tye stated GEMA made some additional grant funds available that will cover the initial implementation funding. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Griner seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes reported the below:

- One Valdosta-Lowndes will be coming to our next work session to present a concept called 'a college and career academy.' This is a tool that some communities have used to engage young people of high school age and put them on a track that provides technical training for a specific career path that works in conjunction with a technical college. Mrs. Dukes provided the Commissioners with a handout with an update on the quarter three report, the Lowndes

Grantee Snapshot for Juvenile Justice Grants. On the second page you will see that 33% of the children in this program are 14 years old. This concept of 'a college and career academy' would get them as they are coming into high school. Mrs. Dukes stated as a local government this could be an initiative that we could look at supporting.

- Mrs. Dukes provided the Commissioners with a handout showing a schematic drawing, provided by Dr. Mark Eanes, the District Health Director, for a new building. Dr. Eanes would like to have all offices on one campus. Mrs. Dukes stated when asked what the County could do to help, Dr. Eanes responded that we should begin to raise awareness. Mrs. Dukes stated the County's only responsibility would be the clinic. Chairman Slaughter agreed with the information Mrs. Dukes shared and stated that the concept of having all of your public health clinics on one campus is better than continuing to spend rent on other facilities. Chairman Slaughter stated that speaking and supporting this project within the community would be helpful. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if this is the proposed site? Chairman Slaughter answered yes, as it stands right now. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated there would be an on-site record storage facility. Chairman Slaughter stated they are currently paying approximately \$20,000 for rental space for record storage. Mrs. Dukes mentioned if anyone has any questions or would like to tour the current facilities, to please let her know.
- There will be a new control tower groundbreaking ceremony at the Valdosta Regional Airport on Thursday at 10:00 a.m.
- Reminder if anyone would like to participate in the hygiene and canned food donations drive, those items are due Friday, May 31st.
- Mrs. Dukes mentioned the 2024 Hurricane Preparedness Workshop which was held last week with guest speaker, Mr. Kelly Godsey, with the National Weather Service office out of Tallahassee. Mrs. Dukes asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye, to give the Commission an update. Mr. Tye stated the forecast for the upcoming hurricane season is supposed to be very active and above normal. The predicted range for hurricanes this year is between 17-23. Mr. Tye reiterated the importance of being prepared.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Evans seconded. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.