

Wisembaker made a motion to approve the agreement with Southeast Connections, LLC in the amount of \$3,369,213.71 and to authorize the Chairman to sign, Vice Chairman Marshall seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Grove Pointe Nelson Hill Watermain Interconnection**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated staff recommends installing an 8" interconnection between Grove Pointe Subdivision and Nelson Hill Subdivision to create a second feed and looping of the water system. Easements have been acquired and the interconnection will be installed from the southwest corner of Nelson Hill Place to the northeast corner of Hatfield Circle. Mr. Stalvey stated three bids were received ranging from \$78,392.60 - \$187,565.40. Mr. Stalvey stated RPI, Inc. submitted the low bid in the amount of \$78,392.60. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agreement with RPI, Inc. in the amount of \$78,392.60 and to authorize the Chairman to sign, Commissioner Griner seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Revitalization of North Lowndes UPS with Battery Replacement**

IT Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated this request is for the purchase of a revitalization for the Lowndes County Judicial Complex Uninterruptable Power System (UPS). The current system has reached end-of-life and support for all major components, including power modules and batteries. This request became more critical after the recent standby generator transfer switch related fire on August 12, 2024. The fire caused fifteen of seventy-eight batteries to fail. Vice Chairman Marshall asked if Schneider Electric was the only company that submitted a bid? Mr. Kostyu responded it is sole sourced. Commissioner Orenstein asked to verify this is funded through SPLOST? Mrs. Dukes responded yes. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve the request as presented, Commissioner Evans seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, reported the following:

- As we are recovering from Hurricane Helene, the normal order of business also moves forward. We are grateful for our teams and staff that have done an incredible job over the last two and a half weeks working to take care of the community.
- Fire Prevention Month for October has kicked off. She has the schedule if any commissioners would like to appear at any of the events. The majority of the events are to visit schools and some are public education opportunities.
- We will host Leadership Lowndes Thursday, October 17th. They are in line for their Courts and Public Safety Day with the adult class, but given the response that we are under as a part of Hurricane Helene, there is an abbreviated program that we will be hosting in the Chambers. We will be providing the class with an overview of the storm and our response.
- She forwarded the commissioners the Ag Tour Schedule for tomorrow hosted by the Extension Office. After Hurricane Idalia we had FSA come in with the Extension Office and toured several local farms to get input. There is over \$6 billion dollars in agricultural loss to Georgia's economy, which also affects our food. Farmers remain in our thoughts and prayers as we move forward with recovering from Hurricane Helene.
- Representative John LaHood has an event at Coleman Talley Thursday evening, October 17th at 5:00 p.m. that the commissioners are invited to attend.