

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, December 9, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

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

County Manager, Paige Dukes introduced and recognized the Lowndes County Utilities Department. Mrs. Dukes asked Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey to speak regarding the recent accomplishments of staff. Mr. Stalvey stated with training available for state licenses in water and waste water, last year three different classes were held and offered here in our building. Matt Ehling, Jason McLeod and Carson Rice have taken the training classes, tested for the Class II license and have passed. Chairman Slaughter commended Mr. Ehling, Mr. McLeod and Mr. Rice. Additionally, Chairman Slaughter mentioned training is important and being able to have the classes given here in our building has been a cost savings to Lowndes County.

Mrs. Dukes asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye to introduce a representative with FEMA. Mr. Tye introduced FEMA Representative Keith Denning and asked him to give the commission an update. Mr. Denning gave an update related to Hurricane Helene stating since October, there is a branch office located at Georgia Military College with approximately one hundred people working at that location. A disaster recovery center opened in Valdosta on October 7th and seventy (70) citizens are being seen daily. There are disaster survivor assistance teams canvassing the Valdosta and Lowndes County area and looking at acute care and case work with those not finding an answer with housing. Families are being contacted and helped with resources, usually with locating rental properties. Over 30,000 registrations with FEMA have been received, in the individual households program, with the overall program having \$23 million dollars distributed in Lowndes County. 17,000 residents have received housing assistance with repairs and/or replacements. Chairman Slaughter and the Commission thanked Mr. Denning.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session and regular session of November 12, 2024. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Valdosta Lowndes County Conference Center and Tourism Authority  
County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the seat held by Rick Williams expires December 31, 2024 and he has expressed a desire to continue to serve. Mrs. Dukes stated