

impact the capped value of your home, it would be valued at today's value, it would not fall under the same value consideration of your home in the past.

Laura Spell, 5360 Golf Drive, addressed the commission to state she is in favor of opting in and asked what good does it do the citizens to vote for something if the commission is going to do away with it. Mrs. Spell read a letter from Senator Colton Moore. Mrs. Spell asked how much revenue does Lowndes County make in one month? Chairman Slaughter stated there would be no comments at this time.

Dianna Deeley, 201 West Gordon Street, addressed the commission to ask is it to the benefit of the county and community for people to hold the property for long periods of time or is it better to sell the property more often? Ms. Deeley stated homestead exemption is a great thing.

Edward Chase West, 4712 Radar Site Road, addressed the commission stating he is in favor of House Bill 581. Mr. West stated he was under the impression that there would be a one percent tax over everything and if that was done, home owners would not be targeted, everyone would be participating for these funds, not just home owners and property owners. Sixty percent of the voters were in favor and voted for this bill; if we're participating for the one percent then not just the home owners should be taking on the burden, Mr. West asked for a comment. Chairman Slaughter answered no comment.

William Spell, Jr. 5360 Golf Drive, addressed the commission to state he believes our elected officials should find ways to reduce the budget and expenses, in order to save money.

Brooks Garrett, 4562 Amelia Circle, addressed the commission to state he is in favor of opting in. Mr. Garrett asked what local control do you lose if you still control the millage rate? Mr. Garrett also asked who elected the appraisers? Chairman Slaughter answered that the appraisers are appointed with some outside consulting being used as well. Mr. Garrett asked if opting out now, when would Lowndes County opt in?

Chairman Slaughter closed the public comment portion of the meeting. Chairman Slaughter stated the commission has not made a decision to opt in or opt out of House Bill 581. In moving forward with the public hearings, the commission's desire is to do the best for the citizens of Lowndes County. Chairman Slaughter stated this commission will try to find the very best scenario for property owners in Lowndes County.

Commissioner Marshall mentioned that the hurricanes affecting our community in the past couple of years, in reviewing the numbers, there could be a possible increase in property taxes this June if we opt in, and he believes we should opt out. Chairman Slaughter stated the school board taxes are the largest portion of taxes and meetings are in the process of being scheduled. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if Lowndes County has opted in, Chairman Slaughter answered if we do nothing, then we have opted in; there is legislation not voted on yet, to possibly extend the deadline date for opting out to May 1st, instead of March 1st.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the public hearing, second by Commissioner Marshall. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.