

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, April 4, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Mr. S. L. Jones, Chairman; Mr. Howard Lawson, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; and Joe Wingate. Mr. James Maxwell was not present. Others present were: Mr. Robert O'Barr, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; Mr. Mark Deatcher, Public Works Director; Mr. Ben DeVane, County Engineer; and various residents.

Call to Order

Chairman called workshop to order.

Workshop – Road Issues

Public Works Director, Mr. Mark Deatcher, reported there were no road issues at this time. Mr. Deatcher commented on the completion of Pine Branch Bridge; the excellent job and how great it looks.

Chairman closed workshop at 5:10 p.m.

Call to Order/Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman called regular meeting to order; Mr. Lawson led all in attendance in Prayer; and Administrator led all in pledge of allegiance.

Amended Items

Chairman asked to amend agenda to discuss re-districting. Mr. Wingate made the motion to accept the amendment, Mr. Cody seconded.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lawson made a motion to approve the following minutes with correction to amount for courthouse renovation in the March 7th minutes, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Workshop & Special Called Meeting	March 3, 2011
Monthly Workshop & Regular Monthly Meeting	March 7, 2011
Workshop & Special Called Meeting	March 10, 2011
Workshop & Special Called Meeting	March 14, 2011

Public Hearing – Construction and Operation of 300 Feet Guy Telecommunications Facility – BC-SE-01-11

Chairman called public hearing to order.

Ms. Sherry Davidson, Regional Commission, appeared to present an Application for Special Exceptions, submitted by Bob Lease for SBA Towers III, LLC, as agent for Jeffery and April Wright, to locate a 300 feet telecommunication tower facility on parcel 0970011 at 6929 Madison Hwy, on west side of Madison Hwy, in the AG (Agriculture) Zoning District. Telecommunication tower facility is permitted in AG as a Special Exception, provided the facility is located more than 200 feet from any residentially zoned property boundaries.

The Greater Brooks County Planning Commission met at their regular meeting on March 14, 2011. Due to the lack of a quorum, the case was not heard. The members present asked it be sent to the County Commissioners asking them to hear the case and send back to Planning Commission. Staff reviewed the petition and determined it is in compliance with the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Powers and the Standards for Special Exception Review; and therefore; recommends approval of BC-SE-01-11, Petition by Bob Lease for SBA Towers III, LLC, as agent for Jeffery and April Wright, for Special Exception to allow construction and operation of a 300 feet Guy Telecommunications facility in the AG Zoning District.

Ms. Davidson stated there was no opposition to the application; it would benefit the area due to a drop zone. Chairman asked if any one present was in opposition, there was none. Chairman asked if anyone had any questions, there were none. On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Chairman closed public hearing; and returned to regular meeting.

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved the application for Special Exception, submitted by Bob Lease for SBA Towers III, LLC, as agent for Jeffery and April Wright, to allow construction and operation of 300 feet Guy Telecommunications facility in the AG Zoning District on part of parcel 0970011 at 6929 Madison Hwy.

Appearances

- **Sheriff Dewey – Patrol Cars**

Sheriff Dewey appeared to report to Board prices checked for three patrol cars. He stated he found three cars at dealership in Unadilla, GA for \$21,700.00 each; with equipment installed, total price will be \$34,582.00 per car, totaling \$103,746.00. On motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board unanimously approved purchase

of three patrol cars at cost of \$34,582.00 each (including equipment installation), for a total of \$103,746.00, to be funded from excess reserve from Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. Budget will be amended to move \$103,746.00 from Solid Waste Enterprise Fund to Uniform Patrol.

- **Marcus Whatley – Tax Issue**

Mr. Marcus Whatley appeared to request tax refund for years 2000 through 2011 due to being a 100% service connected disabled veteran. Mr. Whatley stated, even though he specifically asked for an exemption from 2000 to 2011, no one at the Tax Office even offered to file anything with the Board; they denied such exemption existed. Mr. Whatley further stated, for years 2000 to 2011 he asked Tax Commissioner, Ms. Jerri Dukes by phone and in person to use his service connected 100% total and permanent disability to exempt his taxes for the primary residence at 280 Beaty Road, Pavo, GA; she denied the existence of the exemption. Mr. Whatley is requesting the Board refund all monies paid erroneously collected for property taxes.

Board did not take any action on this issue, due to absence of County Attorney. Mr. Wingate made the motion to table this issue for more information and to consult with County Attorney, Mr. Lawson seconded. Vote was unanimous.

- **Lindsey Mobley – Farmers’ Mart on Courthouse Lawn Saturdays**

Mr. Mobley appeared on behalf of Southwest Georgia Community Food Alliance, Inc. to get Board response to initiative for a Farmers’ Mart to be held on Saturdays on the Courthouse Lawn. He stated the use of the courthouse square would be in alliance with USDA; the initiative is to encourage locally grown produce to promote healthier lifestyle. Mr. Mobley informed Board he had spoken with Mayor Curtis Pickles; and he was supportive and advised him to get with Destination Brooks. Board also urged Mr. Mobley to connect with Destination Brooks. Mr. Mobley stated he has a meeting with Destination Brooks on April 14th.

- **Mike Smith – 911 Update**

911 Director, Mr. Mike Smith, updated the Board on the E-911 conversion; and provided a copy of timeline of the same. Mr. Smith also requested authorization to purchase the next items needed on the conversion list; dispatch furniture (\$6,000.00), kitchen (\$2,000.00); and building sign (\$1,000.00), total of \$9,000.00. On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously authorized purchase of dispatch furniture, kitchen, and building sign, totaling \$9,000.00 from SPLOST #5 funds as next step in conversion process of E-911.

Mr. Smith also requested to proceed with re-banding/re-programming of all radio systems in Brooks County from analog to digital, starting with Road Department. The funds of \$40,000.00 were placed in the FY 2010-2011 budget. Mr. Lawson made the motion to authorize expenditure for re-banding/reprogramming all radio systems from analog to digital; starting with Road Department, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

- **Donna Copeland – County Jail Issue**

Ms. Copeland appeared to voice her concerns regarding mistreatment of her Brother while being incarcerated at the Brooks County Jail. Board recommended Ms. Copeland to talk with her Brother's attorney to determine if his rights have been violated, and if so, let him handle it.

- **George B. Rhymes – County Jail Inmates Complaints**

Mr. Rhymes commended the Board on their patience with citizens and their concerns/complaints. He asked Board to follow up on complaints regarding treatment of inmates at Brooks County Jail. Mr. Rhymes stated he is not taking sides on who is right or wrong; but feels Board has responsibility to citizens as elected officials of Brooks County.

- **Destination Brooks Tourist Initiative – Monthly Update**

Mr. Corey Cottle appeared to present monthly update of Destination Brooks Tourist Initiative. Copy of brochure was provided highlighting Brooks County activities and sites; annual events, and fund raisers.

Old Business

a) **ACCG Inmate Health Care**

This item was tabled due to County Attorney absence for an update.

b) **Road Department Fence – Labor Only Bid**

Local Risk Management during an inspection visit, recommended a fence being placed around Public Works Department for safety and prevention of vandalism. Materials have been pre-purchased but due to lack of man power at Road Department, bids were solicited to construct the fence. Three bids were submitted:

1.	Azalea Fence Company, Valdosta, GA	\$5,220.00
2.	Dixie Fence & Kennel, Inc., Douglas, GA	\$2,049.00
3.	Sims Fence Company, Valdosta, GA	\$1,875.00

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously awarded bid to lowest bidder, Sims Fence Company, in amount of \$1,875.00 to construct fence at Road Department; funds will come from contingency fund. Mr. Lawson abstained from voting due to Sims Fence Company being owned by a family member.

c) Doors & Trim – Tax Abatement

County Attorney was to speak with the company and bring Board information; was not present.

New Business

a) LifeLink of Georgia – Proclamation

April is National Donate Life Month, an opportunity to share life-saving information about the need for organ and tissue donation in our community. LifeLink of Georgia, the state’s non-profit organ and tissue recovery organization seeks a proclamation designating April as Donate Life Month in Brooks County. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously adopted and authorized Chairman to sign the proclamation from LifeLink of Georgia designating April as Donate Life in Brooks County. The Proclamation will be received by an organ transplant recipient, transplant candidate, donor family member of LifeLink staff.

b) Department of Transportation LMIG Projects

On motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board designated LMIG road improvement projects; Cooper Road, Johnson Short Road and Coffee Road, to be funded from remaining funds in SPLOST #3 account (\$41, 966.53); and balance of funding designated from SPLOST #4, for overage of project cost not funded by DOT. Vote was unanimous. Brooks County portion of the LMIG road improvements cost is \$147,727.74

c) Brooks County Department of Family and Children Services Board Reappointment

Ms. Rhonda Wheeler, Brooks County Department of Family and Children Services, submitted letter advising of expiration of term for Board Member, Mrs. Lari Hagan on June 30, 2011. Mrs. Hagan has expressed a willingness to serve another term. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board approved to reappoint Mrs. Lari

Hagan for another term on the Board for Brooks County Department of Family and Children services. Vote was unanimous.

d) CDBG – Few Lane and Hassel Road

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board designated Few Lane and Hassel Road as CDBG projects; and authorized Chairman to sign documents related to this project.

Administrator/Fiscal Matters

County Administrator updated Board on FY 2012 budget process; waiting on department heads to submit their proposed budgets. Provided a report from Building Inspector regarding revenues for permits; which has decreased from approximately \$100,000 to \$40,000 annually.

Mr. Wingate discussed Board need to look at Timber Tax; and try to increase revenues.

Board authorized Administrator to put out to bid SPLOST #4 CD at Citizens National Bank in the amount of \$540,794.12, once bids are in, Chairman and Administrator will open and select high bidder.

Executive Session - None

Mr. Wingate made a motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:05 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. S. L. Jones, Chairman
Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk

