

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, December 5, 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. James Maxwell; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Joe Wingate. Mr. Howard Lawson, Vice Chairman was not present. Others present were: Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; Mr. Mark Deatcher, Public Works Director; and various residents.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman called workshop to order.

### **Workshop – Road Issues**

Public Works Director, Mr. Mark Deatcher, reported:

One of the Motor Graders was vandalized while parked at Old Madison Road and Wheeler. The battery box was broken open, two batteries leads and both batteries were removed. Law enforcement was notified; and prepared an incident report. Vandalism will cost County more than \$550.00; does not include man hours to repair.

NaturChem sprayed County roads; 12 miles per voting district. Cost was \$500.00 less than quoted. Mr. Deatcher will provide a list to Board for review.

The 140 Motor Grader is at Yancey in Valdosta; the hydraulic pump is being replaced; get well date will be prior to December 9, 2011.

The 770 Motor Grader is at Flint in Albany; troubleshooting engine for faulty oil rings.

**Update:** Mr. Deatcher reported County is looking at \$11,696.21 for engine over haul. Over \$41,800.00 has been spent in the past two years on repairs. The engine and body is not designed for the weight. He recommends the ditcher be removed after repairs are done; if that is what County wants done.

Pressure washer at shop is inoperable; searching for parts for repair.

Tire build-up machine has a main valve leaking. Brush guard worn allowing air pressure to leak; requires repair.

County Engineer, Mr. Ben DeVane reported completion of Minnow Farm and Campground Road paving and striping. The project was cut off at city limits; he will get an estimate of length and cost to present to Board.

Chairman closed workshop at 5:22 p.m. to go into regular meeting.

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### **Call to Order/Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

## **Approval of Regular Meeting Proposed Agenda**

On motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, Board unanimously approved the agenda.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve following minutes as written, Mr. Wingate seconded:

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## **Public Hearing – None**

## **Appearances**

### **1. Destination Brooks Tourist Initiative – Monthly Update**

Ms. Lauren Basford presented the monthly update and upcoming events for Destination Brooks. Annual Christmas parade will be held downtown December 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.; there are over 30 entries. Second Annual Tour of Historical Churches will be extending throughout Brooks County; over 30 churches will be represented. Website will be completed by end of year.

Ms. Basford is also the Assistant Director of Development Authority; and informed the Board of a strategic planning session to be held in January 2012; invited Board participation.

### **2. Public Defender 2012 Contract for Services Renewal**

Mr. John K. Edwards, Sr., Circuit Public Defender, appeared to present contract renewal for Indigent Defense and Agreement for the Administration of Operating Expenses for 2012. There is no budget increase, remains same as last year. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board unanimously approved renewal of Amendment to the Indigent Defense Services Agreement Among the Circuit Public Defender Office of the Southern Judicial Circuit for 2012 in amount of \$139,140.00. Mr. Cody made the motion to approve the renewal of the Amendment to the Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement for the Administration of Operating Expenses for 2012, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

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### **3. Mike Smith – 911, Volunteer Fire Department and Update on Rec Board**

911 Director, Mr. Mike Smith, appeared to request the last object for new 911 Center; and authorization to move forward with bid process. On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously authorized proceeding with bid advertising for telephone system for new 911 Center.

Mr. Smith also requested purchase of 75 mobile and portable radios for volunteer fire department at cost of approximately \$56,000.00. Mr. Maxwell made the motion approving purchase of radios pending fund availability in SPLOST #5, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Volunteer Fire Department is in need of a new Jaws of Life; current one is wearing out. County is in contract with City to furnish the equipment; City is requesting County share in half of the cost of \$25,000.00 for one set. On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved to share in half of cost (\$12,500.00) with City in purchasing one set of Jaws of Life; funding will come from SPLOST #5.

Recreation Board Update – Committed held meeting on November 22, 2011; agreed to appoint a three member Board; with candidates being qualified citizens from Brooks County. If cannot find candidates within County, it will be advertised. Next meeting scheduled for December 15, 2011 at 5:15 p.m.

#### **4. Auction of Equipment**

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved and authorized Mr. Mark Deatcher to proceed with auction of surplus equipment at Road Department.

#### **New Business – Fawn Heights Water System**

Mr. Walter Newsome, Attorney, Telfair Acres of Lowndes County, Inc. appeared to present an amendment to the Trust Indenture for Water System at Fawn Heights Subdivision for Board approval. Department of Natural Resources has requested his client (Telfair) secure an amendment to the Trust Indenture indicating it has become the operator under the indenture. Mr. Newsome and County Attorney has discussed and reviewed amendment. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to enter into agreement and approve Amendment to Trust Agreement between Telfair Acres of Lowndes County, Inc. and Brooks County, Georgia recognizing current owner, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

#### **Old Business – EMS Name Change**

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, Board unanimously accepted name change of Regional EMS to South Georgia Ventures Operating Brooks County Ambulance.

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#### **County Administrator Comments:**

**CD Renewal** – Mr. Wingate made the motion to authorize County Administrator to put out to bid to local banks a CD renewal in amount of \$649,926.59 at Colony Bank; and to continue with process of Chairman and Administrator opening bids and awarding to highest bidder, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**Employees Christmas Bonuses and Christmas Dinner** – Administrator requested approval for Christmas bonuses in amount of \$15,350.00; and Christmas dinner for employees in amount of \$1,300.00. On motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, Board

approved Christmas bonuses and Christmas dinner for employees; amount not to exceed \$17,000.00; funding from contingency. Vote was unanimous.

**Early Dismissal on December 22, 2011 for Christmas** – Mr. Wingate made the motion to authorize early dismissal of employees at 3:00 p.m. on December 22<sup>nd</sup>; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Renee Bailey requested to appear; Bruce Echols appeared on her behalf regarding payment of invoices related to Recreation Department. Administrator asked Mr. Echols to come by his office to discuss and review the issue/issues.

**Executive Session – None**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:15 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

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



The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 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. James Maxwell; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Joe Wingate. Others present were: Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; and various residents.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman called meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

### **Amend Agenda**

Chairman asked Board to move item #7 (Option on Property) up to follow after item #3 (Dan Graham Term Expires December 2011). Mr. Maxwell made the motion to amend agenda to move item #7 up, and Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

#### **1. County Insurance: Liability and Property – Holwell and Fletcher**

Holwell and Fletcher representative, Mr. Buddy Holwell appeared to present the renewal package for 2012 Liability and Property Insurance for Brooks County. The cost decreased from \$128,184.00 for 2011 to \$127,005.00 for 2012. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board unanimously accepted the 2012 Liability and Property Insurance renewal from Holwell and Fletcher with an annual premium of \$127,005.00, Mr. Lawson seconded.

#### **2. Computer – Probate Court**

Judge Collins, Probate Court, requested a computer for gun permit processing, which is mandated by State. Funds will come from contingency in amount of \$1,367.62. Mr. Lawson made the motion approving purchase of computer from contingency, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

#### **3. Tax Assessor Board – Dan Graham Term Expires December 2011**

Mr. Lawson stated he has no problem with Mr. Graham being re-appointed and made motion to re-appoint Mr. Graham. Mr. Maxwell commented there needs to be diversity on the Board. Mr. Wingate stated Mr. Graham has completed the 80 hour requirement for training; and would not have to send someone new for

training. Mr. Cody also agreed the Board does need change. Chairman called for a second to Mr. Lawson's motion to re-appoint Mr. Graham to Tax Assessor Board for a three year term, Mr. Wingate seconded. Chairman called for the vote. Vote was 3 to 2. Mr. Wingate, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Jones voted yes. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Cody voted no. Chairman broke the tie. Mr. Graham's term will expire December 31, 2014.

#### **4. Option on Property**

Ms. Tina Herring, Director, Development Authority, appeared to inform Board of new prospect for a plant in the Industrial Park. Information is confidential, project is in the preliminary stages, but new prospect wants to tie up property. New prospect needs 125 acres. The plant will provide approximately 35 jobs, and \$300,000.00 in taxes. County Attorney advised the Board they need to provide an option on property or convey property to Development Authority. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to convey property to Development Authority, deal with at own discretion; if prospect does not exercise option within 6 months; Development Authority will convey property back to Brooks County, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

#### **5. Road Priority List – DOT LMIG**

County Engineer, Mr. Ben DeVane, provided Board a list of ten roads for DOT LMIG Resurfacing Project. Board needed to determine amount of funds County has to spend on the road projects. Mr. Maxwell made motion to use \$500,000.00 from SPLOST #4, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous. DOT provides \$380,000.00, and with County funds of \$500,000.00, total amount is \$880,000.00 to spend on resurfacing project. After discussion, Mr. Lawson made the motion to authorize Mr. DeVane to go back and re-assess mileage on the roads, due to limited funding, come back and present recommendation to the Board, Mr. Wingate seconded.

#### **6. Hagan Farm Lease**

Hagan Farm Lease will expire December 31, 2011; and will be put out to bid. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to run ad for bids for renewal of Hagan Farm Lease, Lease will be for 3 years and will contain same stipulations related to hunting and fishing as stated in current lease, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

## **7. Purchasing Policy Amendment**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to table this issue to allow for consulting with County Attorney to be certain the wording is correct, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

## **8. Recreation Committee – Board Member Selection**

Committee Chairman, Mr. Mike Smith, informed Board they do not have any commitments yet from two prospective names. He requested County to contact ACCG for assistance with rules and regulations for County or Recreation Department our size. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board unanimously tabled this item until further assistance from ACCG.

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board adjourned meeting at 6:04 p.m.

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



