

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, May 9, 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 the following updates/issues:

1. Board was informed of the Road Department retrieval of over \$123,000 in miscellaneous tools, industrial tractor, floor crane, tool boxes from Defense Reutilization Materials Office (DRMO)/Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) at Warner Robbins AFB. Mr. Deatcher thanked Sheriff Dewey, Capt. Jerry Miller and Sgt. Angel Gines for assistance. He stated the process requires some "polish", but we're off to a good start with the program and will save tax payer dollars on much needed equipment and supplies.
2. Mr. Deatcher requested authorization to swap our 1998 6-wheel dump truck (some maintenance required) with City of Quitman for their bucket truck (some maintenance required). The City has recently purchased a new bucket truck; and no longer requires the old one, but need a small dump truck.
3. Mr. Deatcher reported he is working on the Motor Carrier Identification Report for U. S. DOT numbers, which would allow our heavy trucks to leave the state for emergency purposes and retrieve equipment from DRMO in other states. The app has been submitted to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, number has been received; the number will now get submitted for fuel tax identifier.

**Fawn Heights** – Ben DeVane reported the ad for Fawn Heights will be ready next week.

**CR 10** – Ben DeVane reported he is evaluating the road as to which pipes to replace and size, whether or not to raise and improve the road. He will bring a report with options of what can be done.

Chairman closed workshop at 5:12 p.m.

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

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

## **Amended Items**

Chairman asked to amend agenda to include: Beer & Wine License Application and truck swap with City of Quitman. Mr. Wingate made the motion to accept the amendments to agenda, Mr. Lawson seconded.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Lawson made a motion to approve the following minutes, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Monthly Workshop & Regular Monthly Meeting                      April 4, 2011

## **Public Hearing**

Chairman called public hearing to order.

### **1. Construction and Operation of 400 Foot Guyed Cell Tower for SouthernLINC Wireless Facility – BC-SE-03-11**

Ms. Sherry Davidson, Regional Commission, appeared to present an Application for Special Exceptions, submitted by H. Buddy Robinson, Sr. of ValuPower Resources, Inc., as agent for Herbert T. Price of Price Family Farms, located east of the Thomas-Brooks County border to the southwest of the intersection of Carter Road and Old Thomasville Road, to allow for the construction and operation of a 400 foot guyed cell tower and shelter building for SouthernLINC Wireless facility in the AG (Agricultural) Zoning District.

The Greater Brooks County Planning Commission met at their regular meeting on April 19, 2011. Due to the lack of a quorum, the case was not heard. The members present asked application 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 petition by H. Buddy Robinson, Sr., of ValuPower Resources, Inc., as agent for Herbert T. Price of Price Family Farms II, LLLP for Special Exception on part of map-parcel #009-0001 for construction and operation of a 400 feet guyed cell tower and shelter building for SouthernLINC Wireless facility in the AG (Agricultural) Zoning District.

## **2. Special Exception Request by Jones O. Thomas for Development of Family Cemetery**

An Application for Special Exception by Jones O. Thomas on part of map-parcel #002-00296 located south of Coleman Road and to the west of Son Wright Road in Dixie, Georgia, for development of a family cemetery in the AG (Agricultural) Zoning District.

The Greater Brooks County Planning Commission met at their regular meeting on April 19, 2011. Due to the lack of a quorum, the case was not heard. The members present asked application 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; therefore, recommends approval of petition by Jones O. Thomas to develop a family cemetery in the AG (Agricultural) Zoning District.

Chairman closed public hearing at 5:22 p.m.; and returned to regular meeting.

On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved the application for Special Exception, submitted by H. Buddy Robinson, Sr. of ValuPower Resources, Inc., as agent for Herbert T. Price of Price Family Farms, located east of the Thomas-Brooks County border to the southwest of the intersection of Carter Road and Old Thomasville Road, to allow for the construction and operation of a 400 foot guyed cell tower and shelter building for SouthernLINC Wireless facility in the AG (Agricultural) Zoning District.

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved the application for Special Exception submitted by Jones O. Thomas for development of a family cemetery in the AG (Agricultural) Zoning District, located south of Coleman Road and to the west of Son Wright Road in Dixie, Georgia,

## **Appearances**

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

Mr. Corey Cottle appeared to present monthly update of Destination Brooks Tourist Initiative. Market Committee is working with marketing firm, Outreach Committee will participate in the Peach and Peacock Festival, they will have a booth; will pass out information on Destination Brooks. Skillet Festival is calling for vendors, and sponsors.

**2. Michelle Akins – Dog Leash Law**

Ms. Akins was not present.

**3. Peggy Kimble – Cop Grant**

Ms. Peggy Kimble, Victim Witness Assistance, appeared to request Board permission to apply for grant to fund new positions within Sheriff's Office. If awarded, the grant will fund positions within Uniform Patrol and Criminal Investigations for three years with salary and fringe benefits. Mr. Wingate made the motion authorizing submission of application for grant to fund new positions within Sheriff's Office, Uniform Patrol and Criminal Investigations, Mr. Lawson seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**4. Vickie Whatley/Marcus Whatley – Tax Exemption**

After lengthy discussion, Mr. Lawson made the motion authorizing a refund to Mr. Whatley up to three (3) years for property taxes he paid prior to applying for homestead tax exemption, Mr. Cody seconded. Mr. Whatley has been declared permanently and totally disabled due to service connected disability. There was an error related to his tax exempt status. Chairman called for the vote, Mr. Wingate, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Cody voted in favor. Mr. Wingate stated, that for future reference, he voted yes because of the error; an error was made, the error is not on Ms. Dukes or Mr. Whatley, but because there is an error.

The amount of refund for taxes will be \$3,332.46. The amount is broken down as follows: State refund, \$34.77; County refund, \$1,347.06; School refund, \$1,900.58; and Development Authority refund is \$50.05.

**5. Family Connection Grant – Brooks County as Fiscal Agent**

Ms. Danielle DeLoach, Family Connection, appeared to request Brooks County serve as Fiscal Agent for Systems of Care Grant in amount of \$175,000. On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously agreed to serve as Fiscal Agent if Family Connection is approved for System of Care Grant.

**Old Business**

**a) ACCG Inmate Health Care**

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board approved the ACCG Inmate Health Care Program pending review and approval of Agreement by County Attorney. Vote was unanimous.

**b) Paving Johnson Short Road w/ County Office Parking Lot**

Bids were submitted for paving/resurfacing of County Office Building parking lot:

1. H & H Paving, Quitman, GA - \$42,789.00
2. The Scruggs Company, Valdosta, GA - \$40,902.50
3. Reames and Son Construction, Inc., Valdosta, GA - \$51,385.00

Board wanted to award bid locally, but due to purchasing policy, it would be in violation of policy to take lower bid. Mr. Lawson made the motion to award bid to The Scruggs Company in amount of \$40,902.50 due to purchasing policy for Brooks County, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**New Business**

**a) Zoning Board Member Replacement**

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board unanimously appointed Mr. Donald Rich to the Zoning Board to replace Mr. Chip Renfroe.

**b) Need Zoning Board Member – Commissioner Cody’s District**

Mr. Cody will provide a name for Zoning Board member to serve his district by the next month regular monthly meeting.

**c) CDBG – Few Lane and Hassel Road**

Grant will be awarded by June/August 2011.

**d) Voter Registrars of Georgia Conference**

Board needs a workshop to appoint board members for Election Board to send to training; discuss job criteria, salary for Elections Supervisor/Registrar to run ad to start receiving applications.

**e) Clerk of Court Needs Funding for Jury**

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board authorized \$2,500.00 from contingency fund for Clerk of Court to use for jury duty. Vote was unanimous.

## **County Administrator/Fiscal Matters**

### **a) Generator Bids for New 911 Center**

Bids were submitted for generator for new 911 Center:

- |    |                                   |             |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Cowart Electric, Valdosta, GA     | \$40,380.00 |
| 2. | Yancey Power Systems, Austell, GA | \$34,400.00 |
| 3. | APS Energy Systems                | \$36,999.00 |

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board awarded the bid to the low bidder, Yancey Power Systems, in amount of \$34,400.00 for generator at the new 911 Center. Vote was unanimous.

### **b) Monitors for Tax Commissioner's Office**

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board approved purchase of three monitors (\$117.00 each) for Tax Commissioner, total amount of \$351.00 will come from contingency fund. Vote was unanimous.

### **c) Employee Health Insurance Renewal**

County Clerk provided Board information on renewal proposals for employee health insurance.

### **d) FY 2011-2012 Department Budget**

County Administrator provided Board copy of proposed department budget request for FY 2011-2012.

### **e) Beer and Wine License Application**

Mr. Dipenkumar Patel, Johnson Grocery, Brooks County, GA, applied for license to sell beer and wine at 4310 US Highway 84, Dixie, GA 31629. Public Notice has run in Quitman Free Press; and background check has been performed. Mr. Lawson made the motion to approve Beer and Wine License application submitted by Mr. Patel, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

### **Executive Session - None**

Mr. Cody made a motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:05 p.m.; Mr. Lawson 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 Workshop and Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, May 31, 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.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman called workshop and special called meeting to order.

### **Amendments to Agenda**

Chairman amended the agenda to discuss Archway Partnership with University of Georgia and Extension Office.

#### **1. Budget Dates and Times for Internal Departments**

County Administrator provided copy of FY 2012 Budget Presentations with internal departments beginning Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

#### **2. External Department Budget Dates and Times**

External department's presentations will be Thursday, June 9, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. County Administrator stated the department's request budget is \$7,899,195.00 and the anticipated revenue estimate is \$7,314,519.88, which reflects a \$584,675.12 deficit. Anticipated decline in digest of approximately \$780,000.00. Digest numbers will continue to be updated to determine millage rate.

Options to facilitate revenue shortfall:

1. Tax increase
2. Reserve funds
3. Further cuts in department budgets
4. Offset with Solid Waste Enterprise Fund

Calendar was provided to present dates to the Board for public hearings and set millage rate.

#### **3. Need Resolution for Tax Assessor Board Terms**

Board needs Resolution for Tax Assessor Board. There is a problem with Board of Assessors tenure; three year or six year term. Board members have been appointed for six year terms; Mr. Graham was appointed in 2007 for a three year term. County Attorney stated to Board they need to decide whether or not to re-appoint Mr. Graham



retroactively for another three year term. Clerk will research minutes for Board re-appointments.

**4. Repercussion of Marcus Whatley Tax Refund**

County Administrator informed Board of the repercussion of tax refund to Mr. Whatley in amount of \$3,332.46.

**5. County Redistricting – Trip to Atlanta, GA**

Mr. Jones, County Administrator, County Attorney, will travel to Atlanta June 10<sup>th</sup> to meet with redistricting office to discuss redistricting of County. County Attorney updated Board, he has been communicating with Shantel Ell, Redistricting Office, stating there are challenges due to population growth in certain regions. There cannot be a 20% disparity; you have to be as close as you can get based upon population. This is purpose of meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> to try and let Ms. Ell help us so we will be in compliance.

**6. Election Board Members**

Board needs to select three Board members to the newly created Election Board. Administrator will draft job description and present at regular meeting on June 6, 2011.

**7. Crown Laundry – In lieu of taxes for Real & Personal Property Values**

County Attorney informed Board this issue will be handled by Tax Assessor and Tina Herring, Director, Development Authority.

**8. Job Description for Election Supervisor**

Administrator presented a draft copy of job description for Election Supervisor for Board and County Attorney review.

**9. Announcement of Election Supervisor Position in Quitman Free Press**

Upon making corrections pointed out by Attorney, Board authorized proceeding with the position announcement in Quitman Free Press for Election Supervisor, Mr. Lawson made the motion; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**Amended Items**

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board amended the agenda to include 911 Director, Mike Smith; and Airport Authority.

**a. Archway Partnership with University of Georgia**

Chairman informed Board of Archway Partnership program with University of Georgia (UGA). The program assists with community development between local community and UGA for whatever the County needs.

**b. Fire Repeater Omitted from Bid**

Mr. Smith informed Board the fire repeater was omitted from bid; and project has started. The cost for repeater is \$4,896.00; and qualifies to be paid out of SPLOST #5 funds designated to Fire Department. Mr. Wingate made the motion authorizing proceeding with purchase of fire repeater in amount of \$4,896.00; and funds will come from SPLOST #5, Mr. Lawson seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**c. Extension Office**

Chairman discussed Extension Office funding changes as a result to keep Garvie Nichols' position in Brooks County Extension Office.

**d. Airport Authority**

Chairman discussed Airport Authority putting in T-hangers and two(2) 10,000 gallon fuel tanks at Airport; cost will be over \$500,000.00; and split with City of Quitman.

Mr. Wingate made a motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:25 p.m.; Mr. Lawson seconded.

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

