

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Workshop and Special Called Meeting on Wednesday, September 7, 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 O'Barr, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; and various residents.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman called workshop to order.

### **Dixie – Snow Road**

Board authorized Administrator to follow-up with Joe Sheffield, DOT and see what he tells us regarding the problem where road drops and is elevated. The problem seems to be with the railroad company.

### **Recreation Department**

Board discussed possibility of a three-member Board to oversee Recreation Department, and whether or not a Board should be created. Board discussed getting the City involved and getting their input, since they provide half of funding for the department. Administrator will get with City Manager and Mayor and bring information back to the Board.

### **911 Update – Mike Smith**

Mr. Smith appeared to request Board approval to purchase software for new 911 Center, which includes, telephone, radio, CAD and map, each has its own function. He would like to purchase radio from Motorola through a State contract, and CAD system from EZ 911 which is compatible with map he already has.

### **Election Supervisor Room Update**

Building Inspector, Mr. Billy Ingram, informed Board four sealed bids have been received for construction of the room, and explained the floor plans. Bids will be opened during regular meeting September 12, 2011.

### **EMS Operations**

Mr. Tommy Willis, Regional EMS, appeared to ask Board to consider a stand-alone contract for Brooks County in order to qualify and get grants. Currently, the only grant he applies for and receives is for ambulances. He is asking to carve out Brooks County from Regional EMS contract to Brooks EMS to be eligible for grants. Board advised they will take into consideration.

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Chairman closed workshop at 6:05 p.m. to go into special called meeting.

On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board unanimously approved purchase of Motorola radio for new 911 Center through State contract in amount of \$45,663.00, and funds will come from SPLOST #5.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve purchase of CAD system for new 911 Center in amount of \$60,798.00, funds to come from SPLOST #5, seconded by Mr. Lawson. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to adjourn special called 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 Workshop and Special Called Meeting on Thursday, September 8, 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 O'Barr, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; and various residents.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman called workshop to order to discuss items on agenda for September regular monthly meeting on September 12, 2011.

### **Amendments**

Mr. Wingate made a motion to amend agenda to add to discussion:

- Airport Authority
- City of Quitman Housing
- Lynwell Asbell
- Sheriff's Department Mileage

Mr. Maxwell seconded, vote was unanimous.

### **Bids on Campground and Minnow Farm Roads**

Bids were received on Campground Road:

Scruggs	\$64,690.53
Reames	\$68,964.65

Bids received on Minnow Farm Road:

Scruggs	\$73,384.38
Reames	\$75,185.35

Board will award bids during regular meeting.

### **Brooks County Jail Inmate Health Care Contract**

County Attorney has made corrections/modifications to inmate health care contract from Southern Correctional Medicine, LLC, ready for Chairman to sign.

**Andre Williams – False Allegations** – Administrator advised Board to omit this item from agenda due to Mr. Williams being an employee with Sheriff's Department, Board has no authorization on his termination.

**Noise Ordinance Variance** – Mr. Kenny Baker made his annual request for Board approval to extend noise ordinance from 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. for his annual event.

**Workshop Session (September 8, 2011)**

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**Carolyn Warren** – Wants to request homestead exemption on property taxes.

**Rev. Robert Jones** – Wish to discuss road improvement.

**Board of Elections and Registration By-Laws** – Will be presented for approval by Board.

**Bullet Proof Vests – Sheriff's Department** – This item has been previously approved at cost of \$450 each, but Federal grant will not pay half of cost on that type of bullet proof vest. Bullet proof vests approved by Federal grant will cost \$625.00 each at a total of \$12,500, but will reimburse County for half the cost. County has to pay full cost and get reimbursed by grant.

**Sheriff's Department Mileage for Personal Vehicle Use** – Due to vehicles being down and out of service, two employees from Sheriff's Department used their personal vehicle to perform duties; and is asking for mileage reimbursement. Have to determine whether or not they used County gas or purchased gas elsewhere.

**Public Hearings** – There will be two cases presented for approval:

- Jerry Westmoreland - Special Exception for an auto repair shop
- Keith Smith – Variance

**Roof Leaks** – Roof at Ag Building and Senior Citizens have leaks, they have been patched up for now, but need to look at replacing, per Administrator.

**Farmers Market** – Mr. Exum wants to rent for use.

**City of Quitman Housing Authority** – Mr. McLeod appeared to request permission to place fence to tie in with fence owned by City around the drainage holding pond.

**Airport Authority** – Mr. Gavin Laurie will appear again to seek Boards approval to assist with installation of hangers and fuel tanks.

**Lynwell Asbell** – appeared to request Board assistance with neighbor placing gate that prevents Road Department from maintaining road causing water to drain on property. Board advised will get County Attorney to look into legalities.

Mr. Wingate made a motion to adjourn special called meeting at 6:10 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 its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, September 12, 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 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.

Mid Georgia Ambulance Service was present to answer question, what can they do to offer better service than getting now? Regional EMS employees have called Mid Georgia inquiring what type benefits they have. Commissioner Mike Dinnerman, Cook County, highly recommended the ambulance service and the great job they are doing in Cook County. Board thanked for appearing and advised they will be contacted.

### **Workshop – Road Issues**

Public Works Director, Mr. Mark Deatcher, reported as of end of June has experienced multiple issues with Side Arms.

- 1998 Ford motor is inoperable, deck no longer repairable; hour meter has been removed and replaced three times, and over 14,000 hours.
- 1997 Ford the hydraulic pressure is constantly low even after replacing multiple items; boom requires new pins, bearings, and races. Repair cost estimated at over \$5,000.
- 2005 John Deer the main pin of the boom fractured/twisted, causing breakage of hydraulic lines, hardware, and main lift cylinder damaged. Estimated cost to repair is more than \$6,000. At this time County is using the City of Quitman Side Arm.

Both dump trucks require new floor liners installed, can achieve by purchasing a mig welder, cost is \$2,159.18. This would greatly enhance our mission by owning which will permit us to repair trucks, all vehicle exhausts, damaged pipes, etc.

During last month meeting, Mr. Deatcher reported there is a problem with ditch and maintenance on Blain Circle. County Engineer, Mr. Ben DeVane prepared information on requirements to repair and improve. Estimated cost is approximately \$29,500.00.

Board authorized Mr. Deatcher to look into preparing bid to lease/purchase side arm.

Chairman closed workshop at 5:33 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. Mr. Cody led all in attendance in Prayer and pledge of allegiance.

## Amended Items

Chairman asked to amend agenda to omit under Appearance, Andre Williams; under Old Business, Airport Authority; executive session for pending litigation; and to include: Jane McAllister, Lavonia Stephenson, part-time high school student, Election Supervisor room bids; Housing Authority fence; and welder. Mr. Lawson made the motion to accept the amendments to agenda, and accept agenda with necessary changes, Mr. Wingate seconded.

## Approval of Minutes

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

Workshop & Special Called Meeting	July 29, 2011
Monthly Workshop & Regular Monthly Meeting	August 1, 2011
Budget Public Hearing	August 3, 2011
Budget Public Hearing & Special Called Meeting	August 10, 2011

## Public Hearing – Special Exception and Variance

Chairman closed meeting to go into public hearing at 5:39 p.m.

Mr. Emanuel Zanders, Planner, Southern Georgia Regional Commission, presented two cases:

Special Exception petition submitted by Jerry Westmoreland to develop an auto repair shop in the AG (Agricultural) Zoning District on map-parcel #122-0034 located at 295 Crosbytown Road, Quitman, GA. Staff reviewed the petition and determined it is in compliance with the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning powers and Standards for Special Exception Review, therefore, recommended approval of petition. At the regular meeting of the Brooks County Commissioners held last month, it was voted unanimously to table the item to next regular meeting to allow the applicant to become compliant before a decision can be determined.

Variance petition submitted by Keith Smith on part of map-parcel #139DA-11 for reduction of the 120 foot required road frontage to 0 feet for a one acre lot that is zoned R-1 (Single Family Residential) located east of Knotty Pine Road in Morven, GA. Staff reviewed the petition and determined it is not in compliance with the Standards for Exercise of Zoning Powers and therefore, recommended denial of petition. A

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variance for reduction of road frontage from 120 feet to 0 feet is not consistent with the R-1 zoning district. Staff feels Mr. Smith created a self-imposed hardship.

Mr. Smith inquired to Board, what he can do to correct problem, he wants to build a house. County Attorney informed Mr. Smith the Board cannot do anything. Before Board can grant access, there has to be a way to get to property, and there is no access, therefore Board cannot approve.

Chairman closed public hearing at 5:50 p.m. to go back into regular meeting.

Mr. Lawson made the motion to approve petition by Mr. Jerry Westmoreland for special exception to develop an auto repair shop in the AG (Agricultural) Zoning District on map-parcel #122-0034 located at 295 Crosbypown Road, Quitman, GA, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously denied petition for variance by Mr. Keith Smith to reduce the 120 foot required road frontage to 0 feet for a one acre lot that is zoned R-1 (Single Family Residential) located east of Knotty Pine Road in Morven, GA.

## **Appearances**

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

Mr. Corey Cottle informed the Board of the kick-off for Skillet Festival to be held Saturday, September 17, 2011; and thanked the Board for repairing fountain at courthouse. Board was invited to attend breakfast Friday morning with Governor Deal, which gives an opportunity to meet Governor and show what Brooks County has to offer.

### **2. Carolyn Warren – Veterans Homestead Exemption**

Ms. Warren appeared to request tax exemption refund for 2009 and 2010. Her husband, Mr. Warren at time of his death was involved in an ongoing lawsuit with Department of Veterans Affairs to determine his disability status. After case was settled, he was considered 100% service connected disable, and would have qualified for homestead exemption, if he had applied. Ms. Warren applied and Assessors accepted her application as surviving spouse. Exemption was granted on March 8, 2011. County Attorney advised Ms. Warren the only time Board is authorized to refund taxes when it has been found taxes were paid in error, State law does not allow Board to do otherwise. Based on the facts, Mr. Maxwell made the motion to deny request for refund, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

### **3. Kenny Baker – Noise Ordinance Variance**

Mr. Kenny Baker made his annual request for Board approval to extend noise ordinance from 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. for his annual event. Mr. Lawson made the motion to

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approve noise ordinance variance to extend to 2:00 a.m., Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

### **4. Rev. Robert M. Jones – Road Paving**

Rev. Jones, Pastor, Missionary Baptist Church, appeared to request Board assistance with paving/improvement of Monument Church Road. Board will look at and place on paving/improvement list.

### **5. Andre Williams – False Allegations from Sheriff's Department**

This item was omitted from agenda.

## **6. Jane McAllister – City of Barwick Ball Field**

Ms. McAllister is a City Council member for City of Barwick; has been appointed to Parks and Recreation Department. She appeared to request assistance from Board with renovations to ball field behind high school, have outgrown current adult ball field. Ms. McAllister met with Thomasville Recreation Department; and they advised to come speak with Brooks County to see if willing to assist. They want to add concession and bathrooms; and adequate parking to field behind high school. After discussion, and some opposition, Board stated the need to correct problems with current Brooks County fields before committing to the project.

### **Old Business**

#### **1) Southern Correctional Medicine, LLC - Inmate Health Care**

County Attorney, Mr. Vann Parrott, has completed corrections to inmate health care contract. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, Board unanimously accepted proposal from Southern Correctional Medicine for health care services for inmates at Brooks County Jail. The annualized price is \$96,000, monthly fee of \$8,000, based on an average daily population of up to 90 Brooks County inmates as bi-weekly average. When population exceeds 90 inmates, a charge of \$3.95 per inmate per day shall be applied to the monthly amount, and adjusted on pro-rata basis.

#### **2) Bullet Proof Vests**

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved purchase of bullet proof vests for Sheriff's Department at full cost of \$13,700, County will pay full cost, and Federal grant will reimburse County for one-half of cost.

#### **3) Airport Authority Hangers and Fuel**

This item was omitted from agenda.

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### **New Business**

#### **a. Proclamation Honoring Literacy Day and Literacy Week in Georgia**

Ms. Lavonia Stephenson sent letter to Brooks County to be signed by Chairman to endorse their efforts to make Brooks County a Certified Literate Community. A Proclamation was also sent honoring the international literacy day and week. International Literacy Day will be observed September 8, 2011, and Literacy Week in Georgia is September 12, 2011 through September 18, 2011. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve and authorized Chairman to sign the endorsement letter and Proclamation making Brooks County a Certified Literate Community, seconded by Mr. Wingate. Vote was unanimous.

#### **b. Part-time High School Student**



On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, Board unanimously approved \$1,800.00 to come from contingency fund to hire a High School student part-time for 15 hours per week as part of the Work-based Learning Program.

**c. Board of Elections and Registration By-Laws**

Copy of By-Laws was provided for Board review. Upon review by County Attorney, he advised of corrections needed. Mr. Wingate made the motion to accept the By-Laws based on corrections by County Attorney, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**d. Campground Road Bid**

Scruggs - \$64,690.53 and Reames - \$68,964.65

On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board approved bid of \$64,690.53 from Scruggs for Campground Road, funds will come from LMIG funding. Vote was unanimous.

**e. Minnow Farm Road Bid**

Scruggs - \$75,185.35 and Reames - \$73,384.38

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board approved bid of \$73,384.38 from Reames for Minnow Farm Road, funds will come from LMIG funding. Vote was unanimous.

**f. Approval of Welder Purchase**

On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board unanimously approved and authorized Public Works Director to purchase mig-welder not to exceed cost of \$2,400, and funds will come from contingency.

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**g. Elections Supervisor Room**

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board authorized construction of Elections Supervisor Room in the County Office Building. Vote was unanimous.

**h. Elections Supervisor Room Construction Bids**

Bids were opened for Elections Room construction, electrical and air conditioner. Wesley Sirmans bid on building only, including labor and materials, amount of \$9,000. J & J Electrical bid on electrical (\$4,955) and air condition (\$4,854), total of \$9,809. Hal Cooper bid included all for \$23,291, Laurie Story bid on building only for \$14,773; Thad Mitchell bid included all for \$21,700. Building Inspector recommended Thad Mitchell and Hal Cooper. Board asked Mr. Ingram to check with Wesley Sirmans, since his bid was lowest, to see if he can meet the deadline, and see how soon can start project. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to go with Wesley Sirmans, if can meet deadline, J & J Electrical will go with Sirmans for a total of \$18,809, if he can meet deadline, if he cannot meet deadline, Board authorized to go with Mitchell, second lowest bid of \$21,700, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Maxwell added to his motion

that any extra funds over the bid will come from contingency fund, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**i. Housing Authority Fence**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion authorizing Quitman Housing Authority to tie in a fence to the existing fence owned by City around the drainage holding pond, Mr. Lawson seconded.

**j. Sheriff's Department Mileage for Personal Vehicle Use**

Due to vehicles being down and out of service, two employees from Sheriff's Department used their personal vehicle to perform duties; and is asking for mileage reimbursement. Have to determine whether or not they used County gas or purchased gas elsewhere because cannot get fuel and mileage. Sheriff informed Administrator that County fuel was used. Normal rate County reimburse for mileage is .505. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved the two employees from Sheriff's Department to be reimbursed at .27 cents per mile for use of their vehicles, due to using County fuel.

**k. Behavioral Health Services of South Georgia**

Letter was submitted from South Georgia Community Service Board to fill County government appointment position to the Board. Chairperson, Shamb Purohit, requested reappointment of Ms. Gerry Folsom. She has the willingness to serve to meet their mission. Mr. Wingate made the motion to reappoint Ms. Folsom to Community Service Board for Behavioral Health Services of South Georgia, Mr. Lawson seconded.

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**County Administrator Comments: Ag Building and Senior Center Roof Leaks**

Roof at Ag Building and Senior Citizens have leaks, they have been patched up for now, but need to look at replacing.

**Executive Session – None**

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:20 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

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

