

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, January 6, 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: 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, updated Board on road issues:

Mr. Deatcher requested funds in the amount of \$1,071.98 from contingency fund to install emergency light kit on his work truck.

Letter of Agreement for Glenn Walker

Letter of Agreement was provided for Board review regarding beaver control problems being handled by Glenn Walker. The agreement is between Board and Sheriff authorizing Mr. Walker to have a .22 rifle and pistol in his work truck as he retrieves beavers. Copy of letter will be forwarded to Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Glenn Walker, Road Foreman, has completed necessary course, Controlling Beaver Problems for County Employees and Others, through Department of Natural Resources. The cost is approximately \$1,000.00 for supplies; all items other than the deep freezer have been purchased for the year. Beavers will be stored in freezer; and shipped to Lowndes County to burn.

Commercial Air Compressor for Maintenance Shop

Commercial air compressor is completely inoperative; the shop is using a backup. Mr. Deatcher is looking into prices for a new one, as this one is non-repairable. He thinks cost will be approximately \$3,500.00.

Motor Grader Transmission

Problems continue with repair of motor grader transmission, Yancey cannot repair it. Mr. Deatcher is looking into purchasing a used rebuilt transmission for approximately \$11,000.00. Board authorized Mr. Deatcher to seek bids from three companies.

Mt. Carmel Church Road

Property owners will not give up right-of-way.

Rolling Hill Road

Mr. Lawson requested placing this road on the list for upgrade.

Dry Lake Road

Mr. Wingate reported a section of Dry Lake Road is deteriorating; and needs immediate repair.

Grooverville Road

Mr. Maxwell requested County Engineer go back and resubmit Grooverville Road to DOT.

Jackson Road and Campground Church Road

Mr. Lawson requested adding Jackson and Campground Road to improvement list.

Chairman closed workshop at 5:30 p.m. and called regular monthly meeting to order.

Call to Order/Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman called to order; led all in attendance in Lord's Prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Selection of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2011

Meeting turned over to County Attorney to conduct selection of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2011. County Attorney opened floor for nominations of Chairman. Mr. Lawson nominated Mr. Jones to serve as Chairman, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous for Mr. Jones to serve as Chairman for 2011.

County Attorney opened floor for nominations of Vice Chairman. Mr. Wingate nominated Mr. Lawson for Vice Chairman, Mr. Jones seconded. Vote was unanimous for Mr. Lawson to serve as Vice Chairman for 2011. County Attorney returned meeting back to Chairman.

Board Appointments for 2011

Mr. Maxwell made a motion, Mr. Lawson seconded, for following 2011 Board Appointments; and to remove Mr. Lawson from Chamber of Commerce Board and add Mr. Wingate. Vote was unanimous.

Boards/Committees

Brooks County Library Board	Mr. Willie Cody
Brooks County Airport Authority	Mr. S. L. Jones
Brooks County Board of Health	Mr. James Maxwell
Council on Aging	Mr. Joe Wingate
Coastal Plain Area, EOA	Mr. James Maxwell
Chamber of Commerce	Mr. Joe Wingate
Regional Commission	Mr. Howard Lawson/O'Barr
Dept. of Family & Children Services	Mr. James Maxwell
Mid South RC&D Council	Mr. Joe Wingate
	Mr. Johnny Whiddon(At Large)

Building Assignments

County Office Building	Mr. S. L. Jones
Agriculture Building/Annex	Mr. Howard Lawson
Courthouse	Mr. Joe Wingate
Sheriff's Department	Mr. James Maxwell
Public Works Department	Mr. Willie Cody

Amendments to Agenda

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to amend agenda with necessary corrections; Mr. Cody seconded:

- 1) Carl White under Appearance
- 2) Approve emergency light kit for Public Works Director
- 3) Mt. Carmel Church Road
- 4) Rolling Hill Road
- 5) Jackson Road
- 6) Elliott Road closure
- 7) Destination Brooks

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lawson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and to add minutes from special called meeting of December 29th; Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Monthly Workshop & Regular Monthly Meeting
Special Called Meeting

December 6, 2010
December 29, 2010

Public Hearing – None

Appearances

a) Jerry Miller – Approval of Firing Range

Previously the Sheriff requested Board approval to use Brooks County Inert Landfill as a firing range for his department. Mr. Miller appeared to request an update on the approval. County Administrator provided copy of letter from DNR stating the inert landfills are not subject to current environmental monitoring regulations due to the types of wastes disposed. However, the Construction Activity Prohibition on Abandoned Landfills Act of 1988 directs authority for future use of the site to the building and zoning departments of either City or County government where landfill is located. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board unanimously approved use of inert landfill as firing range, but building/construction can be place on site. County Attorney commented an application may need to be prepared through Zoning Office.

b) Richard Goodman

Mr. Goodman appeared to ask Board to include in his personnel file the findings from Department of Labor appeal hearing decision stating allegations were incorrect in connection with his termination as Jail Administrator. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approve Mr. Goodman's request to include in his personnel file and record in minutes the letter from Department of Labor appeal hearing decision that he did not violate policies and there was no first hand testimony of the allegations. Vote was unanimous.

c) Johnny Whiddon – Employee Tier System

Mr. Whiddon appeared to inform Board of updates with Extension Office. During past two years he stated funds have been reduced by over 20%; which has resulted in loss of 90 Extension agents in Georgia. In October plan was put in place to place each county within Tier System which is based on population, demographics, agriculture, urban and

non-urban, Extension support, etc. Brooks County was placed in a Tier 4, which says we will have only one agent. Mr. Whiddon stated he has been told he will lose Ag Agent, Garvie Nichols, in the near future. He asked Board to consider sending letter and making calls to Legislators and Extension leadership to try and save some of the funding will otherwise lose.

d) Carl White - Snow Road Closure

Mr. White appeared to discuss closure of Snow Road and possible dangerous traffic hazard being created for citizens/residents.

Destination Brooks Tourist Initiative – Monthly Update

Ms. Lauren Basford appeared to provide update. She stated Destination Brooks, The Quitman-Brooks County Tourism Project plans to focus on three goals in new year: creating a signature event to attract visitors to our County; starting a farmers market to highlight our local farms and pursuing the Certified Local Government designation which will help preserve our historic buildings. They have also obtained their non-profit organization status.

Old Business

Road Projects Approval

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board unanimously approved funds from contingency fund in amount of \$1,071.98 to purchase emergency light kit for Public Works Director truck.

Peach Road – Upgrade Drain Pipes

Board authorized Ben DeVane and Public Works Director to look at Peach Road for upgrade/improvement to qualify for SPLOST funds; and bring back to Board.

Air Sparging at LandFill Update

Power company has replaced poles; everything is in place.

New Business

a) Fritzke Farm Lease Bids

Four (4) bids were submitted for Fritzke Farm Lease.

1. Joe Stegall - \$24,000.00
2. Chris Exum - \$24,190.00
3. Marcus Sapp - \$26,450.00
4. Kevin Swilley - \$28,771.00

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board unanimously awarded bid For Fritzke Farm Lease to Kevin Swilley, terms beginning January 3, 2011, and ending December 31, 2013. Each one year term shall automatically renew at the end of said term; provided however, either party may terminate this agreement by providing to the other party on or before October 1st of each term written notice of termination.

Administrator/Fiscal Matters

County Administrator, Chairman, and County Auditor, will attend City Council meeting January 4, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. to present exceeded expenditures of the Ward Chambers Estate awarded to Recreation Department. Mr. Lawson made the motion; and Mr. Cody seconded, authorizing County Administrator, Chairman, and County Auditor to act on behalf of Brooks County to request City to assist with one-half of exceeded expenditures of Ward Chambers Estate for Recreation Department.

An executive session will be scheduled for next week with County Attorney to update newly elected commissioners of personnel issues, pending litigations, etc.

Executive Session - None

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.; Mr. Wingate 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 and Executive Session on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 12:00 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: County Administrator, Mr. Robert O'Barr, Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; and Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney.

Call to Order

Chairman called meeting to order.

County Attorney discussed resignation of Elections Superintendent, Ms. JoAnn Collins, (who also serves as Probate Judge); and Chief Registrar, Ms. Melba Lovett. Ms. Collins wants to only serve as Probate Judge, and not handle elections. At this point, Mr. Parrott is not sure how the process will work; and whether or not she can resign as Elections Superintendent. He will need more information. Mr. Parrott recommended County Administrator gather information on how surrounding counties are handling elections.

Executive Session

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board closed special called meeting to go into executive session at 12:05 p.m. County Clerk called roll, all Commissioners were present. Board signed Affidavit attesting the meeting was closed for County Attorney to discuss pending or potential litigation; and personnel. (See attachment). On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board closed executive session at 12:22 p.m.

Board authorized County Administrator to check with Regional Commission regarding process and cost to restrict employees from accessing certain websites.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to adjourn at 12:35 p.m.; Mr. Wingate seconded.

Mr. S. L. Jones, Chairman
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk
Ms. Leslie Hall, Deputy County Clerk

