

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, August 6, 2012 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. Joe Wingate, Vice Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell; Mr. Howard Lawson; and Mr. Willie Cody. Others present were: Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; and various residents.

Call to Order

Chairman called workshop to order.

Workshop

Chairman acknowledged and presented Mr. John Schick with the GA APWA Public Works Employee of the Year award.

Mr. Deatcher reported no road issues. Mr. Maxwell inquired regarding the status on placement of rails at Dixie Bridge. Mr. Deatcher stated proper road signs are up; he has spoken with DOT regarding the rails, and is gathering more information in regards to finding someone to put rails up, due to this not being a project to be handled by the Road Department.

County Engineer provided a LARP Project List with map for Board review. Mr. DeVane also provided drawing of Perdue Heights for review and discussion on how to correct and/or approach the problem with the roads. He suggested proceeding with placing 20 ft. stakes on property to acquire easement and see what reaction get from residents or apply for grant but right-of-way would need to be acquired first because that is always a problem. Mr. Cody commented he would get with residents in Perdue Heights to see what they want and get back with Board.

Mr. DeVane reported he met with Ferrell Scruggs, Clay Bank Subdivision, he is ready to put in swells for drainage, when that is done, he will check it out and prepare easement.

Chairman closed workshop at 5:22 p.m.

Call to Order/Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda, Amendments, and Approval of Minutes

The agenda was amended to include the following items: Mr. Maxwell under Appearances, 911 Resolution under New Business, Executive Session Minutes, under Minutes; and under Old Business, Courthouse Renovations was added.

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Mr. Lawson made the motion to amend the agenda with added items, and Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman closed meeting to conduct public hearing at 5:28 p.m.

Public Hearing – Special Exception for Daycare Center

Mr. Todd Miller, Southern Georgia Regional Commission, presented the Petition by Elaine Day for a Special Exception on parcel #146H-A-2 located to the southeast of Heritage Drive and Valdosta Highway at 18881 Valdosta Highway for the development of a child day care center in the R1 (Residential) Zoning District. Regional Commission Staff recommended approval of Petition by Elaine Day for child day care center in R1 Zoning District. Brooks County Planning Commission made a unanimous vote to approve the Special Exception with the condition that a pickup and drop off area be constructed in between the right-of-way and the house, in an effort to provide enough area for vehicles. Board expressed their concerns regarding drop off and pickup area.

Chairman asked if anyone in favor of the day care would like to speak. Mr. Paul Day presented a drawing of the site; and informed Board he was told by DOT that they would put in proper driveway if the business is up and running when start the four-lane construction on Highway 133.

Chairman asked for anyone opposing the day care center if they would like to speak. Ms. Mary B. Peacock lives next door to the proposed day care; she stated she would like to see it zoned commercial. She expressed her deep concern regarding the one way entrance and not enough room for two cars. Ms. Peacock expressed concerns of being unsafe; and asked Board to make sure driveway would be corrected to make safer for children.

Chairman closed public hearing at 5:51 p.m. and returned to regular meeting. Mr. Lawson stated he needs more information, he does not want to say no, but do not want to vote on the issue as is. Mr. Cody commented he is not opposed, but it is not safe; he does not want anyone to get hurt. Mr. Maxwell stated, they have gone to DOT, they have maps of site, he asked Board to put support behind the business; if it takes widening then let's do it; do not stop. He further commented, as a Board let us help business come to existence for citizens of Brooks County, because they will take their children to Lowndes County.

Ms. Day stated she understand and agree with concerns but does not see this driveway being worse than any other and it will be widened. She further stated she could have taken business to Lowndes; but wanted to bring to Brooks County to help residents.

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Mr. Maxwell stated, if everything is in order, I make the motion to go with Planning Commission to approve Petition for Special Exception to development of child day care center in the R1 (Residential) Zoning District. Chairman called for a second, called for second twice, a third and final call for a second time. Motion failed for lack of a second. After further discussion, Mr. Wingate made the motion to deny the Petition for Special Exception for child day care center in Residential Zoning District, Mr. Lawson seconded. Chairman called the vote. Mr. Cody, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Wingate voted yes; Mr. Maxwell voted no. Vote was three to one.

Appearances

1. Destination Brooks Update

Mr. Corey Cottle was present to provide an update for Destination Brooks.

- Tourism website has been launched, already has over 10,000 hits.
- Nominated for Governor Tourism Award.
- Skillet Festival planning is underway and scheduled for October 20, 2012, will have a month of events leading up to and thru out the month.
- Tourism Brochure has been designed and will start printing; and is funded by Destination Brooks

2. Donna Fuller

Ms. Fuller appeared stated has same problem, but now erosion build up. Mr. Deatcher, Public Works Director, stated if Board approves, he would go and see what can do to help with the ditches.

3. Patrol Cars Lease/Purchase

Sheriff Dewey had checked into lease/purchase of patrol cars in Winder, GA; and provided Board with information on cost. He informed Board he had spoken with Cass Burch also; and he stated he would meet or beat price from Winder, GA. Sheriff stated if he can, he would rather do business locally. He has taken copy of paper work from Winder to Cass Burch. Chairman commented regarding bank finance for a municipal loan with no tax on interest at a 3% interest rate. After discussion, Mr. Maxwell made a motion to table this item until Sheriff hears from Cass Burch regarding lease/purchase of patrol cars, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

4. Radios - Sheriff's Department

Sheriff informed Board of the quote received for radios for Road Patrol and CID at an approximate cost of \$25,515.00; including radios for new cars; for the Jail cost is \$10,000.00; funds will come from 10% Jail Account.

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5. Computer – Mike Miller, Coroner

Coroner, Mike Miller, appeared to request computer for his office, currently using personal computer which can be subpoenaed by State if something came up. Therefore, State has recommended using County owned computer. Administrator presented quote for computer at cost of \$1,480.42. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board unanimously approved purchase of computer for Coroner, Mike Miller, at cost of \$1,480.42; and funds will come from contingency fund.

6. Cleveland Graham - Taxes

Mr. Cleveland Graham appeared to request refund for property taxes paid prior to being declared 100% disabled by Department of Veterans Affairs; which qualifies him for tax exemption. The letter from VA was dated April 11, 2012; the time frame to apply for homestead exemption is January 1st to April 1st for each year; Mr. Graham applied in July 2012, which the digest has been closed. Ms. Pam Jones, Chief Tax Appraiser, explained Tax Assessors cannot go back once digest is closed; they cannot grant a refund. Mr. Graham's tax exemption eligibility will begin in 2013; he requested retroactive reimbursement for taxes paid from 2008 to 2012. Board explained to Mr. Graham he did not apply for exemption in prior years; and disability approval letter from VA was dated April 11, 2012 which was past the April 1st deadline. After further discussion, on a motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved to table the issue; have Administrator get with County Attorney for more information, and get back with Mr. Graham.

7. Elections

Mr. Maxwell commented on Elections Office. He stated we have gone through a difficult election, more intense than usual; more than he has experienced since being on the Board. He further commented several citizens had problems voting, these problems has to be corrected they do not need to be repeated; and these errors need to be cleaned up; put trust back in the elections department where needs to be.

New Business

1. E-911 Resolution

On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board adopted Resolution No. 04-2012, Resolution Amending a Resolution Imposing a Wireless Enhanced 911 Charge on Wireless Telecommunications. The wireless enhanced 911 charge will reflect the change from Phase I to Phase II Service at a rate up to \$1.50 per month per wireless connection.

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2. Bids – Rock Crushing at Road Department

Bids were submitted for purpose of crushing rocks that have accumulated at the Road Department. Mr. Deatcher stated rocks are expensive; and once stocked they get crushed; will save County money on rock purchase.

1. Green's Backhoe, Inc., Thomasville, GA, submitted a bid in amount of \$10,000.00 to provide portable crushing services to recycle concrete.

2. B.L.P.C. (Brown's Landscaping, Paving, Crushing), Dixie, GA, bid was submitted for crushing concrete at \$8.50 per ton for 2000 tons more or less with a move in fee of \$2,000.00.

Board discussed difference in cost for each bidder; the bid by B.L.P.C. would be higher due to cost per ton; and bid for Green's Backhoe was a flat cost rate to crush the concrete. After discussion, Mr. Maxwell made the motion to award bid to Green's Backhoe, Inc. in amount of \$10,000.00, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Old Business

1. CDBG Grant – Few and Hassel Lane Paving

No new update available. Mr. DeVane stated he spoke with Regional Commission two weeks ago and was informed grant had not been awarded yet, would probably be end of August or early September.

2. Courthouse Renovations and Roof Leak

Mr. Wingate discussed renovations at Courthouse in courtroom and roof. He stated would like to start with project while courtroom is not being used; roof leak needs to be taken care of first to prevent more damage. After discussion, Mr. Wingate made the motion to table the issue until next meeting to get estimates to prepare for bids, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

3. FY 2012-2013 Budget Resolution

On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board unanimously adopted the FY 2013 Budget Resolution. Public hearings were previously held for adoption of FY 2013 budget.

Administrator Comments

Three public hearings have been scheduled for adoption of millage rate on August 15, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; and again on August 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Session – None

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:36 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. Sanford L. Jones, Jr., Chairman

Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk

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