

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, July 2, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Mr. Joe Wingate, Vice Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell; Mr. Howard Lawson; and Mr. Willie Cody. Mr. S. L. Jones, Chairman, was not present. 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, S. L. Jones was not present, Vice Chairman, Joe Wingate called workshop to order.

### **Workshop**

Public Works Director, Mr. Mark Deatcher, reported damage caused to roads by rain, trees downed by wind, and some roads being partially closed.

Road Department Employee, John Schick, was nominated and won Employee of the Year by the Public Works Association. Mr. Deatcher also announced Brian Thanhauser, Vehicle Shop Foreman, has submitted his two-week notice of resignation.

County Engineer, Mr. Ben DeVane, reported waiting on contracts from DOT to proceed with LMIG projects; and he is working on the 2013 priority list. Mr. Maxwell requested adding Barrett Road to the list.

Vice Chairman closed workshop at 5:23 p.m.

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

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

Vice Chairman acknowledged presence of Dave Wills, ACCG, and Government Relations Manager. Mr. Wills has 14 years' experience in elective office to assist Georgia's 159 counties on a wide variety of issues. Stated he was in the area and wanted to come by and sit in on the meeting. Board extended a welcome and pleased to have him present.

### **Approval of Agenda, Amendments, and Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the following meetings were approved:

On motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, Board unanimously approved the minutes from the Monthly Workshop & Regular Monthly Meeting held June 4, 2012. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously approved minutes

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of the FY2012-2013 Budget Workshop held June 6, 2012. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board unanimously approved the minutes of the FY2012-2013 Budget Special Called Meeting held June 19, 2012; and FY2012-2013 Budget Public Hearing held June 20, 2012.

Approval to amend the agenda was unanimously approved on motion by Mr. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Cody.

## **Appearances**

### **1. Destination Brooks Update**

Ms. Lauren Basford was present to provide an update for Destination Brooks.

- Today in America is complete and edited, will air in four to six weeks; can be uploaded on Tourism Website.
- Tourism website has been launched, already has 10,000 hits.
- Nominated for Governor Tourism Award.
- Skillet Festival planning is underway, vendor applications are being accepted; has new sponsorship, a Winery.

Ms. Basford requested Board approval to allow to sale bottles of wine and permission for wine tasting by the Winery during the Skillet Festival. Permitting process is thru City of Quitman, they have a special exception provision that is used during events, due to Courthouse being property of Brooks County, Board has to approve to allow sales and tasting of wine. Mr. Lawson made the motion to allow sale of bottles of wine and wine tasting on the Courthouse grounds during the Skillet Festival, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

### **2. Red Cross Update**

Ms. Terri Jenkins, Executive Director, American Red Cross, South Georgia Chapter appeared to update Board on activities of Red Cross. There are 650 clients and 175 cases in Brooks County served by Red Cross. Provided hand-out regarding water safety, hurricane preparation, thunderstorm safety checklist, heat wave safety checklist, flood safety checklist, and becoming a volunteer.

### **3. Donna Fuller**

Ms. Fuller appeared to express her concerns and problem with flooding; and inquired whether or not DOT had contacted Brooks County regarding same. Mr. Deatcher, Public Works Director, responded and advised he would give DOT a call in regards to the status.

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### **4. Michael Simmons**

Mr. Simmons appeared to emphasize his concerns regarding a bridge, railroad crossing in the County; and inquired why nothing had been done about rails at the bridge; rails should be at the bridge; and have been that way for years. Board expressed their concerns; advised Mr. Simmons the issue will be looked at immediately and thanked him for his concerns and for bringing to this Board.

## **5. Danny Truman**

Mr. Truman, resident, Shady Acres II, requested appearance to discuss vicious dogs, thefts, and speeding four wheelers, but stated the Sheriff's Department is working on it. Chief Deputy Joe Wheeler advised Board they are looking into it; and plans to get back with the residents this week. County Attorney, Mr. Vann Parrott, informed Board of new refined law with new definition of dangerous dog passed July 1. He explained how this problem has been a struggle for the Board many years, how to fund it, whether to fund it; the budget item is too big to handle; but the new law give strength to the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Parrott advised that with the new law it would be appropriate for the Board to re-appoint Sheriff's Office as animal control officer. Mr. Lawson made the motion to re-appoint Brooks County Sheriff Office as the Animal Control Officer for Brooks County, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

## **New Business**

### **1. County Seat Belt Policy**

Mr. Dave Gelsthorpe, Local Government Risk Management Services, Inc., visited Brooks County for the annual inspection and review existing safety and loss control efforts. As a result, a recommendation was made to the existing county wide seat belt policy. The policy needs to be updated to include passengers in county vehicles, personal or rental vehicles used by county employees for county business. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 03-2012 for the purpose of seat belt use in county vehicles; personal or rental vehicles used by county employees for county business, and construction/mobile equipment that has a seat belt and rollover protective device; excluding Law Enforcement employees.

### **2. Carpet for FSA Office**

Farm Service Agency Office located in the Ag Building needs carpet replaced; FSA rents office space from the County in amount of \$3,300.00 per year. Mr. Lawson made a motion to approve replacing carpet in FSA office, Mr. Cody seconded. Mr. Maxwell called for discussion. Vice Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Lawson, Mr. Cody; and Vice Chairman voted in favor; and Mr. Maxwell voted no. Vote was three to one. Funds will come from Government Plants & Buildings budget line item.

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### **3. Department of Family and Children Services Board – Reappointment**

Ms. Rhonda Wheeler, DFACS, sent letter advising of term expiring for Board Member Mrs. Jackie McLeod on June 30, 2012. Ms. McLeod has expressed a willingness to serve another term. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, Board unanimously reappointed Mrs. Jackie McLeod to serve another four year term on the Brooks County Department of Family and Children Services Board.

### **5. LOST Negotiations**

Administrator informed Board of the initial meeting to start LOST negotiations tentatively scheduled for July 11, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Bid Opening – Jail A/C Units**

A Request for Proposal for bids on air condition units at the Jail was advertised. Bids were submitted June 29, 2012; only one bid received:

J & J Heating, Air & Electrical, Inc. \$45,620.00

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to award bid for air condition units at Jail to J & J Heating, Air & Electrical, Inc. in amount of \$45,620.00, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

### **2. Surveillance Cameras at County Fuel Pumps**

Question was asked, who will monitor/record the cameras? Board confirmed Public Works Director, Mark Deatcher will handle the task.

### **3. Elections – Printer**

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, Board unanimously approved purchase of Desktop copier for Elections from Colson Business Systems for \$1,300.00 plus cost of \$300.00 per year for service contract, total \$1,600.00. Funds will come from contingency.

### **4. Food Pantry Update**

Mike Smith, 911 Director, informed Board he will handle getting shelves put up in Coastal Plain Office for the Food Pantry when his help returns by the end of the week.

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### **5. Forestry Commission – Fire Fighter Property Program**

Mr. Levee Rentz, Georgia Forestry Commission, presented the Fire Fighter Property Program (FFP), they assist in acquiring equipment engaged in emergency response operations; they actively search for and make available the equipment for the exclusive purpose of fire suppression, fire prevention, and emergency services of the County. The Screener, Mr. Rentz, screens federal property for State of Georgia at no cost to the County once an agreement has been executed between Georgia Forestry Commission, an Agency of State of Georgia and Brooks County.

## **Administrator Comments**

A General Fund CD will mature on July 7, 2012 in amount of \$867,221.75. Administrator will put CD out for bid to local banks.

The Associate Editor of Quitman Free Press, Billy Bruce was present and acknowledged by Board.

Councilwoman, City of Quitman, Ms. Nikki Bradley, was present and announced she will no longer serve as Chairperson of the Family Connections Board due to new state law not allowing elected officials to Chair on the Board, but can serve as member. Ms. Bradley thanked Board for serving as fiscal agent for Family Connections; and all the assistance provided by Brooks County.

Councilman, Mr. James Brown, City of Quitman was also present and acknowledged by Board.

**Executive Session – None**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:55 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. Joe Wingate, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Robert D. O’Barr, Administrator  
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk