

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, October 1, 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; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; and various residents.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman called workshop to order.

### **Workshop – County Roads & Equipment Issues**

Mr. Deatcher, Public Works Director, reported the Side Arm is still down; but no other issues.

Mr. Deatcher reported he and Mr. Ben DeVane is still working on the guard rails project for bridges. Mr. DeVane reported there are three bridges on the list for guard rails: 1) Dixie at Piscola, 2) Old Madison Highway; and 3) Evergreen. He has spoken with DOT and Contractors; and obtained three names. He will try to get accurate price; but the minimum is \$15,000.00 per site; does not have enough information for exact figures. Mr. DeVane further stated he has looked at all sites; pulled DOT specs; and will have an answer by next meeting.

The bridge at Evergreen is dangerous and unsafe; Mr. DeVane provided two options for Board consideration: Option one, is to abandon the road and give to property owner on both sides, and option two, make the road dead end before the bridge with no turn around.

Mr. Ben DeVane provided a new list with map to the Board for 2013 LMIG; and is due to DOT by January 1, 2013.

Chairman closed workshop at 5:29 p.m.

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

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve amending the agenda to add under New Business, Noise Ordinance Variance Request by Kenny Baker, and Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

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**Public Hearing – None**

**Minutes Approval**

Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the following minutes; Mr. Lawson seconded. Vote was unanimous:

Workshop  
Monthly Workshop & Regular Monthly Meeting  
Executive Session

September 6, 2012  
September 10, 2012  
September 10, 2012

### **Appearances**

- 1. Destination Brooks Update – Not Present**
- 2. J. A. R. Productions Concert – Approved during October Regular Meeting**
- 3. SGRC – CDBG Award Check & Joint Enterprise Resolution**

Ms. Sherry Davidson, Planner, Southern Georgia Regional Commission, presented the award check from DCA for the CDBG in the amount of \$482,312 for improvement of Hassel Lane and Few Road.

Ms. Davidson presented a Joint Resolution of Brooks County and City of Quitman to designate an enterprise zone to include the Micro Craft building for adoption. The Resolution will authorize the County Commission and City Council the power to grant incentives to qualifying businesses or qualifying service enterprises in according to Enterprise Zone Employment Act. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adopt the Joint Enterprise Resolution between Brooks County and City of Quitman, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

- 4. Janette Baker Request to Serve Additional Year on Elections Board**

On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved the request of Ms. Janette Baker, Chairperson, Brooks County Elections Board, to serve an additional year.

- 5. Brooks County Board of Education Finance Director**

Ms. Angela Chastain, Finance Director, Brooks County Board of Education, appeared to emphasize the importance of the ESPLOST renewal in the November 2012 elections. Ms. Chastain provided copies of charts to illustrate how the State has cut back on funding; and how they are relying more on taxpayers. The ESPLOST renewal will assist with paying off current debt; without its renewal it will not be possible; and the millage would

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have to be increased to 3 mills in order to pay off previous bond debt; which will be a burden on taxpayers. Very important citizens understand this is not a property tax; nor a new tax; but just renewal of the ESPLOST currently in place. The sales tax is paid by everyone who shops or stays in Brooks County, including visitors.

- 6. Energy Excise Tax**

Board inquired to County Attorney if he had any information on the new tax. Mr. Parrott stated an ordinance would have to be created for tax energy; but first a meeting needs to be scheduled with the municipalities Quitman, Morven, Barwick, and Pavo to discuss distribution. He further stated that would start the process; and recommended sending out a notice to the municipalities. Mr. Parrott advised the Board he will research it and attend the next scheduled meeting to discuss further.

#### **7. Red Cross Donation**

Mr. Maxwell previously discussed a donation of \$2,000.00 to local Red Cross. Per County Auditor, it is not recommended; and would be out of compliance. Therefore, there was no further discussion.

#### **8. Cleveland Graham**

Mr. Graham previously appeared during August regular meeting requesting refund for property taxes paid prior to being declared 100% disabled by Department of Veterans Affairs; which qualifies him for tax exemption. Last month the Board tabled this issue for more information and County Attorney to look into the matter. Mr. Graham's disability rating from VA was not 100% in 2008; therefore; cannot be retroactive back to 2008 because he did not apply for tax exemption with Tax Assessors Office. Tax Assessors cannot do anything with previous year's tax refund; only the County Commission. After discussion, Mr. Maxwell made the motion to deny Mr. Graham's claim for property tax refund, Mr. Lawson seconded, and vote was unanimous.

#### **9. Request for Six Mail Boxes at Ag Building**

Mr. Johnny Whiddon, Extension Office, is requesting purchase of six mail boxes at Ag Building. Current boxes are in bad shape, the mail gets mixed up. Names will be placed on the mail boxes for each department at the Ag Building. Approximate cost for six mail boxes is \$450.00; and requesting funds come from contingency fund. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Wingate, Board unanimously authorized purchase of six mail boxes at Ag Building for \$450.00; and funds will come from contingency fund.

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#### **10. Fire Arms for Sheriff's Department**

Sheriff Dewey is requesting to purchase fire arms for his department; he stated the guns are old and was purchased in mid 1990's. The guns will be traded, and will be used guns. The cost for 34 guns with trade in and credit will be \$9,280.00. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve purchase of 34 guns for Sheriff's Department in amount of \$9,280.00; funds will come from contingency fund, Mr. Cody seconded.

#### **11. "Lights on Afterschool" Proclamation**

Ms. Janie Jones, Program Director, After School Program, Brooks County Schools, presented a Proclamation for Chairman's signature to declare Thursday, October 18, 2012 as National "Lights on Afterschool Day" in Brooks County; and urges all citizens to become familiar with and supportive of the services and benefits Brooks County is offered by the afterschool programming. There will be events at two locations, the Courthouse Gazebo and Morven City Hall; and Ms. Jones invited the Board to join them in this event. Brooks County Schools 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, Brooks County Boys and Girls Club, All4Kids Futures, and Bethel Community Development Center are providing quality afterschool programming for approximately 550 students in Brooks County. Mr. Cody made the motion authorizing Chairman to sign and adopting the Proclamation to declare October 18, 2012 as National "Lights on Afterschool Day in Brooks County, seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Vote was unanimous.

## **New Business**

### **1. Request for 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. Wingate made the motion to approve noise ordinance variance to extend to 2:00 a.m., Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

### **2. 2012 Update to Short Term Work Program**

Ms. Sherry Davidson, Southern Regional Commission, presented the Resolution to Adopt 2012 Update to Short Term Work Program to send to DCA. On a motion made by Mr. Wingate and seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously adopted the 2012 Update to Short Term Work Program Resolution to send to DCA.

Ms. Davidson also reminded the Board of dates for upcoming events: October 23, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Area Officials Appreciation Evening at the Dinnerman Farm; and October 24, 2012 ACCG District Meeting in Douglas, GA.

Board scheduled the MPO workshop with Corey Hull, Southern Regional Commission, for October 2, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

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### **3. Safety Action Plan**

Board received notification from DOT to provide list of roads for Safety Action Plan (SAP) if County plans to participate. The letter advising DOT of Brooks County's participation has been mailed; and list has to be sent by January 1, 2013.

## **Old Business**

### **1. 2013 LMIG Priority List**

County Engineer has provided a list for Board to prioritize roads and mileage for 2013 LMIG Priority List. Board will schedule a workshop for the prioritization and determine where funds will come from.

## **Administrator Comments**

### **a. Part Time Employee for Grounds Maintenance**

The ad to Quitman Free Press for a part-time employee for County grounds and building maintenance has ran for two weeks; acceptance of applications/resumes ended September 28, 2012; and Administrator stated he will begin interview process next week.

### **Executive Session - None**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:17 p.m.; Mr. Wingate seconded.

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