

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, June 2, 2014 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; Ms. Myra Exum; Vice Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell; Mr. Willie Cody, and Mr. Joe Wingate. Others present were: Mr. Justin DeVane, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; and various residents.

Public Hearing – 5:00 P.M.

A. Clarence and Mary Newell – Special Exception Request

Todd Miller, Planner, Southern Georgia Regional Commissioner, presented the request for a Special Exception submitted to Building and Zoning from Clarence and Mary Newell to establish an automotive repair shop on their 36 acre parcel on Pine Branch Lane, off Knight's Ferry Road. The property owners have agreed to allow their son, Patrick Newell own and operate "Patrick's Speed Shop" on the property. The SGRC reviewed the application and determined that the exception would not create any hardships on the surrounding properties or current infrastructure. The Greater Brooks County Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval during their meeting on May 20, 2014. Staff reviewed the petition and determined it to be in compliance with the Standards for Exercise of Zoning Powers and the Standards for Special Exception Review of Sections 14-2.8 E and F of the Brooks County Zoning Ordinance. Therefore, Staff recommended approval of the Petition to establish an auto repair shop as a Rural Home Occupation within the Agricultural zoning district.

Chairman asked if any one present was for or against the Special Exception request; there were none. The establishment will be in Mr. Jones' district, and he stated he did not have a problem. On a motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody the public hearing adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

WORKSESSION

Chairman called workshop to order.

Reports from Committees/Departments

A. Public Works – Glenn Walker, Road Superintendent, reported on work completed for month of May:

- 94 work orders received; 22 roads were washed out; 14 trees down.
- Pipes were changed on 4 roads.
- One mower tractor is down, and needs work/repair.

B. Ben DeVane – County Surveyor/Engineer

- CDBG project on Hassle Road and Few Lane-waiting on contractor to move in; there has been no activity.

- Safety Action Plan – Contractor is in County and has started striping; receiving positive comments from citizens.
- Landfill #1 – being worked on and monitored; areas settling needs to be filled in to comply with operating plan for EPD.
- Continuing to work on 2014 LMIG.

C. Stephanie Hollifield– Extension Office

- Provided calendar and information to Board on activities.
- Provided 2014 meeting schedule attendance.
- Introduced new Intern for the summer.
- Presented Garvie Nichols' resignation letter.

Mr. Nichols has accepted a position as the Young Farmer Advisor for Berrien County Board of Education. This new position will allow him to be closer to home; and also comes with an increase in salary. Mr. Nichols further stated he has enjoyed his work as a County Agent in Brooks County; and greatly appreciates the support he received the past 8 ½ years.

D. Tom Fields – Brooks County Fire Department – Mr. Fields stated everything to submit to ISO is ready but he is hesitant as to whether to go with what he has or decide to move forward with it. He has been working with Lowndes County Fire Department; has set up the SOP (Standards of Operation) and SOG (Standard Operating Guidelines).

E. Laura Harrison – Brooks County Library – Informed the Board Mr. Cody's term on the Library Board will expire on June 30, 2014. Mr. Cody has served two terms and has to take a year off before serving on Board again. The Board will look for a replacement by the next meeting.

Chairman closed work session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:35 p.m.

1. Call to Order -

A. Prayer & Pledge – Mr. Jones led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

A. June 2, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting – Ms. Exum made the motion to approve the agenda as presented; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

3. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Wingate; the Board unanimously approved the following minutes as presented:

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| A. | Monthly Workshop & Regular Monthly Meeting | May 5, 2014 |
| B. | Special Called & Work Session | May 13, 2014 |

4. Appearances

A. Lemuel Asbell – Rhym Lane Right-of-Way

In 2011, the Board authorized the County Attorney to begin preparing documents that would create a right-of-way along the southern end of Rhym Lane to ensure the County Road Department could maintain drainage at the end of the road. At that time, a cattle farmer (Mr. Bentley) had fenced off the end of the road and installed a gate, making it impossible for the road department to maintain the road properly passed Mr. Asbell's driveway, which was immediately adjacent to the fence and gate. Mr. Asbell is asking the Board to follow through the proposed easement/right-of-way to alleviate his concerns. County Attorney prepared the documents, met with Mr. Bentley to show what was being done; he did not agree; did not sign. County Attorney, Mr. Parrott, presented questions to the Board: What to do if the section is re-opened and is it in the public interest to re-open. County Attorney will look at to see if County has an option; and will let Board decide. In the meantime, a motion was made by Ms. Exum to authorize the Road Superintendent to get with Mr. Asbell to repair drainage for now while waiting for County Attorney to provide Board with options for the future, seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Vote was unanimous.

B. Susan Ennis (Hamm City Community) – Road Concerns - Administration received another request from Susan Ennis to discuss issues with roads in the Ham City area. Other residents were also in attendance. Pictures were provided to show farmland irrigation being dumped into the County ditches along Old Thomasville Road and another area on Simpson Road where chicken waste was spilled in the middle of the road; and not cleaned up or guarded. One of the residents drove through the waste and spent several hours trying to clean her vehicle and remove the smell. Farmers use the chicken waste as fertilizer on fields. Ms. Ennis emphasized to the Board of how residents have been experiencing problems when it rains; residents cannot travel in and out to get to church. She expressed how they have experienced problems for almost 30 years; and is time for active intervention. She warned they will return to the meetings each month; they will be persistent, and are determined to get something done. Mr. Cody asked Road Superintendent to go out to Hamm City and take a look to see what he can do.

5. New Business

A. Clarence and Mary Newell – Special Exception Request – Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the Special Exception request submitted to Building and Zoning to establish an automotive repair shop on their 36 acre parcel on Pine Branch Lane, off Knight's Ferry Road; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Clay Bank Subdivision – Acceptance of Streets and Easements - Administration received word from the County Surveyor that the easements and right-of-ways for Clay Bank subdivision had been signed and recorded and the County could now accept the streets and drainage easements for Clay Bank. County Surveyor proposes that the

names be accepted as they appear on the subdivision plats, which differ from the names that appear on other maps, such as the tax assessor's. On a motion made by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Ms. Exum; the Board Unanimously accepted ownership of right-of-ways and easements in the Clay Bank Subdivision; and the streets are to be named according to 911 address.

C. John Deere Grader Repair – Administration received an offer from John Deere regarding the engine in the damaged grader. The engine did suffer massive damage and will need to be completely replaced. John Deere is willing to cover 35% of the costs, with the County paying the remaining 65%. The County's cost exceeds \$16,000. The road department repair budget is already over, so funding would need to come from Contingencies. Mr. Wingate made a motion to approve the acceptance of the offer by Flint River John Deere for replacement of the engine in the John Deere Grader; and the funds will come from Contingencies; Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

D. Appointment to Area Agency on Aging – Mr. Wingate asked Administrator to ask Board for replacement to the Area Agency on Aging. Appointment must be over the age of 60; and is appointed for three years. Board tabled this issue on a motion by Mr. Wingate to find someone with a passion and heart to help the Nutrition Program/Senior Center, hopefully by the next meeting a name will be submitted, seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Mr. Wingate will continue to serve until find someone.

E. Fire Department Fire Protection Fee Resolution - Administration has worked with the Fire Department and the Tax Assessor's office to find and develop the best method to use a fire fee. Based upon the software and data recording available and in use in the Tax Assessor's office, which is then transferred to the Tax Commissioner's office, the group devised a plan that would implement a fee structure based upon parcel and structures types. It was determined that every parcel shall receive a set fee. Depending upon what improvements existed on that parcel, additional fees would apply. For a 5 acre property with a house, the user would be charged a fee for the parcel (proposed \$20) and then another fee for the resident structure (\$45 if homestead, \$65 for non-homestead). Pre-bill mobile homes would be assessed a value of \$65, commercial properties \$100. Administrator provided a draft copy of the resolution. County Attorney recommended to the Board to table this item so he can edit and change some of the language. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to table until changes are made by Attorney, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

6. Unfinished Business

A. Administration received a request from MIDS, the 5311 operator, regarding the audit requirement that is in the TPO agreement. The TPO is asking for the County to sign off on the audit proposal. Board questioned who the Auditor will be; and on a motion by Mr. Maxwell, the Board approved the Audit Agreement presented by MIDS, Inc. based upon who the Auditor will be, Ms. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

7. County Administrator Notes/Comments

A. SPLOST Six – Possible Project List - Administrator has heard from two of the smaller cities; and they will have their project list by middle of June. Mr. DeVane has updated the County's project list he presented at last month meeting; and is seeking Board approval. After review, Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the possible project list updated by Administrator for SPLOST 6, seconded by Mr. Cody.

- **Building Improvements** – Courthouse, Administration, Ag, Health, Road Department Office (\$750,000).
- **Sheriff Vehicles** – purchase 4 patrol cars every 2 years (12 total vehicles – including police package trucks) and then other departments if money is available (high priority) (\$600,000).
- **Fire** – need a training center (high priority), equipment money would be nice (low priority), Fire Station construction if money available. (Moderate) (\$50,000).
- **Road Improvements and Repair, and Equipment** – typically, the improvement money is used for LMIG match and CDBG, and purchase Graders, Backhoe, Dump Trucks, etc. (\$1,500,000 for Road Improvements and Repair, for Equipment \$500,000).
- **County IT** (moderate) – I'd like to get the county offices interconnected, Thomasville is currently running fiber around Quitman in a loop, we could get on this and go with a faster connection and pay a single bill to Rose net. We would need to update some things and doing away with the leased equipment we have now (\$60,000).

SPLOST 6 Projects Total: \$3,460,000.

B. FY 2015 Budget Process– Administrator has start to prepare for the FY2015 budget process. Administrator has delivered departmental budgets to the departments; and all have been returned. The Board needs to schedule a meeting to review and get approved by June 30. Board scheduled a meeting/work session for June 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

C. Farmer's Market Sign - Administration has prepared a proposed sign to be installed at the Farmer's Market on Highway 84 by the railroad tracks. Administration proposes that citizens wishing to sell homegrown produce be allowed to come and setup at the market 7 days a week between 7am and 7pm. All other uses are subject to the approval of the Administrator. Administrator is proposing that residents wishing to have bake sales that have traditionally been held at the Courthouse lawn, be moved to the Farmer's Market location as well, and other small uses feature homemade products. The location would allow vendors a spot to cook under the shelter; customers could drive around the location for pickup. If approved, Administrator would ask Maintenance crew to oversee upkeep, and to clean up the lot.

Administrator proposes an estimate of \$200 - \$300 to order the sign. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to authorize purchase of the sign for the Farmer's Market; allow \$250-\$350

from contingency fund to purchase; and change days to be opened from every day to Monday thru Saturday 7 am to 7 pm; Ms. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

8. Commissioners Notes/Comments

A. Joe Wingate - District 1 – Commented on calls being received from residents regarding the noise at Rayonier and concerns with other industry coming in. If Destination Brooks requests to use courthouse grounds this year, he would like for them to be allowed to use it.

B. S. L. Jones, District 2 – Commented on calls regarding noise at Rayonier; and the drainage problem Mr. Drew is experiencing at the Fritzke Farm he is leasing from Brooks County.

C. Willie Cody, District 3 – Reiterated the problems Hamm City Community residents are experiencing and the need for County to get something done. Asked Road Superintendent to go out and take a look to see what can be done. Also, mentioned beaver dam on Simpson Road.

D. Myra Exum, District 4 – Inquired as to whether the SRO Agreement with Board of Education is complete.

E. James Maxwell, District 5 – Inquired to Administrator if can get temporary help for Maintenance Supervisor to help with courthouse grounds upkeep. He requested Administrator to research into hiring a vendor for maintaining courthouse grounds.

9. Executive Session - None

10. Adjournment

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:09 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Ms. Myra Exum, Vice Chairman
Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk