

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, May 5, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Ms. Myra Exum; Vice Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell; Mr. Willie Cody, and Mr. Joe Wingate. Mr. S. L. Jones, Chairman, was not present. Others present were: Mr. Justin DeVane, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; and various residents.

Public Hearing – None

WORKSESSION

Vice Chairman called workshop to order; due to absence of Chairman.

Reports from Committees/Departments

A. Public Works – Glenn Walker was not present; but provided report on work completed for month of April:

- Due to heavy rain and flooding, 21 roads were closed; 64 calls for roads washed out.
- 10 road signs replaced; 7 driveways installed; and 18 trees were down.
- 12 calls received for clogged pipes, road blading; and 8 pot holes filled.

B. Ben DeVane – County Surveyor/Engineer

- CDBG project on Hassle Road and Few Lane has been delayed because of rain. In process of obtaining temporary easements; and cooperation with property owners has been good.
- Safety Action Plan – Contractor has started; but rain has caused a delay.
- Centerline miles have been accepted by DOT for the LMIG.

C. Stephanie Hollifield– Extension Office

- Provided calendar and information to Board on activities.
- Provided 2014 meeting schedule attendance; list of Brooks County Ag Sponsors.
- Will be hiring an Intern for the summer; funds provided by Grain Dull funds.

D. Ken Collins – Elections Supervisor – Updated Board on early voting activities.

E. Tom Fields – Brooks County Fire Department – The Intergovernmental Agreement between Brooks County and Thomas County to provide fire protection services to Pavo and Barwick has been signed and returned to Thomas County; and will be forwarded to ISO. Mr. Fields stated he is trying to get the lowest ISO rating for Brooks County; and this will help to lower ISO for Pavo and Barwick temporarily until Brooks County Fire Department is established. He commented to the Board he would like to get together to explain all details in a work session.

F. Mike Smith – EMA/911 Center – Was not present.

Vice Chairman closed work session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:45 p.m.

1. **Call to Order -**

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

2. **Approval of Agenda**

A. April 7, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting – Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the agenda; Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

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

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| A. | Monthly Workshop & Regular Monthly Meeting | April 7, 2014 |
| B. | SPLOST 6 Work Session | April 16, 2014 |

4. **Appearances**

A. **Gerald Spencer – Property Tax Reimbursement Request (Morton Property)**

Administration received a request from Gerald Spencer, representing David Recaniti, owner of Morton Bray Plantation, to appear before the Board to request reimbursement for property taxes paid in 2012. Mr. Spencer and his client were not present.

B. **Susan Ennis (Hamm City Community) – Road Concerns** - -Administration

received a request from Susan Ennis to discuss issues with roads in the Hamm City area. Other residents will also be in attendance and may wish to speak. She provided pictures for Board to review. Due to rain damage, and an ongoing problem, residents are experiencing problems with flooding and cannot get out to go to church. Residents are also concerned that in case of an emergency, medical vehicles and first responders will not be able to get in. Board agreed this is an issue of concern and of the need to do something to assist the residents.

5. **New Business**

A. **South Georgia Ambulance – Renewal of Services Agreement** – David Crosby, Owner/CEO of South Georgia Ambulance (SGA), is requesting an extension of the agreement to provide EMS services to Brooks County. The agreement prepared last year gave SGA a one year extension and was prepared to allow an additional four years if approved by the Board. The current contract with SGA is worth \$440,000 a year. Mr. Wingate made the motion to extend the Agreement for SGA for an additional year, Mr. Maxwell, seconded. Vote was unanimous. County Attorney stated currently agreement is automatic, and County can proceed each year without renewal each year.

6. Unfinished Business

A. **UGA Ag Extension Employee Contract Renewal-4-H Extension Associate**

This item was tabled at the April meeting until Administration had additional information available concerning budget. Recommendation from Administration is to approve the agreement at the same funding level and costs sharing as the FY2014 agreement. On a motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, Board unanimously approved the UGA Ag Extension Employee Renewal Contract for 4-H Extension Associate, Carol Smith, with same funding level and costs sharing as FY2014 Contract.

B. Fire Department 5 Year Master Plan –Administration prepared a 5 Year Master Plan for Brooks County Fire Department which provides the Board a baseline guide for improvements to be made within the County, improvements including response times and ISO ratings for property owners. This item was tabled at the April meeting. Administration has prepared a revised copy of the Master Plan, in the revision, Administration has taken a closer look at implementing a Fire Tax throughout the County. If such an option was taken, it would be advised that the County implement a tax on each district except the Briggs District, where one is already in place, and the County and East Brooks Board make a plan so that the County continues to offer support for their insurance and administrative costs, while they maintain a portion of the funding received as they have traditionally done. In addition to review our processes, we have also implemented an agreement with Thomas County to provide protection in Barwick and Pavo, giving the residents there same ISO regardless if they live on the Thomas or Brooks County side of town. This item was tabled to be discussed during a work session on a motion made by Mr. Wingate and seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Vote was unanimous.

7. County Administrator Notes/Comments

A. SPLOST Six – Possible Project List - Administration has prepared a list of possible SPLOST 6 projects. Administration asked the Board to review this list and to provide additional items as they see fit. If approved, Administration will begin preparing price list for projects.

- **Building Improvements** – Courthouse, Administration, Ag, Health, Road Department Office.
- **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).
- **Fire** – need a training center (high priority), equipment money would be nice (low priority), Fire Station construction if money available. (Moderate)
- **Road Improvements and Repair, and Equipment** – typically, the improvement money is used for LMIG match and CDBG, and purchase Graders, Backhoe, Dump Trucks, etc.
- **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.

- **Recreation** – if possible, I'd like to see if we could look at a walking track behind the County building.
- Sheriff requested the last pod for the jail, the last quote I received around February was \$550,000

B. FY 2015 Budget Process– It is time to start preparing for the FY2015 budget process. Administrator has delivered departmental budgets to the departments; and all have been returned. Previously, Administrator stated he is waiting on health insurance renewal information to include in the budget; and he has received this information. He will put in budget items this week and prepare to schedule a workshop to begin the process.

8. Commissioners Notes/Comments

A. Joe Wingate - District 1 – Commented he would like to take a look at a County owned/maintain alcoholic beverage store to assist with bringing in revenues for the County.

B. S. L. Jones, District 2 – Was not present.

C. Willie Cody, District 3 – Reiterated the problems Hamm City Community residents are experiencing and the need for County to get something done.

D. Myra Exum, District 4 – Commented on Road Department employees having to work on Easter Sunday due to heavy rains. Hope we can see dry weather so Road Department can get back normal.

E. James Maxwell, District 5 – Reiterated Mr. Wingate's comment and support creating a means of revenue for Brooks County.

9. Executive Session - None

10. Adjournment

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:37 p.m.; Mr. Wingate seconded.

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