

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, February 3, 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 – None**

**Work Session** – Chairman called workshop to order.

### **Reports from Committees/Departments**

**A. Public Works** – Glenn Walker provided report on repairs and work completed for month of January:

- Getting nine roads ready for striping.
- 76 work orders completed; 23 bridges sanded during inclement weather.
- Side Arm is down; Excavator tracks are being put back together.
- Mr. Maxwell requested adding Pidcock Road from Highway 84 to the improvement list; and County Engineer will look at.
- Have interviewed top two candidates for Laborer position; awaiting background check.

**B. Ben DeVane – County Surveyor/Engineer**

- CDBG ad has run in the Quitman Free Press; received two inquiries; bid date February 18, 2014.
- Ad for Safety Action Plan has run in the Quitman Free Press; no response yet. Bid date is February 25, 2014.
- Letter has been mailed to EPD with response to landfill issues as to what and when corrective measures will be taken.
- Clay Bank documents are complete; but not signed by owner. Need to get streets on the County list.

**C. Mike Smith – Fire/EMA/911 Center**

1. Reported 911 is operating ok.
2. In process of re-addressing Barwick.
3. Commended all responders for assistance during bomb scare at High School.
4. Waiting to hire Fire Chief before scheduling the ISO inspection.

**D. Jim Wink – Boys & Girls Club** – Mr. Wink, Director, Boys & Girls Club, thanked Board for the facility to handle the Boys & Girls program. During the school year, an average of 25-28 students participated; and there were 30-35 enrolled during the summer. Mr. Wink stated they took students on a college bound tour; laptops have been incorporated in program with internet service. He also stated it is a place so kids can

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come and express their feelings. He also asked the Board for any assistance with a way to average more kids per day would be a great benefit; he wants to offer more than offering now for the students. The Club needs transportation after closing for kids or possibly move to a location closer to kids.

**E. Stephanie Hollifield – Brooks County Extension Office**

- Provided handouts to Board; calendar of events, program activities
- Attending area and annual meetings; and timely production type meetings on a timely basis.

**F. David Crosby – South Georgia Ambulance – EMS**

- Received trauma equipment grant; creating Landing Zones in the County.
- Ongoing car seat program.
- Calls received for January: Quitman 154, Morven 101, Emergency 91; and 911 33 calls.

**G. Bobby Christian – Building Maintenance**

- Reported ongoing and updated projects.
- Expressed the need of equipment to properly maintain grounds and buildings.
- Equipment, uniforms will be discussed during budget process.

Chairman closed work session to go into the Regular Meeting at 6:20 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.** February 3, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting – Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the agenda; Ms. Exum 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:

- |    |  |                  |
|----|--|------------------|
| A. | Monthly Workshop & Regular Monthly Meeting | January 6, 2014  |
| B. | Special Called Meeting                     | January 16, 2014 |

**4. Appearances**

**A. Danny Saturday, MIDS Transit – Insurance Reimbursement**

County Administrator withheld reimbursement funds received for the August 2013 GDOT 5311 reimbursement. Mr. Saturday requested to appear before the Board because he believes the reimbursement of \$13,590.28 that was withheld should be paid to MIDS per the Third Party Agreement. The funds were held when the reimbursement came back from GDOT because MIDS requested the County to pay the insurance for our vehicles. Because the program is to be operated at no cost to the County, excluding 10% for

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capital expenditures; Administrator kept the insurance funds and only sent remaining funds of the reimbursement to MIDS for the August repayment. According to County Auditor and the area GDOT 5311 representative, MIDS, Inc. should not be entitled to those funds, and in addition to this year's insurance, MIDS should not have been eligible to insurance funds paid by the County for previous years. Mr. Saturday argues that wording in the Third Party Agreement states they are to receive all funds, however, as pointed out at the last regular meeting, that wording needs to be changed and is a gray area in this contract. Mr. Saturday claims the County is in breach of contract,

however, MIDS has never submitted an independent third party audit as required by the agreement. After discussion, and failure to come to an amicable understanding, Mr. Maxwell made the motion to reimburse MIDS the \$13,590.28 from the contingency; and schedule a time to get together and discuss and come to an agreement on how to handle the matter, Mr. Cody seconded. Chairman called for discussion, County Attorney recommended taking a look at the rules from GDOT; schedule a meeting to look at and try to work something out. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Cody voted yes. Ms. Exum, Mr. Wingate, and Chairman voted no. Vote was 2 to 3. Board agreed to schedule a meeting with MIDS, including County Auditor and County Attorney.

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Application for Retail Sale of Beer & Wine – Dollar General**

Susan Bennett, Manager, Dollar General Store No. 13136, located at 19540 Valdosta Highway, Valdosta, GA 31602, submitted an application for retail sale of beer & wine. The ad ran in the Quitman Free Press and background check was completed. On motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Ms. Exum, Board unanimously approved the application for the retail sale of beer & wine at Dollar General located at 19540 Valdosta Highway.

### **B. Resolution for Disaster Mitigation Plan Update Adoption**

Janice McKinnon, Southern Georgia Regional Commission, submitted a request to hold a public hearing, which was held December 19, 2013, and to pass a resolution adopting the updated Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDM). County is required to have a PDM in place. Updates were prepared and submitted prior to March 2013. Mr. Wingate made the motion to adopt the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan submitted by SGRC, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**C. Resolution for ACCG on 100 Years** – ACCG is celebrating 100 years of support and service to Counties throughout Georgia. In honor of 100 years, they are requesting each County pass a resolution in support of ACCG and this accomplishment. Ms. Exum made a motion to adopt the Resolution Commending the Association County Commissions of Georgia (ACCG) on the Occasion of its Centennial, Mr. Wingate seconded, and vote was unanimous.

### **D. Proclamation Naming February Camellia Month in Brooks County**

Administration received a request to support Destination Brooks and the Camellia City

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Garden Club by proclaiming February Camellia Month in Brooks County. Mr. Wingate made the motion to adopt the Proclamation Naming February Camellia Month in Brooks County, Ms. Exum seconded. Vote unanimous.

**E. Animal Control Issues** – Administration received a request from Commissioners Cody and Wingate to look into and discuss Animal Control and possible actions that the County could do to help begin handling the issues. Administrator met with Charlie DeVane of BARC, the volunteer group working on expanding the existing dog shelter in Quitman. Mr. DeVane asked the Board to work with BARC to enhance what they are doing. Data will be collected on how many dogs are picked up for the County to get an idea of cost.

## 6. Unfinished Business

**A. Resolution for Local TSPLOST Vote** – Administration received a letter and sample resolution from Bryan County regarding their attempt to have the State to allow Bryan County and others to pass local, individual TSPLOST laws within each County's jurisdiction. Board tabled the item during the regular meeting on January 6, 2014. Board did not take any action on this item.

## 7. County Administrator Notes/Comments

**A. FEMA SAFER Grant Application Update** - The 2013 FEMA SAFER Grant application was awarded on January 10<sup>th</sup>. The award amount is \$158,000 worth of salaries and benefits for two positions for two years. The position of Fire Chief and Firefighter will be filled with this grant. Administration has already began accepting applications for both positions, and the Board will be able to review applications for Fire Chief the last week of February and make a selection after the interview process in March. The Chief position should begin mid-March or first of April, and the Chief will immediately hire the firefighter and begin working on SOGs (standard operating guidelines for the County and other departments) as well as budget prep FY2015. Once employed, the Fire Chief (and Firefighter) will respond to daytime fire calls between 8am and 5pm Monday through Friday along with the corresponding volunteer departments.

**B. EMS Agreement** - Administrator reminded the Board that the agreement for services between South Georgia Ambulance and the County will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The agreement was given a one year extension March 2013. Administrator is not asking for the Board to make a motion, but for input on their ideas, wishes or concerns on the existing agreement, and to be thinking about whether an extension shall be granted or if the Board shall chose to advertise.

**C. Thomasville Utilities – Solid Waste Rate Increase** – Administrator informed the Board of a letter from Thomasville Utilities regarding a rate increase for solid waste services. The increases are as follows: \$13.93 per residential pickup and \$9.25 per additional can. Previous increase was in March 2013 to \$13.81 per residential can pick

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up. The Board needs to be aware of the increase so that adjustments can be made to future tax bill collections. Current collection rate \$184.00 per year.

**D. Pope Road Closure – Update** - Administrator is preparing to send out certified mail return receipt letters to all the adjoining property owners and is scheduling advertisements (once per week for two consecutive weeks) for which a public hearing must be held before official abandoning the road. Administrator recommends the public hearing be held prior to the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Called Meeting at 5 pm. Pope Road is located off Son Wright Road.

## 8. Commissioners Notes/Comments

**A.** Joe Wingate - District 1 – Commented on County setting up some type of PR to reach the community and get more united.

**B.** S. L. Jones, District 2 – Commented on road issues; but most have been corrected.

C. Willie Cody, District 3 – Commended Interim Road Superintendent on doing good job and also County Administrator.

D. Myra Exum, District 4 – Also commended Interim Road Superintendent and County Administrator on doing good job.

E. James Maxwell, District 5 – Commented on the equipment needed in Maintenance Department.

9. **Executive Session** - None

10. **Adjournment**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:42 p.m.; Mr. Wingate seconded.

Mr. Sanford L. Jones, Jr., Chairman

Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk