

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, June 1, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson; Mr. Joe Wingate, Vice Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. S. L. Jones. 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. Request for Special Exception – Julie Ripley – 560 Kingfisher Lane**

Planning and Zoning received a request from Julie Ripley for a Special Exception at 560 Kingfisher Lane to establish an event venue on a 70-acre parcel, currently zoned as AG (agricultural). The applicant wishes to use the venue to host weddings, business meetings, corporate events, parties, and other similar events. The existing 5,000 square foot home would serve as the event venue. Brooks County Planning Commission met on May 19, 2015 and recommended approval with conditions.

Ms. Sherry Davidson, Planner, SGRC, presented the request; and informed the Board of Staff recommendations for approval. The SGRC staff recommended approval with three conditions. 1) Access road to be improved to accommodate emergency vehicles, 2) Use restricted to existing structures and area immediately around them, and 3) events to be held shall be limited as to be appropriate to adjoining properties.

A sign-in sheet was prepared; but no one in attendance signed. Chairperson asked if any one present wanted to speak for or against the request. There were none. The public hearing closed at 5:02 p.m. to go into the Monthly Work Session.

### **WORK SESSION**

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

**A. Tina Herring – Economic Development** – Updated the Board on Elec-Tec; and announce the County would receive \$400K in EIP funds; also informed of the expansion of Crown Laundry to add additional employees; and of contact with prospects for another quick serve location in Quitman.

**B. Laura Harrison – Library** – Ms. Harrison is retiring as Director for Brooks County Library. She introduced the new incoming Director, Mr. Steve Routsong. They provided handouts of Library events and activities to the Board.

**C. Stephanie Hollifield – Extension/4-H** – Provided copy of Brooks County Ag Connection highlighting monthly activities and points of interests for the month of May:

- During the month of May, Extension experienced an increase in the number of calls related to crop disease issues.
- Hosted Dr. Dan Horton, UGA Peach Entomologist and Dr. Dario Chavez, UGA Peach Specialist, on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

- Completed one of two soybean test trial plantings on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Provided activities and events at a glance for June.

**D. Tom Fields – Fire Department**

- Called ISO, and was informed letters with results for ISO ratings would be mailed; would not give information on the phone.
- Consolidation Agreements of Barwick, Dixie, Tallokas and Sand Hill Volunteer Fire Departments have been signed by the Fire Departments; Chairperson needs to sign; and will be voted on in the regular meeting.

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

- 50 work orders received, 30 roads with potholes; 3 driveway repairs; 5 side arm work orders.
- 5 culverts installed; 21 roads bladed; 2 erosions; one hydraulic spill; and 3 new hires.
- Side Arm has been down for 21/2 weeks; the new one is on the way.
- Garrett Road is open and bad wash out on Dixie-Barwick Road has been temporarily repaired.

**F. Ben DeVane – County Engineer**

- Putting together packet for Contractor for 4 of the projects on Guard rail project.
- Right-of way plans done for Old Thomasville Road, which has three property owners.
- Working on right-of way plans for CR 61 Son Wright Road for improvement of Dry Lake Road.
- Burton Road (CR 39) is coming apart due to water from nearby pond, has drawn plans to reduce water level. Need direction from Board; and need Commissioner to speak with property owners.
- 2014 LMIG is underway, clearing and grading Giddens Road. A portion of Dunn Road and Barrett Road are done except for striping. Waiting on Change Order #2 approval. Will be approved in regular meeting.
- Working on site plans for Pavo Fire Department.

Chairperson closed work session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:41 p.m.

**1. Call to Order – Ms. Exum called meeting to order.**

**A. Prayer & Pledge** – Brother Jim Pitts, Morven Baptist Church, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**A. June 1, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting** – County Attorney requested to add an Executive Session to update Board on pending litigation. Mr. Wingate made the motion

to approve the agenda and add an Executive Session, 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 minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting as presented for May 4, 2015.

**4. Appearances**

**A. Y-ME (Young Men Excelling) – Request to Adopt a Section of County Road**

The Y-ME (Young Men Excelling) requested consideration from the Board to allow the group to adopt a section or two of County roads to use as part of their program for young men. Y-ME requested permission to adopt a section of Webster Road and Barwick Road to use with their program. The group was also interested in adoption of State Highway 333, but the State has currently halted their program. The Requestor, Ms. Carmelyta Spencer-Gatlin, was not present. The Board tabled this issue for more details on a motion made by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Wingate. Vote was unanimous.

**5. New Business**

**A. Request for Special Exception – Julie Ripley – 560 Kingfisher Lane**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the request of Julie Ripley for a Special Exception to establish an event venue located at 560 Kingfisher Lane in unincorporated Brooks County with the following conditions:

1. The access road (Kingfisher Lane) shall be improved so as to be adequate for emergency vehicles to access the property;
2. Use shall be restricted to the existing house and outbuildings and the area immediately around them;
3. The scale, volume, and timing of events shall be limited so as to be appropriate to the context of the neighborhood, especially in consideration of adjacent residential properties;
4. The driveway access has to be completed within 90 days, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Change Order No. 2 Approval – FY2014 LMIG Project** – County Engineer provided Administration with a change order for the 2014 LMIG project. Change Order No. 2 will add a turning lane extension to the 2014 project at the North Brooks Elementary School on Coffee Road. The Brooks County Board of Education has agreed to fund 50% of the proposed cost of \$15,050.00. On a motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, Board unanimously approved Change Order No. 2 of the 2014 LMIG Project; County portion of the funds (\$7,525.00) will come from SPLOST 5.

**C. Application for Retail Beer & Wine License – Brooks Beverage/Kushal Nileskumar**

Administration received a request from Kushal Nileskumar Patel, who is requesting a license to sell beer and wine at Brooks Beverage, 19600 Valdosta Highway. The application has been advertised; and background check ran; there were no

discrepancies. Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the application for the sale of Beer & Wine at Brooks Beverage located at 19600 Valdosta Highway, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**D. Appointment to Behavioral Health Board** - Administration received a letter from Leland Johnson, Interim Regional Coordinator of the Behavioral Health, to request a new appointment to the Board. Ms. Nancy Tennyson has served two full terms, and her current is set to expire June 4, 2015. Appointees will serve three year terms. Mr. Cody made a motion to appoint Peggy Wilson to serve on the Board for a three year term, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**E. DOT 5311 FY2015 Rural Transit Grant Contract** - Administration received an email from Ms. Donna Stinson, Public Transit Coordinator, GDOT 5311 Rural Transit Program, regarding the FY2016 contracts. GDOT is in the process of merging the Capital and Operating Contracts into a single document, and will be sent to us in the near future; however, the contracts will remain unchanged for FY2016. GDOT is under a tight deadline of August 11<sup>th</sup> to get contracts fully executed and vehicles ordered before the vehicle contract expires. Therefore, Ms. Stinson sent the email as notice to put this on our June or July agenda for the County to approve execution of 5311 contract at a County Commissioner's monthly meeting. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the FY2016 5311 Contracts; Mr. Cody seconded, vote was unanimous.

**F. Appointment to Department of Family and Children Services Board**

Administration received a letter from Rhonda Wheeler, Brooks County Department of Family and Children Services, advising the Board that the position held by Ms. Doris Thompkins will expire on June 30, 2015. Ms. Thompkins would like to continue to serve and represent the Second District. On a motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Wingate, the Board unanimously appointed Ms. Doris Thompkins to serve another term on the Brooks County Department of Family and Children Services Board

**G. Purchase Bulletproof Vests for Uniform Patrol** - The Sheriff's department has just over \$5,300 remaining in a bulletproof vest grant that requires a 50/50 match. The department was budgeted \$5,000 in the current budget to match the grant, and is requesting that they be authorized to spend the funds to finish out the grant and to update the road deputies. Administration has also budgeted funds for the CID and NARC departments in the FY2016 budget. All members of the department have been measured by GT Distributors and the order is ready to be placed. The total cost is \$16,373.50, County portion is roughly \$11,000.00; and is requesting funds from the budget and contingency to get the entire department taken care of. The bulletproof vests purchase was approved in the amount of \$16,373.50 to be purchased with contingency funds, budget funds; and BJA grant funds on a motion by Mr. Maxwell; and a second by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

**H. Acceptance of Consolidation Agreement for South Brooks VFD, Tallokas VFD, Sand Hill VFD, and Dixie VFD** - Administration has prepared for the Board's

consideration consolidation agreements for the above-mentioned volunteer fire departments. By agreeing to the consolidation, the County will become responsible for the departments and fund the needs of each station using County Protection Fee revenues. The departments will now become a Brooks County Fire Department and will fall under the County's umbrella. This will allow us to help lower the ISO ratings in these districts quicker, and allow assets to be scored for each department. Each of these departments has already agreed to the consolidation. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wingate and seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved/accepted the consolidation agreements for South Brooks VFD, Tallokas VFD, Sand Hill VFD, and Dixie VFD.

**I. Purchase of Firefighting Equipment** - The Fire Department is requesting the Board's approval to purchase \$22,661.27 worth of equipment for several of the existing volunteer departments to bring those departments up to the required levels per ISO. Funds will be used from the Fire Protection Fee. The quote is from NAFECO, who currently offers prices on the State Contract. Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve purchase of firefighting equipment with fire protection fee funds in amount of \$22,661.27, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Fire Department requested additional approval of \$7,900.00 to purchase a Demo set of Extrication Equipment from Genesis Rescue Systems to also come from fire protection fee fund. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the purchase of the extrication equipment for \$7,900.00 from fire fee fund, Mr. Wingate seconded, and vote was unanimous.

**6. Unfinished Business - None**

**7. County Administrator Notes/Comments**

**A. Amend Request for Sheriff's Vehicle Purchase** - Administration had previously requested funds to purchase a vehicle for the Sheriff's department from Contingency (\$12,000). The Sheriff and Administration were able to find two vehicles for \$14,000. Administration is asking that the Board amend the previous motion and accept the two vehicles and the adjusted price. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to amend the previous motion approving \$12,000 for a vehicle purchase from Contingency to \$14,000 for two vehicles from Contingency for the Sheriff's department, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**8. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

- A. Joe Wingate - District 1** – No comments.
- B. S. L. Jones, District 2** – No comments.
- C. Willie Cody, District 3** – No comment.
- D. Myra Exum, District 4** – No comment.
- E. James Maxwell, District 5** – No comment.

**9. Executive Session** – On a motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Wingate, the Board closed regular meeting to go into executive session at 6:14 p.m. County Clerk called the roll; all Commissioners were present; and signed an Affidavit attesting the meeting was closed to deliberate on pending litigation. (See attached).

On a motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board adjourned executive session to return to the regular meeting at 6:26 p.m.

**10. Adjournment**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

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