

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, November 2, 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. Mr. S. L. Jones was not present. Others present were: Mr. Justin DeVane, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Luke Mitchell, Attorney; and various residents.

PUBLIC HEARING – 5:00 P.M. NONE

WORK SESSION

Reports from Committees/Departments

A. Stephanie Hollifield – Extension/4-H – Provided copy of Brooks County Ag Connection highlighting October in review. The month of October included the conclusion of peanut hull scraping and harvest of several Brooks County Extension applied research and demonstration plots. Brooks County was well represented at the 2015 Georgia National Fair. The Extension Office participated in the Skillet Festival for the third straight year; and continues to promote the 1st Annual Brooks County 4-H Sporting Clays Tournament and 15th Annual Brooks County 4-H Sportsman’s Banquet/Auction.

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

- 76 work orders completed; 4-911 calls.
- Bucket Truck and John Deere Motor Grader are back in use.
- Purchased Flatbed Truck and Excavator.
- Side Arm completed 13 roads, ditches completed on north end of County.

C. Ben DeVane – County Engineer

- 2014 LMIG complete at the intersection of Giddens and Dewey Road; requested paint and striping; Contractor will come back.
- Grooverville Road is complete; working on shoulders. Contractor ready to move back to Ferris Road.
- Guard Rail project is complete; Contractor did a very good job; looks very professional. Mr. DeVane emphasized to Board the need to continue this program.
- Sabal Trail paperwork is worked out.
- Mr. Cody is continue working on acquiring ROW for CR 76 Old Thomasville Road and Son Wright Road; should have by first of 2016.
- CR 39 Burton Road – Road Department is waiting on good weather to start the project.
- Recommended paving 1.6 mile of CR 100 from Clay Bank to intersection of Dewey Road.

- The estimate for Change Order #3 for Ferris Road changed from \$28,921.71 to \$64,428.34 due to increase asphalt cost and contractor increasing grading costs from bid cost. Board will vote on in regular meeting.

Chair closed work session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:17 p.m.

1. **Call to Order** – Ms. Exum called meeting to order.
A. Prayer & Pledge – Pastor Gwen Jariel, of Quitman Church of God, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
A. November 2, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting –Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the agenda as is, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

3. **Approval of Minutes**
On a motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Maxwell; the Board unanimously approved the minutes as presented for:

A. Work Session & Regular Monthly Meeting October 5, 2015

4. **Appearances**

A. Michelle Wilson – Discuss EMS Service - Administration received a request from Ms. Michelle Wilson to discuss an issue she experienced while a friend was receiving care from EMT's working for South Georgia Ambulance. Ms. Wilson claims that the personnel working the day her friend needed help did not act in a professional matter and does not feel that is a good reflection on Brooks County. Ms. Wilson did not appear; but met with Administrator and David Crosby last week and EMS will be working on better training for their employees.

B. Facilities Request (Courthouse) – SweetE's Dance - Administration received a request from SweetE's Dance for use of the Courthouse property November 28 from 8am to 8pm to host a holiday bazaar and have pick up available there for Christmas trees sold as a fundraiser for their Disney dance trip in 2017. Mr. Cody made the motion to approve SweetE's request to use Courthouse grounds on November 28th from 8 am to 8 pm; Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Facilities Request (Courthouse) – Chamber of Commerce-A request was received from Tiffany Holmes for use of the Courthouse grounds on December 19 from 8 am to 8 pm for a community Christmas event. The event is hosted by the Chamber and Santa will be there with various treats and things. Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the Chamber's request to use Courthouse grounds on December 19 from 8 am to 8 pm, seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Vote was unanimous.

D. Facilities Request (Ag Building & Annex) – Garden Club of Quitman - Administration received a request for the use of the County Ag and Annex buildings

from February 3rd to February 7th. The Quitman Garden Club has submitted the request for its Annual Camellia Show that it holds every year. Last year, the Club expanded its offerings and is requesting to keep the extra time allowed this year as well. Administration also recommends waving the fees for the Club, due in part to their assistance with other County projects and their association with the UGA Extension Office, so long if the Club agrees to setup and cleanup the facilities before and after its use and will not require any additional use of County staff.

E. Beau Daniel Sinclair – Road Abandonment Request (Portion of Timbo Circle)

Administrator received a request from Beau Daniel Sinclair for the County to formally begin the road closure process on a portion of Timbo Circle, of Highway 76 north of Barney. Mr. Sinclair owns the land on both sides of the road (north end) in regards to the section being requested and is requesting the closure since the road is traveled little and requires little maintenance from the County. The request is to close the section of the road that runs east to west, between his two pieces of property, approximately 500 feet. The portion of Timbo Circle that runs north to south along Mr. Sinclair's southern property line will remain open. The road splits his property into two tracts, one, a house site with 3.2 acres, and the northern tract with 21 acres, currently being used as farmland.

Glenn Walker from the Road Department states that the closure should not cause any problems with the road department, however, requests that sufficient room (cul-de-sac) be provided at the end of the road so that equipment and large trucks can turn around as needed on the portion left open that would become a dead end.

On the motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved the request to begin road closure process for a portion of Timbo Circle that the road no longer serves a public use, off Highway 76 north of Barney.

F. Phil Cantrell – Clearing Between Undeveloped Land and Residential Developments

- Administrator received a request from Phil Cantrell regarding a zoning issue that he hopes the Commission will investigate and take action upon. Mr. Cantrell desires for the Board to recreate zoning that would prevent property owners from allowing land to be unkempt neighboring residential development. He proposes that zoning be created that limits undeveloped property wildland growth for fire control and to help keep rodents back that adjoin residential property.

Should the Board consider such a request, they could have Building and Zoning work with the Regional Commission to determine if such a policy would be in the best interest of the County and its property owners. Board authorized Administrator to contact Regional Commission in regards to working with Building and Zoning to determine if such a policy would be in best interest of Brooks County.

5. New Business

A. Request for Sound Variance – Kenny Baker/Annual Bubba Run - Mr. Baker is requesting a variance to the County's Sound Ordinance for November 7th until 2 a.m.

Mr. Baker is requesting the ordinance for the 11th Annual Bubba Run Fundraiser to benefit the Georgia Sheriff's Boys Ranch. Mr. Baker has requested variances for the same function in the past. The location is 8262 Troupeville Road, his residence. Mr. Wingate motioned to approve the request by Mr. Baker for a sound variance until 2 am on November 7th for the Annual Bubba Run, seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Vote was unanimous.

B. Execution of FY2016 5311 Operating Contract –Contracts were received from GDOT to be executed for the FY2016 5311 Rural Transit program contract. The contract amount is \$140,644.50, which is shared 50/50 between the Sate and the County. The County's portion is covered by the fares collected by the operator, MIDS Inc. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve and authorized Ms. Exum to sign the FY2016 5311 Rural Transit Program contracts, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Authorizing Resolution FY2017 5311 Rural Transit Application - Administration received a request from GDOT to complete the Authorizing Resolution package for the FY2017 5311 program by November 30th. The Board is asked to approve the authorizing resolution. With a motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the Authorizing Resolution for FY2017 5311 Rural Transit Application.

D. Re-appointment to Tax Assessor's Board – Dr. Golden - Administration received a request from Chief Appraiser, Pam Jones, for re-appointment of Dr. Golden to the Tax Assessor's Board for a term to be served from 2016-2018. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to re-appoint Dr. Golden to the Tax Assessor's Board for a three-year term; Mr. Jones seconded. Vote was unanimous.

6. Unfinished Business

A. FY2014 LMIG Change Order #3 – The previous estimate for Ferris Road presented to the Board was \$28,921.71; but has increased to \$64,428.34; per County Engineer, Ben DeVane. If Board does opt for this estimate, the project will be placed on bid packet for next year. With a motion by Mr. Maxwell, to void the previous estimate of \$28,921.71 and approve the new estimate of \$64,428.34 for Change Order #3 on Ferris Road; and funds will come from SPLOST #5, motion seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

7. County Administrator Notes/Comments

A. SPLOST 6 Sheriff's Vehicles - Administration and the Sheriff have discussed beginning the process to purchase some of the vehicles allocated in the SPLOST 6. It would take a few weeks, months, to get the vehicles and put them into service, the original plan was to request 4, but due to the age and condition of the current fleet and repairs expected, the Department needs to get at least 6 vehicles ordered. The Sheriff plans on ordering pickup trucks for patrol, but may also consider cars or SUVs. Administration would like to begin the bid process and devise a plan to either purchase the vehicles or use a lease to own option and whether to purchase vehicles and equipment together from a single vendor or by pricing out the build. Mr. Cody made the motion for Administrator and Sheriff to begin the process and devise a plan to either

purchase or lease vehicles for the Sheriff's Department, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

8. Commissioners Notes/Comments

A. Joe Wingate - District 1 – Commented on hot topics from the District meeting he attended in Tifton on October 27th; and Burton Road and Pleasant Hill Road.

B. S. L. Jones, District 2 – Inquired about Ochawilla Road.

C. Willie Cody, District 3 – Commented on Dry Lake Road needing bushes and limbs cut; no visibility around the curve.

D. Myra Exum, District 4 – No comments.

E. James Maxwell, District 5 – Commented on cancellation of Halloween Carnival.

9. Executive Session – None

10. Adjournment

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 5:54 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson

Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk