

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, April 6, 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; and various residents.

## **PUBLIC HEARING – NONE**

## **WORK SESSION**

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

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

- 157 work orders received, 43 roads with potholes; 2 driveway repairs; 8 side arm work orders.
- 44 motor grader work orders; 4 driveways installed; 15 pipes cleaned; 9 washouts; and 11-911 calls.
- Presented information on contract mowing for Board consideration.

**B. Ben DeVane – County Engineer**

- Guard rail project bids will be opened April 16, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.
- 2014 LMIG contracts are signed, bond is in; and pre-construction meeting will be scheduled within 2 weeks.
- According to EPD, Inert Landfill is not in closure compliance; working on check list to see if we are in line.
- Will survey ROW maps on Old Thomasville Road to plot and see how much work is needed to re-work road bed. Survey information will help to get an estimated budget cost.
- Looked at Son Wright Road; and proposes acquiring 100 feet of ROW, pave 500 feet, for adequate drainage so pavement will not tear up so bad. Install four lines of insulated corrugated pipe.

**C. Peggy Wilson – Victim Advocate**

- Commended on appointment by the Governor to the State Commission on Family Violence.
- Provide information on statistics of family violence for state and Brooks County.

**D. David Crosby – EMS**

- Presented information on issues/concerns of citizens regarding EMS service and response time; and resolution of those issues.
- Provided information on number of calls received for 2013 thru 2015 for Zones 1 and 2.
- Provided information on loss of funds due to write-offs per Government; and Obamacare.

**E. Bob Cooper – Troupeville Water System Update**

- Water system will service approximately 1492 homes, will have 112 miles of main on 46 county roads and 3 state roads.
- Will return in June with an update; and will present an agreement for ROW and franchise fee.

**F. Kenny Baker – Airport Authority**

Informed Board of shortfall in funds for projects. Requested \$20,000 from County to be budgeted each year; and will also request \$20,000 from City each budget year.

Chairperson closed work session to go into the Regular Meeting at 6:08 p.m.

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

**A. Prayer & Pledge** – Pastor Arnold Hodum, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

A. April 6, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting – Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the agenda as presented, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

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

Regular Monthly Meeting	March 2, 2015
Special Called Meeting	March 16, 2015

**4. Appearances**

**A. Request for Action/Road Work and Repairs – Randy Becton**

Administration received a request from Mr. Randy Becton to address the Board regarding concerns on Rocky Ford Road. Mr. Becton was not present.

**B. Reimbursement of Property Tax Penalties and Interest – John Dailey**

Administration received a request from Mr. John Dailey for reimbursement of Interest and Penalties on two separate pieces of property he purchased in 2013. At the time of purchase, he had the Assessors’ office merge the bills into existing adjacent property bills he was already paying. The properties in question would not have had a 2014 tax bill created, thus showing any balance owed. When the properties were purchased, proper notification was not provided to the Tax Commissioner’s office or his attorney, who was handling his closing, of a change in billing address. The closing also did not include any notification to Mr. Dailey that any taxes were owed when he purchased the property. According to the Assessors’ Office and the Tax Commissioner, there is no reason to believe that a mistake was made by the County. The total penalties and interest for both properties is \$104.34. Mr. Maxwell, made the motion to table this issue until the County Attorney can look at for legal options, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**C. Facilities Request – Calvary Christian Center (Ag Building)**

Administration received a request from the Calvary Christian Center to use the Ag Building on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm to 9 pm. to celebrate their anniversary and would like to hold a church banquet. Application is complete, will have security; and security deposit is received. On a motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Jones, Board unanimously approved the request of Calvary Christian Center to use Ag Building from 5 pm to 9 pm on April 18, 2015. Mr. Maxwell abstained, due to being a part of Calvary Christina Center.

**5. New Business**

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

Administration received a request for Contract Renewal between the UGA Cooperative Extension and the Brooks County Board of Commissioners. The agreement is for the renewal of the Extension Associate position, currently held by Carol Smith. We must return the agreement to UGA by May 1. Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the Contract Renewal from UGA for the 4-H Extension Associate, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**6. Unfinished Business**

**A. Reimbursement of Property Taxes and Ad Valorem Taxes – Cleveland Graham**

Administration received a request from Mr. Cleveland Graham regarding the reimbursement of property taxes and ad valorem taxes paid from 2010 to 2012. Mr. Graham has previously appeared before the Board in August 2012 regarding the same issue. Mr. Graham has provided a different letter regarding his case and still wishes to be reimbursed for previous years. According to the previous minutes in August 2012, the Board denied his request because he did not apply for exemption prior to the tax digest being closed. In regards to the Vehicle Ad Valorem, since he did not apply for a disable veteran tag, there is no basis to reimburse previous years according the Tag office, like how exemptions are handled for property taxes. Mr. Graham has not paid ad valorem or property taxes since 2013. The three previous tax digest years would be for 2014 through 2012.

The issue has come up in regards to the deadline; whether or not there is a deadline. Mr. Graham's application was submitted June 21, 2012. After discussion, Board stated they did not have enough evidence to make the decision on the reimbursement nor legality, due to County Attorney absence. Therefore, Board tabled the matter until get an opinion from County Attorney on a motion by Mr. Wingate, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

**7. County Administrator Notes/Comments**

**A. GDOT 5311 Van Surplus** - Administration received a letter from GDOT regarding the three remaining vans being used for the 5311 transit program. Since they are partially funded from State and local funds, we have the option to purchase one of the three vans for \$5,000. Mr. Cody made the motion to purchase a van for Nutrition Center and fund from contingency, Mr. Wingate seconded.

**B. FY2016 Budget Process**

Administrator informed Board the FY 2016 budget process has started. There is a vehicle down in the Sheriff's Department; and Sheriff has given up his vehicle to the department; and is using his personal vehicle. Administrator informed the Board of an upcoming Charger in Florida; and would like approval to purchase vehicle for \$12,000 when vehicle becomes available for the Sheriff or to rotate back in patrol. On a motion by Mr. Wingate, Board approved purchase of the Charger for \$12,000 when it becomes available; and funds will come from contingency, Mr. Jones seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**8. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

**A. Joe Wingate - District 1** – Announced the luncheon for First Responders to be held Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am to 1:30 pm by Quitman United Methodist Church.

**B. S. L. Jones, District 2** – Commented on condition of Rocky Ford Road and Ochawilla Road.

**C. Willie Cody, District 3** – Commended Glenn on good job; and getting report on Son Wright Road and Old Thomasville Road.

**D. Myra Exum, District 4** – Reminded everyone to support Relay for Life on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**E. James Maxwell, District 5** – No Comment.

**9. Executive Session – None**

**10. Adjournment**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:40 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson

Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk