

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, January 6, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman; Mr. Patrick Folsom, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Rhett Rowe. Others present were: Ms. Jessica McKinney, Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; Mr. Jason Kemp, Attorney; and various residents.

**WORK SESSION** – Chairman called Work Session to order.

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

#### **Charles Dave – Elections**

- **New Voting Process: [www.securevotega.com](http://www.securevotega.com)**

Mr. Dave presented a video demonstrating the new voting process for upcoming elections.

The Work Session closed at 5:12 p.m.

#### **1. Call to Order** – County Clerk called the meeting to order.

County Attorney, Mr. James Burchett, stated according to our Charter, the Board is to conduct an organizational meeting for two things; to vote for Chairman and Vice Chairman during the first meeting in January 2020. County Attorney opened the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Mr. Folsom made the motion nominating Mr. Maxwell for Chairman. Mr. Rowe nominated Mr. Folsom for Chairman. The nominations were closed. County Attorney called for the vote for Mr. Folsom for Chairman. Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe voted yes. Mr. Folsom and Mr. Cody voted no. Vote was tied 2 to 2; Mr. Maxwell broke the tie and voted no. Vote was 3 to 2. County Attorney called for votes for Mr. Maxwell. Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe voted no. Mr. Cody and Mr. Folsom voted yes, creating a tie of 2 to 2. Mr. Maxwell voted yes breaking the tie, vote was 3 to 2. Mr. Maxwell was appointed the Chairman for 2020.

County Attorney opened floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr. Maxwell made the motion nominating Mr. Folsom for Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations; nominations were closed. County Attorney called for the vote. Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe voted no. Mr. Folsom and Mr. Cody voted yes, creating a tie 2 to 2. Mr. Maxwell broke the tie by voting yes. Vote was 3 to 2. Mr. Folsom was appointed the Vice Chairman for 2020. County Attorney turned the meeting over to Chairman Maxwell.

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

## **2020 Board Appointments**

### **Boards/Committees**

Brooks County Library Board  
Brooks County Airport Authority  
Brooks County Board of Health  
Council on Aging  
Coastal Plain Area, E.O. A.  
Chamber of Commerce  
Regional Commission Board  
Dept. of Family & Children Services  
Mid South RC & D Council  
Lowndes-Valdosta MPO  
Recreation Department  
South Regional Joint Development  
Authority Board  
ACCG Appointment  
Seven Rivers RC & D

Mr. Willie Cody  
Mr. Rhett Rowe  
Mr. James Maxwell  
Ms. Exum  
Mr. James Maxwell  
Mr. Rhett Rowe  
Mr. James Maxwell  
Ms. Exum  
Mr. Maxwell  
Mr. James Maxwell  
Mr. Willie Cody

Mr. Myra Exum  
Mr. Folsom  
Administrator

### **Building Assignments**

County Admin Building  
Agriculture Building & Annex  
Courthouse  
Sheriff's Department (Jail & C.I.D.)  
Public Works  
Voting Precincts  
E-911 Center  
Multi-Purpose Building  
(Head Start & Senior Center)  
Fire Departments  
Washington Street Gym  
(Boys and Girls Club)

Ms. James Maxwell  
Mr. Patrick Folsom  
Mr. Rhett Rowe  
Ms. Myra Exum  
Mr. Folsom  
Mr. Rhett Rowe  
Mr. Willie Cody

Mr. James Maxwell  
Ms. Myra Exum

Mr. Cody

### **Other Appointments for 2020**

County Attorney  
County Auditor  
County Engineer  
Assistant County Engineer  
ADA Coordinator  
Safety Coordinator  
EMA Director  
Fire Chief  
Deputy Chief  
Station #1 (South Brooks)

James Burchett  
Mr. Gary Zeigler  
Mr. Ben DeVane  
Mr. Mark DeVane  
Mr. Billy Ingram  
Fire Department  
Mr. Mike Smith  
Mr. Jordan Smith  
Mr. Daniel Anglin  
Capt. Tommy Kerr

Station #5 (Morven)	Capt. Richard Thompson
Station #7 (Tallokas)	Capt. Ralph Manning
Station #8 (Dixie)	Capt. James Bratcher
Station #9 (Sandhill)	Capt. Steve Krauss
Station #11 (Quitman)	Vacant
Station #12 (Barney)	Capt. Travis Williams
DFACS Board – District 1	Tawanda Rose (June 30, 2025)
DFACS Board – District 2	Ms. Dorris Thompkins (June 2020)
DFACS Board – District 3	Ms. Pinky Brown (Nov 2024)
DFACS Board – District 4	Ms. Ann Guess (Jan 2023)
DFACS Board – District 5	Ms. Mary Thomas (June 2023)
Health Department	Dr. Cunningham (12/31/2022)
	Ms. Shelley Kirkendoll (12/31/2021)
	Dr. Ricky Rowe (12/31/2023)
Library Board Appointments (3 year term)	Ms. Julie Swann (2019- 2022)
	Mr. Willie Cody (2019-2022)
	Ms. Patty Hancock (2019-2022)
	Ms. Armetta Waller (2022)
South Regional Joint Dev. Auth. (4 years)	Mr. Jason Shaw (Mar. 1, 2019-2023)
Joint Development Auth.	Mr. Buddy Holwell (Dec 2018)
	Ms. Tiffany Holmes (Dec 2019)
Tax Assessor's Board	Dr. Gerald Golden (Dec 2021)
	Mr. Ralph Manning (Dec 2020)
	Mr. Melvin DeShazior (Dec 2022)
Elections Board	Mr. Zurich Deshazior (Dec 2021)
	Ms. Karen Murray (Dec 2023)
	Ms. Fannie McDonald (Dec 2022)
South Georgia Community Service Board	Ms. Gerry Folsom (2020)
Brooks County Development Authority	Mr. Henry Burton (Dec 2020) D4
	Mr. Jack Harrell (Dec 2022) D2
	Ms. Stephanie Mata (Dec 2020) D5
	Dr. Horne (Dec 2022) D6
	Mr. Marable (Dec 2022) D3
	Mr. Tim Crosby (Dec 2021) D1
	Mr. Andy Swann (Dec 2021) D6

Appointment to Behavioral Health Board  
(3 year term)

Vacant (July 2021)

Quitman – Brooks Co. Airport Authority

Rep. John LaHood (July 2023)  
Mr. Robin McDaniel (July 2023)  
Mr. Rhett Rowe (July 2023)

Revolving Loan Fund Board (CDBG EIP)

Ms. Gina Wynn  
Ms. Andrea DeSantiago  
Ms. Delphanie McGhee  
Mr. Greg Squires  
Mr. Chuck Ramsey

On motion by Mr. Folsom, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board approved the Building Appointments for 2020. Vote was unanimous.

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board unanimously approved the Other Appointments for 2020 where terms were still active.

Applications were received for Board appointment for Tax Assessors Board. Mr. Stalvey's term expired December 31, 2019. Mr. Dan Graham, deceased, term expires December 31, 2020. Applications were submitted by Mr. Melvin DeShazor, Jr. and Ralph Manning. Ms. Exum motioned to reappoint Mr. Stalvey for another three year term, Mr. Rowe seconded. Chairman called for the vote. Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe voted yes; Mr. Cody sustained and Mr. Folsom opposed. Chairman opposed creating 3 votes in opposition (Mr. Folsom, Mr. Cody and Chairman) and two votes in favor (Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe). Mr. Folsom motioned to appoint Mr. Melvin DeShazor to Tax Assessor Board to replace Mr. Stalvey, Mr. Cody seconded. Chairman called for the vote. Ms. Exum voted no; and Mr. Rowe voted no. Mr. Folsom and Mr. Cody voted yes, creating a tie of 2 to 2. Chairman voted yes, breaking the tie, the vote was 3 to 2 to appoint Mr. DeShazor to the Tax Assessors Board replacing Mr. Stalvey for a three year term expiring December 31, 2022.

Mr. Folsom made a motion to appoint Mr. Ralph Manning to the Tax Assessors Board to complete the term of Mr. Dan Graham, which expires December 31, 2020; seconded by Mr. Cody. Chairman called for the vote. Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe voted no. Mr. Cody and Mr. Folsom voted yes, creating a tie of 2 to 2. Chairman broke the tie by voted yes to appoint Mr. Manning to complete Mr. Graham's term on the Tax Assessors Board until December 31, 2020.

Mr. Don Distefano, Board of Elections, term expired December 31, 2019; and needs to be reappointed or the Board can make a new appointment. Mr. Rowe nominated Ms. Fannie McDonald to the Board, seconded by Ms. Exum. Chairman called for the vote,

there was no opposition, and the vote was unanimous to appoint Ms. McDonald to the Board of Elections for a three year term, expiring December 31, 2022.

Mr. Jack Harrell was previously appointed to the Development Authority Board for District 3. Mr. Folsom made the motion to move Mr. Jack Harrell from District 3 to District 2 on the Development Authority Board, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous. The term is for three years expiring December 31, 2022.

Mr. Cody made a motion to appoint Mr. Ulysses Marable, Jr. to the Development Authority Board for District 3, Mr. Folsom seconded. Chairman called for the vote. Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe opposed. Mr. Cody and Mr. Folsom voted yes. Chairman broke the tie by voting in favor, vote was 3 to 2 to appoint Mr. Marable to the Development Authority Board to fill the vacant position in District 3, which expires December 31, 2022.

Ms. Exum made the motion to appoint Rep. John LaHood to the Development Authority Board, Mr. Rowe seconded. Mr. Cody and Mr. Folsom opposed. Chairman called for the vote. Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe voted yes. Mr. Cody and Mr. Folsom voted no. The vote was tied 2 to 2. Chairman voted in favor, breaking the tie, vote was 3 to 2 in opposition of appointing John LaHood to the Development Authority Board.

Chairman called for a motion. Mr. Folsom motioned to appoint Ms. Stephanie Mata to the Development Authority Board, Mr. Cody seconded. Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe opposed. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Folsom and Mr. Cody voted yes, creating a tie of 2 to 2. Chairman voted yes breaking the tie, vote was 3 to 2 appointing Ms. Mata to District 5 on the Development Authority Board. The term expires December 31, 2020.

Ms. Exum made the motion appointing Ms. Delphanie McGhee to District 6 on the Development Authority Board, Mr. Rowe seconded. Mr. Folsom and Mr. Cody opposed. Chairman called for the vote. Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe voted yes. Mr. Folsom and Mr. Cody voted no, creating a tie of 2 to 2. Chairman voted yes breaking the tie, vote was 3 to 2 appointing Ms. Mata to District 5 on the Development Authority Board. The term expires December 31, 2020.

Mr. Folsom made a motion to appoint Dr. Marie Horne to the Development Authority, District 6, Mr. Cody seconded. Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe opposed. Chairman called for the vote. Ms. Exum and Mr. Rowe voted no. Mr. Folsom and Mr. Cody voted yes, creating a tie of 2 to 2. Chairman voted yes breaking the tie, vote was 3 to 2 appointing Dr. Horne to District 6 on the Development Authority Board. The term expires December 31, 2022.

Mr. Rowe made the motion to appoint Ms. Tawanda Rose to Department of Family & Children Services, District 1, Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**2. Amendment and Approval of Agenda**

**A. January 6, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting** – Mr. Cody made the motion to amend the agenda to edit the Organizational portion for the Clerk to call the meeting to order, Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board unanimously approved the following minutes with the necessary corrections:

- Monthly Work Session & Regular Meeting December 2, 2019
- Special Called Meeting & Executive Session December 10, 2019
- Special Called Meeting & Executive Session December 16, 2019
- Special Called Meeting & Executive Session December 19, 2019

**4. Appearances- None**

**5. New Business**

**A. Resolution for Pilot Payments, NextEra Energy** – County Attorney presented A Resolution by Chairman James Maxwell as Amended by the Brooks County Commission Consenting to Payments in Lieu of Taxes for Quitman Solar I. Mr. Folsom made the motion to accept and adopt the Resolution for Quitman Solar I to memorialize the Agreement Consenting to Payments in Lieu of Taxes; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**B. New Vehicle Spend Request; Chief Smith, BCFD** – Chief Smith presented a request to proceed to look for a vehicle; and inquired if the Board had any specific request. He stated he can look at new or used vehicles; and inquired if there is a monetary limit. On the motion by Mr. Folsom the Board unanimously approved to allow Chief Smith to proceed with looking at vehicles for Brooks County Fire Department, red in color; with markings; and bring bids/quotes to the Board, Mr. Cody seconded.

**6. Unfinished Business - None**

**7. County Administrator Notes/Comments**

**A. LMIG 2020 Application Submitted** – County Clerk and Mr. Ben DeVane completed and submitted the 2020 LMIG Project List; and submitted to GDOT.

**B. USDA RFP for Lease Proposal has been received; 120 pages** – Administrator informed the Board the lease is currently under review for submission.

**C. Courthouse Move** – The buildings have been acquired, and leases have been signed for rental properties to house the Courthouse Staff, Sheriff's Office and CID while the Courthouse is being renovated.

**D. Open Positions**

- **Frontline Staff, Road Department**
  - **Equipment Operator (2 Vacancies)**
  - **Vehicle Technician (1 Vacancy)**
  - **Truck Driver (1 Vacancy)**
- Director, Nutrition Center (currently scheduling interviews)
- Supervisor, Maintenance of Buildings/Plants (currently scheduling interviews)
- Road Superintendent, Road Department (accepting applications until January 30, 2020)  
Okefenokee Occasion; January 15, 2020, Atlanta, GA

**8. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

A. Rhett Rowe - District 1 – Wished everyone Happy New Year; and this will be a good year.

B. Patrick Folsom, District 2 – Thanked everyone for coming; and wished a blessed New Year.

C. Willie Cody, District 3 – Road Department take a look a Hamm City Road.

D. Myra Exum, District 4 – No comment.

E. James Maxwell, District 5 – Stated that all Boards correlates with the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners put members on and can take them off.

**9. Executive Session – Personnel**

The Board closed the regular meeting to go into executive session at 6:30 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Folsom, seconded by Mr. Cody.

No action was taken.

**10. Adjournment** - Mr. Cody made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:07 p.m.; Mr. Folsom seconded.

Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman  
Ms. Jessica McKinney, Administrator  
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk