

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., in the Administrator's Office located at the Brooks County Administration Building, located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. The meeting was held via Zoom. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman. Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; and Ms. Myra Exum were present via Zoom. Others present were: Mrs. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources, via Zoom; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents via Zoom.

**Due to the emergency condition brought on by the increase in COVID-19 cases, which affects public safety, this meeting was held via teleconference (Zoom).**

**Public Hearings – NONE**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order; and lead all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board amended the agenda for September 13, 2021 on the motion by Mr. Maxwell; seconded by Mr. Cody, by moving #4, Appearances to #5, New Business; and #5 was moved to Appearances. Vote was unanimous.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Ms. Exum, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the following meetings:

- Special Called Meeting July 30, 2021
- Regular Monthly Meeting August 2, 2021
- Public Hearing & Work Session August 11, 2021
- Public Hearing August 11, 2021
- Public Hearing & Special Called Meeting August 23, 2021
- Special Called Call August 26, 2021
- Special Called Meeting/Executive Session/Work Session September 1, 2021

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Caterpillar Renewals – Motor Graders** – Paul McSwain, Caterpillar, presented the renewal options for two motor graders from Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation. The County has the option to buy back the motor graders at cost of \$125,000 each or lease two new ones. County can rent the two machines; Caterpillar will reduce the rent at 50% until the new motor graders come in. Mr. McSwain stated the new motor graders should be in by December 2021. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to remain with Caterpillar for the renewals; the funds will come from the Road Department FY2021-22 budget; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**B. GDOT – Notification – Requesting Information Regarding Historic Properties for Quitman Sidewalk & Drainage** – Administration received a letter from GDOT requesting information on historic properties for GDOT Project Quitman Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements. GDOT is in the beginning stages of project development for these proposed transportation projects. GDOT has determined that because of the nature and scope of the undertakings, the proposed projects have the potential to cause effects to historic properties; if such properties exist in the project area. No action was taken; for informational purpose.

**C. County Surveyor Resolution – Adopt/Approval –** County Attorney read Resolution 21-R-8, for County Surveyor to be appointed and not elected. The Resolution needs to be presented to local legislature to change the County Surveyor from elected to an appointed position. On the motion by Ms. Exum, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 21-R-8, A Resolution to Authorize the County Surveyor to be Appointed; and to be presented to Legislature.

**5. APPEARANCES**

**A. Don Spencer – Name Change for CR9 (Tyson Lane) to Harlow Lane** –Mr. Spencer appeared to request a name change for CR #9 (Tyson Lane) to Harlow Lane during the July 12, 2021 meeting. The name change will be in memory of his granddaughter. County Administrator provided Mr. Spencer with a copy of the Policy on Naming Public Buildings, Lands, Roads and Bridges in Brooks County. He has completed the application; informed there will need to be a public hearing; and of the cost. Ms. Exum made the motion to proceed with the request for public hearing to begin the process to change the name of CR9 (Tyson Lane) to Harlow Lane; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Broadband Review** – Two Broadband companies, Hargray Fibers and Windstream, appeared to present their information and proposal to the Board regarding broadband services. The State may provide grant funding for the project through an application process. Representative for Hargray Fibers stated 6 years ago they expanded fiber optic, telephone; and cable services throughout the local area; to include Hahira, Tifton, along Highway 133 corridor in Brooks County and Kinderlou Forest. The application process has been extended to October 31, 2021. They have service in 24 states; and no overseas call centers.

Mr. David Wall, Windstream, stated they service 3,700 households in Brooks County and have 136 miles of fiber. Windstream will build off what is already in Brooks County; as they have a large investment in Brooks County and City of Quitman; and will serve as many as they can. They have always been the local telephone company. Mr. Wall further stated the County will need to request \$21,900,000 to partner with Windstream; and they would request \$13.9 million State funding and add \$8 million out of their pocket. They have two call centers in Georgia. Mr. Wall commented he is looking forward to a partnership with Brooks County.

Ms. Exum inquired as to how many residents will receive service. Mr. Wall responded that everyone will receive 1GB of service. He added, it will increase the tax digest, level the playing field with Valdosta; and make more attractive to possible residence and businesses.

**B. Jim Owens – Road Department Consultant – Update on Road Department activities:**

- LMIG 2020 Preconstruction Meeting with Scruggs Company. Discussed what avenue to start and how to finish. The start date is second week in October; approximately two weeks.
- Start from Hamlin Road to Dodd Road, to Hickory Head Road, to Coffee Road; move to Branch Road to Burton Road; and finish on Quail Run and Brookview.
- Will meet with Scruggs to discuss how to get better use out of the pavement for some of the projects discussed by the Board.
- Nothing new with JMAR Loop.
- Department been working with potholes. Mr. Cody and Mr. Folsom assisted the Road Department over the weekend covering potholes.
- Roads in Shady Acres Subdivision has had 17 inches of rain, roads are in bad shape.

- Keeping school buses moving; repairing wash outs and lot of tree removal.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Boom Mower Purchase Approval & Funding** – County Attorney read Resolution, 21-R-7, A Resolution to Authorize the Mower Lease, for Board approval. The Mower lease is for one Mower Max Boom Mower in the amount of \$211,199.00, the Lease-Purchase Agreement is with Leasing 2, Inc. The Board approved the Resolution to Authorize the Mower Lease on the motion by Ms. Exum; and seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

**7. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NOTES/COMMENTS**

**A. Brooks County Project List Review/Updates (Attached)** – The project list was attached for review; and will be attached to the agenda each meeting for review to be continuously reviewed and updated.

Farmers Market is on hold. City of Quitman has hired a new Manager; County Administrator has not met with him for discussion on this project.

Administrator has prepared several RFPs for submittal to County Attorney for review; should be complete by October 1, 2021.

**B. Fire Chief Announcement/Introduction** – County Administrator introduced the new Fire Chief for Brooks County Fire Department, Mr. Ralph Catlett. The new Fire Chief stated he is looking forward to getting started to making Brooks County a better place to live. Chief Catlett and Administrator have met and had a long discussion regarding the issues faced with. Chief Catlett will start his new position on Monday, September 20, 2021. Mrs. McKinney stated the process and interviews were extension. She included Sheriff Mike Dewey, Ralph Manning, Fire Chief Floyd, City of Quitman; and Joe Cowart, Grady EMS; and thanked them for their involvement.

**C. County Surveyor Appointment** – County Administrator informed the Board of the appointment as County Surveyor, Mr. Stan Folsom.

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE**

**9. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

- **Patrick Folsom, District 2** – No comment.
- **Willie Cody, District 3** – No comment.
- **Myra Exum, District 4** – Commented on her appreciation to Mr. Folsom and Mr. Cody in their effort assisting the Road Department.
- **James Maxwell, District 5** – Commented he will follow up with the Board of Education regarding moving the GED class to the Board of Education.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Exum made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:23 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Mrs. Jessica J. McKinney, County Administrator  
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk