

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, August 1, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., in the Courtroom at the Brooks County Courthouse, located at 100 East Screven Street, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman, Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Ms. Myra Exum; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were Mrs. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney; and various residents.

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS – SIGN-IN SHEET

A. Road Abandonment – Old Pavo Road – There was no one present against the abandonment of Old Pavo Road. Mr. Gary Allen spoke for the abandonment stating that cats and dogs are thrown out, dope deals are conducted, there is drug use; and the road stays wet. Mrs. Deborah Allen stated they are the only one with a driveway and goes down the road.

Mr. Jason Deorick also spoke in favor of the road abandonment. He stated the road has not been serviced well and asked the Board's consideration of approving the abandonment and the residents will take on the road for their use.

B. Road Abandonment – Giddens Road – Mr. Tim Brady was the only sign-in for the Giddens Road abandonment. He stated that people shine lights, eat lunch on the road and leave the garbage, there is drug paraphernalia, and the road goes nowhere.

Chairman closed the public hearings at 5:10 pm to go into the regular meeting.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order. Pastor Gwen Jarriel, Brooks County Ministerial Association, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Chairman called for a vote to amend the agenda under New Business to delete item 8C, Quotes for Side Arm Cutting, this item was deleted on the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Larko. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman also wanted to amend the agenda to delete items 5A, Chairman Report from Development Authority, and 5B, Chairman Report from Board Elections because neither Chairman was present to give a report, Mr. Larko made the motion, Mr. Cody seconded. Mr. Larko amended his motion to leave the items on the agenda in case they showed up, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mrs. Exum, the Board unanimously approved/accepted the following minutes:

A. Regular Monthly Meeting	July 11, 2022
B. Special Called/Work Session FY2022-2023 Budget	July 13, 2022
C. Special Called/FY2022-2023 Budget	July 15, 2022

4. INVITED GUESTS - NONE**5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS – (5 MINUTES)****A. Chairman Report- Development Authority** – Not present.**B. Chairman Report – Board of Elections** – Not present.**C. Fire Chief Catlett – Brooks County Fire Department** – Chief Catlett provided an overview to the Board of activities of the Fire Department for July 2022:

- Performed 21 inspections and 56 out of 110 Pre-Fire plans.
- Call volume was down, but still averaging roughly 40 to 45 calls per month.
- Three Fire Fighters have been out due to COVID.
- Placed the new Engine 1 at the South Brooks Station. The new Engine 7 will be placed in Station 7 in August.
- Sponsored a First Responders Blood Drive.
- Continuing to prepare for the ISO evaluation in October.
- Training consisted of drivers training and operation of tools and equipment.
- Hose tested 16,000 feet, have 17,600 in inventory.
- Hydrant testing is 90% complete.

D. Matt Connolly – Road Department Superintendent – Updated the Board on Road Department activities/projects for July 2022:

- Completed grading 200 roads.
- Dug out pipes and replaced culverts.
- Both dump trucks are in service.
- Acquired a truck load of cold mix, there was a price drop; have been doing potholes since last Friday.
- Would like a Release of Liability form created to use when pulling vehicles out of ditch.
- Hired a Foreman, Robert Vick, who is an expert at running equipment.
- Side Arm cutting is behind. Looking at what can get for the Boom Max Mower.
- Cleaned Jamar where there are no water lines to be hit/ran over.

Chairman wanted the public to know we are waiting on the water company regarding moving the water lines. In the past the company has stated they would move the lines at no cost to the county; but now are saying they do not know anything about saying they would pay for the water lines removal. County Administrator is continuing to have conversation with the water company; she does not want the burden of cost passed on to the citizens and is doing the best to take care of the citizens. Administrator stated the cost should not solely rest on the county. The goal is to have something from the water company for the Board by September meeting. Chairman referred to County Attorney and asked what is the legal obligation of the water company and was there any liability when they put the lines on the road? County Attorney responded there is possibility of liability.

E. Jason Montesano – Inspections & Permits – Provided a report of permits issued and inspections performed. Approximately 30 permits and inspections for the month of July 2022 totaling \$10,894.00.

6. CONSENT AGENDA – NONE

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Road Abandonment – Old Pavo Road – Mr. Larko made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Exum, to approve the abandonment of Old Pavo Road between Tallokas Road and Pleasant Hill Church Road. There will be no cost to the County. Vote was unanimous.

B. Road Abandonment – Giddens Road – On the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously approved the abandonment of Giddens Road located north of Shea Drive. There will be no cost to the County.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2023 LMIG Program – Notification has been received from GDOT they will begin accepting applications for the FY2023 LMIG Program in July 2022. The formula for the County for FY2023 Program is \$736,364.10 and local match is 10%. Each local government is required to match this formula amount in accordance with Code Section 48-8-244(d). All electronic LMIG applications must be received no later than February 1, 2023.

The Board discussed scheduling a work session and authorized Road Department Superintendent, Matt Connolly, to provide a list of prioritized roads to be reviewed/discussed for the 2023 LMIG Project Road List to be submitted to GDOT.

B. ACCG 2022 Legislative Leadership Conference Voting Delegate – ACCG sent an official call for the business session at the ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2022 at Jekyll Island Convention Center. The purpose of this session is to consider policies to be adopted by the membership and other business that may come before the body. Each county may appoint a voting delegate (commissioner or county staff) to cast its county's vote. The form appointing the voting delegate for Brooks County needs to be completed and returned no later than Friday, August 26, 2022.

After discussion, Mrs. Exum made the motion to appoint Commissioner Larko as the voting delegate for Brooks County to cast the county's vote during the ACCG 2022 Legislative Leadership Conference being held at Jekyll Island; Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Cell Tower in Morven – The owner of the cell tower in Morven wants to sell the tower and is giving the county the opportunity to buy. Administrator informed the Board she has reached out to the owner to make sure the offer is still good, but has not heard back from him. This item was tabled until September's meeting on the motion by Mr. Larko; seconded by Mrs. Exum. Vote was unanimous.

D. City of Quitman – Land Exchange – Administrator received an email from the legal counsel of the City of Quitman expressing their interest in the property owned by the county that's next to the City. The City of Quitman is proposing to the Board a land exchange due to signing over their portion of the Farmers Market to the County. Their interest is to acquire as an even exchange for the Farmers Market property. Mr. Maxwell commented that Brooks County committed funds to clean up and bring the Market up to par. The City has not shared or contributed to the cost of the improvements and this will not be an equitable exchange as other things that are valuable and would not be the same for the Farmers Market. After discussion, Mr. Maxwell made the motion to not do a land exchange with the City of Quitman, Mr. Larko seconded. Vote was unanimous.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Daniel & Franz Rowland – County Farm Lease on Old Madison Road (Fritzke Farm) – Daniel & Franz Rowland submitted a request to appear regarding the county farm they are renting on Old Madison Road, the Fritzke Farm. The farm lease is for three years and expires December 31, 2022. Mr. Franz Rowland stated the land is run down it needs lime and to be fertilized to keep the soil maintained; and they cannot do what they need to within the three-year lease. They are asking the Board to consider when the lease is up; to give them the opportunity to top the last bid. Chairman suggested that maybe the County Attorney can write something up. County Attorney, Jason Kemp, questioned how many years did they have in mind, or did they just want the right to out bid? County Attorney will look into the legalities and get back with the Board.

B. Karen Spell – Driveway – Oliff Road – Ms. Karen Spell appeared to address concerns regarding her driveway on Oliff Road and if it is within the county's right-of-way for maintenance. Initially 25 ft. of right-of-way was given to allow for electrical, phone lines servicing from the road to Ms. Kelly's property line. The county does not maintain driveways.

C. Danny Black – Oliff Road Issues/Concerns – Mr. Black was not present. Ms. Kelly stated his concerns was related to her concerns.

D. Bobbie Beverly/Melissa & Herbert Hart – Special Exception for Temporary Use of RV as Residence – Ms. Beverly and the Harts were informed an application would need to be completed and would need to go before the Planning Commission first. They were advised that County Attorney would look at the Ordinance.

E. County Administrator Updates

- Will work on preparing a release of liability form for the Road Department.
- Reminded the Board of need to set dates to begin LOST negotiations.
- Chamber of Commerce has contacted the Administrator in regard to use of the Courthouse grounds for the upcoming Skillet Festival.

F. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Wished everyone a safe summer.

- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – Thanked everyone for attending.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – Thanked everyone for attending.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – Reminded everyone of school opening and back-to-school buses on the roads and to be safe.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – Commented to Mr. Turner to hold on in regard to Jamar Loop. Thanked everyone for attending.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE**

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:43 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman
Mrs. Jessica J. McKinney, County Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk