

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, January 3, 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; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Lee Larko. Ms. Myra Exum was present via telephone. Others present were Mrs. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

Public Hearings – None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order; and asked Mr. Charles Dave to 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 approved the agenda for January 3, 2022. Vote was unanimous.

3. CHAIR & VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS

A. Nominations/Election – Chairman (Attorney Leads) – County Attorney, James Burchett, took the lead for the yearly organizational meeting for the Board until the Chairman is elected. Mr. Burchett opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Maxwell made the motion nominating Mr. Folsom. County Attorney called for any other nominations, there were none; nominations were closed. Mr. Burchett called for the vote. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody, Ms. Exum; Mr. Folsom; and Mr. Larko voted yes. Vote was unanimous for Mr. Folsom to serve as Chairman for 2022.

B. Nominations/Election of Vice Chairman (Chair Leads) – Chairman Folsom opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Cody made the motion nominating Mr. Maxwell. Chairman called for any other nominations; there were none, nominations were closed. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Cody, Mr. Maxwell, Ms. Exum; Mr. Folsom; and Mr. Larko voted yes. The vote was unanimous for Mr. Maxwell to serve as Vice Chairman for 2022.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved/accepted the minutes of the following meetings:

- Special Called/Executive/Work Session December 1, 2021
- Regular Monthly Meeting December 6, 2021

5. APPEARANCES – (5 Minutes)

A. Charles Dave – Elections – Elections Superintendent, Charles Dave, appeared to inform the Board that Governor Kemp signed into law the new redistricting maps. He advised not to contact the State; they will distribute State maps.

B. Jim Owens – Road Department – Updated the Board on Road Department activities/projects:

- Due to not having a lot of rain in the last few weeks; had a jump on the culverts when we got rain.
- Stated he appreciate the phone calls regarding road issues and encouraged the calls to let him know and can get taken care of.
- Thanked 911 Director, Ms. LaToya Hampton, for working together and providing updates during the rain over the weekend. There were trees down and the wind was high.

C. Fire Department – Chief Catlett – Updated the Board on Fire Department activities/projects:

- Pump testing is complete. Have 8 certified Pumpers including the two new ones.
- Hose testing is also complete.
- Will pick up Rescue Truck from the City.
- Training is ongoing and on track for Fire Fighter certifications.

D. Development Authority – Stephanie Williams – Director, Development Authority, Mrs. Stephanie Williams, appeared to provide update/overview of their activities.

- During 2020 started community outreach and continued thru 2021; and have success with what has been accomplished.
- Created jobs in small businesses and expansion.
- Had a prospect the end of 2020 thru 2021; but it fell thru; they went to Florida.
- Yot Waters will expand and hire 30-35 employees next month; and will continue to expand further.

E. Cynthia Huewitt – Community Foundation – Washington Street Gym – Ms. Cynthia Huewitt, Washington Street High School Alumni, appeared to make a presentation to the Commissioners for Washington Street Gym. Washington Street High School was a Black school from 1959-1970. Ms. Huewitt stated the gym is the only thing left of the school. The Development Authority provided \$7,500 to the Alumni to help with the flooring of Washington Street Gym. Ms. Huewitt advised the Board that the funds are available to Brooks County; just let the Alumni know when get ready to use to repair the floor at Washington Street Gym.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2022 Board Appointments – The Board made the following Board/Committee appointments for FY2022:

Boards/Committees

Brooks County Library Board	Mr. Willie Cody
Brooks County Airport Authority	Mr. Lee Larko
Brooks County Board of Health	Mr. James Maxwell
Council on Aging	Ms. Myra Exum
Coastal Plain Area, E.O. A.	Mr. James Maxwell
Chamber of Commerce	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Regional Commission Board	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Dept. of Family & Children Services	Ms. Myra Exum
Mid South RC & D Council	Mr. Lee Larko
Lowndes-Valdosta MPO	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Recreation Department	Mr. Willie Cody
South Regional Joint Development Authority Board	Ms. Myra Exum
ACCG Appointment	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Seven Rivers RC & D	Administrator

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the 2022 Board/Committee appointments, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Building Assignments

County Admin Building	Mr. James Maxwell
Agriculture Building & Annex	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Courthouse	Mr. Lee Larko
Sheriff's Department (Jail & C.I.D.)	Ms. Myra Exum
Public Works	Mr. Willie Cody
Voting Precincts	Mr. Lee Larko
E-911 Center	Mr. Willie Cody
Multi-Purpose Building (Head Start & Senior Center)	Mr. James Maxwell
Fire Departments	Ms. Myra Exum
Washington Street Gym	Mr. Willie Cody/Mr. James Maxwell
Boys and Girls Club	Mr. Cody

Other Appointments for 2020

County Attorney	Burchett & Kemp, LLP
County Auditor	Mr. Gary Zeigler
County Surveyor	Mr. Stan Folsom
ADA Coordinator	Mr. Jim Owens
Safety Coordinator	Chief Ralph Catlett

DFACS Board – District 2	Ms. Molly Radford (June 2024)
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)
Board of Health (6 yr. term)	Ms. Toni Brinson (12/31/2022) Ms. Shelley Kirkendoll (12/31/2027) Ms. June Furney (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. Jack Harrell (Dec 2022) Mrs. Stephanie Williams (Dec 2023)
Tax Assessor's Board	Dr. Gerald Golden (Dec 2025) Mr. Ralph Manning (Dec 2024) Mr. Melvin DeShazior (Dec 2022)
Elections Board	Mr. Zurich Deshazior (Dec 2025) Ms. Karen Murray (Dec 2023) Mr. Don DiStefano (Dec 2022)
South Georgia Community Service Board	Ms. Gerry Folsom (Sept 2024)
Brooks County Development Authority (3 yr. term)	Mr. Tim Crosby (Dec 2025) D1 Mr. Jack Harrell (Dec 2023) D2 Mr. Ulysses Marable (Dec 2022) D3 Mr. Derren Yearby (Dec 2024) D4 Mr. John LaHood (Dec 2024) D5 Ms. Marie Horne (Dec 2023) D6 Ms. Erin McKenzie (Dec 2025) D6
Appointment to Behavioral Health Board (3-year term)	Mr. Donnie Ware (Dec 2024)
Quitman – Brooks Co. Airport Authority	Rep. John LaHood (July 2023) Mr. Robin McDaniel (July 2023) Mr. Lee Larko (July 2023)

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the Law Firm of Burchett & Kemp, LLP as Brooks County legal counsel, Mr. Larko seconded. Vote was unanimous.

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved Gary Zeigler as County Auditor.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to delete County Engineer appointment; change to County Surveyor; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Jim Owens was appointed as ADA Coordinator on the motion by Mr. Maxwell; and seconded by Mr. Larko. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Maxwell motioned to appoint Fire Chief Ralph Catlett as Safety Coordinator; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

On a motion by Mr. Maxwell, Ms. Toni Brinson was appointed to the Board of Health to serve out the term of Dr. Cunningham, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Shelley Kirkendoll was re-appointed to serve on the Board of Health for another 6-year term, expiring December 31, 2027 on a motion by Mr. Maxwell; seconded by Ms. Exum. Vote was unanimous.

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, Ms. June Furney was appointed to the Board of Health to serve out the term of Dr. Ricky Rowe, expiring December 31, 2023, Ms. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The motion was made by Mr. Maxwell to re-appoint Mr. Tim Crosby and Ms. Erin McKenzie to serve another 4-year term each on the Development Authority Board, Mr. Larko seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Donnie Ware was unanimously re-appointed to serve another 3-year term on the Behavioral Health Board on the motion by Mr. Maxwell; and seconded by Mr. Cody.

B. Quotes – Diesel Fuel Tank @ Road Department – Three quotes were submitted for a diesel fuel tank at the Road Department:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Freeman Brothers Tank MFG, Inc/Petroleum Products, Inc. | \$ 5,388 |
| 2. Coastal Plains Farmers Co-op, Inc. | \$ 7,625.50 |
| 3. Akins Petroleum | \$ 10,335 |

Discussion pursued as to Freeman Brothers/Petroleum Products being the only bid that did not include EPA compliance. County Administrator inquired if Mr. Owens could confirm/clarify if the EPA compliance is included in the quote; then their quote would be considered. Mr. Owens recommended rejecting all the quotes and re-do to include specifications. Mr. Maxwell stated that would not be fair. Ms. Exum inquired of Mr. Owens if a spill over is already in place; if not it would be an additional cost; Mr. Owens

confirmed it is. After further discussion, Ms. Exum made the motion to accept the bid from Coastal Plains Farmers Co-Op for the 2,000-gallon diesel fuel tank at the Road Department in the amount of \$7,625, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ACCG New Annexation Law – Adopt Resolution (If Interested, by Second Week of Jan. 2022) – During the December regular meeting, Ms. Exum motioned to table this item until the January 2022 meeting. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to support ACCG with the changes to annexation law in Georgia; and adopt the draft resolution supporting changes to Georgia's annexation law, particularly the arbitration/dispute resolution process, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Quotes – Striping List – During the December regular meeting, the quote from Peek Pavement was tabled on a motion by Ms. Exum until final review of an RFP for road striping. The Board requested Mr. Owens to provide a list of roads needing to be striped. During the special called meeting on December 28, 2021; Mr. Owens presented a Road Striping List for review. The only quote received is from Peek Pavement Marketing. After discussion, County Attorney advised that a total amount is needed for the entire project. Mr. Larko made the motion to table until we have knowledge of cost, Ms. Exum seconded. Mr. Maxwell questioned why table when we have a quote? Mr. Maxwell also addressed his concern as being a safety issue due to the lines on the edge of the roads are not visible to citizens/residents that travel the roads. Chairman advised to have a special called meeting when Mr. Owens calculate an amount of cost for the Striping List. Mr. Cody commented we do not need to wait 30 days to call a meeting to decide. Chairman called for a vote. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Cody opposed. Chairman, Ms. Exum, and Mr. Larko voted yes. Vote was 3 to 2. After discussion, Board agreed to have a special called meeting. Chairman called for another motion. Mr. Larko made the motion to table only until we get information on the approximate total cost and decide at the called meeting; Ms. Exum seconded; and stated to get as many quotes as possible. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Cody opposed. Chairman, Ms. Exum and Mr. Larko voted yes. Vote was 3 to 2.

C. Ordinance – Burnt House Violations – During the December regular meeting; the Burnt House Ordinance was tabled until January meeting. County Attorney advised the Board they need to affirmably vote to put the Ordinance into effect. Ms. Exum made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-02-02, the Burnt House Ordinance, Mr. Larko seconded. Vote was unanimous.

D. 2022 LMIG Project Road List – The Board discussed the proposed draft of the 2022 LMIG Project Road List that was presented during the December regular meeting. The list is incomplete; does not contain cost for each road or projected schedule date. A special called meeting is schedule for Monday, January 10, 2022, at 5:15 p.m. to complete the list. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the list as written with the stipulation to get the start and end points on the roads and a cost estimate, Mr. Larko seconded. Vote was unanimous.

7. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NOTES/COMMENTS

A. Brooks County Project List Review/Updates (Attached) – No changes to the Project List. The updated project list was attached for review; and will be attached to the agenda each meeting for review to be continuously reviewed and updated.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

9. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Patrick Folsom, District 2** – Thanked everyone for attending.
- **Willie Cody, District 3** – No comment.
- **Myra Exum, District 4** – No comment.
- **James Maxwell, District 5** – Wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- **Lee Larko, District 1** – No comment.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:19 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

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