

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023, 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 – not present, 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 HEARING – NONE

2. CALL TO ORDER

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Vice Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:04pm. Pastor Nick Hampton, Brooks County Ministerial Association, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously approved the following minutes as read:

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| A. Brooks County BOC Facilities | January 30, 2023 |
| B. Regular Monthly Meeting | February 6, 2023 |
| C. Special Called Meeting/Work Session | February 23, 2023 |
| D. Executive Session | February 23, 2023 |

4. INVITED GUESTS – (5 MINUTES)

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Development Authority – Stephanie Williams – Support of Community Heart & Soul Ms. Williams requested to appear to request the Board’s support of their endeavors by committing to engagement in events, representation, coordination, etc. Community Heart & Soul is a residential driven process that engages the entire population in identifying what they love most about their community. It presents an opportunity for getting everyone voices heard. Ms. Williams stated that all Councils have voted to approve. The Development Authority has designated funds to match the grant. Ms. Williams requested a motion to support their endeavors and coordinating of events. Due to this request not being on the agenda, this item was tabled.

B. Brooks County Fire Department Report - Fire Chief Catlett – Chief Catlett provided the monthly report for February 2023:

- Responded to 56 calls for service for the month of February.
- Conducted a briefing of the departments 2023 Goals and Objectives to all officers.
- Working with BCT Cotton Gin personnel on fire protection improvements.
- Working on water storage tanks at three stations, stations 2, 10, and 7) that do not have them.
- Progressing on Phase II of getting larger tanks operational and outfitted to respond on all first alarm structure fires.
- Career firefighters received 396 hours of training.

- Volunteer received 72 hours of training.
- Conducted 1410 hose drills with career firefighters and volunteers.
- Hazmat operations course completed.
- Firefighter II class scheduled for March; seven firefighters enrolled.
- Pre-fire plans – 96 out of 112 completed.
- Inspected all volunteer stations and apparatus.

C. Brooks County Building Inspections & Permits – Jason Montesano – Mr. Montesano provided a report for February 2023 consisting of structures of new homes, sheds, pools, mobile homes, and culverts. Total revenue for February 2023: \$21, 470.00. Also presented revenues for electronic payments from May 2022 to February 2023 in amount of \$22,976.00. Total amount for Buildings & Permits revenue from May 2022 to February 2023 is \$139,602.00.

D. Public Works Department Report – County Administrator – Copy of report of Road Department activities for February 2023 was provided.

- Grading and ditching was performed on roads 269 times.
- There were 8 driveways/culvert repairs.
- 16 tree calls received.
- 26 Beaver dams projects.
- Total of 22 clearing of pipes and outfalls.
- 36 calls for potholes, 24 repaired; 195 bags of cold patch used.
- 49 signs replaced; 33.5 loads of lime rock, sand and clay used.
- 12 - 911 calls received and 10-811 calls.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. HB 199 – Vice Chairman requested a motion to amend the agenda to add HB 199. Mr. Larko made the motion to amend agenda to add HB 199 under Consent Agenda, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

County Attorney informed the Board the Governor asked for a new statement supporting HB 199, will need a motion/vote to affirm. On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously affirmed/approved to change HB199 from electing a surveyor to appointing a County Surveyor.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Intergovernmental Agreement – City of Quitman – Inert Landfill – This topic was tabled during the special called meeting on February 23, 2023. The City of Quitman has approached the County regarding the use of the burn area inside the recycle center. The City contracts with Deep South, Deep South wants to dump materials at the landfill. County Attorney has drafted an Intergovernmental Agreement that both parties can give notice of termination. After discussion, the Board requested County Administrator to call to find out what other counties are charging for natural elements only. Thomasville Solid Waste charges \$35.00 to \$40.00 per ton. Hauling is an additional fee of \$175.00 on top of tonnage rate. Brooks County does not have the ability to weigh tons. Mr. Larko made a motion to charge \$30.00 per ton to go into the burn pit. Discussion began on what to charge per ton. Mr. Larko rescinded his motion. Mr. Vann

advised that we need to determine what type of vehicle will be used and need to do trial runs to know how to charge. After discussion, Mr. Larko made a motion to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Quitman to use the burn pit based upon the information and fees to charge \$30.00 per ton, Mrs. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Referendum – Alcohol Sales – During the work session on February 23rd, the Board discussed putting a referendum on the ballot for the 2024 general primary election. On the motion by Mr. Larko, to approve a Resolution to place a Referendum for Alcohol Sales for Brooks County on the ballot for the next general primary election in 2024, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved.

B. Use of Courthouse Grounds – Juneteenth Celebration – Mr. Maxwell requested this item be placed on the agenda for the Juneteenth Celebration on June 19, 2023. Mr. Cody made the motion to approve/accept the request for a group to use the Courthouse grounds for the Juneteenth celebration, Mr. Larko seconded. The vote was unanimous.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Phillip Gilcrest – Mr. Gilcrest submitted a request to appear for the consideration of the Board for a yearly contribution for next fiscal year for operating costs of Weirton Transit. Mr. Gilcrest was not present.

B. Edward Lamons – Paving Hodges Road Leading to Beulah Hill Missionary Baptist Church - Mr. Lamons submitted a request to appear regarding paving of Hodges Road leading to Beulah Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Having difficulty leaving and entering the church, road difficult to drive on wet or dry, residents in community not feeling safe driving on the road. Mr. Lamons asked the Board to please consider paving Hodges Road. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody, and the Administrator met with GDOT Representative and was advised to call Senator Golden; and make sure property owners are willing to give right-of-way. Due to that being an issue previously and causing the road to not get paved. Mr. Maxwell advised that Hodges Road would only be paved 1.64 miles leading to Beulah Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

11. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administrator Updates - None

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – No comment.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – Not present.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – Stated he was glad Mr. Lamons came forth.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – Informed that due to paving on Augusta Drive, trash pickup is delayed until tomorrow.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – Commented happy everyone came.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Removed from Agenda

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Larko made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 5:53 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman

Mrs. Jessica J. McKinney, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk