

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting and Executive Session on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 1:30 p.m., in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson; Mr. Joe Wingate, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Mr. S. L. Jones; and Mr. James Maxwell. Others present were: Mr. Justin DeVane, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; and various residents.

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Exum called meeting to order.

2. **Unfinished Business**

**A. Proposed Opioid Litigation** – During the regular meeting, Vann Parrott, County Attorney, addressed the Board of possible Opioid Litigation that is being headed up by an area attorney that the County may have interest in. Attorney Rob Howell, Conley, Griggs, Partin, LLP appeared with Attorney Haynes Studstill, Studstill Firm, LLP to present information to the Board. Ms. Haynes presented an Agreement for Legal Services and a Resolution. The Law Firms are authorized and instructed to pursue all civil remedies against the manufacturer and/or distributors of prescription opioids responsible for the opioid epidemic that is that is plaguing the County. The Law Firms shall receive one-third of the gross recovery or any amount the Client receives directly or indirectly. In the event nothing is recovered for this Claim, directly or indirectly, the Law Firms shall be paid nothing for services rendered for this Claim, thus, no fee if there is no recovery. The Board reviewed the Agreement and Resolution; and approved/authorized Chair Exum to sign the Agreement and Resolution for Opioid Litigation on the motion by Mr. Maxwell; seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Parliamentary Procedure Ordinance** – During the regular meeting; Vann Parrott, County Attorney, addressed the Parliamentary Procedure Ordinance as it pertains to the Chair's position when voting. County Attorney advised the Board that for future reference they need to change the ordinance so that the Chair can vote. A memo was sent out by County Attorney; but some Board members did not receive it. After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Maxwell this item was tabled until Board review the memo from County Attorney, Mr. Cody seconded. Due to County Attorney's absence; this item was tabled for more discussion on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

3. **New Business**

**A. Purchase Used 6140M John Deere Tractor** – Mr. Allen, Road Superintendent, asked the Board to consider purchase of a 2014 John Deere Tractor for mowing crew at Road Department. The tractor is used and has about 2,000 hours; has a bucket and can have a grapple installed which can be used for cleanup. The price is \$72,925 for tractor and accessories; with County receiving trade-in of \$10,000, for a total purchase price of \$62,925. On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody; Board unanimously approved the purchase of a 2014 John Deere 6140M Tractor from

Ag-Pro Tractors for \$62,925; with 50% (\$31,462.50) of funds coming from Road Department Budget and 50% (\$31,462.50) from Contingency.

**B. Fire Chief Position** – The Board discussed modifying the Fire Chief job description. After discussion, Mr. Maxwell made the motion to change the minimum qualifications of Fire Chief job description to read: "Knowledge and level of competency equivalent to two (2) years of on the job experience which counts for one (1) year college education", Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

On the motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board approved promoting current Fire Coordinator; Jordan Smith, to Fire Chief with salary increase of \$3,000.

**C. Purchase Used Fire Truck** – Administrator presented a 1997 Spartan Quality Pumper Fire Truck in amount of \$45,000 to be purchased by Fire Department. After discussion, Mr. Jones made the motion to approve/authorize Administrator's recommendation to set \$60,000 for Fire Budget to purchase additional Fire Truck, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**D. Letter of Interest and Proposed Use – Georgia Forestry Building Jackson Rd**  
Administrator prepared a letter of interest to the Georgia Forestry Commission regarding interest in property on Jackson Road. Brooks County Fire Department is interested in working with Georgia Forestry Commission in obtaining the building for use as a fire station and possible headquarters for the department. Should Forestry Commission choose to work with Brooks County, we will honor and protect the bond debt as necessary. Mr. Maxwell motioned authorizing Administrator to send letter to Forestry Commission stating Brooks County's interest in the property on Jackson Road; Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board closed the special called meeting to go into executive session at 2:18 p.m.

#### **4. Executive Session – Personnel**

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to go out of executive session and return to special called meeting at 2:36 p.m.; Mr. Wingate seconded.

The Board unanimously promoted and hired within to appoint Mr. Charles Dave as Elections Supervisor on the motion by Mr. Maxwell; seconded by Mr. Cody and Mr. Wingate. Mr. Maxwell motioned to set salary same as former Elections Supervisor, Ken Collins, Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**5. Adjournment** - Mr. Cody made the motion to adjourn special called meeting at 2:39 p.m.; Mr. Wingate seconded.

Ms. Myra Exum, Chair  
Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator  
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk