

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, January 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman; Mr. Patrick Folsom, Vice Chair; Ms. Myra Exum; Mr. Rhett Rowe; and Mr. Willie Cody. Others present were: Ms. Patricia Williams, Interim County Administrator/County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; and various residents.

PUBLIC HEARING - None

WORK SESSION – Chair Exum called Work Session to order.

Reports from Committees/Departments

A. Stephanie Hollifield – Extension Office – Ms. Hollifield provided report on activities for December 2018:

- December was busy planning winter production meetings for Brooks County producers.
- Continued conducting field work, primarily with nematode sampling and analysis in vegetable production.
- The second semester meeting of Brooks County Extension Leadership System was also held.
- Stephanie and Michasia attended the Brooks County Pork Producers meeting on December 18th. The Extension team looks forward to 2019, and remains committed to Brooks County community with great goals, plans, and continued growth and opportunities.
- Andrea Duncan, Brooks County 4-H Educator held meetings at both Quitman Elementary and North Brooks Elementary Schools on December 11th, 12th, and 13th.
- Cloverbud 4-H continues and met on Tuesday, December 11th for monthly meeting.

B. Bobby Christian – Building and Maintenance – Provided report on Buildings and Maintenance projects:

- Administration Building front entrance door needs replacing. Received two bids for this project; three bids were solicited; but one bidder withdrew his bid.
- Roof at Health Department has been an on-going problem for at least two years. Several vendors have been contacted (6); but only two provided bids.
- Lights and fixtures in County buildings are being replaced with LED Flat Panels instead of ballasts and bulbs; which is a cost saving to the County.
- The Fountain at the Courthouse continues to leak. It has been worked on by two different companies; and the leak still exists.
- The 4-H Room at the Ag Building where the kids do activities needs some repairs; plugs need to be removed; needs painting and carpet replaced.

- Washington Street Gym still has problems with floor buckling again; due to rain coming inside of windows. A bid was submitted for the entire floor in amount of \$35,000 - \$41,000.
- Requested Board consider hiring a part-time person to assist him with maintenance and grounds up-keep.

C. JJ Allen – Road Superintendent – Presented report for December 2018:

- The recent rain has caused delay in daily road projects; having to start over after the rain. The roads are wet and some are washed out; have been putting rocks out. Some roads are passable; and some remain closed; five roads are still closed. It is hard to get done with all the water and rain.

D. Ben DeVane – County Surveyor/Engineer – Updated the Board on projects:

- Looked at the problem with water running at Recycle Center in Morven; there is a problem getting in and out. Morven City Clerk presented the proposal to the Mayor. Mr. DeVane will meet with the Mayor to explain the situation and see what they will allow the County to do. Awaiting to hear from Morven to proceed.
- The ad for bids for the 2018 LMIG will go out next week.

E. Mike Smith – 911 and EMA Director – Call for Service Report 2018:

- 2018 – 23,000 calls for service were received; which is high compared to other counties.

Chair closed Work Session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:51 p.m.

1. Call to Order – Ms. Exum called meeting to order.

A. Prayer & Pledge – Pastor Freeman, Keys of Life, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. 2019 Board Appointments

A. Nomination and Selection of Chairman and Vice Chairman

County Attorney opened floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Cody nominated Mr. Maxwell. Mr. Rowe nominated Ms. Exum. Ms. Exum motioned to close nominations; Mr. Rowe seconded. County Attorney called for the vote for Mr. Maxwell as Chairman. Mr. Cody, Mr. Folsom, and Mr. Maxwell voted yes; 3 votes. Mr. Maxwell was appointed Chairman for 2019.

County Attorney opened floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr. Maxwell nominated Mr. Folsom for Vice Chair; Mr. Cody seconded. Mr. Rowe nominated Ms. Exum for Vice Chair. Mr. Maxwell motioned to close nominations; Mr. Cody seconded. County Attorney called for vote Mr. Folsom as Vice Chair. Mr. Cody, Mr. Maxwell; and Mr. Folsom voted yes, 3 votes. Mr. Folsom was appointed to serve as 2019 Vice Chair.

B. Board Appointments for 2019

Boards/Committees

Brooks County Library Board
Brooks County Airport Authority
Brooks County Board of Health
Council on Aging
Coastal Plain Area, E.O. A.
Chamber of Commerce
Regional Commission Board
Dept. of Family & Children Services
Mid South RC & D Council
Lowndes-Valdosta MPO
Recreation Department
South Regional Joint Development
Authority Board
ACCG Appointment
Seven Rivers RC & D

Mr. Willie Cody
Mr. Rhett Rowe
Mr. James Maxwell
Mr. Rhett Rowe
Mr. James Maxwell
Mr. Rhett Rowe
Mr. James Maxwell
Mr. Patrick Folsom
Mr. Rhett Rowe
Mr. James Maxwell
Mr. Willie Cody

Ms. Myra Exum
Ms. Myra Exum
Administrator

Building Assignments

County Admin Building
Agriculture Building & Annex
Courthouse
Sheriff's Department (Jail & C.I.D.)
Public Works
Voting Precincts
E-911 Center
Multi-Purpose Building
(Head Start & Senior Center)
Fire Departments
Washington Street Gym
(Boys and Girls Club)

Ms. James Maxwell
Mr. Patrick Folsom
Mr. Patrick Folsom/Mr. Rhett Rowe
Ms. Myra Exum
Mr. Willie Cody
Mr. Rhett Rowe
Mr. Willie Cody

Mr. James Maxwell
Ms. Myra Exum

Mr. James Maxwell/Mr. Rhett Rowe

Motion was made by Mr. Cody approving 2019 Board Appointments; Ms. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Other Appointments for 2019

County Attorney
County Auditor
County Engineer

Parrott & Mitchell Law Firm
Mr. Gary Zeigler
Mr. Ben DeVane

Assistant County Engineer	Mr. Mark DeVane
ADA Coordinator	Mr. Billy Ingram
Safety Coordinator	Fire Department
EMA Director	Mr. Mike Smith
Station #1100 Chief	Ms. Jessica Warren
Station #1200 Chief	Mr. Tom Eggers
Station #1300 Chief	Vacant
Private Appointment to SGRC Board (Joint w/ Quitman)	Vacant
Library Board Appointments (3 year term)	Ms. Patty Hancock
	Mr. Johnnie Brown
DFACS Board Member Appointment – District 1	Ms. Linda Peterson (April 2014)
DFACS Board Member Appointment – District 2	Ms. Dorris Thompkins (June 2015)
DFACS Board Member Appointment – District 3	Ms. Armetta C. Waller (until Dec 2022)
DFACS Board Member Appointment – District 4	Ms. Ann Guess (until Nov 2022)
DFACS Board Member Appointment – District 5	Ms. Mary Thomas (June 2013)
Library Board Appointments (3 year term)	Mr. John Johnson (until July 2021)
Brooks, Colquitt, Grady, Mitchell, and Thomas Joint DA	Vacant
	Mr. Buddy Holwell (Nov. – Dec 2018)
	Ms. Tiffany Holmes (Nov. - Dec 2019)
Tax Assessor's Board	Dr. Gerald Golden (Nov – Dec 2021)
	Mr. John Stalvey (Nov – Dec 2019)
	Mr. Dan Graham (until Dec 2020)
Elections Board	Mr. Zurich Deshazior (until Dec 2021)
	Ms. Karen Murray (Dec – until 2018)
	Mr. Don DiStefano (Dec – until 2019)
South Georgia Community Service Board	Ms. Gerry Folsom (2020)
Brooks County Development Authority	Mr. Henry Burton
	Mr. Buddy Holwell (until Dec 2019)
	Delphanie McGhee (until Dec 2019)
Appointment to Behavioral Health Board (3 year term)	Mr. Reg McCutcheon (until July 2021)
Quitman – Brooks Co. Airport Authority	Mr. Kenny Baker (until 2023)
	Mr. Timmy Hiers (until 2023)
Revolving Loan Fund Board (CDBG EIP)	Ms. Gina Wynn
	Ms. Andrea DeSantiago
	Ms. Delphanie McGhee
	Mr. Greg Squires
	Mr. Chuck Ramsey

The other appointments for 2019 were approved on the motion by Mr. Cody; and seconded by Ms. Exum. Vote was unanimous.

3. Approval of Agenda

A. January 7, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting – Ms. Exum made a motion to approve the agenda and amend to move from New Business, 5A Haddock Road, to 6A Unfinished Business; Mr. Rowe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

3. Approval of Minutes

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

- B.** Monthly Work Session & Regular Meeting December 3, 2018
- C.** Special Called Meeting & Executive Session December 18, 2018

4. Appearances

A. Pat Hawkins – Administration received a request from Ms. Pat Hawkins to appear regarding concerns with Pine Branch Lane and water running onto Knights Ferry Road. She states her property is full of water. The water does not run naturally; it is stopped up. After discussion, the Board authorized County Engineer to go out and look at the situation and bring report to the Board.

B. Tiffany Holmes – Development Authority – Request to Amend Minutes - Solar Project – Ms. Holmes appeared on behalf of NextEra Energy to request the Board to amend the minutes from the September 10, 2018 regular meeting regarding the Special Exception for the Quitman Solar Project. NextEra wants to be sure they fulfill all commitments made and don't want it to be said they did not do what they said they would.

The minutes from September meeting read: “with the condition that all abutting property shall be buffered with a fast growing vegetation buffer in place around the project”.

NextEra requested the minutes be amended to read: **“with the condition that a fast growing vegetation buffer be installed along the eastern boundary of parcel 049-0033 to buffer Barwick Road, and along the northern boundaries of parcel 049-0033 to buffer the adjacent residential property”.**

After discussion, Mr. Folsom made the motion to amend the minutes from the September regular meeting per request of NextEra Energy to read:

On the motion by Mr. Wingate; seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved the Special Exception request by Quitman Solar, LLC for a solar power facility on property located approximately six miles northwest of the City of Quitman on the west side of Barwick Road; with the condition that a fast growing vegetation buffer be

installed along the eastern boundary of parcel 049-0033 to buffer Barwick Road, and along the northern boundaries of parcel 049-0033 to buffer the adjacent residential property”.

Mr. Cody seconded, vote was unanimous.

B. Sheriff Mike Dewey – Purchase of Radios from Contingency and Vehicle Purchase from SPLOST - Administration received a quote from Sheriff Dewey to purchase radios for Uniform Patrol. After reviewing his budgets; there is not enough funds in either of his departmental budgets (Administration, Uniform Patrol, CID, Narcotics) to make the purchase of \$3,680.00. The Board will need to consider approving the funds to be appropriated from Contingency; and amend the budget to transfer out of Contingency to the general supplies line item in Uniform Patrol.

On the motion by Ms. Exum, seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board unanimously approved to appropriate funds from Contingency; and amend the budget to transfer funds in the amount of \$3,680 out of Contingency to the general supplies line item in Uniform Patrol budget.

Sheriff Dewey stated to Administration he is in need of vehicles for his Department; and asked the Board to consider purchasing vehicles out of SPLOST. Sheriff provided quotes from Cass Burch for two new 2019 Dodge Durangos at cost of \$31,919 each; and two used Chevrolet Tahoes from Dealership in Florida in the amount of \$17,900 each. The total request being \$99,638. Discussion began as to where the funds would come from to equip the four vehicles; which would be approximately \$60,000. Board agreed upon the purchase of four vehicles from SPLOST; but advised the Sheriff and Administration to get together and try to find a solution for funding to equip the vehicles.

5. New Business

A. Bids for Front Door of Brooks County Administration Office – Mr. Bobby Christian, Building & Maintenance Supervisor, presented two bids to replace the front door of the Administration Office Building. Three bids were submitted; but one bid was withdrawn by the vendor due to demolition and codes/regulations. The two bids submitted were:

Glass Pro	\$5,572.85
All Phase Construction	\$5,572.85

Ms. Exum made the motion to accept the bid from Glass Pro for \$5,572.85 to replace the front door of the Administration Office Building; and funds will come from Contingency Fund; Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Quotes for Equipment – Road Department - Administration received quotes from Road Supervisor, Mr. JJ Allen to purchase equipment (Mack Truck and Trailer) for your consideration. This is a request that has been pending for a while due to funding. Mr. Allen presented quotes from Flint for 2019 John Deere Motor Graders for lease option. With trade-ins, the County will not have to make a payment for a year. The 2019 Deere 670G Motor Grader without the Sloper is \$208,329.12; Flint will give the County \$28,000 for the CAT 12H Motor Grader; with remaining balance of \$180,329.12; with five annual payments of \$20,789.72 with first year in arrears. The Deere 670G Motor Grader with the Sloper is \$241,594.96; Flint will give the County \$58,000 trade-in for the CAT 12M Motor Grader; with remaining balance of \$183,594.96; with five annual payments of \$19,433.60 with first year in arrears. Mr. Folsom made a motion to approve the trade-in of the CAT 12H Motor Grader (\$28,000) for the lease of the 2019 Deere 670G without Sloper; and trade-in of the CAT 12M Motor Grader (\$58,000) for the 2019 Deere 670G with Sloper; with the trade-ins no payment will be due for a year; and funds for lease payments will come from SPLOST funds; seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Allen also presented a quote from TransPower, Inc. for a new Mack Truck in the amount of \$134,890.92, with fixed interest rate for two or three year term. Discussion began on where funds would come from; and following the County Purchasing Policy for this amount of purchase. After discussion, Mr. Rowe made the motion to put out an ad for an RFP (Request for Proposal) for the Tractor/Trailer per County Purchasing guidelines, Ms. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Appointment to Brooks County Board of Health – Administration received a request from Ms. Patrina Bowles, Georgia Department of Public Health, requesting an appointment on the Brooks County Board of Health to fill the vacancy of Dr. Michael Sopt (Physician Appointed by County), who has resigned. The person filling this position will complete Dr. Sopt's term, which expires December 31, 2023. A detailed description of eligibility to fill this position was provided. Mr. Maxwell made the recommendation to appoint Dr. Ricky Rowe to the Board of Health. He has spoken with Dr. Rowe and he would like to serve on the Board. Mr. Cody made the motion to appoint Dr. Rowe to the Brooks County Board of Health to fill the position to complete Dr. Sopt's term, which expires December 31, 2023; Ms. Exum seconded. Mr. Rowe abstained from voting, due to being related to Dr. Rowe. Vote was unanimous.

D. Cell Phones for Commissioners – Newly elected Commissioners, Mr. Folsom and Mr. Rowe, inquired about County cell phones due to concerns regarding the Sunshine Law and Open Records. County Attorney advised that having a County cell phone will not free them from the Sunshine Law or records request. The Board asked Administration to look into the cost of the phones.

E. Solid Waste Contract Renewal – Advanced Disposal – Board discussed the service being received from current provider, Advanced Disposal. The Commissioners

and Office Staff are being flooded with calls from citizens regarding the service being received. Board discussed the possibility of not renewing the contract with Advanced within the contract renewal period; and will have to notify Advanced before June 1st.

6. Unfinished Business

A. Haddock Road – Mr. Folsom discussed the condition and problems with a portion of Haddock Road. The road is eroding and flooding on his property; and has been in bad condition for some time; and he cannot get any answers or a conclusion to the problem. He just wants some type of remedy or something done to remediate the problems and issues. After discussion, the Board authorized County Engineer to go out, and look at the issues, cost, and repairs; and see what can be done.

7. County Administrator Notes/Comments

A. Applications for County Administrator Position – Interim Administration advised Board that the applications have been packaged and will be given to them after the meeting to start their review.

8. Executive Session – None

9. Commissioners Notes/Comments

Chairman allowed Mr. Zurich DeShazor to present information regarding the NAACP Georgia State Conference, 1st Annual Congressional District 8 Parental Involvement Summit, to be held at the Brooks County Board of Education on February 2, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

A. Rhett Rowe - District 1 – Commented that his first meeting was interesting and entertaining; and he looks forward to many more.

B. Patrick Folsom, District 2 – Thanked all for listening to his concerns regarding Haddock Road; and hopefully a solution can be found.

C. Willie Cody, District 3 – No comment.

D. Myra Exum, District 4 – Thanked for letting her serve as Chair; and has enjoyed serving as well.

E. James Maxwell, District 5 – Commented meeting with all department heads; and working with the City.

9. Executive Session – None

10. Adjournment - Mr. Cody made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:45 p.m.; Mr. Exum seconded.

Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Interim Administrator/County Clerk