

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Public Hearing; Special Called Meeting and Workshop on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. in the Auditorium located at the Brooks County Ag/Extension Building. Commissioners present were: Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Rhett Rowe. Mr. Patrick Folsom, Vice Chairman was present via telephone. Mr. Willie Cody was not present. Others present were: Ms. Jessica J. McKinney, County Administrator; and Ms. Patricia Williams; County Clerk; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

A. Public Hearing – Chairman called public hearing to order. The purpose of the hearing is to set millage rates for FY2020-2021.

1. The millage rate for the unincorporated area for FY2020 is 12.4608, for FY2019 it was 13.1490. The incorporated area millage rate is 14.4685 for FY2020; and was 15.2520 for FY2019. The FY2020 millage rate will generate \$324,980.00 in additional revenue; which will be used for much needed projects and items requested by departments that were not funded when the budget was set. We had to wait until the digest came. The FY2020-2021 budget will be amended to reflect the increase.

The Development Authority's millage rate currently is .393. The Board is proposing an increase to .05 for FY2020. Their funding has been cut by \$75,000 due to the City of Quitman terminating their funding. The Board is proposing the Development Authority get the additional funding from taxes rather than Brooks County General Fund. The .05 millage rate will allow for additional funds in the amount of \$233,575.00.

Chairman inquired if any one present would like to speak or have questions? Questions asked were: Will the millage rate offset taxes due to property value going up? What specifically will the additional funds be used for?

County Administrator advised that some of the projects to be funded include vehicles for Sheriff's Department, Turn out Gear for Fire Departments, vehicles and equipment for Road Department.

Chairman closed the public hearing at 5:37 pm; and called the Special Called meeting to order.

B. Special Called Meeting

1. **Adopt Development Authority Millage Rate** - Discussion began on the millage rate for the Development Authority due to the fact they have not accepted the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) presented to them. County Attorney informed the Board he submitted the IGA to Development Authority; they want two (2) changes: 1) omit the 60 day notice for termination by either party, and want the mill set to one mill for next three (3) years, and all future years. The Board did not agree to the changes; County Attorney will go back to Development Authority advising the Board will keep the original IGA; and hold their funds in escrow.

2. Adopt Millage Rates – FY2020-2021

Ms. Exum made the motion to set millage rates for FY2020; Mr. Rowe seconded, vote was unanimous.

Unincorporated	12.4608
Incorporated	14.4685
Board of Education	14.811
Briggs Fire District	0.00
Development Authority	0.05

3. ROW Mowing Contract Amendment – Litter Pickup – Board discussed amending the ROW Mowing Contract awarded to Green Maintenance and Cleaning, Inc., Lake City, FL, to include litter pickup. The Contractor quoted a price for Board to consider; which would increase the bid quote by \$44,839.89 per cycle for litter pickup and cutting; this will increase the contract from \$97,544.82 to \$134,519.67 which still puts the awarded bid below the bids received. The proposed quote for the increase was received by County Administrator, Ms. McKinney, via email. Upon a motion by Mr. Rowe, seconded by Ms. Exum, the Board unanimously accepted the amendment to the ROW Mowing Contract with Green Maintenance and Cleaning, Inc., increasing the contract from \$97,544.82 to \$134,519.67 pending a formal proposal from the Contractor. The Contractor stated to Administrator the ROW mowing will start September 8, 2020.

4. Discussion on CARES Act Reimbursable Expenditures – Funding has been established for counties and cities for reimbursable expenditures in two phases related to COVID-19 supplies. There are a lot of questions and is continuing to learn what the funds can be spent for. Purchases have to be in hand by September 1, 2020; which is difficult to get right now. Brooks County has been approved for \$569,752.22. The reimbursement for Phase 1 will be 30%; which Brooks County has been approved to receive. Phase 2 reimbursement will be for the remaining funds. Administrator is requesting Board approval of expenditures for COVID-19 supplies. Salaries for Uniform Patrol, Jail, Fire Department and paid benefits are reimbursable under the CARES Act. The list of items to spend includes: Foggers (\$270 each); Misting Units (\$5,340); additional supplies are gels, wipes for all buildings (\$4,277); AI Temp Readers for Administration Building, Courthouse, Ag Building and Jail (\$11,881); laptops (10 @ \$13,999); 2 tablets (\$2,499.98); 25 webcams (\$1,999.75). Ms. Exum made a motion to approve the expenditures for COVID-19 supplies to be reimbursed by CARES Act, Mr. Rowe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Workshop

1. Monthly Meeting Agenda Review for September 14, 2020 – Board discussed the agenda for the Monthly Meeting to be held September 14th.

a. Cameras at the Courthouse was added to New Business

- b. Removal of Elections Board Member will be added under Unfinished Business

On the motion by Ms. Exum, seconded by Mr. Rowe, the Board adjourned the Workshop at 7:04 p.m.

Ms. James Maxwell, Chairman
Ms. Jessica J. McKinney, Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk