

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., at the Ag Building Auditorium located at the Brooks County Ag/Extension Building. Commissioners present were: Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman; Mr. Patrick Folsom, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Ms. Myra Exum. Mr. Rhett Rowe was not present. Others present were: Ms. Jessica McKinney, Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney.

1. Special Called – Chairman called the meeting to order. Mr. Cody led all in attendance in prayer.

A. Grady EMS Subsidiary Renewal – County Administrator presented the renewal for the Emergency Medical Services Agreement with Grady EMS; which expires July 31, 2020. Brooks County is currently compensating the ambulance and emergency medical services \$375,000 annually. Grady EMS is requesting an increase in the renewal Agreement of \$75,000, which would total \$450,000 annually. They are basing the increase on the fact they have not received an increase since providing service for the past five years. After such a huge increase, Ms. McKinney, Administrator, wanted to put the service out for bid; but discovered we cannot. When the prior EMS Service sold the company to Grady, the license for this zone was also sold; and because Grady holds the license, we cannot bid out service. There are no changes to the renewal agreement only the cost to do service. Administrator advised the Board there is room for discussion as to what they would like to do. Does Brooks County want to get license back? Or do you want to pay the increase? Administration has spoken with an individual and was told it is possible to get the license back.

Ms. Exum stated Brooks County should own the license; and should be able to bid out the service. Chairman agreed by stating that Brooks County needs to be in control. Chairman asked the Board if they are willing to continue to pay current amount or accept the increase. Administrator advised the Board that due to Grady owning the license for the zone, we are not obligated to accommodate their increase request. Brooks County can continue to pay the \$375,000 for service. Brooks County cannot afford to pay the \$75,000 increase request. Mr. Folsom made the motion to continue paying Grady EMS \$375,000, we cannot afford the increase; authorized Administrator to follow-up on obtaining the license back; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Health Plan Renewal Recommendation – Administrator and County Clerk met with current provider, Harris Tennyson, Holwell & Fletcher, in regards to the County's Employee Health Plan Renewal for FY2021. Mr. Tennyson presented the renewal from Cigna; and an alternate quote from Aetna. The renewal from Cigna is a 13.7% increase. There is no increase for the life, dental and vision. With Aetna the out of pocket expense will increase, deductible increased; and there will be a co-insurance payment even after the deductible is met. Administration asked the Board to consider suspending our Purchasing Policy so we can look elsewhere; and get other bids to see if we can provide a better option for employees. Mr. Cody made the motion suspending the Purchase Policy in order for Administration to seek other bids on the County's

Employee Health Plan; and Mr. Folsom supported the recommendation by Administrator with a second. Vote was unanimous.

C. Request to Release RFP for Lawn Services – Brooks Service Center has been providing lawn care service for Brooks County buildings until COVID-19 pandemic. At this time they are not sure when they will be back in service. Chairman discussed Brooks County engaging in an Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Quitman. Ms. Exum made the motion to approve releasing an RFP for lawn service Brooks County Buildings; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Amendment to Agenda – Ms. Exum made a motion to amend the agenda to include RFP for right of way grass cutting for paved roads, Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous. Ms. Exum made the motion to approve an RFP for Brooks County Right of Way Paved Roads, Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous.

D. Budget Review/Adoption Timeline Discussion

a. Administrator present a Budget Summary to the Board for review. Revenues are up and Expenditures are down. Department Heads have met with Administrator and advised of their requests for FY2021.

b. Summary of Initial Projections and Requests for FY2021

c. Request for Budget Workshop on June 3, 2020 – Board agreed to meet on June 2, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

d. Request for Final Review and Adoption of Budget on June 24, 2020 – Board agreed to review final budget and adopt budget on June 24, 2020 at 9:00 am.

10. Adjournment - Mr. Exum made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 11:37 a.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

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