

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting and Workshop on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Auditorium located at the Brooks County Ag/Extension Building, located at 400 East Courtland Avenue, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Rhett Rowe. Mr. Patrick Folsom, Vice Chairman; was present via telephone. Others present were: Ms. Patricia Williams; County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources, Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney; and various residents.

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman called the meeting to order. Mr. Cody led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. **Special Called Meeting**

**A. The Right-of-Way Contract (Bid Open)** – The Right-of-Way Mowing Contract with Green Maintenance and Cleaning was terminated. An RFP was released to the Quitman Free Press for the Right-of-Way Mowing Contract. Only one bid was received from Randy Becton, R & G Tree Service & Land Maintenance, LLC, in the amount of \$205,718.40 for the total contract price. The cost per acre is \$60.00 and total cost is \$68,572.80 per cycle; which includes three cycles. Mr. Rowe commented of the increase in cost from the last bid submitted by R & G Tree Service; and asked Mr. Becton if he is prepared and ready. Mr. Cody also inquired if he has everything needed to start; and if he is ready to go. Mr. Becton stated he is ready to start and has everything except for the Performance Bond. Ms. Inquired where are the funds coming from since it is not in the budget; only \$160,000 was budgeted for. Mr. Folsom made the motion to waive the three bid process requirement of the Brooks County Purchasing Policy, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Cody made the motion to accept the bid for the Right-of Way Mowing Contract from R & G Tree Service & Land Maintenance, LLC in the amount of \$205,718.40, seconded by Mr. Folsom. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Cody, Mr. Rowe, and Mr. Folsom voted yes. Ms. Exum opposed. Vote was 3 to 1.

**B. Haddock Road Abandonment Finalization** – On the motion by Ms. Exum, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board approved execution of the Resolution for the land swap in connection with the Haddock Road Abandonment. Mr. Folsom abstained from voting.

**C. Brooks County Schools Road Signs Funding (TSPLOST)** – Brooks County previously agreed to share in the cost for road signs for Brooks County School System. An invoice was presented in the amount of \$6,470.00. The Board unanimously approved to split the cost of the signs, Brooks County Schools will pay one-half, \$3,235.00; and Brooks County will pay \$3,235.00 of the invoice from TSPLOST, Mr. Folsom made the motion and Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**D. Boys & Girls Club Funding (Contingency)** – A previous request in the amount of \$10,000 for assisted funding for the Boys & Girls Club was presented to the Board. The Development Authority has agreed to assist with funding in the amount of \$7,500. Chairman stated the County will provide the balance of \$2,500 to assist. Mr. Folsom made a motion to approve \$2,500 for the Boys & Girls Club funding; and funds will come from Contingency Fund, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**E. NextEra Energy – Project Update – Quitman Solar II** – Representatives from NextEra Energy appeared to provide an update on the Quitman Solar II project. Mr. Griffin, Project Manager, introduced himself and stated he will be leading the development of Quitman Solar II project; and looks forward to being in the community. He provided a projected schedule and advised

that the litigation is over; and they are moving forward. In mid-December a construction trailer should be on site; and early January 2021 posts for panels will be installed. Early February will be clearing, grubbing; should have electricity; and operations should start around mid-November 2021.

**F. Adopt the Resolution for the 5311 Grant** – County Clerk is in process of preparing the FY2022 5311 Transit Grant to submit to GDOT by December 7, 2020. Each year the Board has to adopt the Resolution to include in the grant application. Mr. Folsom made the motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Filing of an Application with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the United States Department of Transportation for a Grant for Public Transportation Assistance Under Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5311, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**G. Board Approval of:**

- i. New Year's Eve Holiday (Approved in 2019)
- ii. Longevity Pay for County Employees
- iii. County Holiday Employee Appreciation Event Approval
  1. Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020
  2. Time: 6:30p – 8:30p
  3. Location: The Oasis
  4. Catering: Big Nick's, Southern Buffet
  5. Early Office Closure of 3:00p

County Administrator provided the Holiday schedule and office closures:

November 26, 2020 – Thanksgiving  
November 27, 2020 - Day-After Thanksgiving  
December 24, 2020 – Christmas Eve  
December 25, 2020 – Christmas Day  
December 28, 2020 – Bonus Christmas Holiday Leave Day (per Personnel Handbook)  
December 31, 2020 – New Year's Eve (pending approval, confirmation will follow)  
January 1, 2020 – New Year's Day

Ms. Exum questioned the extra day, December 28<sup>th</sup>, holiday leave, stating that the Personnel Policy needs to be reviewed before next year. Ms. Exum made a motion to not close on December 31<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Eve, but can close early at 3:00p, Mr. Rowe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The longevity pay for County employees was approved on the motion by Ms. Exum; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The County Holiday Employee Appreciation Event changed due to the surge in COVID-19. Instead of being held at the Oasis Event Venue, it will be done as drive-thru where the food will be prepared/served by Big Nick's; and the offices will close early at 3:00p. The employees will still receive the longevity pay, gifts; and food. Mr. Folsom questioned this change stating why the employees cannot have a choice as to whether or not they want to attend the event if held at the Oasis Venue? He was advised this item would be looked at again and consider his suggestion.

The special called meeting was closed at 5:47p to go into the Workshop for the December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting on a motion by Mr. Cody and seconded by Mr. Folsom.

3. **Executive Session - None**

4. **Workshop**

A. **December 7, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting Agenda Review/Approval**

**Changes to the Agenda:**

5. **Appearances:**

B. Gary Couch – Missing Signs on Augusta Road – Board asked Administration to give Mr. Couch a call to find out what specifically he wanted to discuss regarding missing signs.

6. **New Business**

D. **RFP Bid Reviews/Discussion**

b. Right of Way Mowing (Open Bid) – was deleted from agenda, due to being voted on in the special called meeting.

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board adjourned the Workshop at 6:07 p.m.

Ms. James Maxwell, Chairman

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk