

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., in the Auditorium at the Brooks County Ag/Extension Building located at 400 East Courtland Avenue, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman; Mr. Patrick Folsom, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Rhett Rowe. Others present were: Ms. Jessica McKinney, Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

Public Hearing – Haddock Road Abandonment

Chairman called the Public Hearing to order. A sign-in sheet was provided for those wishing to speak for or against the abandonment of Haddock Road.

Ms. Linda Folsom, property owner, presented her issues to the Board. She stated she was not notified of the changes. She cannot access her property due to the land lock. The culvert fills with dirt when it rains; had to remove 80 of her trees on property; the telephone lines were moved; and now ATVs has access to her property.

There was no one else present to speak. Chairman closed the Public Hearing at 5:08 p.m. to go into the Regular Meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order. Mr. Cody led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On the motion by Mr. Folsom, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add Removal of Appointment to Elections Board, under item 7, Unfinished Business.

Ms. Exum made the motion to amend the agenda to add Sheriff Department Vehicles under item 7, Unfinished Business, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Exum motioned to approve the agenda for September 14, 2020 with the amendments, Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous.

3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENTS

A. Jim Owens – Road Department Consultant - Reported the Road Department has been mowing with the 10 foot mower purchased by the County in an effort to improve visibility for residents until the Contractor begins. The Department has also opened drainage pipes. He further stated they are doing best they can with a decreased crew; but thanks to Administration for advertising positions; and one person has been hired.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the following meetings:

- Regular Monthly Meeting August 3, 2020
- Special Called Meeting August 13, 2020
- Emergency Special Called Meeting August 21, 2020
- Special Called Meeting August 25, 2020

5. **APPEARANCES**

A. PD Duncan – Memorial Day Flag Dedication – Mr. Duncan requested to appear to present a project to initiate within the County a Memorial Day Flag Dedication for the Board's consideration of adopting the tradition for the County. The Dedication would be sponsored by the local VFW Post. The sponsorship is \$50.00 and is tax deductible. The Sponsor would receive a flag and a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Folsom made the motion to approve the sponsorship for Brooks County, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Barry Best – Renaming of Bourquine Road – Administration received a request from Mr. Best to appear to discuss the possibility of renaming Bourquine Road to it's original name River Road. Mr. Best was not present. County Attorney informed the Board the County does not have a process in Zoning for renaming roads; one would have to be established. Therefore, he recommended tabling this issue. Mr. Folsom made the motion; Ms. Exum seconded, to table the issue until the next regular meeting. Vote was unanimous.

C. Recardo Davis – Use of Armory Field for Youth Organization Football League – Mr. Davis appeared to discuss use of the ball field located behind the County Administration Building for local youth organization team practices/games. Mr. Davis stated, if permission is granted, they will be responsible for keeping area cleaned and mowed. County Attorney advised the Board of the need for waiver of liability; he would meet with the team and parents for signatures. This item was tabled for the Attorney to get with Mr. Davis to prepare the waiver on the motion by Mr. Folsom; seconded by Mr. Rowe. Vote was unanimous.

D. Scott Johnson – Excellence Exceeded YTD Projects and Funding Updates – Mr. Johnson provided the Board an update on capital projects and plan of financing.

Current Projects

Courthouse Renovation – Bid has been awarded to Barber Contracting; and initial assessment has been completed and estimates provided. Items to be completed: stop water intrusion in clock tower, seal all windows, re-caulk all openings, paint entire exterior, paint entire interior, replace flooring and roof tiles as needed, enclose vestibule. Project is over approximately \$69,000 over budget. Currently being valued

engineered to bring the project within budget. Construction to begin within 14 days of notice to proceed (early October 2020).

Agriculture/USDA/Extension Building – Schematic layout complete. Elevations being produced. Currently at 15% of design. Once the footprint is approved, civil work will begin. Project is currently on time and within budget. Construction to begin early 2021.

Future Projects

New Administration Building – Site has been identified and land purchased. Funding must be identified before an RFP for design/construction can be issued. Construction could begin as soon as mid-2021.

SPLOST Projects

Referendum is being held in November 2020. Assuming the tax is approved, Commissioners/Staff will need to develop a Capital Improvement Project list consisting of the following categories; transportation projects including the construction, repair, and maintenance of transportation infrastructure; building construction, renovation and maintenance; community and recreation projects; Public Safety projects including upgrades and improvements for the Fire Department, Sheriff's Office and EMA; and vehicles and equipment, for the Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, Public Works, and other Board of Commissioners' departments. Projects can begin as soon as revenue is collected.

TSPLOST Discretionary Projects

Budget: \$4,922,600 Constrained Projects Band 1 (2018-2022)
\$4,000,000 Constrained Project Band 2 (2022-2025)
\$6,407,447 25% Discretionary over the life of the SPLOST (2018-2028)

Band 1 Projects consist of the following: Webster Road sidewalks and drainage; Barwick Road sidewalks and drainage, North Highland Street sidewalks and drainage; North MLK Street sidewalks; South Court Street sidewalk. All projects should begin no later than 2022. Band 2 Project, DeVane Road bridge replacement, widen, and resurface must occur between 2022 and 2025. Discretionary money is currently available. Commissioner/Staff should create a project list to use these funds. Band 1 Projects and Discretionary funds may be expended at this time.

Mr. Johnson provided an overview of funding options. Excellence Exceeded has explored options for financing and is prepared to give the Board recommendations for both financing and the servicing of the debt. Mr. Johnson provided two structures for consideration, a general obligation bond and an annual appropriation lease. General obligation bond will require a voter referendum, not earlier than March 2021. An annual appropriation lease does not require a voter referendum; there is no limitation on timing.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ag Building Concept/Design Presentation – The RFP was awarded to SC Barker Construction and A+B Architects. A presentation of the concept/design of the new Ag Building was presented for Board's discussion and approval to move forward to the construction phase. After review and discussion, Ms. Exum made the motion to approve the footprint and floor plan for the new Ag Building, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Haddock Road Abandonment – On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Ms. Exum, the Board unanimously approved to proceed with the abandonment of a portion of Haddock Road located off of Empress Road; specifically, the portion that runs through the parcel currently owned by Wilcox Farm, LLC. Mr. Folsom recused himself from voting due to conflict of interest.

C. Bid Review/Vote: LMIG Contractor Award (Ben DeVane) – Three bids were submitted for the 2019 LMIG Road Projects:

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| 1. | H & H Paving, LLC | \$ 891,031.38 |
| 2. | The Scruggs Company | \$ 896,604.55 |
| 3. | Reames & Son Construction Co. | \$941,308.90 |

Ms. Exum made the motion, Mr. Cody seconded, the Board waived the requirements of the County Purchasing Policy to approve and award the bid for the 2019 LMIG to The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$896,604.55. Vote was unanimous.

D. Bid Consideration for Purchase of Mower for Sanitation Department (Bob Vann)

Mr. Robert Vann, Solid Waste Department, presented bids for a tractor:

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| 1. | Ag Pro | John Deere MX10 Lift-Type | \$ 6,895.00 (w/o weights/bracket) |
| | Ag Pro | John Deere MX10 Lift-Type | \$ 8,200.00 (w/ bracket/weights) |
| | Ag Pro | John Deere MX10 Lift-Type | \$ 10,519.00 (w/ bracket/weights) |
| | Ag Pro | John Deere MX10 Lift-Type | \$ 8,897.30 (w/ bracket/weights) |
| 2. | Lasseter Tractor Co. | 2020 John Deere MX10 Lift-Type | \$7,000.00 (mower only) |
| | | | \$8,500.00 (w/ bracket/weights) |
| | Lasseter Tractor Co. | 2020 John Deere HX10 Lift-Type | \$8,500.00 (mower only) |
| | | | \$10,000.00 (w/ bracket/weights) |

After discussion, Mr. Folsom made the motion to approve the purchase of the John Deere MX10 Lift-Type Mower from Ag Pro for \$6,895.00, but up to \$8,200.00 if the brackets and weights are needed, and funds will come from Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, Mr. Rowe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

E. Quitman Housing Authority Use of Recycling Center – Administration received a letter from Housing Authority of the City of Quitman requesting use of the Recycle Center located in Brooks County. After meeting with Administrator, the Housing Authority has agreed to pay a service fee charge of \$300.00 to \$350.00 per month to cover costs and additional roll offs when and if needed. Mr. Folsom made the motion to approve the request from Housing Authority of the City of Quitman to use the Brooks County Recycle Center for a service of \$300.00 to \$350.00 per month, Mr. Rowe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Bid Review/Vote: RFP for Road Department Vehicles – Bids were solicited for vehicles for Road Department, Sheriff's Department and Administration; but only one bidder submitted bids, Cass Burch Auto Group.

Mr. Folsom made the motion, Mr. Rowe seconded, the Board unanimously approved/accepted the bid from Cass Burch to purchase three (3) 2020 Ram 2500 Crew Cab Trucks in the amount of \$29,940 each (\$89,820.00); and one (1) 2020 Ram 5500 Crew Cab Chassis for \$49,292.00; also accepted the trade-in allowance for two (2) Ford F250s (\$18,000 and \$35,000), and waived the three (3) bid requirement of the County's Purchasing Policy; and funds will come from General Fund.

Sheriff's Department Vehicles - Mr. Folsom made the motion, Mr. Rowe seconded, the Board unanimously approved/accepted the bid from Cass Burch to purchase five (5) 2021 Chevy Tahoe Pursuits with Police Package in the amount of \$38,133.00 each (\$190,665.00); and waived the three (3) bid requirement of the County's Purchasing Policy; and funds will come from SPLOST #6.

Administration Vehicle - On the motion by Mr. Folsom, seconded by Mr. Rowe, the Board approved/accepted the bid from Cass Burch for a 2021 Chevy Tahoe Fleet Commercial in amount of \$41,651.00; waived the County's Purchasing Policy requirement of three (3) bids; and funds will come from General Fund. Vote was unanimous.

B. Appointment to Elections Board – During the August regular meeting, the Board tabled this item for the September regular meeting. Ms. Fannie McDonald was removed from the Board of Elections on the motion by Mr. Cody; and seconded by Mr. Folsom. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Folsom made the motion to appoint Mr. Don DiStefano to the Elections Board to serve the unexpired term of Ms. McDonald, Ms. Exum seconded.

C. Appointment to DFCS Board – Brooks County DFCS Director, Ms. Sky Robinson, notified the Board of need for two appointments on the DFCS Board. Ms. Mary Thomas, District 5 term has expired; has indicated an interest to continue to remain on the

Board. Ms. Dorris Thompkins, District 2, resigned her duties effective August 1, 2020. Mr. Folsom made the motion to appoint Molly Radford to the DFCS Board representing District 2, Ms. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Mary Thomas, was unanimously reappointed to serve on the DFCS Board representing District 5, on the motion by Ms. Exum, and seconded by Mr. Folsom.

D. H & H Paving Settlement (Attorney) – The Board had authorized the County Attorney to negotiate settlement in the case of H & H Paving vs. Brooks County. The County withheld payment of \$22,500 as liquidated damages for late completion pursuant to the Contract for Road System Improvements Project BCR LMIG 2018 and BCR Striping. The contract specified completion within 180 days; but was completed in 225 days. County Attorney presented the settlement amount of \$18,540.00. Mr. Cody made the motion to accept the settlement offer of \$18,540.00; Mr. Rowe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

E. Budget Amendment Review – Suggested Date for Special Called Meeting – September 29, 2020 – the budget amendment will be added to the agenda for the workshop on September 29, 2020; and other items to be discussed:

- a. Discussion of EMS Contract (Project Cost of Jackson Road Fire Station Addition)
- b. East Brooks Contract Status – County Attorney is waiting on Attorney for East Brooks.

8. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NOTES/COMMENTS

ACCG Voting Delegate for 2020 – Mr. Folsom is the voting delegate for ACCG.

Discussion: NextEra Solar Fee Exception – Administrator was contacted by the Associate Property Tax Analyst, Janice Surette, requesting leniency and waiver of the 10% penalty on their Quitman Solar personal property filing in light of COVID-19 delays. They tried in March but there was a typo in the address due to human error. It was mailed March 12, 2020; but the post office did not get it back to them until April 14, 2020. It was mailed back when they received it with the correct address. The Board of Appeals denied their request; therefore, they reached out to the Administrator. The Board agreed the issue needs to be handled by the Tax Assessor Board.

Discussion: RFP for Workmen Compensation – Administrator wants to put the County's Workers Comp insurance out to bid. Ms. McKinney inquired of the Board if that is something they would like to do. The Board directed Administrator to move forward with the RFP.

Discussion: Samsung Solar Project – Administrator informed the Board of the Samsung Solar Project in Brooks County.

Discussion – SGRC Assisting with Zoning/Planning through the end of the year - Administrator informed the Board that the SGRC is assisting the County with Zoning/Planning thru the end of the year; due to the resignation of Billy Ingram, Building Inspector/Zoning/Planning Department. Sherry Davidson, SGRC is providing relief and support addressing issues.

Update on Land Purchase – County Attorney stated the closing on the land purchase should take place by the end of next week.

Announcement – HR Coordinator Candidate Named, Start Date September 28, 2020

9. CALENDAR ITEMS TO NOTE - None

Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Rheft Rowe - District 1** – Thanked everyone for attending.
- **Patrick Folsom, District 2** – Thanked everyone for attending.
- **Willie Cody, District 3** – Commended the Board on decision to move forward Brooks County forward
- **Myra Exum, District 4** – Thanked everyone for coming. Stated the numbers for COVID-19 are continuing to come down.
- **James Maxwell, District 5** – Thanked everyone for coming out. Thanked everyone for the support, coming to his needs; and act of kindness during the loss of his wife; he stated he truly appreciate everyone.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cody made the motion to go out of regular meeting and into executive session at 7:08 p.m.; Mr. Folsom seconded.

Litigation – No action was taken.

Real Estate – No action was taken.

Mr. Cody made the motion to go out of executive session and return to the regular meeting at 7:31 p.m.; Mr. Rowe seconded.

10. ADJOURNMENT –

Ms. Exum made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:32 p.m.; Mr. Folsom seconded.

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