

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., in the Courtroom located at the Brooks County Courthouse, located at 100 East Screven Street, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman, Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were: Mrs. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

**Public Hearings** – None

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman welcomed newly elected Commissioner, Mr. Lee Larko; who was sworn in today as a result of a special election held to replace Mr. Rhett Rowe, District 1, after his resignation in June 2021.

Chairman also acknowledged the retirement of 911/EMA Director, Mr. Mike Smith, and thanked him for his dedication to Brooks County for over 34 years. Mr. Smith resigned on Friday, December 3, 2021. Chairman introduced the new 911/EMA Director, Ms. Latoya Hampton.

**Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order; and asked Mr. Jack Harrell to lead all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board approved amend the agenda for December 6, 2021 by consolidating Item A (FY2022 Board Appointments) and Item B (Board of Health Appointment) under New Business. After discussion, Board agreed to leave the agenda as is; and approved the agenda on the vote by Mr. Cody; seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Vote was unanimous.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Ms. Exum, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the following meetings:

- Regular Monthly Meeting November 1, 2021
- Special Called/Work Session November 10, 2021

**4. APPEARANCES**

**A. Jim Owens – Road Department** – Updated the Board on Road Department activities/projects:

- Mr. Owens has met with Water Company regarding JMAR Loop; and another meeting is planned.
- Some pipes will be replaced in driveways; minimal of 36 inch pipes.
- An RFP will be prepared to put the project out for bid.
- Southern Concrete is on Troupeville Road repairing a bridge; traffic has been detoured.
- Side Arm will arrive tomorrow; training will be in the morning starting on Old Thomasville Road.

**B. Fire Department – Chief Catlett** – Updated the Board on Fire Department activities/projects:

- Pumps, all hoses, air bottles; etc. have all been tested.

- Training for Firefighters has resumed.
- Mr. Trussell, from the State, visited to look at progress of the Fire Department; and was very pleased. He will return in January or February 2022; hopefully, Brooks County will be re-certified.
- Will get with Regional Commission to get maps drawn reflecting the 5 mile radius.

**C. Development Authority – Stephanie Williams** – Director, Development Authority, Mrs. Stephanie Williams, appeared to update the Board of their activities. She stated the past two years the Authority has been focused on new economic development together as a community. They have hired a Consultant, Mr. Jerome Tucker, and have been visiting cities speaking with Mayors, Councils, etc.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. FY2022 Board Appointments** – County Administrator provided an updated list of Boards/Committees for Board review to make appointments in January 2022. No action was taken. Will be accepting resumes/applications for those interested in serving on a Board/Committee to be placed in the agenda packets for January.

**B. Board Appointments – Brooks County Board of Health** – Administration received notification from Patrina Bowles, Executive Administrative Assistant to the District Health Director, outlining the two (2) Board positions for consideration by the Board of Commissioners; and requested to place both positions on the Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

Dr. C. Martelia Cunningham resigned as Consumer Advocate for the Board of Health effective June 23, 2021; she also served as Chairman of the Board.

Dr. Ricky Rowe; was sworn in January 23, 2019 as Physician; but has not had any communication with the Board since an electronic vote he submitted by email on July 6, 2020. They are unsure if Dr. Rowe wishes to remain on the Board of Health and respectfully request a representative from the Commissioners reach out to him.

The motion was made by Mr. Maxwell to appoint Dr. Nancy Dennard to serve the remaining of Dr. Cunningham's term, which expires December 31, 2022. After discussion, the Board tabled this item until the January meeting to give others that may be interested an opportunity to submit a resume/application to serve on the Board. Mr. Cody made the motion to table this appointment to the Board of Health until the January 2022 meeting; Ms. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**C. Grooverville Road – Quote from Peek Striping** – This item was placed on the agenda at the request of Mr. Maxwell for the striping of Grooverville Road by Peek Pavement. After discussion, the Board tabled this item; and requested a potential list of roads that need striping from Mr. Owens in order to prepare an RFP. Ms. Exum motioned to table the quote from Peek Pavement until final review of an RFP for road striping; Mr. Larko seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**D. 2022 LMIG Project Road List** – Mr. Owens presented a potential list of roads for the 2022 LMIG Project List for Board review:

1.	Dodd Road	3.569 Miles
2.	Shiver Road	0.603 Miles
3.	Shady Brooks	
	a. Ridgeland	0.395 Miles
	b. Parkview Circle	0.855 Miles
4.	Camp Ground	0.5 Miles
5.	Hamlin Road	2 Miles
6.	Williams Road	1.2 Miles
7.	Higgs Lane	0.362 Miles
8.	Nankin Road	1 Mile
9.	Renfroe Road	1.054 Miles
10.	Dixie Barwick Road	To Be Determined
11.	Tallokas Road	To Be Determined
12.	Barwick Road (Bd. Of Education to Airport)	1 Mile

**E. TSPLOST Project List** - Board discussed inserting Candleglow Trail to replace Dixie Road. Dixie Road is on the 2021 LMIG project list; but has been completed due to being declared an emergency by the Board. Candleglow Trail will replace Dixie Road on the 2021 LMIG Project List. On the motion by Ms. Exum to remove 0.9 of a mile for Candleglow Trail, which is on the TSPLOST Project List; and increase Nankin Road from one mile to two miles on the TSPLOST Project List; Mr. Larko seconded. Vote was unanimous. The 2021 TSPLOST Project List consists of the following:

1.	Heritage Road	0.5 Miles
2.	Nankin Road	2.00 Miles
3.	Meadow Lark Road	0.4 Miles
4.	Branch Road	1.641 Miles
5.	Shelley Road	1.5 Miles
6.	Bartow Road	.33 Miles

**F. ACCG New Annexation Law – Adopt Resolution (If Interested, by Second Week of Jan. 2022)** - Administration received email notification asking Brooks County to consider adopting a resolution supporting changes to Georgia’s annexation law; particularly the arbitration/dispute resolution process. If the Board is interested in adopting the changes to the annexation law, it would need to be adopted by the **second week of January 2022**, or soon thereafter. ACCG also provided a draft resolution for consideration. County Attorney stated the County can decide whether or not to support the change in the Annexation Law. Ms. Exum motioned to table until the January 2022 meeting; Mr. Larko seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**G. Opioid Litigation** – During an Executive Session held December 1, 2021, the Board received information regarding the status of the Opioid Litigation Settlement; and voted on the same; and County Attorney advised the Board although they voted in Executive Session they will need to vote in open session during the regular meeting. On the motion by Ms. Exum, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved to participate in the Opioid Litigation Settlement negotiations offered by the State of Georgia.

**H. Termination of Mutual Aid Agreement – City of Quitman/Brooks County** – Fire Chief, Mr. Ralph Catlett, presented a Notice of Termination of Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Quitman and Brooks County. Chief Catlett stated in the Notice that it is a result of the fruitful discussion between the City of Quitman Fire Department and Brooks County Fire Department regarding the Mutual Aid Agreement executed in 1995. It is the intent of the Fire Chiefs for the City and County to put in place an Automatic Aid Agreement. On the motion by Ms. Exum, the Board approved the Notice of Termination of the Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Quitman Fire Department and Brooks County Fire Department. Vote was unanimous.

**I. City of Quitman/Brooks County Automatic Aid Agreement** – Chief Catlett presented an Automatic Aid Agreement between the City of Quitman Fire Department and Brooks County Fire Department for Board review and approval. Mr. Cody made the motion to approve the Automatic Aid Agreement between City of Quitman Fire Department and Brooks County Fire Department, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Solar Ordinance** – County Attorney presented a draft of the Solar Ordinance for Board review during the special called meeting held December 1, 2021. After discussion, County Attorney stated he would speak individually with each Commissioner for further discussion; and present at the regular meeting. Mr. Larko made the motion to approve “An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning/Land Development Ordinance of Brooks County, GA Designated Permissible Uses of Solar Electrical Systems; to Repeal all Ordinances in Conflict Therewith; and for Effective Date and for Other Purposes”, Ms. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Ordinance – Burnt House Violations** – Ms. Exum made the motion to table the Burnt House Violation Ordinance until the next meeting; Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**C. Commissioners Salary Increase** – County Attorney advised the Board if they have reached the maximum amount; the salary increase would have to be presented to Legislation. No action was taken.

**D. 2021 LMIG RFP** – The 2021 LMIG Project List has been approved and sent to GDOT. An RFP needs to be prepared to put the projects out to bid. County Attorney will prepare the RFP to advertise in the Quitman Free Press.

**7. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NOTES/COMMENTS**

**A. Brooks County Project List Review/Updates (Attached)** – The updated project list was attached for review; and will be attached to the agenda each meeting for review to be continuously reviewed and updated.

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE**

**9. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

- **Patrick Folsom, District 2** – Wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- **Willie Cody, District 3** – No comment.
- **Myra Exum, District 4** – Wished everyone safe, happy holidays; and Happy New Year.
- **James Maxwell, District 5** – Will continue to look for office space for Coastal Plain.
- **Lee Larko, District 1** – Commented he is looking forward to a good year and working with everyone.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Cody made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:22 p.m.; Mr. Maxwell seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Mrs. Jessica J. McKinney, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk