

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting and Executive Session on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 5:15 p.m., at the Brooks County Administration, in the Commissioners Meeting Room, located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman, Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman, Ms. Myra Exum, Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were Ms. Patricia Williams; County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; and Jason Kemp, County Attorney, and various residents.

1. Call to Order – Chairman called the meeting to order.

A. Prayer/Pledge – Mr. Cody led all in attendance in prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman called for a motion to amend the agenda to add Executive Session. Mrs. Exum made the motion to amend the agenda to add Executive Session, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

2. SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

EAST BROOKS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

A. Funding – Board of Commissioners has purchased property for a new fire station in Briggs Militia District. The new station is located at 50 Brookfield Drive, will operate 24 hours, and has paid staff. There are three open ended issues: 1) Funding, 2) Dispatching, and 3) Equipment/Inventory. There was never an agreement reached with East Brooks Volunteer Fire Department. Brooks County pays the utilities, cancer policy and workers' compensation, fuel, training; and insurance on the building and the vehicles. The Board needs to vote to cease or continue payments from the County for expenses of the East Brooks Volunteer Fire Department, to cease dispatching, and to reclaim any and all equipment and supplies on the premises of the East Brooks Volunteer Fire Department that the County owns subject to the discretion of the Brooks County Fire Chief. On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mrs. Exum, the Board unanimously approved to cease payment from Brooks County for expenses of the East Brooks Volunteer Fire Department effective February 28, 2023.

B. Dispatching – Mrs. Exum made the motion to cease dispatching of the East Brooks Volunteer Fire Department effective immediately, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Equipment/Inventory – The Board inquired to Fire Chief Catlett regarding the equipment. Chief Catlett stated that the tankers can be used, will have to look at the turnout gear, portable radios should come back to the County; but only wants what is owned by Brooks County. The Board voted unanimously to reclaim all supplies, equipment, and vehicles owned by the County that is in possession of East Brooks VFD subject to Chief Catlett's discretion of what is usable by the County, on the motion by Mrs. Exum; seconded by Mr. Cody.

Mrs. Exum commented; she hates it had to come to this. It has been a long road; and we have tried to reach an agreement with East Brooks, but our goal is to protect the community.

The motion was made by Mr. Maxwell to go into executive session at 5:40 pm., Mr. Cody seconded.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pending Litigation – County Attorney provided the Board an update on pending litigation. No action was taken.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the special called meeting at 5:56 pm, on the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mr. Cody.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk