

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting and Work Session on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 5:15 p.m., at the Brooks County Courthouse, in the Courtroom, located at 100 East Screven Street, 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. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; 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.

**B. Broadband Initiative Update**

- **Build Agreement Approval and Signature** – Administration received the Build Agreement from Windstream for Broadband services within the County to meet the increasing capacity demand of residents by increasing speeds available to all residents of the County and especially to those residents located in areas of the County which may be considered unserved or underserved. Brooks County received the grant award for broadband services and is working with Windstream. County Attorney, Mr. Jason Kemp, informed the Board of two concerns he had with the agreement and requested to make the edits; 1) funds are not being appropriated by the County; and 2) include an agreed completion date as to how long the project will continue in the County. The Board agreed with the edits. Contingent upon the recommended edits by County Attorney, the Board unanimously approved the Build Agreement from Windstream, on the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mrs. Exum.
- **Map of Build Agreement** – A map indicating the areas/locations of the broadband services was attached.

**C. ARPA Funds Update** – County Administrator informed the Board the previous restrictions on ARPA funds have been lifted. Previously, the funds could only be used for revenue driven projects. The restrictions are lifted, and the funds can be used up to \$10 million with no restrictions. The funds the County has received for ARPA (\$3 million) can be used for whatever the Board purpose.

**2. WORK SESSION**

**A. Regular Meeting Agenda Review – November 7, 2022** – The Board reviewed/discussed the agenda for the upcoming regular meeting.

**INVITED GUESTS**

- A. NextEra Energy - Deleted
- B. Peggy Howard - Deleted

**Development Services Department Report (Permits/Inspections & Zoning/Code Enforcement)**

- o Southeastern Ag Lab - Deleted

**OLD BUSINESS**

Lost Renegotiation – Deleted

**NEW BUSINESS**

Request Funds – Washington Street Gym Repairs

Offering County Benefits to Subdivisions of Local Government Offices/Personnel

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - The Board went out of the special called/work session into executive session at 7:36 pm on the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mrs. Exum. No action was taken.

- A. Litigation
- B. Real Estate
- C. Personnel

The Board went out of executive session and return to the special called/work session on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody at 8:12 pm.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

After returning to the special called/work session, The Board adjourned at 8:14 pm, on the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Larko.

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