

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting/Work Session Monday, December 11, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., at the Brooks County Administrative Building, 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, Mrs. Myra Exum; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Larko. Others present were Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams; County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels; and Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney, and various residents.

## **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

**A. PRAYER/PLEDGE** – Mr. Maxwell led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**B. FY 2022-2023 – Accept/Approve** – County Auditor, Mr. Gary Zeigler, presented the annual audit review for year ending June 30, 2022, during the November 27<sup>th</sup> special called meeting. Mr. Zeigler confirmed that the County is in good standing financially. Mr. Zeigler has advised that the Board needs to accept/approve the FY2022-2023 Audit. On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved the FY2022-2023 Audit as presented by County Auditor, Mr. Gary Zeigler.

### **C. Road/Maintenance**

**a. Finalize Road List – Discuss Recent Road Repair List** – Chairman Folsom met with Mr. Nick Clark and Jesse Bush, 12 Stones Engineering, and compiled a list of roads. The compiled list of roads was discussed. Mr. Bush stated there is a lot to look at individually, they will get the scope of work and put out to bid. He proposed looking at every road and doing small projects, prepare a project manual, and set of plans. A set of plans were presented for Hodges Road and Simpson Road to put together a bid package. Mr. Bush proposed that Brooks County purchase the pipes for culverts, keep in the \$15,000 to \$20,000 range; and the engineer service need will be at an hourly rate. He further stated that the list is too big to do all the roads at one time but in small pieces; put together and work with local contractors at a reasonable price. For bigger roads, they will give a proposal and prepare a bid package. After discussion, Mr. Larko made a motion to engage 12 Stones Engineering assessment and recommendation on a continual basis to provide services, and bill monthly, and the first month payment will come from the Road Department budget, Mr. Maxwell seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**b. 2023 & 2024 LMIG – Possibly Combine** – During the special called meeting held November 27<sup>th</sup>, County Engineers suggested the County could save money by combining the 2023 & 2024 LMIG projects. The 2023 LMIG Road Project List has been submitted and approved by GDOT. The 2024 LMIG Road Project List must be prepared and submitted to GDOT on or before February 1, 2024. Mr. Jesse Bush has spoken with GDOT, and they have confirmed that the 2023 & 2024 LMIG Road Project Lists can be

combined. A proposed list for the 2024 LMIG Road Projects was provided to the Board. The roads listed were:

- Hamlin Road (4 sections)
- Blue Springs Lane
- Simmon Hill Road (2 sections)
- Stewart Road
- Crosbytown Road
- Dry Lake Road
- Dixie-Barwick Road

The Board added the following roads to be assessed by 12 Stones Engineering:

- Parkview
- Burton Road
- Hitch Road
- Dixie Road – needs verification
- CR 78 – finish
- Tallokas Road
- East side of Grooverville

Mr. Bush advised the Board that he could provide a budget, rather than per mile. After discussion, Mr. Maxwell motioned to approve combining the 2023 & 2024 LMIG, Mr. Larko seconded. The Board voted unanimously.

**D. Airport Authority – Robin McDaniel – Discussion** – Mr. Robin McDaniel, Chairman, Airport Authority, appeared to discuss the future of the Airport. Brooks County and the City of Quitman own the Airport equally. Mr. McDaniel stated that the City and Brooks County need to get together to look at funding. He commented that maybe a 1% sales tax could be added to help with funding. He stated that the Airport Authority needs a new Chairman. Mr. McDaniel further stated that the Airport has good tenants, runs two jets; but the hangar is too small; and there is nowhere to put them. There is a concern about how the Airport will pay the \$50,000 for the 30 acres. The Airport needs a runway for gliders, which will require an extension. Board appointments for the Airport Authority were discussed. The County appoints two members to the Board; they must be Brooks County citizens. A meeting with Brooks County, City of Quitman, and Airport Authority was discussed for possibly in February 2024.

**E. DebrisTech Emergency Contract Extension** – Buck with DebrisTech, requested a 30-day extension as consultant only, to finalize filing of FEMA paperwork; and will charge by the hour only when assisting us. The motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Cody, was unanimously approved to extend the DebrisTech Emergency Contract for 30 days for monitoring, expiring on January 11, 2024.

**F. Request Motion – Amend Budget for \$33,000 Donation from Colquitt EMC – Fire Department** - Brooks County Fire Department received a donation from Colquitt EMC for \$33,000 to be designated for training and education. The Fire Department budget

will need to be amended for the increase. On the motion by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously approve to amend the Fire Department budget for the increase of \$33,000 donated by Colquitt EMC and to be used under the stipulation by Colquitt EMC, Mrs. Exum seconded.

**G. Request Motion – Amend Budget for \$9,000 Donation from Colquitt EMC – Sheriff's Department** – Brooks County Sheriff's Department received a donation in the amount of \$9,000 designated for education and training in the Drug Education Abuse Awareness account. The Drug Education Abuse budget will be increased and needs to be amended. Mr. Larko made the motion to amend the Drug Education Abuse budget for the increase of \$9,000 to be used under the stipulation by Colquitt EMC, Mr. Cody seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**H. Superior Court Clerk – Request for Approval of Increase in Bailiff & Juror Pay – Approved/Recommended by the Grand Jury** – Superior Court Clerk, Mrs. Belinda Wheeler, appeared to present the request for the increase for Bailiff and Jurors. Mrs. Wheeler stated she researched the pay for Bailiffs and Jurors from surrounding counties; and the amount averaged out to \$40.00, they are currently being paid \$20 per day. She further stated that the increase is necessary; she would like the \$40.00 increase; but she would accept \$30.00 minimum; and increase the Foreman to \$40.00, due to coming back for additional day. Mr. Larko motioned to split, and recommended \$35.00 per day, \$40.00 for the Foreman for the additional day, and the funds will come from the Contingency Fund, Mr. Cody seconded. The Board voted unanimously.

**I. TTL – Proposal for SVE & Air Sparge System Repair – Landfill** – T T L monitors the landfill for Brooks County. A proposal was submitted by Mr. James Smith, T T L, Senior Project Professional, for repairs at the Landfill for SVE & Air Sparge System repair. The proposal stated the air dryer unit for the air sparge system is no longer operating and needs to be replaced. They were also informed by Mr. Bob Vann of some additional repairs that are required at a few of the wellheads associated with the SVE and Air Sparge Systems. Mr. Smith also advised that these components are part of the system used for corrective action and groundwater cleanup at the landfill. T T L believes this scope of services can be completed for the estimated cost of \$16,227.00. Discussion began as to where the funds will come from, how do we proceed? Does the County continue to monitor the landfill although we have no obligation? Brooks County's responsibility ended April 8, 2023, after 30 years of monitoring, per contract and EPD. Mr. Maxwell commented on his concern of possible liability if we do not continue to monitor the landfill.

A letter needs to be sent to EPD advising of the expired contract; we are still required to monitor until the letter is sent to EPD; and we receive a response from EPD as to whether we need to continue to monitor the landfill or not. Mrs. Exum made the motion to send a letter to EPD advising of 30-year monitoring and expiring of the contract, Mr. Cody seconded. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the repairs in the amount of \$16,227.00 from T T L for methane monitoring and to continue until we get a response from EPD, Mr. Cody seconded. The Board vote was unanimous.

County Administrator inquired do we wait for a response from EPD? The board responded yes. After further discussion, regarding the City of Quitman and requesting their assistance for one-half of the cost, a motion was made by Mrs. Exum to contract with TTL for repairs in the amount of \$16,227.00 to be split with the City of Quitman for one-half of the repair cost, and the funds will come from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, Mr. Maxwell seconded. The vote was unanimously approved.

Chairman closed the special called meeting to go into the work session.

**2. WORK SESSION**

**A. Regular Meeting Agenda Review – January 8, 2024** – The Board reviewed/discussed the agenda for the upcoming meeting no changes or additions were made.

Mrs. Exum inquired as to where we are regarding the RFP for EMS? Administration responded she is working with Daniel Warren to get Zone and License; once we get the Zone we can prepare and RFP; and should have by the January 8, 2024 meeting.

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE**

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 6:08 pm, on the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk