

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, April 1, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Meeting Room, located at the Brooks County Administration Building, 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 Mrs. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney; and various residents.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – NONE

2. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Pastor Rodney Tenery, Brooks County Ministerial Association, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

The Board amended the agenda on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Larko seconded, to add Item D under New Business, IGA with City of Quitman for Inspections & Permits. Motioned carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved the following minutes as read:

A. Executive Session	February 5, 2024
B. Executive Session	February 12, 2024
C. Executive Session	February 26, 2024
D. Regular Monthly Meeting	March 4, 2024
E. Special Called Meeting/Work Session	March 25, 2024

4. INVITED GUESTS – (2 MINUTES) – NONE

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Brooks County Fire Department – Chief Weeks – Provided report for March 2024 for activities/projects with the Brooks County Fire Department:

- Responded to total of 62 calls for service, 21 medical calls, 13 canceled/nothing found, 2 structure fires, 15 brush fires, 5 MVA, 0 vehicle fires, controlled burns 9, 3 brush fires, 3 fire alarms, trees down 2, 1 extrication, and 2 other calls.
- **Training:** Scenario based drills for firefighting and incident control, Firefighter 2 training and EMT-R.
- **Update:** No new updates.
- **New Pumper:** The new Pumper is complete and should be picked up by April 2, 2024. The new Pumper has arrived.
- **Grants:** We were awarded the Fireworks Tax Grant for five sets of turnout gear. The grant amount is \$19,000.00. The AFG grant was completed and submitted, we will not know anything for possibly a couple of months.
- **Preplans:** We have all our floorplan drawings and information in Image Trend. The 2024 preplan process will begin in May; and we will be working on getting updated information, better drawings and any new businesses that have

opened or have been missed in the past. This November we should have our preplans completed.

- **Employee Update:** Ethan Wade has been cleared to start to work. Trevor Kellogg Yocum has been back on light duty and helping enter our inventory into Image Trend.
- Trevor Kellogg Yocum is back and has been on light duty for three weeks following knee surgery.
- **Morven:** No new update.
- **New Projects:** We are in the process of building an accurate inventory of all our trucks, equipment, and gear. We are also entering this information into Image Trend software. Currently working on 2024-2025 budget.
- **Annual Maintenance:** Hose testing is 75% complete.

B. Brooks County Road Department Report – David Kress – Provided report for March 2024:

- **Actions performed on roads:** Grading & ditching 165, install/repair culverts and driveways 5, pipes and outfalls cleaned 23, 9 tree calls, 44 Beaver dams, bags of asphalt used for potholes 167, 6 signs, and rock/clay/sand used 63.

C. Brooks County 911/EMA – Director LaToya Hampton – Ms. Hampton provided an update for 911/EMA for March 2024:

- There were 1,757 calls received.
- Lightning damage occurred on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 911Radio Tower as well as Radio Tower south of town. There was minimal damage, radios were down only from Saturday – Monday morning, they are all back up on their own frequencies.
- Continuing to work closely with the County and Accounts Payable Clerk on getting issues corrected with insurance.
- Two employees are in training for basic communications certification in Forsyth, they will return on Friday.
- Four senior dispatchers and I are registered for the required 10 hours for State in Nashville, GA, on June 12 – 13, 2024.
- I just returned from GECC (Georgia Emergency Communications Conference) for dispatchers in Athens, GA.
- **EMA:** One call for service, issue with West End Milling and City of Quitman molasses spill, situation was corrected on the city's behalf, State was notified and advised that if the city was cleaning there was no need for them to come out.
- The CAT A debris project was expedited for funds. FEMA will allocate 90% upfront and when their paperwork is completed, they will send the remaining 10% with no penalty to the county.
- CAT B has been approved as well; waiting for those funds to arrive from FEMA.
- The last FEMA visit to Bethlehem Primitive Church was on March 21, 2024. They provided a list of contractors that specialize in historical property.

D. Brooks County Development Services – Buildings & Inspections – Jason Montesano – Provided report of permits and inspections for March 2024. The total funds collected were \$8,658.00. Informed the Board of issues with getting trash cans for residents,

Administrator advised to get with her, and she will provide contact information for Thomasville Solid Waste.

E. Brooks County Extension Report & Presentation – Michasia Dowdy – Brooks County CEC/ANR Agent – Reported to the Board activities for March 2024:

- Ag production meeting season is over.
- Hosted seven meetings with over 350 participants.
- Provided 196 private pesticide license continuing education credits and 27 commercial pesticide licenses continuing education credits.
- 4-H had one junior 4-Her and 12 cloverleaves participate in District Project Achievement.
- All 4-Hers won 1st or 2nd place, this is the first time we have had participants in several years.

6. CONSENT AGENDA – NONE

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Acoustics for Ag Building Bid – Sound Panels – This item was tabled during the work session for further inquiry and competitive bids to place it on the agenda for the April 1, 2024 regular meeting. During the work session the Board reviewed a proposal submitted by MODified Interior Design for design solutions and recommendations to remedy the sound issues in the event space. Proposals were submitted by:

1. AudioWave – First bid submission - \$110,330.00, resubmitted proposals \$45,777.00, and \$91,106.00.
2. MODified Interior Design – Interior design and consultation services, Owner will bill a fee of \$100.00 an hour.
3. AVS (Audio, Video, and Security) - \$26,400.00, labor not included, billed at \$110.00 per hour.

The Board discussed using the \$10,000.00 placed in the budget and doing the project in phases. Mr. Maxwell motioned to table this topic until the new budget, Mr. Cody seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Development Authority Appointment – Two resumes were submitted for consideration to the Development Authority Board, Mr. Harlie Bodine, and Mr. Michael Wright. The appointment is in District 2, formerly filled by Mr. Jack Harrell, Mr. Harrell did not seek re-appointment to the Development Authority Board. The motion carried by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, to appoint Mr. Michael Wright to the Development Authority Board. The vote was unanimous. The term will expire December 2027.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bid Opening – EMS Services RFP – EMS services for the County was put out to bid; and were due March 29, 2024. The following bids were submitted:

1. AmeriMed EMS - \$49,908.00 per month, total \$598,896.00 annually.
2. Gold Star EMS - \$798,000.00 annually
3. AmeriPro EMS - \$546,000.00 annually
4. SGMC Health - \$48,000.00 per month, total \$576,000.00 annually
5. Southern Regional EMS - \$820,000.00 annually

The Board reviewed each bid. The question was asked if Firefighters are permitted to drive the trucks?

1. AmeriMed EMS – Only employees are allowed to drive the trucks; but First Responders are permitted to drive the trucks.
2. AmeriPro EMS - Only employees are allowed to drive the trucks; but First Responders are permitted to drive the trucks.
3. SGMC Health – Insurance covers all drivers, First Responders included.
4. Gold Star EMS – Insurance allows all drivers.
5. Southern Regional EMS – Can add drivers as needed; First Responder can drive to assist with care.

Mrs. Exum stated that if the Board votes and approves a bid that is non-conforming, it will not be accepted. Mrs. Exum motioned to approve/accept the bid for EMS Services to Southern Regional EMS, Mr. Larko seconded. Chairman called for the vote. The vote was 2 to 3 with Commissioners Maxwell, Cody, and Folsom opposing.

Mr. Cody made the motion to approve/accept the bid for EMS Services to SGMC Health, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Chairman called for the vote. The vote was 3 to 2 with Commissioners Exum and Larko opposing.

B. LMIG 2024 Additional Funding (portal is open for submission, deadline is June 15, 2024) – 12 Stones Engineering – GDOT announced that the Governor and Legislature included \$250 million in Local Road Assistance Administration funds (LRA) in the amended fiscal year 2024 budget. The LRA funds will be administered and distributed using the GRANTS (LMIG) Application System. Applications will be accepted beginning March 15, 2024, and received no later than June 15, 2024.

Nick Clark, 12 Stones Engineering Company, Inc., presented the completed list of unpaved road projects for LMIG funding and included the budget/cost for each project. The roads are listed in priority order; but the decision is at the discretion of the Board. Mr. Clark stated that their recommendation is Dixie Barwick Road and Barwick Road, number one and two on the list; and feels the project will benefit the community and region.

A proposal for Shiver Road was presented for drainage improvements and road widening, including construction of the necessary curb and gutter and storm drain. The project is approximately 0.27 miles. The budget for construction will be \$400,547.00, surveying and engineering cost will be \$24,000.00, total of \$424,547.00. This will be a full construction project, not on the LMIG project list. Shiver Road will be taken off the 2023 LMIG project list.

Mr. Larko commented that Fodie Road has a bad S curve and the possibility of straightening the road. Patching will be added to the LMIG for Patrick Road and Hickory Head Road. The Board will discuss these projects at the workshop scheduled for April 29, 2024.

C. IGA with City of Quitman for Animal Services with Thomasville Humane – During the workshop on March 25, 2024, the Board discussed possibly entering an IGA with the City of Quitman for animal services with Thomasville Humane. Administrator McKinney and Dr. Nancy Dennard, City Manager, met and discussed; and the city is willing to entertain animal services again with Brooks County. Administrator McKinney stated she is working on the cost, it will be a cost share, but needs direction from the Board on whether to proceed. After discussion, Mr. Maxwell motioned to pursue the IGA with City of Quitman for animal services with Thomasville Humane, seconded by Mr. Cody. The vote passed unanimously.

D. IGA with City of Quitman for Development Services (Building/Inspections) – This item was also discussed during the workshop. A motion was made by Mr. Larko, Mr. Maxwell seconded, to pursue the IGA with the City of Quitman for Inspections/Permits. The motion was carried unanimously.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Marvin Bryan – Fire Department in Pavo – Mr. Bryan stated there is no Fire Department in Pavo. He deeded the property to the County to use for a fire department; if it is not being used, he questioned the property deed being given back to him. There is a reversion clause if it is not being used for the fire department to be reverted to Mr. Bryan. The County Attorney provided Mr. Bryan with his business card to contact him.

B. David Grimm – Return or Discount on Property Taxes & Clean Ditches – Fawn Heights
Mr. David Grimm and several residents submitted agenda requests to address concerns of the ditch drainage issue in Fawn Heights Subdivision. Chairman Folsom informed the residents of the status of the ongoing problem; and stated that Mr. James Warren, Road Maintenance Services, Mr. Kyle Christian, Project Manager, and County Engineer has gone out and assessed the issues/problems the residents are experiencing with ditches needing to be cleaned and the drainage; and is working to get the issues resolved.

10. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administrator Updates

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1) –**
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)**
- **Willie Cody (District 3)**
- **Myra Exum (District 4)**
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)**

Chairman introduced Mr. Whitesell who will be on the elections ballot for Superior Court Judge.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Larko motioned to go out of regular meeting into executive session at 7:16 pm, Mrs. Exum seconded.

A. Personnel – No action was taken by the Board.

On the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mrs. Exum, the Board closed the executive session to return to the regular meeting at 7:30 pm.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maxwell moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:31 pm; Mrs. Exum seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman
Mrs. Jessica J. McKinney, County Administrator
Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk