

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Business Meeting on Monday, June 2, 2025 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; Mrs. Myra Exum; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were Mr. Buddy Johnson, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Ms. Janice Jarvis, Finance Director; Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney, and various residents.

I. PUBLIC HEARING – FY2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

A Sign-in Sheet was provided for those wishing to speak. No one present signed in to speak. The Finance Director, Ms. Janice Jarvis, presented the proposed budget with the requested changes to the FYE June 30, 2026, proposed annual operating budget. Administrator Johnson stated that the budget is available for review. Chairman closed the public hearing to go into the regular business meeting.

II. CALL TO ORDER

A. Prayer & Pledge – Mr. Donnie Ware led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

III. COMMISSIONER BUSINESS PRESENTATION – NONE (5 MINUTES)

IV. CONSENT AGENDA – One Motion for Approval on all Items – (Johnson)

A. Approval of prior meeting minutes

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved all the following minutes with correction to the May 5, 2025 minutes, page 1, under Amend Agenda:

- 1) **CA019-2025** – Regular Business Meeting – May 5, 2025
- 2) **CA020-2025** - Special Called/Executive Session/FY2025-2026 Budget Work Session–May 22, 2025
- 3) **CA021-2025** – Special Called/Work Session/Executive Session – May 28, 2025

V. FORMAL ACTION REQUESTS–Commissioners Discussion with Action (Johnson)

A. Approve/Disapprove/Other Official Actions

1) **FA033-2025 – Rental Agreement – Four (4) Postage Meters for County Buildings** – The Board unanimously approved the Rental Agreement from Pitney Bowes for four (4) Postage Meters for County Buildings; on the motion by Mrs. Exum; and seconded by Mr. Maxwell. A larger one will be placed in the Administration Office and the Courthouse, two (2) smaller ones will be placed in the Finance Office and Magistrate Court Office; and will be available to all departments for use. The term is for 48 months, monthly amount of \$507.11, and billed quarterly at \$1,521.33.

2) **FA034-2025 – E-911 Lease Payout** – The account has a balance of \$163,864.30; the funds can be used for the project intended or for another equipment purchase/project. The cash can also be used to pay off the financing and end the monthly payments of \$5,860.50 the county is currently making to Central Bank. The E-911 Lease Payout was approved to pay the balance of \$103,837.21 and the remaining balance (\$59,854.03) will be refunded to the County, on a motion made by Mr. Larko, and seconded by Mr. Cody. The vote was unanimous.

3) FA035-2025 – Lease Payout for Two (2) John Deere 6145M Tractors (Mowing Department) Include Trade-in for the Mower Max & John Deere Mower– The payout to purchase two (2) John Deere 6145M Tractors, not to include trade-in for the Mower Max and John Deere Mower, in the amount of \$60,000.00, was approved on the motion by Mrs. Exum, with a second from Mr. Larko; and the funds will come from TSPLOST account.

4) FA036-2025 – Opioid Litigation – Solicitation Notice & Solicitation Directive – Administration received the Solicitation Notice and Solicitation Directive from the firm handling the Opioid Litigation, Conley, Griggs, Partin, LLP. If the County wishes the Firm to undertake the Master Ballot process to cast a master ballot that would cover the multiple Eligible Clients with Eligible Claims they represent, which includes Brooks County, the firm will act as the receiving agent for any solicitations and have the authority to cast a single master ballot for all 13 counties and municipalities they represent. The Solicitation Directive needs to be completed by the firm no later than June 11, 2025. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the firm handling the Opioid Litigation to cast a single master ballot for all 13 counties and municipalities they represent, including Brooks County, motion seconded by Mrs. Exum.

5) FA037-2025 – Quote – Animal Services – Thomasville Humane Society – Thomasville Humane provided a quote for animal services for Brooks County in the amount of \$285,000.00 annually. Administrator Johnson advised the quote is a much more affordable rate and to move forward at least for one year. The services will be provided for Brooks County, including Morven, Pavo, Barwick and Barney. Thomasville Humane will not pick up animals in the City of Quitman. The Sheriff stated this is the most feasible choice. Mrs. Exum made the motion to approve the MOU with Thomas Humane to provide services in the proposal; and it will be effective July 1, 2025, contingent upon the FY2025-2026 Budget being approved, Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Exum informed the Board that the Animal Services Committee met today and is hopeful that they will have an ordinance by the July or August meeting to coincide with our MOU with Thomas County Humane.

VI. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS – (5 MINUTES) - NONE

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – (JOHNSON)

- 1) NB005-2025 – Quote for New John Deere Tractor and Alamo Boom Mower** – A quote was received for a new John Deere Tractor and Alamo Boom Mower from Ag Pro in the amount of \$228,840.65; and the trade-in for \$90,000.00 (\$30,000.00 for the Tractor and \$60,000.00 for the Boom Mower), with a remaining balance of \$138,840.65. Administrator Johnson stated that he is not good with the \$60,000.00 trade-in; feels it is worth more. He advised the Board that they can consider the request from the Mowing Department and what they heard tonight, but there is no decision at this time.

- 2) **NB006-2025 – Finance Director – Contract – Pending Completion** – County Attorney, Mr. Kemp, provided a copy of a redline version of the Finance Director Contract and an original copy for Board review. This contract will replace the Agreement currently in effect and begin on the date of this Agreement and expire January 2026. Effective July 1, 2025, she will be paid monthly. The Finance Director shall perform all duties and responsibilities typically associated with the Finance Director of a local government under the supervision and direction of the County Administrator. The Employee Contract for Janice Jarvis for Finance Director Services was accepted/approved unanimously on the motion by Mr. Larko; and seconded by Mr. Cody.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (2 MINUTES) – (Requests must be prior to the work session) - NONE

X. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. Administration Updates

- DCFS Board Members – Terms Expiring June 30, 2025 (2 Vacancies – District 3 and District 5) Ad Published in QFP – No Applications Received
- The Board asked the County Administrator to reach out to Sky Robinson to see if she has any recommendations for the Board appointments. Mr. Maxwell stated that he is working on getting appointments to the Board.
- Planning Commission – One Vacancy – Ad Published in QFP – Three (3) Applications Received
 1. Jeffrey Cummings
 2. Daniel Wall
 3. Peggy Howard

On the recommendation of Mrs. Exum, the Board approved/appointed Mr. Daniel Wall to the Brooks County Planning Commission, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Larko called for discussion to state that there is no one on the Planning Commission from District 1. The County Attorney stated that they are at-large seats, the code predicts, the seats are not predicted by District and is under Brooks County By-Laws. Mr. Larko stated that if that is the case, it needs to be changed on the website. Chairman called for the vote. Chairman, Mr. Maxwell, Mrs. Exum, and Mr. Cody voted yes. Mr. Larko voted no. The vote was 4 to 1.

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Inquired about the millage rates; Chief Appraiser advised the rate will not be available until end of August.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – Informed everyone of upcoming events for 4th of July, including fireworks, and a movie premier that was filmed at Madison, FL at Covenant Church in Valdosta on June 8, 2025 @ 6:00 pm. The 4th of July events will be held on the 4th of July.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – Commented that things are running smoothly.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – Inquired about the 4th of July events being on the 4th of July this year. Reminder to place the 4-H Agent on the July agenda for the award received.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – Commented God bless to everyone.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maxwell motioned to adjourn the regular business meeting at 5:49 pm, Mrs. Exum seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Mr. James (Buddy) Johnson, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk