

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Business Meeting on Monday, April 7, 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 was not present; 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 – Abandonment of Marso Road – Scott Machovina – Chairman opened the public hearing at 5:02pm. A sign-in sheet was provided for those wishing to speak for or against the abandonment. No one signed to speak. Mr. Machovina stated he owns both ends of the road. Trash is dumped on the road; the culvert is blocked causing flooding on the property. He will excavate to repair the culvert for flooding. He feels it will be beneficial to Brooks County; and hopes the Board will approve of the abandonment. Mr. Machovina thanked the Board for their time. There was no one who signed up to speak. Chairman closed the public hearing at 5:07pm.

II. CALL TO ORDER

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

Amend Agenda – Mr. Maxwell made the motion to amend the agenda to add under Formal Action Requests, FA020-2025 Hamlin Road Change Order; and add Item B under Public Comments, Ms. Brown, to discuss establishing a Family Cemetery on her property, Mr. Larko seconded. The vote was unanimous.

III. COMMISSIONER BUSINESS PRESENTATION – (5 MINUTES)

A. Garry Dodard, USAF, Moody AFB – New Community Initiatives Officer (CIO) - Introduction – Mr. Dodard stated he wanted to introduce himself as the new CIO and continue the relationship with Brooks County to be of service. He will provide monthly updates to the Board of Public Affairs and address any concerns the Board may have. The Board thanked Mr. Dodard for coming and providing the update.

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

A) Approval of prior meeting minutes

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously approved all the following:

- 1) **CA013-2025** – Regular Business Meeting – March 3, 2025
- 2) **CA014-2025** - Special Called/Work Session – March 24, 2025
- 3) **CA015-2025** – Community Transformation Grant through DECAL – No Match

The Board approved and accepted all items under the Consent Agenda on a motion by Mr. Larko and seconded by Mr. Maxwell. The vote was unanimously approved.

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

A. Approve/Disapprove/Other Official Actions

1) FA014-2025 – Abandonment of Marso Road – The Board approved the abandonment of Marso Road on the motion made by Mr. Larko; Mrs. Exum seconded. The vote was unanimous.

2) FA015-2025 – Opioid Funding Consideration –Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve funding from the Opioid settlement funds to Dr. Sharon Brown, PhD, Dr. Sharon Breeden, PhD and Dr. R. Marie Horne, MD, to provide conjoint professional services under the corporate entity designated as Philanthropic Public Advocacy Programs, Inc., their Core Strategy B-2, will provide education to youth-focused programs that discourage or prevent misuse of opioid medications/opioid substances, the funding request is \$1,000.00 up to 100 participant capacity, Mrs. Exum seconded. The Board voted unanimously.

3) FA016-2025 – Engineering Services Agreement – Watkins & Associates – The Board unanimously approved the Agreement for General Engineering Services submitted by Watkins & Associates, LLC on the motion by Mr. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Larko.

4) FA017-2025 – GDOT – Bridge Replacement – Coffee Road over Little Creek and Lawson Pond Road over Little River – Both projects are Tier 1s which means the County would be responsible for \$50,000.00 for each project (\$100,000.00) to go towards the ROW costs for each project. Once the letter of support is received, GDOT will generate a project specific MOA for each project and send it to the County to be signed. The motion was made by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mrs. Exum, to approve the funding from SPLOST or TSPLOST (\$100,000.00) for the bridge replacement projects.

5) FA018-2025 – Hazardous Waste Trust Fund Reimbursement – Resolution 25-R-5 – Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund Reimbursement Resolution to apply for reimbursement for some of the cost eligible for work performed at the landfill, Mr. Larko seconded.

6) FA019-2025 – Alcohol Ordinance Amendment – Sale of Distilled Spirits in Brooks County Ordinance No. 2025-01 Related to the Sale of Distilled Spirits in Brooks County, GA was approved and accepted on the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mr. Maxwell. The Board voted unanimously.

7) FA020-2025 – Hamlin Road Additional Overlay – Nick Clark, 12 Stones Engineering, advised Administration of the anticipated cost to overlay the additional section of Hamlin Road using the funds we have saved over the course of the LMIG project. Per the billing statement submitted, the anticipated saving is \$63,844.25. Mr. Clark would like to use the funds to overlay the last section of Hamlin Road to make it uniform while Scruggs is already having to go back and patch some sections where the base is falling. After meeting with Scruggs on site, he anticipates using \$61,885.98 to patch the areas and overlay approximately 0.20 miles of Hamlin Road. If approved, this will allow us to get more road mileage resurfaced for the original contract amount. This will be an LMIG Change Order. On the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously authorized the LMIG Change Order for repair of Hamlin Road in the amount of \$61,885.98.

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

Mrs. Exum asked the Chairman if he would move Item 6B, Brooks County 4-H recognition of 4-Hers that participated in Project Achievement, to 6A, and the Brooks County Library moved to Item 6B, Chairman approved.

- A. Haley Clark – Brooks County 4-H – Recognize 4-Hers Participated in Project Achievement** – Brooks County 4-H Agent, Haley Clark, recognized Brooks County 4-Her Natalie Farmer who won 1st place in the safety project at District Project Achievement in February. Natalie will go on to represent the Southwest District at the State competition in July. Mrs. Clark recognized two junior 4-H members and 13 Cloverleaf 4-Hers who participated in Project Achievement, as well as nine 4-Hers who participated in the Georgia Junior National State Livestock shows that took place in February. She also thanked four volunteers who helped the students prepare for Project Achievement. The Board congratulated the 4-Hers and thanked Mrs. Clark for her hard work and a job well done.

- B. Brooks County Library – Scott Routsong – Director** – Mr. Routsong provided a Director’s Report to update the Board on the Library activities and projects. He stated that the library’s patronage is increasing due to South Georgia Regional Library being closed and is taking good care of them. The summer reading program will start in June and have many performers/activities planned. The library has completed their audit for FY2024 and continues to uphold strong accountability practices. Weekly story times and monthly chess club and LEGO club events are hosted. Mr. Routsong also informed the Board that they maintain a food pantry, host quarterly food box giveaways and blood drives and partners with ECHOES.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Animal Control – Sheriff Mike Dewey** - Sheriff Dewey presented an update and addressed concerns regarding providing animal services. He stated there currently have been more dog calls than it has been in the past two years; most of the calls regard aggressive dogs. There is nowhere to put them. He suggested it would be more feasible and less costly to contract with Thomas County. Currently, there is only temporary holding for dogs. He asked the Board to consider entering in a contract with Thomas County. The Board recommended reaching out to the municipalities to see if they would consider being included in the contract.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – (Johnson) – NONE

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (2 MINUTES) – (Requests must be prior to the work session)

- A. Michael Fiset** – **Road Conditions on Blease Road** – Mr. Fiset requested to appear to address his concerns on the conditions of Blease Road; stating it is hard for residents to get in and out. He stated that several years ago, a ROW was given to the County to maintain the road. The culverts are stopped up. Project Manager, Kyle Christian, Road Department, stated they will pull the culverts redo and install. Mr. Fiset commented that the Road Department has gotten better.

B. Charnissa Brown – Family Cemetery on Property – Ms. Charnissa Brown appeared to inquire about establishing a family cemetery on her property located at 6581 Dry Lake Road, if it is possible, if so, what is the process. County Attorney, Mr. Jason Kemp, advised Ms. Brown that if she stays after the meeting, he will provide her with the details of the process and procedures.

X. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administration Updates – Administration Johnson and Finance Director, Ms. Janice Jarvis, informed the Board of the status on the budget process, stating that they are setting the revenues, and the work sheets are due back from the departments and Constitutional Officers.

Mr. Kyle Christian gave a year-end review for the Road Department from March 2024 to March 2025. During the year there were 1,735 work orders received and 1,634 are completed, 91 pipes have been installed, 1800 bags of cold patch were used.

DCFS Board Members - Board was advised of upcoming Board appointments expiring on June 30, 2025, for the DFCS Board and the vacancy on the Planning Commission Board. These will be advertised in the QFP.

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Commented on how he assisted a citizen with getting a ramp for his home thru Red Cross.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – Commented on the Road Department, changes gone it has gone through, and current improvements.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)**
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – Asked everyone to keep the family of Mr. Doyle Weltzbarker who passed, in their prayers.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)**

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Litigation – County Attorney updated the Board on pending litigation; no action was taken. The Board went out of executive session and returned to the regular business meeting on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mrs. Exum.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maxwell moved to adjourn the regular business meeting at 6:47 pm; Mrs. Exum seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman
Mr. James (Buddy) Johnson, County Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk