

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, February 3, 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 (via telephone); Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney; and various residents.

I. PUBLIC HEARING – NONE

II. CALL TO ORDER

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

III. COMMISSIONER BUSINESS PRESENTATION – (5 MINUTES)

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

A) Approval of prior meeting minutes

On the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mrs. Exum, the Board unanimously approved all the following eight (8) items:

- 1) **CA005-2025** – Executive Session – November 4, 2024
- 2) **CA006-2025** - Executive Session – December 2, 2024
- 3) **CA007-2025** – Special Called/Work Session – December 30, 2024
- 4) **CA008-2025** – Executive Session – December 30, 2024
- 5) **CA009-2025** – Regular Business Meeting – January 6, 2025
- 6) **CA010-2025** – Special Called/Work Session – January 27, 2025
- 7) **CA011-2025** – Executive Session – January 27, 2025
- 8) **CA012-2025** – Invoice for BCSO – Required IT (Budgeted) – The invoice amount is \$35,588.00 from Synergistic Software.

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

A. Approve/Disapprove/Other Official Actions

1) **FA011-2025 – Change Order – Ag Building Parking Lot – Nick Clark – Discussion for Options – James Warren** – Nick Clark, 12 Stones, provided Administration information on the change order for the Ag Building Parking Lot. The Scruggs Company is having an issue with the subgrade in the Ag Extension Office parking lot that is to be paved per the approved change order to the LMIG project. Due to the issue, they had Universal Engineering Services come take a look at the subgrade and provide a determination of the best course of action to achieve good compaction below the asphalt and GAB. They provided two options: 1) Undercut the entire area 1’ deep and replace with suitable fill material, and 2) Moisture Conditioning – harrow or turn the dirt over and let it sit to give it a chance to dry out with good weather; harrow and turn over again and re-compact the subgrade.

Scruggs provided a price to undercut the area and backfill with suitable material; the price came back higher than expected (\$21,667.92). Mr. James Warren recommended to thicken the base rock and asphalt and the old will deteriorate. Scruggs quoted a price of \$14,500.00; 12 Stones and Scruggs would not be liable. The county could spend \$10,000 on soil condition, or if it is not dry, spend \$21,667.92. Administrator Johnson requested the Board approve him to decide to move forward with the change order, stating we need something in place, and he will do what's best and economical. After discussion, Mrs. Exum made a motion for the Board to approve Administrator authority to decide what is best and economical; and the funding will come from TSPLOST funds, Mr. Larko seconded.

2) FA012-2025 – IGA – Development Authority Office Use by County Agreement County Attorney prepared an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) between Brooks County and Development Authority for the use of their office space located at 115 East Screven Street, Quitman, GA. The office space will be used for the County's Finance Director and staff. The Agreement will have a two-year initial term with automatic renewal for one year. One revision will be made to the IGA regarding insurance. Brooks County will provide insurance coverage on the contents of the office space; and the Development Authority still owns the structural property. The IGA was approved as is with a revision to the insurance coverage, on the motion by Mr. Cody, and seconded by Mrs. Exum.

3) FA013-2025 – Quotes – Brush Truck – Fire Department – Chief Weeks presented quotes/estimates to purchase a Brush Truck and to equip it. The Fire Department budgeted \$250,000 from SPLOST funds in FY2024-2025 for a new Tanker; but was fortunate to save \$71,082.00. Chief Weeks is requesting to use the balance to purchase a new one-ton truck with a flat bed and equip it as a brush truck with a 300-gallon slip on pump unit, lights, and siren. He prefers a truck with dual wheels. The quotes submitted are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Nalley GMC Brunswick | \$60,902.00 |
| 2. Reading Truck | \$8,152.00 |
| 3. Conley Buick GMC | \$65,139.39 |
| 4. Dale Earnhardt Jr. | \$68,756.48 |
| 5. Hendrick Chrysler Dodge | \$60,230.00 |

County Administrator stated he is looking into an option with State agency for government pricing with dual wheels; and only 30,000 miles; but recommended the Board to approve moving forward. The total cost of Nalley is \$73,782.00 with equipment installed. Chief Weeks is requesting the use of the balance of \$2,700.00 from his fuel budget; the total cost will be \$73,782.00. Mr. Larko motioned to approve moving forward with the quote from Nalley, to use the balance of \$71,082.00 from SPLOST funds and use the extra funding of \$2,700.00 from the Fire Department fuel budget, Mr. Cody seconded. Motion carried.

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

A. Brooks County Finance Director Report – Janice Jarvis – Finance Director, Ms. Janice Jarvis was not present due to illness.

B. Brooks County 911/EMA Department Report – Director LaToya Hampton

Brooks County 911

- Received 1826 calls for service January 2025.
- One interview for employment and two inquiring about full and part-time.

Brooks County EMA

- Debris pickup continues in the county.
- Citizens are being mean to the Army Corps, not wanting them to cut down trees. Asking citizens and Commissioners to have them be nice to the Army Corps and no threats. Advised the Corps to call 911 if they have any more confrontations with the public.
- As of today, the Army Corps has cut 44,476 cubic yards of debris. Currently, they are on Wheeler Road, Empress Road, Dewey Road, Ramsey Road and Schmoe Road.
- Will send the Commissioners a copy of the map of the trees that have been cut down. Army Corps will not go back over these areas.
- The last scheduled day for trees is February 17, 2025 and by February 28, 2025 the debris company should be out of our area.
- Snow Day, January 21, 2025, our county received 3-4 inches in most places. Two shelters were provided, the Event Center on South Court and First Baptist Church. A curfew was enforced by the Sheriff, as well as Thomas and Lowndes County. There were only three accidents, and we did not lose any power.
- Thanking Mr. Buddy, Commissioners, all Departments, Sheriff, Fire, EMS, School Board, Brooks Hospital, PB Home, City of Morven, City of Quitman, and the Road Department.
- Will plan a hot wash meeting with different partners and Mr. Johnson.
- FEMA came and inspected the county buildings that have damage from Hurricane Helene. There is a total of eight damaged in the county, three have major damage: Brooks County CID Mobile, Tax Assessors and the Road Department.
- Have met with GEMA regarding obtaining generators for critical structures in the county. Met with Farmers at BCT Gin with FEMA and SBA.
- Severe weather week for the State, will have updates daily on the EMA Page to advise citizens.

C. Brooks County Extension Office – Machasia Dowdy, Brooks County CEC/ANR Agent

Ms. Dowdy appeared to update the Board on projects and activities in the Extension Office. They are in the process of hiring a second Agent position but are taking their time. She stated that production is in swing and are helping Farmers as best they can.

D. Brooks County Fire Department Report – Chief Weeks – Chief Weeks provided an update on activities for the Fire Department for January 2025:

- Brooks County Fire Department received 79 calls for service.
- Calls included two structure fires, two vehicle fires, four brush fires, three fire alarms, one controlled burn, three electrical equipment fires, a total of 33 medical calls, vehicle accidents were 9, no extrications; 22 canceled/nothing found, no trees were down and had three other calls.
- **Structure Fires:** 1117 Coeey Road, a barn fire and 239 St. Phillips Road.

- **Training:** Brooks County Fire currently has six personnel in an EMT-B class that is being funded and taught by SGMC at Station #10. Thomasville Fire/Rescue and Quitman Fire Department also have personnel attending with us.
- **New:** Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training came to do a site audit this month. We were 100% compliant. We have a total of 39 Firefighters, and all are certified suppression firefighters. In the process of onboarding six new volunteers which will bring our total force up to 45, if they all complete the training.
- **Updates:** Hydrants: currently working on our annual test and servicing.
- **Morven:** States they will be pulling out March 1, 2025.
- **East Brooks** – Nothing new.
- **Employee Update:** The Brooks County Fire Department is fully staffed at this time, and all are certified.

E. Brooks County Public Works Department Report – Project Manager -Kyle Christian - Kyle Christian, Project Manager, reported for January 2025:

- During January, the Road Department received 85 work orders and completed 68 work orders. The snow and ice prevented us from completing pipe installations, as we could not work on the roads and in some cases, we were unable to get materials needed for the work. Received 4.46” of rain in January, which impacted the work we do on the roads.
- **District 1:** Graded roads, added material where it was needed to fix washouts, cleaned ditches and culverts, installed new road signs. We spent most of the month grading the roads and cleaning out ditches.
- **District 2:** Built up roads, graded, cleaned ditches and culverts, repaired potholes, installed new signs. Performed various clean ups on roads and busted beaver dams. We installed a 24”x 30’ pipe on Wilson Pond Road. Our next two projects in this district will be Knights Ferry Road and Radford Road.
- **District 3:** Built up roads, graded cleaned ditches and culverts, and repaired potholes. Material was spread where needed on the roads. Completed the pipe installation for Hassell Road, Hutchinson, and Rowland Road. Also did a pipe installation on Shaw Lane. We hauled away nine truckloads of sand off Hassell Road to use on other jobs.
- **District 4:** We continued to grade roads, clean ditches and culverts, install road signs, and add materials where needed for washouts. Prepared potholes on numerous roads. We hauled away seven loads of sand from Connally Road. Installed driveway pipes on two addresses on Jamar Trail. Have a major project to be completed on Jones Creek Road.
- **District 5:** Graded roads, repaired signs, beaver dam removals, ditch work, and added materials. Hauled away five loads of sand from Schmoe Road and two loads of sand from Blair Road; also hauled away three loads of dirt and mud to Dodd Road.
- We had a bit of a rough month, but we prevailed. We continue to have debris all around the county, but the Army Corps of Engineers is working on this issue. Continuing to work on roads and clean out ditches one road at a time. Despite problems with the weather, we are making progress. We will continue to keep Brooks County beautiful one road at a time.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – (Johnson)

- 1) **NB001-2025**- Contract for Disaster Debris Recovery Services
- 2) **NB002-2025**- Disaster Debris Monitoring Services

During the December 30, 2024 work session, the Board approved/accepted DRC Emergency Services, LLC to contract with the county for disaster debris recovery and DebrisTech, LLC for disaster debris monitoring services. The contracts have been received and needs Chairman Folsom’s signature. County Attorney recommended the Board to authorize/delegate County Administrator Johnson to initiate the service when needed and include in their motion. The Board unanimously approved the contracts and Chairman signature for the disaster debris recovery with DebrisTech, LLC and disaster debris monitoring services with DRC Emergency Services, LLC and authorized County Administrator Johnson to initiate the service when needed in time of a disaster, Mr. Larko made the motion and Mrs. Exum seconded.

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

A. Scott Machovina – Road Closure – Marlo Road in NW Brooks County – Mr. Machovina submitted a request to appear to request the closure of Marlo Road. Mr. Machovina and his wife own the property on either side of Marlo Road as well as the property at both ends of Marlo Road; and is requesting this road be permanently closed. His reasoning is that the road is not necessary for travel, is used as a dumping ground for trash, and the culvert pipe that allows water to flow under the road is totally blocked with sediment causing about 10-15 acres of his property to be flooded as the water has nowhere to go. Mr. Machovina was provided with information regarding the process. County Attorney Kemp stated he would meet with Mr. Machovina and explain the process/procedures to him.

X. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administration Updates

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Thanked everyone for attending.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – Commented thanking everyone and God bless.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – Thanked everyone for coming. Commented that we have a good Board.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – Thanked everyone for coming.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – Advised everyone to take care of themselves.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Exum moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:11 pm; Mr. Maxwell seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Mr. James (Buddy) Johnson, County Administrator

Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk