

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, January 5, 2026 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, Finance Director, Ms. Janice Jarvis; Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney; and various residents.

I. PUBLIC HEARING – NONE

II. CALL TO ORDER – County Administrator

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Pastor Leroy Hunter – Brooks County Ministerial Association

III. CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN ELECTIONS – County Administrator

A. Nominations/Election – 2026 Chairman (County Administrator Leads) – Mr. Maxwell made the motion to nominate Mrs. Exum as Chair for 2026, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Nominations/Election – 2026 Vice Chairman (Chairman Leads) – Mr. Cody made the motion nominating Mr. Maxwell as Vice Chair for 2026, Mr. Folsom seconded. Madam Chair called for the vote. Mr. Larko opposed. Vote was 3 to 1.

C. Agenda Amendment/Removal – The motion was made by Mr. Larko to amend the agenda to add P. D. Duncan Day Resolution/Proclamation (FA003-2026), and remove the Farmers Market Discussion from Unfinished Business, Mr. Cody seconded.

IV. COMMISSIONER BUSINESS PRESENTATIONS – (5 MINUTES)

A) Dr. Leroy Hunter – Crossroads Community Center, Inc. – Cross Roads School (Historic Rosenwald Sch) Dr. Hunter presented accomplishments of Cross Roads School during the past year and efforts to restore the historic Cross Roads School. He stated the school is a significant historical and economic asset for Brooks County; achieved recognition on the State and National Historic registries. Restoration is expected to boost tourism and education. Dr. Hunter is requesting Board support for grant applications (USDA) and formal recognition. The Board requested a formal letter of support to be reviewed by the County Attorney. Dr. Hunter will provide a formal letter to the Board to consider non-financial support and resource guidance.

V. CONSENT AGENDA – One Motion for Approval on All Items

A) Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

1) **CA001-2026** – Regular Business Meeting – December 1, 2025

2) **CA002-2026** – Special Called/Executive Session – December 8, 2025

Mr. Folsom motioned to accept/approve the prior meeting minutes for CA001-2026 December 1, 2025, and CA002-2026 December 8, 2025, Mr. Maxwell seconded. The vote carried unanimously.

VI. FORMAL ACTION REQUESTS – Commissioners Discussion with Action

A. Approve/Disapprove/Other Official Actions

(1) FA001-2026 – Tax Assessors - Resolution for Administration of Refunds - The Resolution for Administration of Funds for the Tax Assessors' Office was approved on a motion by Mr. Larko, the motion was seconded by Mr. Cody.

(2) FA002-2026 - Potential Timber Harvest on County Property – Discussion – (Maybe Formal Action) – The Board approved County Administrator to seek three bids to salvage timber infested by beavers at the adjacent property located at the Landfill. Mr. Cody made a motion to authorize County Administrator to seek three bids for timber harvesting at the Landfill, Mr. Folsom seconded the motion.

(3) FA003-2026 – P. D. Duncan Day Proclamation – County Attorney read the Proclamation declaring January 15th as P. D. Duncan Day. The Board unanimously approved to honor Mr. Duncan's service with a Proclamation and declaring January 15th of each year as P. D. Duncan Day, on the motion by Mr. Folsom and seconded by Mr. Cody.

(4) FA004-2026 – 2026 Annual Board Appointments – On a motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously approved the 2026 Annual Appointments:

Boards/Committees

Brooks County Library Board	Mr. Willie Cody
Brooks County Airport Authority	Mr. Lee Larko
Brooks County Board of Health	Mr. James Maxwell
Council on Aging	Mr. Lee Larko
Coastal Plain Area, E.O.A.	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Chamber of Commerce	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Regional Commission Board	Mrs. Myra Exum
Dept. Family & Children Services	Mr. James Maxwell
Mid South RC & D Council	Mr. Lee Larko
Lowndes-Valdosta MPO	Mrs. Myra Exum
Recreation Department	Mr. Willie Cody
South Regional Joint Dev. Auth. Board	Mrs. Myra Exum
ACCG Voting Delegate	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Seven Rivers RC & D	Fire Chief Ricky Weeks

(5) FA005-2026 – 2026 Building Assignments – The motion was approved unanimously on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. Folsom, for the 2026 Building Assignments:

2026 Building Assessments

County Administration Building	Mrs. Myra Exum
Agriculture Building & Annex	Mr. Lee Larko
Courthouse	Mr. Patrick Folsom
Sheriff's Dept., Jail & CID	Mrs. Myra Exum
Public Works	Mr. Willie Cody
Voting Precincts	Mr. Lee Larko
E911 Center	Mr. Patrick Folsom

Multi-Purpose Building
(Headstart & Senior Center)
Fire Departments
Washington Street Gym
Boys & Girls Club

Mr. James Maxwell
Mrs. Myra Exum
Mr. Willie Cody/ Mr. James Maswell
Mr. Willie Cody

(6) FA006-2026 – 2026 Other Appointments – The Other Appointments for 2026 were approved as read on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, and Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous.

2026 Other Appointments

County Attorney
County Auditor
County Clerk
HR Director
Finance Director
ADA Coordinator
Safety Coordinator

Burchett & Kemp, LLC
CKH, LLC
Patricia Williams
Kim Daniels
Janice Jarvis
Jarod Lanier
Fire Chief Ricky Weeks

B. Boards & Authorities

Some board/authority appointments require clarification of term expirations and application process. Staff research appointment dates, advertise for vacancies, and revisit at next work session. The Board agreed that Mr. Folsom will serve as the liaison for the Hospital Authority.

C. FA007-2026 - Fuel Tank Shut Down CID (Formal action may be required) – County Administrator informed the Board of fuel tank shut down at the CID building due to water getting in the tank. The gas is no longer good to use. It will cost \$7,500 to repair. It is better to close the tank or allow it to be shut down. There is emergency backup at the Road Department. The Wex cards are being utilized more. Administrator and Chief Weeks will research both options to choose the most economical/efficient method, on the motion made by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mr. Cody.

VII. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS – 5 MINUTES

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS – (Johnson)

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

A. Shannon Turner – Solid Waste Fee Removal from Tax Bill – Ms. Shannon Turner presented concerns regarding solid waste fees for land with no active residence or service. The Board/Administrator will review and advise of the decision.

XI. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administration Updates

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Happy to see everyone, wish Happy New Year and hope they will have a good year.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – Acknowledged the attendance.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – Wished everyone Happy New Year.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – Wished everyone a prosperous New Year. Thanked Mr. Folsom for service as Chairman for past 5 years, and Mr. Maxwell for his many years of service.
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – Reminded everyone to be safe, the flu is abundant, to take care of self and loved ones.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Adjourned the regular meeting to go in executive session, on the motion by Mr. Folsom, Mr. Maxwell seconded.

A. Personnel – No action taken.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cody moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:04 pm; Mr. Maxwell seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Mr. James (Buddy) Johnson, County Administrator

Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk