

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, June 1, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Chambers at the Brooks County Courthouse, located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mrs. Myra Exum, Chair, Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chair; and Mr. Lee Larko. Mr. Patrick Folsom and Mr. Willie Cody. 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 - NONE

II. CALL TO ORDER – Madam Chair called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

A. Prayer – Brother Jim Pitt, Brooks County Ministerial Association all in attendance in prayer.

B. Pledge of Allegiance – Brooks County 4-H – Elizabeth Malone led all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Amendment - On the motion by Mr. Larko, and seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the agenda was

amended to include an appointment to the Brooks County Airport Authority, which will be added to

Formal Actions as FA052-2026.

III. COMMISSIONER BUSINESS PRESENTATION

1. EMS – Emily Brown – Recognize Five Brooks County Fire Fighters – Emily Brown, SGMC EMS, recognized five Brooks County Firefighters for a trauma life save, highlighting the successful extension of trauma training and collaboration between EMS and the fire department. Honorees: Elijah Daniel, Zachary Gunidry, Austin Luna, Cody Melligan, and Jesse McKinney.

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

A. Board Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- 1) CA013-2026 – Special Called/Work Session/FY2026-2027 Budget Retreat – April 27, 2026
- 2) CA014-2026 – FY2026-2027 Budget Retreat – April 28, 2026
- 3) CA015-2026 – FY2026-2027 Budget Retreat – April 29, 2026
- 4) CA016-2026 – Regular Business Meeting – May 4, 2026
- 5) CA017-2026 – FY2026-2027 Proposed Budget Work Session – May 15, 2026
- 6) CA018-2026 – Public Hearing/Special Called/Work Session/Executive Session – May 26, 2026

The motion passed unanimously to approve the prior meeting minutes for April 2026 and May 2026, on the motion by Mr. Cody, and seconded by Mr. Folsom.

V. FORMAL ACTION REQUESTS – Commissioners Discussion with Action

A. Approve/Disapprove/Other Official Actions

1) FA049-2026 – Stanley Road Closure/Abandonment – Mr. Folsom called for discussion to provide an overview of the road abandonment process. County Attorney advised that landowners would need to be notified, cost to be covered by the requester, after being published in the local paper, public hearing will be scheduled. If abandonment is approved, the road will become private.

Mr. Maxwell motioned to table this request for a further look at what it entails and to get more information, Mr. Cody seconded. Mr. Folsom stated to check with the school system as buses use the road; and revisit in July.

2) FA050-2026 – Quote – Dump Truck – Road Department – A quote/proposal was received to purchase a 2023 Ford Super Duty Truck for \$59,500.00 from Elite Motors of Cartersville, GA. County Administrator highly recommended the purchase as it will eliminate renting a truck as the Road Department is currently doing and waving the three-bid requirement due to market constraints. Mr. Folsom made the motion approving the purchase of the 2023 Ford Super Duty Truck for \$59,500.00; the funds will come from TSPLOST; and waive the three-bid requirement; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

3) FA051-2026 – MOU – Recreation and Board of Education – Brooks County and the Board of Education will enter an MOU to shift recreation program management from Boys & Girl Club to the school system, with Brooks County funding and school contributing funds and management. The Boys & Girls Club is out of recreation and handles after-school programs. On the motion by Mr. Folsom, seconded by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously approved entering an MOU between Brooks County and the Board of Education; and a lease agreement for property at 2330 Webster Road, Quitman, Brooks County, GA to be used solely for the operation of the Brooks County Recreation Department and related recreational and community purposes.

4) FA052-2026 – Airport Authority Appointment – The Board unanimously approved the appointment of James Warren to fill vacancy on Brooks County Airport Authority, on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. Cody.

5) FA053-2026 - Pumpers to be Approved as Surplus – Chief Weeks – Requested to surplus three vehicles: 1985 Oshkosh Tanker (broken, to be sold), 1995 Freightliner Rescue Truck (not in use, to be sold), 1986 GMC Tanker (pending evaluation for possible road department use). Two tankers will be declared surplus: 1985 Oshkosh Tanker and 1995 Freightliner Rescue, 1986 GMC Tanker will be determined by Administrator after review, approved on the motion by Mr. Folsom and Mr. Larko seconded.

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

A. Board of Tax Assessors – Wayne Waldron, Chief Tax Appraiser – Appeared to provide

information to the Board on the new format for annual property notices, stating they are clearer and less confusing and exemption estimates included. The fire fee will be incorporated into the millage rate. Homestead exemptions can be applied for during the 45-day appeal period. Mailing of the notices will occur by June 19, 2026. After which, phone calls may start, and when they do, Commissioners can direct citizen questions to the Tax Assessor's Office.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – (Johnson)

- 1) NB002-2026 – Pumpers to be Approved as Surplus – Chief Weeks - Approved as formal action
FA053-2026 above.

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

X. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administration Updates

- Clarified that the county cannot apply for grants on behalf of the City of Quitman due to legal restrictions.
- FY2026-2027 Budget is available for public review; final adoption scheduled for June 29th.
- County is on emergency spending only until the new budget is adopted.
- SPLOST failed in the recent election; current funding ends December 2026. We will have to wait a year before the referendum can be placed back on the ballot; during that time, we will lose funding. There has been misinformation about the use of the SPLOST funds.
- The impact of SPLOST loss affects future community projects.

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – Commented on how there is misinformation about how the Board functions; there is nothing self-serving on the Board; we are 100% transparent. If anyone has questions, give him a call, he will be happy to answer questions; rather than rely on misinformation.
- **Patrick Folsom (District 2)** – Concurred with Mr. Larko regarding transparency on the Board. Commended the department heads, EMS and fire department partnerships.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – Also concurred with previous statements regarding transparency. He encouraged the public to attend meetings and ask questions directly, rather than relying on social media or misinformation.
- **Myra Exum, Chair (District 4)** – Reminded everyone of upcoming July 4th community event planned at the courthouse with music, entertainment, laser light show, etc. reminded of hurricane season beginning; and prayers for community safety. Stated

thankful for the rain and hope it continues. Hope we can continue to have budget retreats in the future. Informed the public that they cannot campaign for SPLOST. The loss will be missed, and it will hurt

- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – Commended Brother Pitt on the invocation prayer. Advised the public to disconnect from Washington, DC and focus on Brooks County.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maxwell moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:56 pm; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mrs. Myra Exum, Chair

Mr. James (Buddy) Johnson, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk