

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman; Mr. Patrick Folsom, Vice Chair; Mr. Rhett Rowe; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Willie Cody. Others present were: Ms. Patricia Williams, Interim County Administrator/County Clerk; Mr. Luke Mitchell, County Attorney; and various residents.

PUBLIC HEARING - None

WORK SESSION – Chairman called Work Session to order.

Reports from Committees/Departments

- A. Mike Smith – 911/EMA Director** – Presented report for March 2019:
- Informed the Board has started disaster preparation; discussing procedures, planning; and sharing input of being better prepared.
 - Provided a report listing of call type breakdown per call for between January 2019 and April 1, 2019.
- B. Jordan Smith – Brooks County Fire Department** – Reported updates:
- 95% of volunteers have taken test.
 - Preparing for 2020 ISO challenge.
 - Will be attending Hurricane Conference in Savannah.
 - Will get with Thomasville regarding ISO rating for Pavo.
- C. JJ Allen – Road Department** – Provided road update report for March 2019:
- Reported there are no closed roads at this time.
 - 90% of grass cutting has been done. Will work on Troupeville Road Saturday, due to heavy traffic.
 - Will start preparing a summary of completed roads to present to Board.
 - Was commended by Commissioners on good job done on Adams and Alderman Road, St. James and Duckworth.
 - Tallokas Road is complete; and opened. Saved money by doing some work in-house.
 - Will start on Pine Branch by Wednesday, and then move to Branch Road.
- D. Ben DeVane – County Surveyor/Engineer** – Updated the Board on projects:
- 2018 LMIG and Striping contracts have been signed by H & H Paving; and got bond. Will get contracts signed by Chairman. Will schedule a Pre-construction meeting soon.
 - CR 262 – Pine Branch: Plats, deeds, maps, survey are complete; will stake ROW; get topography started and figured out.
 - Off System Safety Program information is complete and has been submitted to GDOT; the list contains 85 miles for striping and signs. Road Department will clip grass, sweep clean; and pick up old signs.

Chairman closed Work Session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:44 p.m.

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman called meeting to order.

A. **Prayer & Pledge** – Pastor Jim Pitts, Morven Baptist Church, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

A. **April 1, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting** – Mr. Folsom made a motion to amend the agenda to include Budget Amendment under Unfinished Business, and add as item 6C; Mr. Cody; seconded. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Cody made the motion to approve the agenda with the amendment, Ms. Exum seconded. Vote was unanimous.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board unanimously approved the following minutes:

A. Monthly Work Session & Regular Meeting March 4, 2019

4. **Appearances**

A. **Chandler Foy – Facility Use – Courthouse Grounds** - Administration received a request from Ms. Chandler Foy, New Hire Solutions, for use of Courthouse grounds to host a job fair for four hours to try and bring in new applicants from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The motion was made by Mr. Cody and seconded by Mr. Rowe, to allow New Hire Solutions to host a job fair on April 17, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on the Courthouse grounds. The vote was unanimous.

B. **Sky Robinson – Brooks County DFCS – New Director** – Administration received a request from Ms. Sky Robinson, New Director for DFCS, to appear and introduce herself to the Board. She works at both Brooks County and Cook County DFCS office. Ms. Robinson informed the Board of the need for an appointment to District 3 on the DFCS Board. She commended the staff in Brooks County and enjoys working with them.

C. **Becky Rothrock – Tax Commissioner** – Tax Commissioner, Ms. Becky Rothrock, submitted a request to appear on the agenda to discuss and inform the Board of several items regarding her office. She requested permission from the Board to use her discretion for a mobile home tax sale that will take place on next day, Tuesday April 2, 2019. She feels the mobile home will not sell; and she may need to lower the price to get rid of them. If a mobile home does not sale that morning; she will return in afternoon at 2:00 p.m. to sell it. Ms. Exum made a motion to authorize Tax Commissioner to use her discretion to sell mobile home only at upcoming tax sale; and she is to make request on a yearly basis, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Rothrock requested the Board consider adopting an Ordinance/Resolution to enforce payment of personal/real property taxes. Before a Business License is issued, or renewed, Administration would get with her office to check to see if taxes have been paid before the License is issued. The Board authorized County Attorney to prepare a draft for Board review/approval by the May meeting.

The Board was informed of the New Drives Title/Tag System to be implemented in May 2019. Georgia Department of Revenue (DOR) is partnering with County tag offices to implement a new state-of-the-art vehicle registration and titling system for faster and more efficient service; and more self-service options. The process will begin May 21st, some vehicle services and location hours may be reduced while preparing for the system upgrade. Brooks County Tax Commissioner Office will not be able to process tag renewals and title transactions before the system upgrade week to avoid delays. On Thursday, May 22nd the office will close at 2:30 p.m. to close out old tag system, print reports, pay outs, etc. No vehicle registration or titling services will be available statewide May 24th thru May 27, 2019.

Tax Commissioner also requested a part-time position for her office using funds already in her budget. The person in this position will start in May, and will work 29 hours per week. The Board unanimously approved the part-time position for 29 hours per week using funds already in budget on the motion by Mr. Rowe, seconded by Mr. Folsom.

D. Sheriff Mike Dewey – Brooks County Jail – Change of Food Service – Sheriff requested approval to change from current food service provider, Summit, to Kimble's, Food by Design, who is located in Georgia. The food service is budgeted for \$105,000 currently, the new food service is proposing to save the County approximately \$10,000. The request to change food service at jail from Summit to Kimble's Food by Design, was unanimously approved on the motion by Mr. Cody, and seconded by Ms. Exum.

E. Mary Henley – Brooks County Library – Ms. Henley submitted request to appear to inform the Board of not receiving a response from Brooks County Library Board regarding unfair treatment of a patron (Chantal M. Moore). Ms. Henley reported the issue to the Commissioners; and was advised to go to the Library Board; but have not received any type of response. Board advised she needs to wait for response from Library Board; Commissioners cannot do anything until Library Board makes decision.

F. Carol Stiles – McKinnon Road Repair – Administration received a request to address the Board on condition of McKinnon Road. The road has been flooded and impassable for three months. Since her agenda request; the road has been built up and there has been progress.

G. Donald Turner – TSPLOST Projects- Mr. Turner submitted a request to appear in regards to the TSPLOST projects. He had questions of how local roads got allocated. He also had concerns regarding status on Ramblin Road. County Engineer stated he

would revisit this project and provide the Board with a copy. Ms. Exum advised Mr. Turner he could go to the County website to obtain an application for Adopt a Road.

H. Henry Burton – Barney Voting Precinct – Mr. Burton submitted request to Administration to address the Board on the re-opening of the Barney Precinct. Ms. Melanie Gates spoke on behalf of Mr. Burton and the group from Barney. She stated they are at a disadvantage by not being able to vote in Barney; and it is an inconvenience to citizens who wish to vote. The precinct was closed due to not being in compliance with the State. Ms. Gates asked the Board to take the request into consideration. Commissioner Rowe advised he would get with Elections Supervisor, Mr. Charles Dave, and look into the matter; and also speak with Rep. John LaHood.

5. New Business

A. Support Letter – Lowndes County – Application for OneGeorgia Equity Funding – Lowndes County Planner, Ms. Trinni Amiot, contacted Administration with a request for a support letter for their application for OneGeorgia Equity Funding for the acquisition of 27.34 acres of property located on the north side of Davidson Road, adjacent to Moody Air Force Base. Ms. Exum made the motion to approve the Chairman signing the support letter from Lowndes County for their application for OneGeorgia Equity Funding, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Appointee to Seven Rivers RC&D Council – Seven Rivers RC&D submitted a letter to Administration requesting an appointee to serve on their Board to replace former Administrator. On the motion by Ms. Exum; seconded by Mr. Rowe; the Board unanimously appointed Interim County Administrator, Patricia Williams, to serve on the Seven Rivers RC&D Council.

C. Consolidation Agreement between Brooks County Fire Dept. and City of Morven Fire Dept. – Fire Chief, Mr. Jordan Smith, presented the Consolidation Agreement between Brooks County Fire Department and City of Morven Fire Department for approval. An audit was conducted; and City of Morven was at risk of losing their compliance and their ISO rating. By consolidating with Brooks County; their ISO rating will be same as Brooks County; and their compliance number will be under Brooks County also. Ms. Exum made a motion to accept the Consolidation Agreement between Brooks County Fire Department and City of Morven Fire Department; seconded by Mr. Folsom. Vote was unanimous.

D. TSPLOST Projects – Contract/Consult with GDOT – County Engineer updated the Board on the meeting held by GDOT on March 21, 2019 at Quitman City Hall. Board needs to consider whether or not they want GDOT to manage the project and engineering or will the County handle it. The Board unanimously approved GDOT to manage the TSPLOST project and engineering on the motion by Ms. Exum; and seconded by Mr. Cody.

6. Unfinished Business

A. Solid Waste Collections – The Board has discussed the possibility of not renewing the contract with Advanced Disposal. Notification will have to be given to Advanced prior to June 1st to stay within the contract renewal period. Board authorized Administration to contact other services. During the February meeting, the Board asked County Attorney to look at the current contract and report back to the Board. During the March meeting, County Attorney advised the Board to make sure to send them notice prior to the cutoff date if intend to terminate contract with current provider. Board tabled this item until the April meeting to get information from Thomasville.

Thomasville submitted a proposal letter to Brooks County addressing the potential startup date and their performance price which included the curbside pickup of 90 gallon containers, landfill fees, fuel, delivery and repair of containers. The quoted price is \$14.01 per residence per month that will cover the aforementioned services. The annual cost will be \$168.12; additional cans will be \$10.50; the current cost is \$145.00 annually; and \$9.00 for additional cans. The solid waste fees are included in taxpayer's property tax bills. Brooks County residents have stated in many instances to the Administration staff, and Commissioners; that they would rather pay higher cost to get better service. After discussion, Ms. Exum made the motion to send termination letter immediately to Advanced Disposal Services, seconded by Mr. Folsom. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Cody motioned to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Thomasville Solid Waste with the increase in cost; Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous.

B. Budget Ordinance – County Attorney was authorized to review/modify Budget Ordinance during March meeting. He spoke with County Auditor, Gary Zeigler and he mentioned possible changes; and some specific guidelines about when an amendment can be made without notice. He will need to look at the law on the items discussed with the Auditor and determine what we are required to do and what is optional so that everyone can have a clear picture of what the options are. He will have a draft for the Board by the May meeting.

C. FY2019-2020 Budget Amendment – Amended Agenda Item – During the March meeting, the Board discussed amending the current Budget for Governing Authority and Administration for Education and Training, and travel; but did not have amounts. On the motion by Mr. Folsom, and seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved amending the FY2019-2020 Budget for Governing Authority (1110) in the amount of \$10,000 for Education & Training, \$10,000 for Travel; and Administration (1310) in amount of \$1,000 for Education, and funds will come from Contingency.

7. County Administrator Notes/Comments – None

8. Commissioners Notes/Comments

A. Rhett Rowe - District 1 – Thanked everyone for attending.

B. Patrick Folsom, District 2 – Commented on the land not being used in Industrial Park; and possible way to use to bring in revenue. Board advised they would need to get with Development Authority.

C. Willie Cody, District 3 – No comment.

D. Myra Exum, District 4 – No comment.

E. James Maxwell, District 5 – Inquired with Mr. Rowe as to days and time he is available for special called meetings. Mr. Rowe stated he is free on Mondays and any other day before 5:00 p.m.

9. Executive Session – None

10. Adjournment - Mr. Exum made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:13 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Interim Administrator/County Clerk