

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., in the Auditorium at the Brooks County Ag/Extension Building located at 400 East Courtland Avenue, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman; Mr. Patrick Folsom, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Ms. Myra Exum; and Mr. Rhett Rowe. Others present were: Ms. Jessica McKinney, Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

Chairman called meeting to order.

A. Budget Update for FY2020 – Administrator presented an update of the FY2020 budget thru March 2020, revenues are up \$193,946.59. All departments are within their budgets.

B. Department Expenditure Requests:

Administrator outlined requests from departments:

- Tax Commissioner – Computer/Monitor/Software - \$7,000
- Tax Assessor – Computer/Monitor/Software/Copier Lease/Equipment/Timber Assessor/Uniforms
- Sheriff – 4 Vehicles - \$100,000
- Road Department – 4 Vehicles and Backhoe - \$240,000
- Recycling/Landfill – 1 Vehicle/Roll off Increase - \$35,000
- Victim Witness – 1 Vehicle - \$25,000
- 911/EMA – Radio Tower Pavo/Shelter/Hurricane Supplies - \$45,000
- Fire Department – Turnout Gear/Tango Tango/PT Salaries - \$50,000
- Probate Court – Computer/Periodicals - \$2,500
- Magistrate Court – PT Judge/Computer

Other Projects:

- Animal Services - \$250,000, possible Rural Development Project
- Right of Way Cutting Contract - \$160,000
- 3% COLA Increase – Across the board of \$3,410,587.74
- Washington Street Gym - \$50,000, possible Rural Development Project

C. Contract Cost Considerations

- Excellence Exceeded Contract – Administrator advised the Board that Excellence Exceeded will work thru the month of July at no charge to the County. The Board needs to determine whether or not to renew the contract or do project by project. Ms. Exum stated we need to plan for it until we know where we are with new budget.

D. IGA with City of Quitman; Exchange of Services Proposal – This item had no discussion due to the Quitman Housing Authority not being part of City of Quitman

Executive Session

Mr. Cody made the motion to go out of special called into executive session at 7:15 pm; Mr. Folsom seconded.

Ms. Exum made the motion to go out of executive session at 8:18 pm Mr. Cody seconded.

Mr. Folsom motioned to return to special called at 8:18 pm; Mr. Cody seconded.

Pending Litigation - County Attorney discussed the proposed contract for East Brooks Fire Department. Mr. Burchett advised the Board of their options: 1) They can pull out and open another fire station; but will get a negative ISO rating. 2) Board can give in and let continue the way it has been operating in a manner not safe for Brooks County, not getting audits prepared, not filing taxes; and false pretense as 501-C using tax payer's money. 3) Or go into a short term contract; while looking for property for fire station.

Fire Chief provided expenditures for past four years for East Brooks. He needs to provide further information and details to determine an estimated fee. Board will look at the proposed contract; give their input; and Attorney will do revisions and figure actual cost to offer; and bring back to the Board.

10. Adjournment - Ms. Exum made the motion to adjourn special called meeting at 8:39 p.m.; Mr. Folsom seconded.

Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman
Ms. Jessica McKinney, Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk