

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, October 5, 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; and Mr. Rhett Rowe. Ms. Myra Exum was present via telephone. Others present were: Ms. Jessica McKinney, Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney; and various residents.

### **Public Hearing – Planning Commission**

- **John Browning – Request for a Zoning Change on Troupeville Road** – Ms. Sherry Davidson, Southern GA Regional Commission, presented a petition submitted by Mr. John Browning to change zoning from DR-20-M to Agriculture on an 8 acre parcel, located at 10333 Troupeville Road in unincorporated Brooks County, and being more specifically described as Map No. 1400012; Parcel No. 1. No action has been taken by the Planning Commission due to lack of a quorum for their meeting scheduled for September 22, 2020. Staff recommends approval of the petition to allow for two extra homes for family members and farming in the Agricultural District. Mr. Browning lives on property and has stated the well is large enough to serve three residences; but would have to place two additional septic systems.
- **BOC to Adopt a Text Amendment to Allow Court Ordered Halfway House** – Ms. Sherry Davidson, SGRC, presented a petition by Brooks County Zoning Administrator for a text amendment to allow Court Ordered Rehab by Special Exception in unincorporated Brooks County. No action has been taken by the Planning Commission due to lack of a quorum for their meeting scheduled for September 22, 2020. Staff recommends approval of the petition with the following conditions:
  - 1) Must be on a paved collector road or a major arterial highway.
  - 2) Limit the amount of participants to ten (10).
  - 3) Must have proper signage depicting its use.
  - 4) Must follow all local, state and federal guidelines.

The Board would have to approve/adopt a text amendment to allow a Court ordered Rehab. Judges will only issue court-ordered rehab if specific criteria is met. Mr. Cody inquired as to who will monitor the facility?

Chairman closed the public hearing at 5:15 p.m.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman called the Regular Meeting to order. Mr. Jack Harrell led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On the motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board unanimously approved the agenda for October 5, 2020. Vote was unanimous.

## **3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENTS**

**A. Jim Owens – Road Department Consultant** - Reported the Road Department has been mowing every day; including Saturdays with the 10 foot mower purchased by the County. The Department has completed Shelley Road, Lawson Pond Road; Empress for potholes.

The Contractor has started and has mowed 35.5 miles. Mr. Owens stated debris is on the road, Contractor have not done any trimming around signs. 75% of contract work has been done; he is monitoring and communicating with Contractor at least once or twice a week. Mr. Owens stated he will prepare a list of what has been completed to Administration to provide to Board.

**B. Fire Department – Jordan Smith** – Chief Smith reported his department has received 400 service call; and has been invited by Langboard for training in November. Langboard has also donated supplies for Fire Department training center. He further informed the Board of seven of his staff that will test out next month.

- His Department performed a horse rescue for the first time.
- Provided a list of vehicles, their location and status.
- Will provide gear inventory to Administration.

## **4. Approval of Minutes**

On the motion by Mr. Folsom, seconded by Ms. Exum, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the following meetings:

- |                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Regular Monthly Meeting           | September 14, 2020 |
| • Emergency Special Called Meeting  | September 17, 2020 |
| • Workshop & Special Called Meeting | September 29, 2020 |

## **5. APPEARANCES**

**A. PD Duncan – Request to Use Courthouse Grounds for Veterans Day Program (November 7, 2020)** – Administration received a request from Mr. Duncan to appear to receive permission to use the Courthouse grounds on November 7, 2020 for a Veteran's Day Program. Mr. Cody made the motion to approve the request to use Courthouse grounds for a Veteran's Day program on November 7, 2020 Mr. Folsom seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Leanna Pledger – Boys & Girls Club Basketball Season** – Administration received a request from Leanna Pledger to appear to request that a Basketball Season be added to the Boys & Girls Club schedule. Mr. Cody made the motion; Ms. Exum seconded, to amend the contract with Boys & Girls Club to add a Basketball Season. Vote was unanimous. Ms. Pledger had an additional request for assistance with funds

to install bleaches and a score board. Bleaches would be \$3,000 and scoreboard \$4,000. Board advised that the County has approved the budget for this year and not sure where funds would come from. Mr. Rowe suggested that maybe the County could do partial funding of the funds needed. After discussion, the motion was made by Mr. Rowe to approve the amendment to the contract between Brooks County and Boys & Girls Club to add Basketball, table the issue regarding funding pending the amendment to the contract, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**C. Elizabeth Jones – Dixie Road and Winter Road** – Ms. Jones submitted a request to discuss the condition of Dixie Road and Winter Road. Ms. Jones thanked the Board for what they are doing for the County. She described conditions of Dixie Road as deplorable; and inquired about paving the road. She stated she has been before the Board previously regarding road conditions. The Board informed Ms. Jones that Dixie Road is on the 2019 LMIG Project List; contract is ready for signatures; and Contractor should be starting soon. Vote was unanimous.

There are speeding concerns on Winter Road, where children play. Ms. Jones requested speed humps be put in place. Administration advised that there is a formal process.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Zoning Cases (Vote) – John Browning – Request for Zoning Change on Troupeville Road** – Mr. Folsom made the motion to approve the request for Zoning Change located at 10333 Troupeville Road from DR-20-M to Agriculture on an 8 acre parcel, to allow for two extra homes for family members and farming in the Agricultural District; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**BOC to Adopt a Text Amendment to Allow Court Ordered Halfway House** – On the motion by Mr. Folsom, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved to send this item back to the Planning Commission for the text amendment to allow a Court Ordered Halfway House.

**B. Appointment to Tax Assessors Board (Wayne Waldron)** – On motion by Mr. Cody; seconded by Mr. Folsom, the Board unanimously approved to re-appoint Ralph Manning to the Tax Assessors Board for another three-year term. Mr. Manning's term will expire December 31, 2020; and is willing and eligible to accept another three-year term; which will expire December 31, 2023.

**C. Christmas on the Courthouse Square Tree Lighting, November 29, 2020 (County Administrator)** – County Administrator requested to approval to spend up to a budgeted amount of \$3,000 to provide the community an annual tradition of Christmas on the Courthouse Square with a live tree lighting and evening program. Ms. Exum made the motion to approve Administrator's request to spend up to \$3,000 for an annual tradition of Christmas on the Courthouse Square with a live tree lighting, evening program, and refreshments, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

## 7. Unfinished Business

**A. Grady EMS Contract (Vote)** – The Grady EMS contract was renewed in the amount of \$405,000; once the County-provided stations are delivered, evidenced by Certificate of Occupancy issued for the modular units, the annual fee will adjust to \$380,000 for the term of the agreement, on the motion by Mr. Cody; and seconded by Ms. Exum. Vote was unanimous. The term of the contract is year to year commencing on August 1, 2020 and ending on July 31, 2021 (Initial Term). The Agreement will automatically renew for a period of 12 months under the same terms and conditions. Renewals are limited to four automatic renewals.

**B. Haddock Road Land Swap** – Ms. Exum made the motion to authorize staff to proceed with publication of a notice of property exchange; I further move we approve appraisals as presented for each parcel; and approve the exchange by the Board at the December 1, 2020 scheduled regular meeting; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**C. Administration Building Funding (Vote)** – The Board reviewed the options presented by Scott Johnson, Excellence Exceeded, for funding on the Administration Building. Two structures of funding are considered, a general obligation bond and an annual appropriation lease. A general obligation bond will require a voter referendum; an annual appropriation lease does not. The Board unanimously approved option #2, an annual appropriation lease, as best funding to build an Administration Building, on motion by Ms. Exum and seconded by Mr. Cody.

## 8. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NOTES/COMMENTS

- **Ag Build Design Update** – Administrator will email the Board the final design to review to see if there are any concerns; if not the ground breaking is scheduled for October 19, 2020.
- **Courthouse Renovation Update** – The Agreement is complete, waiting on Notice to Proceed.
- **Development Authority Appointments** – Will accept appointments at the November regular meeting.
- **City Agreement with Fire Department Rescue Services** – Fire Chief Smith is working on it.
- **911 Support of Wrecker Services Policy Review** – 911 Director is reviewing the Wrecker Services Policy.
- **GDOT Speed Limit Review** – Administrator is reviewing the speed limits submitted by GDOT, there are discrepancies, will give to Jim Owens to work on and enforce.
- **GDOT Welcome Signs** – There is an application process with GDOT.

- **RFP:** Workers Compensation – Working on should have complete by end of week.
- **RFP: Jackson Road Station Septic System \**
- **RFP: Jackson Road Station Modular Addition for Housing EMS Services**
- **SPLOST Audit Update** – Some counties may get additional funds due to business taxes not accounted for.
- **CARES Act Funding Update** – Counties will get additional funding in the second round.

9. **CALENDAR ITEMS TO NOTE** - None

- **October 12, 2020:** County Administrator Maternity Leave begins (Projected 8-10 weeks)
- **October 19, 2020:** TSPLOST Discretionary Funds Projects Workshop
- **October 19, 2020:** Ag Building Ground Breaking
- **October (TBD):** Staff Appreciation Luncheon/Wellness Day

**Commissioners Notes/Comments**

- **Rhett Rowe - District 1** – No comment.
- **Patrick Folsom, District 2** – Status on Augustus Road.
- **Willie Cody, District 3** – Appreciate everyone coming out.
- **Myra Exum, District 4** – No comment.
- **James Maxwell, District 5** – Thanked everyone for coming out.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Folsom made the motion to go out of regular meeting and into executive session at 6:32 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

**Personnel** – No action was taken.

**Real Estate** – No action was taken.

Mr. Cody made the motion to go out of executive session and return to the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.; Mr. Folsom seconded.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Cody made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 7:01 p.m.; Mr. Folsom seconded.

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