

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., in the Courtroom at the Brooks County Courthouse, located at 100 East Screven Street, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Ms. Myra Exum; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were Mrs. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Mr. James Burchett, County Attorney; and various residents.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – NONE

2. CALL TO ORDER

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Pastor Jim Pitts, Brooks County Ministerial Association, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board unanimously approved the following minutes as read:

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| A. Regular Monthly Meeting | March 6, 2023 |
| B. Executive Session | March 13, 2023 |
| C. Special Called Meeting/Work Session | March 28, 2023 |
| D. Executive Session | March 28, 2023 |

4. INVITED GUESTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. David Wall – Windstream – Broadband Update – Mr. Wall appeared to provide an update to the Board on the Broadband stating that part has been approved; and the rest will be approved next year. A lot of fiber optics have been installed in the Grooverville area who partnered with Colquitt EMC. EMC provided poles for residents and Boys and Girls Club at no charge. On Webster Street there were 27 homes completed. The second project in Troupeville area 183 homes were completed. Mr. Wall stated that there are 2,307 potential residents for broadband service. There are 2,000 miles of broadband to be installed in South Georgia and over 200 in Brooks County.

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

A. Brooks County Extension Office – Machasia Dowdy – Appeared to introduce Will Brown, Second Agent, for the Extension Office. He has been here approximately two months, originally from Dublin, GA; and lives in Tifton, GA. Ms. Dowdy also informed the Board of hiring Haley Clark as the new 4-H Program Director; and now the office is fully staffed.

B. Brooks County Fire Department – Chief Catlett – Provided the report for March 2023 Fire Department and activities:

- Responded to 42 calls for service.
- Working on water storage tanks for the three stations that do not have them (Station 2, Station 10, and Station 7).
- Progressing on Phase II of getting large tankers operational and outfitted.
- Volunteers received 72 hours of training.
- Conducted 1410 hose drills with career and volunteers.

- Firefighter II class completed all seven Firefighters were tested passed the skills, waiting on results of written test.
- Investigated two structure fires 4405 Hempstead Church Road and 9 Sparrow Hawk Drive.
- Pre-fire Plans – 96 out of 112 completed.

6. CONSENT AGENDA - NONE

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. NextEra Energy – County Attorney, Mr. James Burchett, informed the Board that he has been in contact with NextEra. However, NextEra has said they are looking to do a noise survey to evaluate the noise concern. The attorney’s have also sent a letter requesting a timely response to the noise concerns. NexEra has not responded. Mr. Larko inquired as to what is the repercussion if the noise rate is not in accordance with the Noise Ordinance? The Board questioned the validity of the study. The Board agreed and authorized Ms. Sherry Davidson, Zoning/Code Enforcement to go out and do an assessment and report back to the Board. County Administrator stated that Ms. Davidson can randomly schedule time to go and assess the noise.

B. Development Authority – Stephanie Williams – Support of Community Heart & Soul - Mrs. Williams requested to appear to request the Board’s support of their endeavors by committing to engagement in events, representation, coordination, etc. Community Heart & Soul during the March 6, 2023, regular meeting, and was tabled. Mrs. Williams appeared to reiterate support of Community Heart & Soul. The program is a residential driven process that engages the entire population in identifying what they love most about their community. It presents an opportunity for getting everyone voices heard. Ms. Williams stated that all Councils have voted to approve. The Development Authority has designated funds to match the grant. The Development Authority has partnered with the SGRC. The Core Team consists of 12 people throughout the Community; they meet every other week. She invited the Board to be a part of Community Heart & Soul by representation. There is no monetary support needed as they move forward. Ms. Williams requested a motion to support their endeavors and coordinating of events by representation. The Board inquired as to what representation is needed. After discussion, the Chairman suggested a letter of support. The County Attorney will look into further and prepare a letter of support.

C. Intergovernmental Agreement – City of Quitman – Inert Landfill – The City of Quitman has approached the County regarding the use of the burn area inside the recycling center. The City contracts with Deep South, Deep South wants to dump materials at the landfill. The County Attorney drafted an Intergovernmental Agreement that both parties can give notice of termination. Brooks County does not have the ability to weigh tons. Mr. Robert Vann provided additional information with several options. Thomasville charges \$225.00 to pick up and deliver. They will use dump trucks or what vehicle they have. The Quitman Recycling Center, Mr. Zack White, has agreed to weigh at the site. The County Administrator stated the City is in immediate need of getting some stuff burned; and decided with Mr. Maddox, City Manager, for \$500.00 to use for 30 days. The City can contract with Thomasville, use their transportation to Brooks County to burn 28 tons. The Board inquired who will be responsible, Mr. Vann stated the Attendants at the Recycling Center will check them in. After further discussion, Mr. Larko made the motion to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Quitman for 28 tons, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Amend Superior Court Budget – Jury Duty Fees – Superior Court Clerk, Mrs. Belinda Wheeler, submitted a request for funds to pay jurors for upcoming court dates. There are not enough remaining funds in the budget. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to amend the budget for Superior Court in amount of \$7,500.00 to pay jury duty fees for upcoming court dates, the funds will come from the Contingency Fund, seconded by Mr. Cody. The vote was unanimous.

B. Adopt – Resolution Agreeing to Participate – Second Round Opioid Litigation – The Board was advised by County Attorney of the Second Round of Opioid Litigation against multiple defendants. The first round of the Opioid Litigation was primarily for the Manufacturer; the 2nd round is mainly for the Retailers. The Board needs to ratify in open session to be binding. On the motion by Mrs. Exum, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved and adopted Resolution No. 23-R-4, Agreeing to Participate in the second round of the Opioid Litigation.

C. Opioid Regional Representation – County Attorney recommended the Board appoint someone to represent Brooks County on the Opioid Regional Committee/Board. Mr. Maxwell stated he has spoken with Dr. Horne, and she has expressed interest. Mrs. Exum stated she would reach out to Bridges of Hope. The appointee should be involved in recovery, on Board of Health or Behavioral Health Board. The potential appointee would need to be provided as soon as possible to be on the agenda for the May 1, 2023, regular meeting and included in the agenda packets.

D. Intergovernmental Agreement – City of Quitman – Planning/Zoning – The County assisted the City of Quitman in the Dollar General process on the spur of the moment. The County Administrator inquired if the Board wants to enter into an agreement with the City for Planning and Zoning. If so, there would be an administrative fee for service. Mr. Maxwell commented that the city should get its own planning and zoning, it should remain separated. Mr. Larko commented that if we did, another agent could be hired if enough funds are generated. The Chairman stated that Brooks County is behind and trying to get caught up.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES) - NONE

11. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administrator Updates - None

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – No comment.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – No comment.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – No comment.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – No comment
- **James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)** – Recognized Mr. Gary Christian for his hard work in getting the Alcohol Referendum passed in the City of Quitman.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Larko made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:55 p.m.; Mrs. Exum seconded. Chairman stated we will take a five-minute break before going into the special called/work session.

Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman

Mrs. Jessica J. McKinney, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk