

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Irrigation Pipe Tallokas Road/Magnolia Church Rd – Motion to Approve
- B. Rizer Road – Consideration for Road Closure - Sherry Davidson & Stewart Chappell
- C. Lawn Care Services Contract - Renewal
- D. Quote - Emerson Road Project – Curtis Head, Jr.
- E. ACCG – Resolution Urging the Governor & General Assembly of GA to Continue Efforts to Reform & Improve Mental Health Services for Citizens of GA
- F. GDOT – Project P.I. No. 0018356 – Brooks County – SR 122 @ SR 133 – Considering Roundabout
- G. Brooks County Senior Center (Nutrition Center) – Possible Full-time Employee

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

- A. David Grim – Problem with Ditch Drainage – Driveway Repair

10. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

- A. County Administrator Updates
- B. Commissioners Notes/Comments
 - Lee Larko (District 1)
 - Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)
 - Willie Cody (District 3)
 - Myra Exum (District 4)
 - James Maxwell, Vice (District 5)

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Personnel
- B. Litigation

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, November 6, 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; Mr. Willie Cody; Mrs. Myra Exum, and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were; Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator, Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney; and various residents.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – NONE

2. CALL TO ORDER - Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 5:05pm.

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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| A. | Regular Monthly Meeting | October 2, 2023 |
| B. | Special Called Meeting/Work Session | October 23, 2023 |

4. INVITED GUESTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. Wavel Robinson – Irrigation Pipe Tallokas/Magnolia Church Road – Mr. Wavel Robinson appeared to request Board consideration of installation of water connections under a County Road. Mr. Robinson lives in western part of the County and is a Farmer and wants to install irrigation pipes under Tallokas and Magnolia Church Road, which is a violation of the Ordinance. Mr. Robinson had spoken with Mr. Larko regarding the issue; and Mr. Larko advised that it would be best for him to appear before the Board. He wants to install an 8 inch well casing 4 feet under the road; The Contractor will bore a hole. He will supply the well casing a total of 160 feet at the intersection of Tallokas Road, lone Road, Magnolia Church Road, it does not cross lone Road, but it crosses Tallokas Road and Magnolia Church Road. He is willing to indemnify for damages. County Attorney, Jason Kemp, stated it needs to be insured against collapse; and steel casing added as a precaution to prevent collapsing and be in compliance with whatever the law states.

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

A. Brooks County Fire Department – Chief Weeks – Chief Weeks provided report for October 2023 for activities/projects with the Brooks County Fire Department:

- Responded to total of 69 calls for service, 4 trees down, 22 medical calls, 16 canceled or no incident found, 5 structure fire, 1 vehicle fire, 0 power lines down, 5 brush fires, 1 fire/smoke alarms, 6 motor vehicle accidents, 5 vehicle accidents with injuries, and 4 other incidents.
- Training included interior fire attack, 1410 drills, and rapid dress.

- **New Projects:** Chief Weeks has been speaking with two companies that work on pivot irrigation systems in Brooks County regarding getting water sources for fire department. Dale Tyler is working on a prototype and cost estimate to install the equipment on existing or new irrigation systems. Chief is hoping to have something to present next month.
- **Update:** Spoken with Chief Yates, Morven Police, regarding Morven Fire Department. Chief Yates stated that the Mayor and Council had postponed the date of separation until March 2024.
- **New Employees:** Three Fire Fighters tested Monday, November 6th for Fire Fighter 1 certification.
- **Good News:** Colquitt EMC donated \$33,000.00 to the Brooks County Fire Department. The donation is supposed to be used to assist with training or education.

B. Brooks County Road Depart – Amy Hart – Provided report for September/October 2023:

- Steady working with skeleton crew and getting roads passable.
- There was a total of 31 actions taken on roads in September. There were 195 roads for grading/ditching, installed/repared 8 culverts and driveways; cleaned out 18 pipes/outfalls; removed 46 trees, limbs, and logs, 37 beaver dams cleaned, repaired 3 potholes, replaced/installed 29 signs, used rock/clay/sand on 33 projects, and 31 other projects completed.
- **October 2023:** 187 roads graded and ditched, 5 installations for culvert repair and driveways, there were 20 pipes/outfalls cleaned, removed 8 trees, limbs, and logs, 35 beaver dams cleaned, 9 potholes, 10 signs, 19 bags of rock/sand/clay, and 40 other projects completed.

C. Brooks County 911/EMA – Director LaToya Hampton – Ms. Hampton provided an update for October 2023:

- There were 1,702 calls received, 636 traffic stops, 197 medical calls, 5 roll overs, 1 fatality and 1 bank robbery.
- DRC opened October 10, 2023 to November 2, 2023. There is no need to open another facility, citizens are advised to go to Cook County DRC until Tuesday, November 6, 2023 at 6:00 pm.
- Tuesday, November 6, 2023 at 6:00 pm is the deadline to apply for FEMA; but if citizens need to call or check on a claim, they can call 1-800-621-3362 or visit the FEMA website at www.disasterassistance.gov.
- From October 30th to November 4th, FEMA Mitigation team was at Stone's Hardware store assisting citizens on how to build back strongly after the storm and how to get rid of mold and mildew in a residence.
- FEMA is still in Thomasville at a center answering questions for citizens and are willing to assist with questions through the middle of December but can call anytime.
- Completing paperwork with Ms. McKinney and Buck for FEMA, the deadline for submitting information is December 25, 2023.

- Continuing to retrieve volunteer information from citizens in reference to volunteers during the storm.
- As of Sunday, debris pickup amount is 166,421.2 cubic yards.
- The Hazard Mitigation Plan Update has begun, first workshop was held November 1, 2023.

6. CONSENT AGENDA – NONE

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. GDOT – Speed Zone Ordinances – Updating Existing Speed Limits – Sheriff Dewey

GDOT notified the County they are in the process of updating existing speed Limits on routes in the county to bring them into compliance with present regulations. GDOT prepared a new Ordinance for Brooks County for execution; and send back to them when it is properly signed and attested. Sheriff Mike Dewey was asked by the Board to look at the list and report any discrepancies. Sheriff Dewey reported to the Board that after review, and to the best of his knowledge, the list is inline with GDOT.

B. Invoice for Storm Cleanup – James Warren – During the work session held October 23, 2023, Mr. Warren was not present, but submitted a bill for road repairs post Hurricane Idalia in the amount of \$126,088.00. The item was tabled after discussion until the Board gets more clarification of the invoice and the work Mr. Warren did. The Board inquired if there is any new information, the response was not at this time. The Board requested the invoice be split up as to road work and trees. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to ratify the invoice/bill in amount of \$126,088.00 and to be paid from the Road Department budget, Mr. Cody seconded. Mrs. Exum called for discussion stating there was no approval of knowledge by the Administrator. Mrs. Exum stated she has a list of volunteers/citizens that assisted with Hurricane Idalia cleanup out of courtesy, and did not charge the county, their total is \$64,680.00. Mrs. Exum further stated if you pay Mr. Warren, they should get paid, and it would be a slap in the face for the volunteers/citizens. Mr. Larko stated the Board requested work for the trees and clarification, and Mr. Warren did not submit an updated invoice.

Chairman stated Mr. Warren had equipment ready to help Brooks County. He was sent to Blue Springs, the situation escalated into several days of tree removal. He thought the Administrator knew. The Road Department does not have the manpower to handle. Mrs. Exum commented that volunteers/citizens may not show up next time, they will remember. Mr. Larko commented that we work for the citizens and should not frivolously spend tax dollars, we are supposed to be good stewards. We requested a bill to separate the tree removal from the roads. Mr. Cody stated it may cause confusion if we separate the bill, if he did the work, he should be paid.

After further and lengthy discussion, Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody, and Chairman voted in favor. Mrs. Exum and Mr. Larko opposed. The vote was 3 to 2.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Irrigation Pipe Tallokas Road/Magnolia Church Road – Motion to Approve – County Attorney stated the County has no policy for this type of project; should have either a policy or Ordinance in place and plans should be produced for the project showing where it is. Mr. Kemp also stated that the County Engineer should look at it; the county should have control of the quality of the project and the indemnification. County Administrator, Ms. McKinney, stated that the Ordinance does not allow water connections under county roads; or does the Board want to continue as is or on a as needed basis? The County Building and Inspections Department, Mr. Jason Montesano, commented it should be deep enough and they need to bore and not cut the pavement. County Attorney commented that a commissioner can sponsor the ordinance. The question was asked, how crucial the need is to get this done? After discussion, Mr. Larko made a motion to approve the irrigation pipe under county road pursuant to guidelines by the County's permitting agent, Mr. Cody seconded. The vote was unanimous.

B. Rizer Road – Consideration for Road Closure – Sherry Davidson & Stewart Chappell – Ms. Sherry Davidson, Zoning & Code Enforcement, presented the consideration to the Board; stating this is one of the worst roads in the county. She walked the property line and there was trash and limbs. A cable placed there was locked where she placed her business card. The following day, Mr. Chappell called Ms. Davidson and inquired about what it would take to close the road. The road is 1.9 miles closed and ¾ mile open and runs into Tom Lodge Road. Rizer Road comes out at Pauline Church Road. Mr. Chappell stated he would maintain and keep the road up to par. This item was for discussion only at this time.

C. Lawn Care Services Contract - Renewal – The Lawn Care Services Contract with Driffin South Lawn Care, Mr. Justin Smith, is up for renewal. County Attorney stated if the contract continues same as initial contract, the Board can approve the renewal. On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved the renewal of the Lawn Care Services Contract with Driffin South Lawn Care for all Brooks County buildings in the amount of \$37,920.00 annually. Mr. Smith does a great job and added some buildings at no additional cost.

D. Quote – Emerson Road Project – Curtis Head, Jr. – Mr. Curtis Head, Jr., Head Lawn Care, LLC, submitted a quote for the Emerson Road project in the amount of \$20,800.00, with one half up front to start, \$10,400.00. This item was deleted from the agenda, per Mr. Maxwell. Discussion began on whether the project should be bid out. County Attorney advised the Board that the Georgia Statute law states it must be bid out. Mr. Kemp stated it would need to be deemed an emergency to do the project without the bidding process; the Georgia Code is firm. Mr. Maxwell commented and started discussion on the possibility of including other roads and bid the project out. The County Administrator commented she prefers to bid out because we will have a contract. Mrs. Exum commented that if so, BCT Gin Road and Jones Creek needs to be added to the list to be submitted to Jesse Bush, County Engineer. Chairman stated to get the Engineer

to look at, get back with the Board and place the topic on the Work Session agenda for November 27, 2023.

E. ACCG – Resolution Urging the Governor & General Assembly of GA to Continue Efforts to Reform & Improve Mental Health Services for Citizens of GA - Administration received an email from ACCG to strongly encourage every county in the state to adopt a resolution urging the Governor and General Assembly to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia. ACCG asks for the Resolution to be adopted by Friday, December 8, 2023, prior to the start of the 2024 legislative session. On the motion by Mr. Larko, the Board unanimously adopted the Resolution Urging the Governor & General Assembly to Reform & Improve Mental Health Services, Mr. Cody seconded.

F. GDOT – Project P.I. No. 0018356 – Brooks County – SR 122 @ SR 133 Intersection – Considering Roundabout – Notification was received from GDOT informing us of their consideration of the intersection of SR 122@ SR 133 for a roundabout. Their goal is twofold: first, provide Brooks County with information on the proposed roundabout project, and second, provide Brooks County an opportunity to comment on the proposed roundabout project. No action was needed from the Board.

G. Brooks County Senior Center (Nutrition Center) – Possible Full-time Employee - Administration is requesting the Board's consideration of hiring a full-time employee for the Senior/Nutrition Center. Currently, the position is part-time. This position has not been budgeted for; and will include an additional \$11,000.00 for the benefit package. Board will discuss in executive session.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (5 MINUTES)

A. David Grimm – Problem with Ditch Drainage – Driveway Repair – Mr. David Grimm submitted a request to appear to discuss problems with drainage and driveway repair. Mr. Grimm resides at 107 Buck Street in Fawn Heights Subdivision. He stated there is water issues. He called the Road Department and the first time he was told they did not find a problem. The Road Department returned a second time and dug out and drained. But six months later, it is doing the same thing but is worse and falling apart. They dug the ditch and culvert and now the dirt is 6 inches higher than the culvert. Mr. Grimm asked if there is anything that could be done and could someone come out and look at it. The County Administrator stated she would look at to see if the county can touch it, as we cannot go on private property. The property easement ROW will need to be looked at also to determine if it is private or public property.

10. ADMINISTRATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

A. County Administrator Updates – Administrator McKinney announced the date for the tree lighting event and the Employee Christmas Party. The Christmas tree lighting event will be held Saturday, December 2, 2023, beginning at 4:00 pm and the lighting of the tree take place at 6:00 pm. The employee Christmas dinner will be at the Ag Building Venue on December 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

B. Commissioners Notes/Comments

- **Lee Larko (District 1)** – No comment.
- **Patrick Folsom, Chairman (District 2)** – Commented he was glad everyone came.
- **Willie Cody (District 3)** – Requested for Emerson and Rogers Road to be looked at.
- **Myra Exum (District 4)** – No comment.
- **James Maxwell, Vice Chairman (District 5)** – No comment.

On the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board closed the regular meeting to go into executive session at 6:42 pm.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board closed executive session at 7:08 pm to return to the regular meeting on the motion by Mr. Larko and Mrs. Exum seconded.

A. Personnel – Mr. Cody made the motion to change the position at the Senior Center from part-time to full-time, including the benefit package of \$11,000.00, authorized County Administrator to increase salary line item, and the funds will come from the Contingency Fund, Mr. Larko seconded. The vote was unanimous.

B. Pending Litigation – County Attorney, Mr. Jason Kemp, updated the Board on pending litigations and provided a list of cases being handled for the County.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cody made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:10 p.m.; Mr. Larko seconded.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman
Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk