

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting/Work Session Monday, October 23, 2023, at 5:15 p.m., at the Brooks County Administrative Building, in the Commissioners Meeting Room, located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman, Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman, Mrs. Myra Exum; Mr. Willie Cody, and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams; County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; and Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney, and various residents.

### **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman called the meeting to order.

**A. PRAYER/PLEDGE** – Mr. Maxwell led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**B. Annual Audit Review – FY 2022 – Gary Zeigler** – The Board agreed to table this item due to Mr. Zeigler having an emergency until the next work session,

The Board amended the agenda to table item 1B, Annual Audit Review, until next work session and to delete under item, E Road/Maintenance, topic (d), Fellowship Home Lane – Request for Reimbursement for Mulching & Trimming for more information, on motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody.

### **C. Idalia Recovery Updates**

- a. SDR/DebrisTech Update** – Mr. John Ward, SDR, appeared to update the Board on the debris cleanup after Hurricane Idalia. Mr. Ward stated they are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. They are receiving the assistance they need. There are trees leaning, hanging widow makers. They are not using Bucket trucks, but now using dual haulers to pick up debris. They are following FEMA guidelines and hauling out chips, currently there are approximately 120,000 cubic yards collected. DebrisTech is assisting with expedited funding with FEMA. Mr. Ward advised the Board there is no Pre-Event Contract, the County did an Emergency Contract, the 60 days will end November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Board will need to extend it for another 30 days. Currently an extension is in effect for \$3.5 million. If the Board wants an extension for 30 days, they will need to make an extension not to exceed (NTE) of at least \$4.2 million in place until November 2<sup>nd</sup>. At that point, an RFP for Blue Skies would need to be prepared to complete the cleanup. County Administrator is currently working on the RFP. It would be in good faith with FEMA to show there is an RFP being prepared. The Board questioned where the funds will come from. Mr. Ward stated the Board needs to approve the extension of the contract and put out an RFP for Blue Skies. After further discussion, Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the emergency contract extension until December 2, 2023, and send out a Blue Skies RFP, Mr. Cody seconded. Chairman called for the vote. Mrs. Exum opposed. Mr.

Maxwell, Mr. Cody, Mr. Larko, and Chairman voted in favor. The vote was 4 to 1. The motion was made by Mr. Maxwell to extend (NTE) for emergency cleanup for \$4.2 million, and the funds will come from Reserved Funds (CDs), Mr. Cody seconded. This motion supersedes the previous motion where funding was designated to come from TSPLOST funds. Chairman called for the vote. Mrs. Exum opposed. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody, Mr. Larko, and Chairman voted in favor. The vote was 4 to 1.

**b. RFP Release for Disaster Recovery Services** – County Administrator is currently working on the Blue Skies RFP.

**c. James Warren – Storm Cleanup Bill** – Mr. Warren submitted a bill for road repairs post Hurricane Idalia in the amount of \$126,088.00. County Administrator, Ms. McKinney, stated she thought Mr. Warren did the work out of courtesy. Mr. Warren discussed helping the County with cleanup with the Chairman, due to the County not having a Road Department equipped to provide service. Chairman stated Mr. Warren hauled rocks/gravel and did road maintenance and repairs. Mrs. Exum stated she has a list of citizens that assisted with Hurricane Idalia cleanup out of courtesy, and did not charge the county, their services total amount is \$64,680.00. They volunteered as a community effort to do for free. Their services were submitted to FEMA. County Administrator stated she did not know that Mr. Warren would submit a bill, she was not aware to make approval. The Board discussed maybe the bill can be augmented to the Road Department for road work. After further discussion, Mr. Maxwell motioned to table this discussion until we have more clarification of the invoice and work, Mr. Warren did, Mr. Cody seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**D. CWS Contract** – Administration received a draft copy of the Professional Service Agreement from CWS (ClearWater Solutions) for review. The draft Agreement included “Labor Only”, not a full budget. County Administrator commented that it probably was due to miscommunication. CWS position is to cut proposed number of staff, which will cost less than their bid and the budget. It was explained to CWS that the County buys fuel, supplies, asphalt, concrete from the Road Department budget; and if the total operational budget exceeds, they will come to the Board.

#### **E. Road/Maintenance**

**a. Heritage Drive & Candleglow Trail** – Mr. Nick Clark, 12 Stones Engineering Company, Inc., provided the additional scopes of work on the Brooks County LMIG project from Reames and Son Construction Company, Inc., proposing the following:

Change Order No. 1 – Additional Work for Heritage Drive & Candleglow Trail in the amount of \$261,167.96, which is an increase from the original change order for \$237,831.96. The increase is due to an increase in the asphalt, removal of the traffic control lump sum item, removal of the miscellaneous driveway item, and the signs and striping pay items remaining the same. The change order is under

the LMIG and TSPLOST funds. The Board approved the change order in amount of \$261,167.96 from Reames and Son Construction, exhaust the remaining funds from LMIG, and the remaining funds will come from TSPLOST, Mr. Maxwell made the motion, and Mr. Cody seconded. The Board voted unanimously.

**b. Grooverville Road – Rothrock Property – Slope Ditches – Clean Creek Line –**

This item was presented by Mr. Maxwell. The Road Department was authorized to go on the Rothrock property to repair, not to mess it up; they did not slope the ditches. If it rains, the Rothrocks will have a problem. The Road Department cannot do the project. The Board discussed collecting a list of roads for CWS to complete when they come in. Mrs. Exum commented to add BCT Gin Road to the list, and not because she lives on it. The Board agreed to let Nick Clark and Jessie Bush, 12 Stones Engineering Company, talk about the scope of work and what needs to be done.

**c. Pidcock Road – Install Culvert & Dig Ditches –**

The culvert has been flagged by the Road Department and looked at by Jessie Bush. The County Administrator will review, make a recommendation to the Board for Pidcock Road and Grooverville Road.

**d. Fellowship Home Lane – Request for Reimbursement for Mulching & Trimming**

The Board deleted this item from the agenda for more information.

**e. Jamar Loop – Discussion –**

The Water Company for Jamar Loop submitted an email stating they had performed a requested analysis regarding the impact to rates in the Jamar community at various levels for their funding of the project. The company will transfer costs to residents to move the waterline. County Administrator McKinney stated to the Board that we need to do another estimate for the cost of paving; and get the water company to put their terms in writing.

Chairman closed the special called meeting to go into the work session.

**2. WORK SESSION**

**A. Regular Meeting Agenda Review – November 6, 2023 –** The Board reviewed/discussed the agenda for the upcoming meeting. There were no changes or additions.

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE**

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 7:38 pm, on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Larko.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman

Ms. Jessica McKinney, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk