

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, July 11, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson; Mr. Joe Wingate, Vice Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. S. L. Jones. Others present were: Mr. Justin DeVane, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; and various residents.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **A. ROAD CLOSURE – ARTIS LANE – Sign-in Sheet Provided**

A request was received from Attorney Bill Holland, representing Ms. Lastinger regarding a request for the County to formally begin the road closure process for Artis Lane. Ms. Lastinger owns land on both sides of the lane and has also spoke to the surrounding property owners regarding the closure. They have cleared access issues that arose during the first request to abandon the lane for owners located south of Artis Lane where the road turned private. This abandonment was previously considered January 2015, but was withdrawn until an easement could be established for other property owners.

**UPDATE:** Board approved the abandonment process on June 6, 2016 for the entire road pending consent from property owners and an easement to still use previous right-of-way to access Troupeville Road. Attorney Holland provided the Board with the consent forms from property owners.

Chair asked if anyone was present that is for or against the request. There were none. Chair closed public hearing at 5:01 p.m.

## **WORK SESSION**

### **Reports from Committees/Departments**

**A. Stephanie Hollifield – UGA Extension** – Ms. Hollifield was not present; but provided copies of monthly newsletter; which included review of activities for June; and July in review.

**B. Glenn Walker - Public Works** – Glenn Walker, Road Superintendent, reported on work completed for month of June:

- 13-911 calls; 12 for trees down and one for washout; 10 side arm jobs completed; and 21 pot holes repaired.
- 108 work orders completed; 16 motor grading projects completed.
- Two dump trucks are down; only one in operation; and two side arms are down.
- Fuel Pump Island needs to be replaced at Road Department.

- Placed pipe on Old Thomasville Road.

**C. Ben DeVane – County Engineer** – was not present due to an appointment.

Chair closed Work Session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:05 p.m.

**1. Call to Order** – Ms. Exum called meeting to order.

**A. Prayer & Pledge** – Mr. Nick Hampton, Cross Pointe Church; led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**A. July 11, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting** – Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Cody seconded; vote was unanimous.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Cody, seconded by Mr. Wingate ; the Board unanimously approved the following minutes:

A. Work Session & Regular Meeting	June 6, 2016
B. FY 2016-2017 Budget Public Hearing	June 9, 2016
C. FY 2016-2017 Budget Public Hearing & Special Called	June 30, 2016

**4. Appearances**

**A. Mary Henley – Irrigation Spraying County Roads** – Ms. Henley submitted a request to Administration to address the Board concerning irrigation pivots that spray water on the County roads and cause a nuisance for motorists and damage the road. Ms. Henley stated the property owner is infringing on right-of way; plowing ditches; and irrigation flowing onto her property. She further stated she has spoken with property owner and asked him to put timer on the pivot; but as of yet; he has not done so. Ms. Exum asked Ms. Henley to allow the Board an opportunity to get with Building Inspector and land owner to see what can be done.

**B. Refuge of Hope – Use of Facilities Request (Courthouse Grounds) -**

Administration received a request from Ms. Bonnie Squires and Ms. Lynn Martin on behalf of the Refuge of Hope to use the Courthouse Grounds July 30<sup>th</sup> for a “Love Thy Neighbor” event that will include singing, giveaways, as well as food and drinks. Mr. Wingate made the motion; Mr. Cody seconded to approve Refuge of Hope use of Courthouse Grounds on July 30<sup>th</sup> for a “Love Thy Neighbor” event. Vote was unanimous.

**C. Steve Schreck – Voice Concerns Regarding Fire Protection Fee** – Mr. Schreck addressed the Board regarding the hardship some residents are having with paying the Fire Protection Fee. He also attended the June 9<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing; but wanted to re-address the entire Board at the Regular Meeting. Mr. Schreck asked the Board to consider changing the fee to a millage rate instead. Board stated they would take the issue into consideration.

**D. Natasha Gray – Use of Facilities Request (Courthouse Grounds)** – A request was submitted by Ms. Natasha Gray, owner of Jewels for Julie, to host their annual back-to-school event at the Courthouse Grounds on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The group also plans on having food and school giveaways. Mr. Cody made the motion to approve the request of Ms. Gray to use Courthouse Grounds to host their annual back-to-school event on July 23, 2016; seconded by Mr. Wingate. Vote was unanimous.

**E. Bob Cooper – Update on Troupeville Water System** - Mr. Cooper was not present.

**5. New Business**

**A. Road Closure – Artis Lane** – The Board approved the abandonment of Artis Lane due to the lack of public need; on the motion made by Mr. Wingate and seconded by Mr. Jones. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Appointments to South Regional Joint Development Authority** – Administration received a request from the South Regional Joint Development Authority for re-appointments to the Board. Previously, Ms. Tina Herring and Ms. Exum were serving on the Board. Administrator's notes indicate that Ms. Exum is serving through December. However, the SRJDA is requesting we re-appoint both positions and Ms. Exum and Ms. Tiffany Holmes be appointed to serve. Each appointment is for four years. Mr. Wingate made the motion to appoint Ms. Exum and Ms. Tiffany Holmes to the South Regional Joint Development Authority Board for four year terms; Mr. Jones seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**C. Acceptance of Lease for CAT 320FL Excavator from Yancey** – Administrator and Mr. Walker, Road Department, has worked together and found a lease on a CAT Excavator to be the best option for the Road Department to replace the old excavators currently owned. Yancey has offered a lease to the County through GSA for \$21,145.43 in advance and \$21,823.11 in arrears. The Deere 200 and CAT 215C will be accepted as trade-in for \$13,250. The lease is included in the FY2017 Budget. Mr. Wingate motioned

to approve the lease offered by Yancey through GSA on the CAT Excavator 320FL for \$21,145.43 in advance; seconded by Mr. Jones. Vote was unanimous.

**D. Bid Approval – Concrete Drainage Work on Pine Brook Drive** – Bids were requested by Mr. Walker to build a new headwall on Pine Brook Drive to help a constant washout issue the Road Department has on this road. Griffin Concrete provided the County with the best price, \$8,570 to complete the project on Pine Brook. Mr. Walker also requested that while Griffin is in the area, to allow them to repair Fellowship Home Road where a storm drain was replaced but the road has not been repaired. Cost for that project is \$1,700. Total award to Griffin for both sites is \$10,270. Mr. Jones made the motion to approve the total bid from Griffin Concrete for project on Pine Brook (\$8,570) and repair Fellowship Home Road (\$1,700) for amount of \$10,270; Mr. Cody seconded, vote was unanimous.

**E. Pre-Authorization to Sign GDOT FY2017 5311 Contract** – Administration received a request from GDOT to obtain authorization so when the FY2017 5311 Transit Contracts come in (between now and August) the Chair would be pre-authorized to sign the agreements, as they will be needed back by DOT ASAP. County does not have a cost share for vehicles this year, therefore; the agreement should be similar to last years. On a motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved authorization for Chair to sign the FY2017 5311 Transit Contracts from GDOT to expedite the process and return back to GDOT ASAP.

**F. Road Department Fuel Island Repair and Replace Bid** – Bid was received from the Road Department regarding the fuel pumps at the Johnson Short Road location. An estimate to repair and upgrade the existing fuel island site, where the diesel pump has been down for approximately two weeks, and currently we are using a 500 galloon portable tank that was provided by our fuel vendor. A patch job could be requested; however; the units are out of date and becoming problematic; and hard to source parts for. The quote amount is \$14,726.70; and would replace the pumps for both diesel and gas, and include making necessary connection to the key code system. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the replacement and repair of the fuel site pumps at the Road Department for \$14,762.70; seconded by Mr. Wingate. Vote was unanimous.

**G. Bid Award for Curbside Solid Waste Pickup** – Bids were received on June 29<sup>th</sup> for Solid Waste Collection services for Brooks County. The County received bids from three services, Advanced Disposal, Deep South, and Thomasville Utilities. The results are as follows:

1. Advanced Disposal – Monthly rate per can	\$10.22	\$572,728.80
2. Thomasville Utilities – Monthly rate per can	\$13.90	\$778,956.00
3. Deep South – Monthly rate per can -	\$16.25	\$910,650.00

Board questioned Advanced Disposal representative regarding standard of services compared to the great service we have received from Thomasville Utilities for almost ten years; and were advised we would continue to receive same service as with Thomasville. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the low bid from Advanced Disposal for Brooks County solid waste curbside collection service for \$10.22 per can and \$572,728.80 annually and service will begin August 3, 2016; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**6. Unfinished Business - None**

**7. County Administrator Notes/Comments**

**A.** County Administrator has spoken with City Manager regarding the SGRC's Okefenokee Occasion. The event is hosted by the Regional Commission's 18 County area in Atlanta in January to provide our communities an opportunity to meet and discuss topics with not only our local legislators; but with other officials as well. The city is interested in participating in the event this year, and would be willing to split the event cost between the County and City and share the ten event tickets. Total cost is \$1,500, but if split between County and City the cost will be \$750 each. Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the \$750 split cost to join membership to the Okefenokee Occasion for January 17, 2017 with the City of Quitman, funds will come from the Program and Activities budget line item, seconded by Mr. Jones. Vote was unanimous.

**8. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

**A. Joe Wingate - District 1** – Suggested the Board need to ride roads in the County, as they did in the past, for the upcoming 2017 LMIG improvement list.

**B. S. L. Jones, District 2** – Stated he had the normal road situations

**C. Willie Cody, District 3** – Commented on getting with Economic Development to see what is being done regarding finding jobs; people in Brooks County needs job; they need to work. The Economic Development will be asked to attend next month's meeting for an update.

**D. Myra Exum, District 4** – Commented to the Board of the need to continue looking for building for County offices.

**E. James Maxwell, District 5** – Commented on Ms. Henley's issue with property owner irrigation causing problem with road.

**9. Executive Session – None**

**10. Adjournment** - Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 5:48 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson  
Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator  
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk