

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, August 6, 2018 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 HEARING – None**

**WORK SESSION** – Chair Exum called Work Session to order.

**Reports from Committees/Departments**

**A. Stephanie Hollifield** – Report for July 2018:

- Visited with row crop producers and assisted with scouting peanut and cotton fields for insect pests and disease issues.
- Implemented a Bermuda Grass Stem Maggot (BSM) research project on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to provide hay producers with the optimal time to spray insecticide for BSM control.
- Tobacco was sprayed on July 18<sup>th</sup> and initial evaluation and photos taken July 25<sup>th</sup>. Will continue evaluations of tobacco leaves, as crop matures.
- Continued training farm applicators in the “Using Pesticides Wisely”-Auxin herbicide program and issued six certificates of completion.
- Attended Brooks County School Board meeting to provide a 4-H Program update and timeline for the posting and hiring of a 4-H Extension Educator for Brooks County Extension.

**B. Ben DeVane – County Surveyor/Engineer** – Updated the Board on projects:

- Preparing LMIG 2018; doing inventory on roads for FY19 LMIG Application.
- Met with Administrator, Ms. Exum; and Patrick Folsom regarding CR 118 Haddock Road. Erosion is filling ditches and pipes; need 18' pipes to help with drainage. Road need shaping; 830 feet of base; pave; and grass ditches; use lime rock base; widen to 24 feet; giving 12 feet each for two lanes. Cost is \$65,000.

**C. JJ Allen – Road Superintendent** – Presented report for July 2018:

- Presented quotes from MECO for new fuel system for Road Department and Sheriff's Department. Stated the old system is outdated and failing. The cost would be \$17,545 plus \$7,550 for installation labor and materials for Road Department; Sheriff's Department would be \$9,451 plus \$3,225 for installation labor and materials. Total cost is \$37,771.
- Presented estimates for driveway/culvert installation cost; stated County is losing approximately \$1,000 per installation. Would like to increase cost of installation

from \$1,600 to \$1,942; and remove the process from the Inspection Office to the Road Department.

- With all the rain; the Department is behind on the roads; stated he needs to hire at least four people.
- Discussed overtime to try and catch up on roads; Chair advised that the math needs to be done on the overtime.
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Chair closed Work Session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:49 p.m.

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

**A. Prayer & Pledge** – Mr. Wingate, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**A. August 6, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting** – Mr. Cody made a motion to approve the agenda Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

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

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|----|--|---------------|
| A. | Monthly Work Session & Regular Meeting | July 2, 2018  |
| B. | Special Called Meeting                 | June 28, 2018 |
| C. | Special Called Meeting                 | July 23, 2018 |

**4. Appearances**

**A. Elizabeth Jones – Concerns Regarding Dixie Road** – Ms. Jones stated Dixie Road from the bridge pass the Dixie County Line are pot holes. Stated the road has been in bad shape for some time; there are no centerlines on the road; no ditches surrounding dirt roads. She asked the Board to consider something; a lot of people are coming through; to take under consideration and see what can be done; and to place speed bumps to assist with speeding.

**5. New Business**

**A. Contract Approval – Brooks County and Traylor Business Services** – Administration received a contract from Tax Assessor's for consideration regarding the review of records, current calculation, and evaluation of business personal property in Brooks County. Contract will help Tax Assessor's staff update and capture taxable business personal property that is on the digest and items that have not been reported for collection. The agreement has been approved by the Tax Assessor's Board. The cost has been included in the FY19 budget. Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the

contract from Traylor Business Services to review records, calculate and evaluate business personal property in Brooks County; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**B. Memorandum of Understanding between Brooks County and Natalie Singletary –**

Contract was received from Natalie Singletary, Director of Brooks County Family Connection for her services for administration of the FY2019 Family Connection Partnership State Grant. The grant is for \$50,000; and used for programs and studies within Brooks County and activities that the Family Connection conducts during the year. The County has acted as fiscal agent for Family Connection for some time. Mr. Maxwell motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Brooks County and Natalie Singletary for the FY2019 Family Connection Partnership State Grant; Mr. Wingate seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**C. Appointment to the Regional Advisory Council for Mental Health –**

A request was submitted from the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities to find a new appointment to the Region 4 Advisory Council for Mental Health, Development Disabilities and Addictive Diseases. Mr. Paul Nail has been serving the Board for Brooks County; but recently advised he will no longer be able to continue serving. Mr. Nail's term will expire September 21, 2018; each term is for three years. Ms. Exum asked the Board to make recommendation(s) and submit to Administrator for September 21<sup>st</sup> regular meeting.

**6. Unfinished Business - None**

**7. County Administrator Notes/Comments**

**A. County Millage Rate Meetings and Revenue Amendments to Budget –**

Administrator informed the Board of the Millage Rate process is set to begin this week with advertisements in the Quitman Free Press. Commissioners should expect to have a millage hearing and meeting on or around August 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. At that meeting, final amendments to the budget adopted on June 28<sup>th</sup> for FY2019. Administrator further stated there will not be any extra public hearings due to no tax increase.

**8. Commissioners Notes/Comments**

**A. Joe Wingate - District 1** – Commented on road near Airport is falling apart. Thanked the Road Department employees for attending the meeting.

**B. S. L. Jones, District 2** – None.

**C. Willie Cody, District 3** – Complimented Road Department on doing good job with the rain.

**D. Myra Exum, District 4** – Complimented the Chamber and Administrator on the Second Back to School event at the Recreation Field for an excellent job; even with the rain. It was enjoyed by the children.

She further stated to attendees to remember Dakota Starling; his family; and East Brooks Fire Department. He was a nice young man; and there are many good things being said about him; and to keep family in prayer.

**E. James Maxwell, District 5** – Remarked on the article in Quitman Free Press regarding cut funding by City. He is not pleased with the communication between the County Administrator and City.

**9. Executive Session – None**

**10. Adjournment** - Mr. Wingate made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:20 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

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