

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, October 1, 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; and 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. Ben DeVane – County Surveyor/Engineer – Updated the Board on projects:

- Since last meeting been checking road inventory. Riverside Drive is not shown on DOT map and is not on Brooks County master list; nor 911 service map; and not certified for Brooks County since January 2000. It does not have a road number or name. 16 feet is deeded for use of other owners; but not Brooks County. Brooks County road signs have the blue background with white letters; and white background with blue letters for private roads or roads not owned by Brooks County. Stated this needs to be changed back.
- Road Department did a good job patching Blue Springs Road; it is a lot better. The first section is coming apart at the entrance of Langboard; is cracking and narrow. Needs to be repaired and resurfaced; measure width, quantity calculated. According to the cost of the last bid for grading, new pipe, asphalt and leveling this project will cost approximately \$82,314.35; and needs to be added to LMIG project list.

B. JJ Allen – Road Superintendent – Presented report for September 2018:

- Reported the department has completed 95% of grading. Will get to ditch building within next two weeks.
- Stated the old building at the fuel pumps needs to be torn down; it is in the way. Board had concerns about the building being a historical building. Mr. Allen was advised to get with Mike Jacobs at the Regional Commission for historical information.

Chair closed Work Session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:19 p.m.

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

A. Prayer & Pledge – Pastor Nick Hampton, First Baptist Church, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

A. October 1, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting – Mr. Wingate made a motion to approve the agenda Mr. Jones 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. Monthly Work Session & Regular Meeting September 10, 2018

4. Appearances

A. Tawanda Rose – Facilities Request (Courthouse) - Administration received a request from Ms. Tawanda Rose for permission to use the Courthouse lawn on October 25, 2018 for the Brooks County Schools Afterschool Programs for ECHOES. ECHOES has hosted the event for several years at the Courthouse and does draw a good crowd. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the request for the Brooks County Schools Afterschool Programs for ECHOES to use Courthouse grounds on October 25, 2018; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

5. New Business

A. Request for Road Closure – Southern Portion of Livingston Road – On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board tabled this item for further review. Vote was unanimous.

B. Amendment to Operating Agreement Summit Food Service and Brooks County – Administration received a request from the Sheriff regarding an amendment to the inmate food contract for cost increase. The proposed increase is from \$1.70 to \$2.30. The Sheriff and Administrator have not been able to devise a suitable alternative other than continuing with the current agreement. Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the amendment to the inmate food contract for increase from \$1.70 to \$2.30 with Summit Food Service for one year, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Property Tax Reimbursement for Mack Ervin Robinson, Jr., et al - Administration received a request from Mack Ervin Robinson, Jr. for reimbursement for overpaid property taxes on a 135 acre piece of land off Dry Lake Road. Mr. Robinson has sold the property and during the transfer of the property it was determined that the acreage was incorrect setup in the tax digest. The Tax Assessor's Office agrees with this being an error and has calculated the return for the previous 3 tax years, which the Board is authorized to change. The land was sold this year to new owners.

The difference for 2016 is \$250.79

The difference for 2017 is \$252.60

The 2018, which has been billed but has not been paid as of today, is \$248.32.

Administration recommended to reimburse Mr. Robinson for \$503.39 and give the Tax Assessor/Tax Commissioner Office permission to reduce the total due on the 2018 bill by \$248.32. The Board unanimously approved the reimbursement total of \$503.39 to Mr. Robinson, \$250.79 for 2016; \$252.60 for 2017; and authorize Tax Commissioner to reduce tax bill by \$248.32 for 2018, on the motion by Mr. Maxwell; and seconded by Mr. Cody.

6. Unfinished Business

A. Appointment to the Brooks County Library Board - Administration received a request from the Brooks County Library for a new appointment to replace Ms. Peggy Wilson who has finished serving her second three year term. The Library Board members can only serve two consecutive terms, therefore; a new appointment must be made. Administration has received strong interest from Mr. John Johnson, who wishes to serve on the Library Board and has spoken to staff recently expressing great interest. Administrator would recommend Mr. John Johnson to the Board.

Update: Commissioner Maxwell has recommended Merita Tucker, 7391 Hickory Head Road, Dixie, GA 31629. In addition to Ms. Tucker, Ms. Linda Troutman, 5324 Jackson Road, Morven, GA would also like to now be considered and was referred by Ms. Wilson.

Mr. Wingate made the motion to appoint Mr. John Johnson to serve on Library Board to replace Ms. Peggy Wilson, Mr. Jones seconded. Ms. Exum called for the vote. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Cody opposed. Mr. Wingate and Mr. Jones voted yes. Vote was 2 to 2. Ms. Exum voted in favor of Mr. Johnson; breaking the tie; vote was 3 to 2. Mr. Johnson will serve a three year term.

B. Parliamentary Procedure Ordinance - Administrator received a request from County Attorney, Vann Parrott, to address the Parliamentary Procedure Ordinance as it pertains to the Chair's position when voting. Mr. Parrott has provided a memo regarding the matter for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Parrott recommended the County's parliamentary procedure ordinance should be amended to require a majority of the entire Board to pass motions. The public cannot rely upon a vote of less than a majority of the Board as the passage of the motion can be rescinded by the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Jones made the motion authorizing the Chair to vote; not just to break a tie; Mr. Wingate seconded. Chair called for the vote. Mr. Jones and Mr. Wingate voted yes. Mr. Cody and Mr. Maxwell voted no. Chair voted in favor; breaking the tie. Vote was 3 to 2.

Mr. Parrott will amend the Parliamentary Procedure Ordinance and bring back to the Board.

7. County Administrator Notes/Comments

A. Annual Area Officials Appreciation Evening – Administrator informed the Board of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission invitation to the Annual Area Officials Appreciation Evening on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at the Dinnerman's Far' in Adel, GA.

8. Commissioners Notes/Comments

A. Joe Wingate - District 1 – None.

B. S. L. Jones, District 2 – None.

C. Willie Cody, District 3 – None.

D. Myra Exum, District 4 – Commented on the resignation of County Administrator, Mr. Justin DeVane; thanked him for a job well done for the County; and wished him well in his future endeavors.

E. James Maxwell, District 5 – Commented on the need to look at increasing the per diem for the County for employee traveling expense.

9. Executive Session – None

10. Adjournment - Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 5:52 p.m.; Mr. Jones seconded.

Ms. Myra Exum, Chair

Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk