

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Work Session and Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, September 10, 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. Mr. S. L. Jones was not present due to illness. Others present were: Mr. Justin DeVane, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; and various residents.

PUBLIC HEARING – Request for Special Exception – Quitman Solar, LLC

A. Administration received a request from Quitman Solar, LLC for a Request for Special Exception on property located approximately six miles northwest of the City of Quitman on the west side of Barwick Road. Ms. Loretta Hylton, Southern Georgia Regional Commission, presented the application request. The proposed project is 1,200 acres, and will be a dedicated solar power facility. Proposed project was approved by the Brooks County Zoning and Planning Commission with the additional condition that a sufficient natural buffer be in place around the project. Quitman Solar, LLC has agreed to this additional condition and is asking for the Commissioner's approval for this project. The proposed project will be constructed on land currently zoned AG (Agricultural) and would also be removed from conservation; and will add a significant boost to our tax digest.

Sign-in Sheet was provided for those who wish to speak for or against the project. Chair asked for those who wish to speak in favor of the project. Mr. Stephen Land, Project Manager, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC provided information to the Commissioners on the company and the project. The company serves utility in Florida; has strong background. They have three operating facilities; are contracted with Georgia Power; has 30 year tax abatement; will generate 1.3 million dollars over the 30 years; and 12.5 million dollars in property tax gain for Brooks County.

Mr. Dwayne Fletcher; property owner, spoke stated the project will impact his property with a loss of value. He has spoken with Quitman Solar, LLC representatives and they are cooperative with his request to block view from his property with Red Cedar planted around. He further stated he will not fight against it; if the Board is good with it; he has no problem with it.

Chair Exum asked if anyone else present would like to speak; there were none. Chair closed the Public Hearing at 5:09 pm; and went into the Work Session.

WORK SESSION – Chair Exum called Work Session to order.

Reports from Committees/Departments

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

- Has been speaking with Administrator regarding Fellowship Home Road (CR 290). Brooks County has right-of-way from Highway 133 to the

Fellowship Home. Pavement is 16 feet wide; and proposing to widen 3 feet on each side with asphalt base; stripe when done; put reflectors in the middle; and white stripe on the edge of the road. Approximate cost is \$32,978 and \$36,267 for another layer of asphalt; and \$2,000 for striping. Mr. Maxwell questioned if the road belongs to Brooks County, and why it is coming up now? Will pull deed, if there is one, to make sure the County is the owner.

- Blue Springs Road needs resurfacing; it is in critical condition for residents to travel. It is coming apart; needs to be re-worked with asphalt base. There is also a drainage problem.
- Continuing to work on the LMIG 2018 to bid out soon.

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

- With all the rain; the Department is behind on the roads; trying to make up lost time. The work done on Friday has to be re-done due to rain. They are doing what they can between showers.
- Mr. Maxwell inquired if County can see way to purchase another Side Arm. Mr. Allen presented a quote for new 6110M John Deere Purpose Built Alamo Side Arm for \$156,500. Chair advised to get with Administrator to see where funds will come from; and if it is in the budget.

C. Jordan Smith – Fire Department – Taken ill and was not present; Administrator reported:

- Working on Hickory Head Road Fire Station.
- Will conduct an Arson Class September 17-28, 2018.
- Will do Haunted House for Halloween at the Ag Annex.
- Asked Board to consider purchasing an ATV (side by side two seater) and small boat (14ft. boat) for search and rescue. Funds are in the budget. Board agreed to start process for bids on these items.

Chair closed Work Session to go into the Regular Meeting at 5:39 p.m.

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

A. Prayer & Pledge – Pastor Gwen Jariel, Quitman Church of God, led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

A. September 10, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting – Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the agenda Mr. Wingate 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
- B. Special Called Meeting

August 6, 2018
August 22, 2018

4. Appearances

A. DL Whitfield – Concerns Regarding Blue Springs Lane – Ms. Whitfield submitted a request to discuss the west end portion of Blue Springs Lane and the pot holes that are taking over that portion of the road. There is also a drainage problem. Ms. Whitfield stated the road has been in bad condition for more than five years; and nothing has been done. She wanted to know if Blue Springs Lane is on the list for resurfacing and why nothing has been done to fix problems. The pot holes are causing damage to vehicles. The Board will look at adding Blue Springs to the LMIG project list; and declare as an emergency.

B. Elizabeth Touchton – Concerns for Blue Springs, Studstill, and Riverside Drive – Ms. Touchton was not present.

C. Kelly Hanks – Facilities Request (Courthouse) 2018 Skillet Festival – Mrs. Kelly Hanks requested permission from the Chamber for use of the Courthouse Grounds on October 20, 2018 (including the day before for setup). They would also like permission from the County to authorize sell of alcohol beverage on the grounds should a vendor request that ability. The County has approved both requests each year. Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the Chamber's request for use of Courthouse Grounds for Skillet Festival on October 20, 2018 from 9am to 4 pm; and also approved the sale of alcohol beverage on County property for that day; Mr. Cody seconded. vote was unanimous.

5. New Business

A. Request for Special Exception – Quitman Solar, LLC – On the motion by Mr. Wingate; seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved the Special Exception request by Quitman Solar, LLC for a solar power facility on property located approximately six miles northwest of the City of Quitman on the west side of Barwick Road; with the condition that all abutting property shall be buffered with a fast growing vegetation buffer in place around the project.

B. Application for Beer and Wine Sales – James Edmondson, III – Application was submitted from James Edmondson, III for a Retail Beer and Wine License at 7272 Madison Highway, the Pineview Gas and Grocery. The application has been advertised by County Ordinance, and Mr. Edmondson has cleared background process. Mr. Maxwell motioned to approve the Retail Beer and Wine License at Pineview Gas and Grocery located on 7272 Madison Highway, Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

C. Appointment to the Brooks County Library Board – A request was submitted from the Brooks County Library for a new appointment to replace Ms. Peggy Wilson, who has finished serving her second three year term. Board members can only serve two consecutive terms. Administration has received strong interest from Mr. John Johnson, who wishes to serve on the Library Board. This item was tabled on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody. Vote was unanimous.

D. Adoption of Updated 9-1-1 Resolution – ACCG sent a sample resolution regarding changes to the 9-1-1 laws related to the collection of 9-1-1 fees on pre-paid and all other types. Both resolutions will replace the existing resolutions the County has on file with the State, however, due to the changes in the law, we must update our resolutions as well. The Board will need to approve the two resolutions; Brooks County Authorizing 9-1-1 Charges on Prepaid Wireless Services; and Brooks County Authorizing 9-1-1 Charges on Telephone Services and Wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 Charges Other than Prepaid Wireless Services.

Mr. Wingate made the motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing 9-1-1 Charges on Prepaid Wireless Services; Mr. Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Wingate motioned to approve the Resolution Authorizing 9-1-1 Charges on Telephone Services and Wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 Charges Other Than Prepaid Wireless Services, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

E. Resolution Declaring September 17-23 Constitution Week – Ms. Radford submitted a Resolution on behalf of Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) declaring the week of September 17-23 as Constitution Week. The Resolution proclaiming September 17-23 as Constitution Week was approved on the motion by Mr. Wingate, and seconded by Cody. Vote was unanimous.

6. Unfinished Business

A. 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. During the regular meeting for August; Ms. Exum asked the Board to make recommendation(s) and submit to Administrator for September regular meeting.

Mr. Rhett Rowe, Newly Elected Commissioner, discussed with Ms. Exum and recommended Reg McCutchen for the appointment. Mr. Wingate made the motion to appoint Reg McCutchen to the Region 4 Advisory Council for Mental Health,

Development Disabilities and Addictive Diseases for a three year term; Mr. Maxwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

7. **County Administrator Notes/Comments** - None

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** – None.

E. **James Maxwell, District 5** – None.

9. **Executive Session** – None

10. **Adjournment** - Mr. Wingate made the motion to adjourn regular meeting at 6:09 p.m.; Mr. Cody seconded.

Ms. Myra Exum, Chair

Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk