

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop on Monday, December 1, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Mr. S. L. Jones, Vice Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell; Mr. Howard Lawson; and Mr. David Ragsdale. Mr. Claude Butler, Chairman, was not present. Others present were: Mr. Robert O'Barr, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; Mr. Ed Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator; Mr. Ben DeVane, County Engineer; Ms. Bonnell Holmes, Quitman Free Press, and various residents.

Vice Chairman called workshop to order.

Mr. Ed Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator, presented road update for December 2008:

Road Update Report

Dixie - Barwick Road – Resurfacing

Has been completed.

Grooverville Road (County Road # 275) Phase II - Widening

See Ben. Preparing to submit to DOT for grant project by end of the week. Has to be done by end of month.

Hodges Road (County Road 60) – Improvement

See Mr. Ragsdale.

River Run (County Road 299) – Pave and Drainage

Will have to ask for new contract from DOT.

River Lane (County Road 300) – Pave and Drainage

Will have to ask for new contract from DOT.

Shiver Lane (County Road 184) – Pave and Drainage

On hold.

CSX Crossing #305 – New Bridge

R/W acquisition in progress. Let date July 17, 2009.

Pride Branch #305 – New Bridge

R/W acquisition in progress. Let date July 17, 2009. Detour meeting was held November 18th.

Dixie Streets - Drainage

Ben DeVane reported Mark DeVane is working out ROWs.

Dewberry Road – Improvement

Will start improvements after the athletic fields are completed.

Monthly Workshop (December 1, 2008)

Page 1 of 2

Pineridge Heights – Pave and Drainage

Has deeds, need signatures.

GEBCorp Adoption Agreement

This issue was discussed for the purpose of any changes the Board may want to make to the employee retirement plan. Two areas were discussed; elected officials and continued employment after normal retirement age. Mr. Ragsdale suggested termination from employment upon retiring and remaining retired for one calendar month before applying for re-hire with County. GEBCorp Adoption Agreement has to be submitted before the end of the month. The issue will be voted on in regular meeting.

Intergovernmental Meeting

County Administrator discussed the intergovernmental meeting. He stated he is hoping all stakeholders of Brooks County can get together and discuss goals for the future.

Workshop adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Mr. S. L. Jones, Vice Chairman
Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, County Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, December 1, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Mr. Claude Butler, Chairman; Mr. S. L. Jones, Vice Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell; Mr. Howard Lawson; and Mr. David Ragsdale. Others present was: Mr. Robert O'Barr, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott, County Attorney; Mr. Ed Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator; Mr. Ben DeVane, County Engineer; Ms. Bonnell Holmes, Quitman Free Press, and various residents.

Call to Order/Prayer & Pledge

Vice Chairman called meeting to order. Mr. Lawson led all in attendance in Prayer. Mr. Ragsdale led all in attendance in pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Regular Meeting Proposed Agenda and Minutes

County Administrator stated the County Farm Lease needed to be added to the agenda. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board amended and accepted the agenda to include County Farm Lease (Hagan Farm).

On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board approved the following minutes as presented:

Monthly Workshop	November 3, 2008
Regular Monthly Meeting	November 3, 2008
Special Called Meeting	November 7, 2008

Public Hearings – None

Appearances

Circuit Public Defender, Mr. John K. Edwards, Sr., appeared to present Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement for the Administration of Operating Expenses and Amendment to the Indigent Defense Services Agreement for renewal. Mr. Edwards stated the Agreements have been approved by the other four Counties. There is no changes in the budget and no additions. The Agreements are effective January to December. Mr. Lawson made a motion to approve the FY 2009 renewal of the Circuit Public Defender Agreements effective January 1, 2009.

Applications were submitted for two appointments to the Brooks County Development Authority Board: 1) Mr. Andy Swann and Mr. Vann Murphy for re-appointments, Ms. Mattie M. Butts, and Mr. Michael Burton. Chairman stated he would like to keep Board as it is. He had returned from Atlanta where OneGeorgia Authority awarded Brooks County Airport \$661,000.00; and Industrial Park for Crown Laundry \$372,000.00. Chairman stated he would not like to change the Board members at this time when things are going well; and with the awarding of the grants it is good, positive thing for Brooks County. Mr. Maxwell stated he would like to see a female appointed for a better cross-section on the Board.

Mr. Ragsdale commented he did not think a change on the Board would effect grants, that new blood is needed and also a female. After discussion, Mr. Ragsdale stated he felt it is a conflict of interest for Mr. Lawson to vote due to Vann Murphy campaigning for Mr. Lawson's re-election. County Attorney commented there is no conflict to showing support during campaign. Mr. Jones made a motion to accept Andy Swann and Vann Murphy re-appointments to the Brooks County Development Authority Board, Mr. Lawson, seconded.

Chairman called for the vote, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Butler voted yes. Mr. Ragsdale and Mr. Maxwell voted no. Vote was three to two.

Mr. Michael Randall, resident Knights Ferry Road, appeared to discuss roads and their conditions. He stated he has 30 years of knowledge on how to do roads and is willing to train Public Works employees to operate equipment free of charge. Chairman extended thanks to Mr. Randall for his suggestions and willingness to assist Brooks County, he stated the County is always open for suggestions and assistance.

Workshop Issues to be Addressed

GEBCORP Adoption Agreement – This issue was discussed during the workshop session for the purpose of any changes the Board may want to make to the employee retirement plan. Two areas were discussed; elected officials and continued employment after normal retirement age. Mr. Ragsdale suggested termination from employment upon retiring and remaining retired for one calendar month before applying for re-hire with County. After discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion to leave plan as is, Mr. Lawson seconded. Mr. Jones, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Maxwell, and Mr. Butler voted yes, Mr. Ragsdale voted no. Vote was four to one.

Old Business

AG Building Auditorium Rental - (Annex)

During November regular meeting, Board discussed the rental agreement for Ag Building to be opened to public for renting for social events. Board will adopt the policy to set rental fees. County Administrator provided a draft copy of the Ag Annex Rental Agreement rental rates and rental payment policy. After discussion on the rental rates, Mr. Maxwell made a motion to table the issue for a workshop in January 2009, Mr. Lawson seconded.

Duwane Lewis Tree Removal

County Administrator provided correspondence from Ms. Duwane Lewis regarding a resolution to removal of trees. Special Projects Coordinator, Mr. Ed Johnson, looked at situation and informed Board the trees are on the County's right-of-way. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board accepted Mr. Johnson's assessment of the trees that were destroyed is on the County's right-of-way.

Intergovernmental Meeting – Tabled until workshop in January 2009.

New Business

Motor Grader Lease – On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board authorized Chairman to sign John Deere Lease-Purchase Agreement for the new motor grader.

Railroad Crossings (Vann Parrott)

County Administrator provided information from DOT related to railroad maintenance of grade crossings on the State Highway System. The Board has been trying to get railroad crossings in the County repaired. The information presented provides an avenue to go to DOT for assistance. A written request to DOT will be filed with a filing fee of \$500.00 attached per grade crossing and shall include a copy of order issued by Governing Authority. Board discussed prioritizing a list to submit to DOT. Board recommended Special Projects Coordinator get photos of railroad crossings to look at and choose several from photos. Mr. Lawson made a motion to authorize County Attorney and Ed Johnson to work out details for railroad maintenance of grade crossings for State Road 76, State Road 333, County Road 279 (Coffee Road), and County Road 268 (Empress Road).

Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2009 – On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board tabled the selection of Chairman and Vice Chairman and Board appointments for FY 2009 until January.

County Farm Lease – Mr. Jones made a motion authorizing County Administrator to proceed with bid for lease of County Farm, Mr. Ragsdale seconded.

Administrator/Fiscal Matters

Employee Christmas Bonus – On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board approved to follow the same guidelines as last year for County employees Christmas Bonuses. Total of \$13,850 will come from contingency fund.

Christmas Holidays

County employees holidays are Christmas eve and Christmas day; however this year these two days fall on Wednesday and Thursday. County Administrator requested the Board allow this year holidays be observed on Thursday and Friday, December 25th and 26th. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board approved changing Christmas holidays from Wednesday and Thursday (December 24th and 25th) to Thursday and Friday (December 25th and 26th).

Adjourn

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the regular monthly meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Claude R. Butler, Chairman
Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, County Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk

Regular Monthly Meeting (December 1, 2008)
Page 3 of 3