

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop on Monday, November 3, 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.

Chairman called workshop to order.

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

Road Update Report

Dixie - Barwick Road – Resurfacing

Under construction.

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

See Ben. Preparing to submit to DOT for grant project.

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.

Dixie - Drainage

See Ben.

Dewberry Road – Improvement

Project is at a standstill.

Pineridge Heights – Pave and Drainage

Do not have deeds.

Chairman asked Mr. Johnson to look into getting signs to be placed throughout the County showing the Brooks County Line.

Road Superintendent, Mr. Mark Deatcher, updated the Board on the motor grading schedule throughout the County. Mr. Deatcher informed the Board two of his employees plan to retire at the end of the year. Board authorized publishing those position announcements in the newspaper.

Priority List

1. Grooverville Road
2. River Run and River Lane
3. Pineridge Heights
4. Dixie Drainage
5. Hodges Road
6. Shiver Lane

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to close the workshop at 5:35 p.m., Mr. Ragsdale seconded.

Mr. Claude R. Butler, 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, November 3, 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

Chairman called meeting to order. Mr. Jones led all in attendance in the Lord's Prayer. Mr. Maxwell led all in attendance in pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda Amendments

On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board amended the agenda under Appearances; J. P. McLeod was not present, and Greg Ley appeared for Greg Cain, how to determine grant project for DOT and Road Superintendent's road grading schedule was added for discussion.

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

Monthly Workshop	October 6, 2008
Regular Monthly Meeting	October 6, 2008
Special Called Meeting/Workshop	October 22, 2008

Public Hearings

A sign-in sheet was provided for all in attendance. (See attachment).

- 1. Ordinance for Enforcement of County Environmental Health Regulations** – Mr. Tad Williams, Health Department, District Environmental Program Manager, presented an Ordinance for Enforcement of County Environmental Health Regulations to be adopted by the Board. Mr. Williams stated the Ordinance has been adopted by the State. The Board needs to adopt as local County Ordinance if the need arises for enforcement. Magistrate's Court of Brooks County shall have jurisdiction over violators of the ordinance and all procedures for enforcement of the ordinance. There are currently in existence certain rules and regulations adopted by the Brooks County Board of Health with the purpose of preserving the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens of Brooks County. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board adopted the Ordinance as presented. Chairman called for the vote, Mr. Jones, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Lawson voted yes. Mr. Ragsdale voted no, due to the fact he has not read the rules and regulations in existence adopted by the State and Brooks County Board of Health.

- 2. Road Closure Portion of CR 179** – County Attorney informed the Board Attorney Jackson Langdale, representing James L. Bolen and Dennis Smith, would not be present. Mr. Langdale presented the initial request on behalf of Mr. Bolen and Mr. Smith at the August regular meeting, asking the Board to begin proceedings to abandon the right of way easement to close a portion of CR 179, specifically the portion which runs through their property. Chairman asked for any opposition to the closing, there was none. Mr. Lawson stated the road is in his district and he had spoken with residents and no one had a problem with it. Mr. Lawson made a motion to grant the request to close the portion of CR 179 which runs through the property currently owned by Mr. James Bolen and Mr. Dennis Smith, Mr. Maxwell seconded. The vote was unanimous.

- 3. Amendment to Speed Ordinance** – During the regular monthly meeting of September, Mr. Jones stated he had received several calls regarding speeding traffic on Troupeville road. Board discussed reducing speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph for a distance of 2 miles west on Troupeville Road, CR 276. After discussion, Board reduced the distance from 2 miles to 1 mile and one-half (1 ½ mile) for speed reduction. On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board approved reducing speed limit to 45 mph for 1 ½ miles of Troupeville Road (CR 276) to intersection of State Highway 133. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Jones made a motion to close the public hearing, Mr. Maxwell seconded.

Appearances

Ms. Mary DeLorge, resident Cedar Hill Drive, appeared to request installation of speed humps for speeding traffic. Ms. DeLorge asked for any assistance the Board could provide with speeding motorists destroying and damaging her mail box. Board asked Special Projects Coordinator, Mr. Ed Johnson, to go out and take a look at and see what could be done.

Mr. John Pritchett, resident, was scheduled to appear in regards to paving of River Run Road, but was not present. County Administrator stated he will call Mr. Pritchett and provide information on River Run Road.

Mr. Greg Ley appeared for Mr. Greg Cain to request the Board to lift the noise ordinance for November 22, 2008 for an annual Bubba Run fund raiser benefit for Georgia Sheriff Boys Ranch. Mr. Jones made the motion to allow variance of the noise ordinance until 2 a.m. on November 22, 2008 for the Bubba Run fund rasiserbenefit for Georgia Sheriff Boys Ranch annual event, Mr. Ragsdale seconded.

Sheriff Richard Chafin appeared to request purchase of two patrol cars that was placed in the FY 2009 budget. He stated the State contract became available October 1st for bidding. Sheriff Chafin stated the two new vehicles will be placed on the road, and the two vehicles purchased from City of Cecil will go to School Resource Officers. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to authorize bids for purchase of two vehicles thru the State contract, Mr. Lawson seconded.

Old Business

AG Building Auditorium Rental - (Annex)

During October regular meeting, Board discussed opening Ag Building to public for renting for social events; and Board authorized Administrator to change locks. County Administrator informed the Board locks were installed, but nothing had been done about roll-up doors. Board discussed type of events the building will be rented for; and agreed there will be no alcohol, drugs, and smoking. 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, Mr. Maxwell made a motion to table the issue for a workshop, Mr. Lawson seconded. Mr. Johnny Whiddon, Extension Director, provided an estimate of \$6,795.00 for storage room renovation.

Jail Meal Contract

County Administrator provided a copy of the Jail Meal Contract from ABL Management, Inc., the only proposal submitted for Brooks County Jail inmate food service. Sheriff stated he has been pleased with food service provided by ABL Management, Inc. County Administrator stated there was an overall 2% increase; and they have a thorough and complete program. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board approved the contract of ABL Management, Inc. to continue providing food service to Brooks County Jail inmates. The contract is for one year effective January 1, 2009.

New Business

Political Ads - District 4

Mr. Butler addressed a political ad, he stated it was not a political ad, but just an issue. He explained he came to Administrative Office and asked County Administrator to fax a document to Barwick Advertiser to be published as an issue. He stated the next thing he knew Mr. Ragsdale made a comment the next week that it was charged to the County. Mr. Butler apologized from his heart it was not the intention and he has reimbursed the funds to the County. County Administrator, Mr. O'Barr commented he took the ad, glanced at it, took it as a non-political ad due to the way it was stated; and authorized a purchase order number for it, and considered it public information. Mr. O'Barr stated since that time he spoke with Mr. Walt Yost, Publisher, Barwick Advertiser, and he told him that he and Ms. JoAnn Collins looked at the ad and did not think it was political. This happened after the fact, he authorized the purchase order number because he assumed it was not political.

Mr. Ragsdale stated he asked to put this on the agenda. His main concern at this point was the public funds being returned to the budget of the County. He stated one thing concerns him is using public employees to take care of personal ads; and he can see that

Regular Monthly Meeting (November 3, 2008)

Page 3 of 7

Mr. O'Barr was probably confused. If he has something that is personal, he does not bring to a public office to use public equipment to have it faxed to a newspaper; and he

can see where Mr. O'Barr probably felt like the public should pay for it. He would like to make it noted that Mr. O'Barr received the ad on October 14th and the reimbursement was not done until after the day his article appeared in the newspaper. Mr. Butler asked Mr. Ragsdale if he accepted his apology, and he said he did.

Mr. Butler commented he is the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and it was pertaining to our budget process, budget deficit, and also possibility of having closed meetings and doing things underhanded, which is untrue. Therefore, it was County business too. Mr. Maxwell inquired as to where citizens are getting there information from, they are not coming into the office, who is feeding citizens wrong information? Mr. Maxwell stated citizens can get a copy of the budget, the budget is public record. Citizens can talk to County Auditor and ask questions just as well as the Board, because he works for citizens of Brooks County, rather than putting ads in newspaper getting citizens of Brooks County upset, and then the Chairman will not have to fight. Mr. Maxwell stated Chairman has apologized, we accept it, lets move on.

County Administrator Comments:

DNR Brooks County Briefing Meeting and Flood Risk Open House

Georgia Department of Natural Resources sent a notice regarding a briefing meeting to discuss the preliminary countywide Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and associated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) for the community. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 7, 2008 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Following the briefing meeting for local government officials, the preliminary DFIRM and FIS will be presented to the general public from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Brooks County Commissioners Meeting Room located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. At the Flood Risk Open House, representatives from Georgia DNR and the State's mapping contractor WSC will provide the most current information regarding Brooks County's flood risk, floodplain development requirements, flood insurance, floodplain mapping, and the timeline/process for DFIRM adoption.

DOT Detour Open Meeting November 18, 2008

A letter was received from DOT notifying County of a Detour Open House Meeting to be held concerning the proposed bridge replacements over Pride Branch on County Road 305/Dixie Road and the bridge replacement over CSX Railroad on County Road 305/Dixie Road and detour routes for the projects. The meeting will be held on November 18, 2008 between the hours of 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the Brooks County Commissioners Meeting Room located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. The notice has been published in the Quitman Free Press and Barwick Advertiser.

Regular Monthly Meeting (November 3, 2008)

Page 4 of 7

Jail Employees Change in Personnel Status Request

County Administrator provided Change of Personnel Status forms for Road Patrol Deputies, Detention Officers, Jail Administrator, and Assistant Jail Administrator requesting salary step increases. Mr. Ragsdale inquired to Capt. Severns, Jail Administrator, why the request were not presented during the budget cycle, because this creates a difficult position with the budget at this time. Chairman stated he feels the new incoming Sheriff should have some say in the matter. After discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion to table this issue to look at further, Mr. Ragsdale seconded. Among the salary increase requests was a request for Lt. Daniel Bell, Road Patrol, who has served as Road Patrol Lieutenant since November 29, 2007, but not received his salary increase. Sheriff Chafin stated he takes the responsibility for the paper work not being turned in to the County Office at the proper time. Board agreed Lt. Bell should not be punished for the Department's mistake, and should be paid for work performed. Mr. Ragsdale made the motion to approve the 6 month step increase to be retroactive to that date, Mr. Jones seconded.

GEBCorp Defined Benefit Plan Workshop

County Administrator advised the Board of the need to schedule a workshop to make amendments/changes to the employee retirement plan which has to be submitted to GEBCorp before December 31, 2008. Board scheduled a workshop to be held Monday, November 24, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

General Fund CD Bid – Matures November 6, 2008

Board authorized County Administrator to bid out the Certificate of Deposit at Colony Bank that will mature November 6, 2008. A special called meeting will be held Friday, November 7, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. to open and award bids.

Joint Governmental Public Forum - February 2009 date/time TBD

Intergovernmental Meeting to identify goals and objectives and stakeholders to attend will be placed on the workshop agenda for November 24, 2008.

Amended Agenda Items

Road Grading Schedule

Mr. Ragsdale asked Road Superintendent, Mr. Mark Deatcher, to let everyone know what the road grading schedule is throughout the County so it can be published in the newspaper. Mr. Deatcher explained he has divided the County into six regions, there are two motor graders in area one and two, area three and four, and area five and six. He stated if men and equipment are at peak performance, these areas can be completed in less than 15 days. Mr. Deatcher also stated during his 10-month tenure with the Road

Regular Monthly Meeting (November 3, 2008)

Page 5 of 7

Department 23 of 64 bridges have been cleaned and repaired in the County. The road grading schedule is as follows:

Region 1 – J. P. Rogers area to east Coffee Road area to Heampstead Church Road area.

Region 2 – McCallister Road area south to Tyson Road area, to east Lazarus Road area, north to Bourquine Road area.

Region 3 – Jackson Road area south to Highway 84, east to Blue Spring area, back up to north Lazarus Road area.

Region 4 – Clifford Road area south to Hallman Circle area, east to the City at Hassell Road area, back north to Okapilco Church Road area.

Region 5 – Barrett Road area, south to Livingston Road area, southeast to Greenville Highway, back northeast to West Crawford area.

Region 6 – Empress Road area south to Schmoe area, east to Rocky Ford Road area/Ochlawilla area, back northwest to Fritzke area.

Grant Project for DOT

During the October regular meeting, Board authorized Mr. Ed Johnson and Mr. Ben DeVane to get estimates for widening and resurfacing Grooverville Road. Mr. DeVane provided an estimated cost of \$1,123,328.42. Board discussed which grant project to submit to DOT. With the new DOT process each project can be awarded up to \$750,000.00 per year. Mr. Ragsdale suggested not to put the entire amount into one project. Chairman stated that State is already familiar with Grooverville Road; and with approximately 60 days to prepare documents, there is not time to gather information and prepare another project. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Lawson also agreed Grooverville Road would be the best project to submit, since County Engineer has already started working on the project to send to DOT. Chairman asked County

Engineer for his comment, Mr. DeVane stated if he had a year, he would have more time to work on another project, but he only has approximately 60 days. After discussion, Mr. Maxwell made a motion to continue with Grooverville Road (CR 275) as grant project, and authorized County Engineer to proceed with package to DOT. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Lawson voted yes. Mr. Ragsdale voted no for Grooverville Road as top priority to submit to DOT as grant project.

Executive Session

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board closed regular session at 6:58 p.m. to go into executive session. Clerk called the roll and all Commissioners were present. Commissioners signed an Affidavit stating the meeting was closed to discuss land acquisition. (See Attachment). On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board closed executive session to return to regular session at 7:38 p.m.

Regular Monthly Meeting (November 3, 2008) Page 6 of 7

On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board tabled the issue.

Adjourn

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the regular monthly meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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

Regular Monthly Meeting (November 3, 2008) Page 7 of 7

