

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, June 2, 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. Bonnelle Holmes, Quitman Free Press; and various residents.

Call to Order/Prayer & Pledge

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

Approval of Minutes and Agenda Amendments

On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board approved the minutes of the following minutes with correction to minutes of May 15, 2008:

Monthly Workshop	May 5, 2008
Regular Monthly Meeting	May 5, 2008
Special Called Meeting	May 15, 2008
FY 2009 Budget Workshop	May 15, 2008
FY 2009 Budget Workshop	May 21, 2008
FY 2009 Budget Workshop	May 22, 2008
FY 2009 Budget Workshop	May 27, 2008

Public Hearings – (None)

Appearances

Economic Developer, Brooks County Development Authority, Ms. Tina Herring, appeared to provide an update and schedule for Industrial Park construction to the Board. Development Authority has agreed to pursue a loan to pay for infrastructure construction until SPLOST funds come in. Brooks County will reimburse Development Authority. The funds have been earmarked from SPLOST funds to pay for this project. County does not have enough funds in the general fund to disburse before SPLOST is implemented without putting a strain on the County's budget. Ms. Herring informed the Board of short term goals that have been completed, such as: finalizing financing package for infrastructure; continue to work with new industries considering Brooks County; completed marketing campaign and website design; construction to begin in next 60-90 days for Val-Tech campus downtown Quitman. The construction schedule for the Industrial Park is as follows:

Secure easements & Property	Completed
Complete final plans & specs	August 15, 2008
Secure permits for construction	November 7, 2008
Advertise for bids	November 7, 2008
Bid opening	December 8, 2008
Contract award	December 22, 2008
Issue notice to proceed	January 14, 2009
Start construction	January 21, 2009
Complete construction	January 21, 2011

Mr. Dick Mitchell, Attorney, Board of Education, made an appearance to request adoption of a resolution to assure payment of school bonds. If SPLOST funds fell short, Board of Commissioners will raise millage to collect tax for bond. On June 19, 2007, an election was held and voters authorized bonds in the amount of \$6,000,000. After discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the Resolution of the Board of Education of Brooks County Recommending to the Board of Commissioners of Brooks County the Assessment and Collection of a Tax for School Bond Purposes as presented, Mr. Maxwell seconded.

Ms. Lindsey Swengors, Coordinator of the 150th Anniversary Celebration of Quitman and Brooks County, appeared to provide information necessary to become involved in the 150th anniversary; and to request a donation of \$2,500 for the event. The donation would go directly to funding a 60-second commercial that will run 52 times on Fox 49 and CW channel. The celebration will be held Saturday, August 2, 2008 on the Brooks County Courthouse lawn with events starting at 7:00 a.m. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve a donation of \$2,500, from contingency fund, for the 150th celebration to fund a 60-second commercial that will run 52 times on Fox 49 and CW channel to promote Brooks County. Mr. Ragsdale seconded.

Mr. Herman Turner, resident, requested to appear to discuss a tort claim, but did not show.

Ms. Velerie May, Coordinator, Brooks County Community Service, Coastal Plain Area EOA, Inc. appeared to ask Board for funding assistance for seniors 62 and older. The funds would be used upon depletion of FEMA funds received by Coastal Plain to assist elderly with utility bills. Ms. May stated summer months is a down-time for funding of utility bills for seniors. She stated with temperature being as it is, if the County had some type of funding that could be received to assist with utility bills with the cap being \$100. The funds would be designed especially for seniors. Mr. Jones stated this is something new to the Board and would like to table the issue for more information. Mr. Ragsdale stated he would love for the Commission to give money to help, if it is legal. Mr. Ragsdale agreed the Board should table this matter; and let County Attorney have an opportunity to look at it to see if it is legal for Board to give funds. Chairman stated he has known of hardship cases of individuals not being able to pay their utility bill. He stated maybe the Board can take it and look at it; and see what can be done. The Board has voted to table it and they will see what can be worked out. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board tabled this issue; will ask County Attorney

to review to see if it is legal to assist with funding assistance for seniors with utility bills during summer months.

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Old Business

Emergency Medical Services

During a previous meeting, Mr. Joe Robinson, Chief Operating Officer, Mid GA Ambulance, informed the Board he could guarantee the quote for the first two years (year 1: \$440,000.00, year 2: \$455,000.00). The Board asked him to provide them with quotes for the remainder of the 5-year contract, and to see if he could work with the numbers and come back with an adjustment. Mr. Robinson presented an updated offer of \$440,000 for each year of the five-year contract, he guaranteed \$440,000 for years one and two, but reserves the right to negotiate a reasonable subsidy increase if the economic environment warrants an increase. Mr. Robinson stated he would provide training to County Employees who respond to EMS calls at no cost to the County.

Mr. Tommy Willis, Regional EMS, appeared to address the Board regarding other services he can provide and offer to the County. He provided a report to assess the need for Brooks County to become involved in EMS through a First Responder Program (FRP). Once a determination is made, the goal will be to implement the FRP. Mr. Willis updated his offer of \$450,000 for each year of a five-year contract, guaranteeing \$450,000 for the first two years.

Mr. Jones made a motion to table the issue so the Board could look at information received; and a chance to digest both, Mr. Maxwell, seconded.

New Business

a) Contract - Council of Aging/Nutrition Center

On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board authorized Chairman to sign the Contract to Provide Operation of a Senior Center with Congregate and Home Delivered Meals from Southeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging for FY 2009.

b) ACCG - Group Adoption Agreement

County Clerk explained to the Board the Group Adoption Agreement for ACCG Inmate Medical Administrative Services Only Program. The agreement will be between ACCG, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, and Brooks County Board of Commissioners. ACCG is assisting Counties in obtaining self funded cost effective solutions for the provision of medical services for inmates of Counties' jails. A card will be issued to the jail thru Blue Cross Blue Shield to use when an inmate is taken outside the jail for

medical treatment. Blue Cross will negotiate fees for services provided to result in a discounted cost to the County. There is no cost to the County to enter into the agreement; and agreement can be terminated by the County at no cost. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board accepted the Group Adoption Agreement for ACCG Inmate Medical Administrative Services Only Program provided it is acceptable with County Attorney.

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c) City of Quitman - Return of Funds & Interest; Housing Authority Project

City of Quitman returned the balance of Brooks County funds which were designated for a Housing Authority project. In a letter to the Clerk, the funds were returned because the City would not be able to complete the remainder of the streets due to unforeseen problems encountered by Quitman Housing Authority, the necessary conditions for construction could not be met. All accrued interest beginning May 2007 through the date of the letter (May 12, 2008) was reimbursed. A check in the amount of \$73,981.01, dated May 19, 2008, including principal amount of \$73,934.91, plus accrued interest in the amount of \$46.10 was submitted. A check for accrued interest from March 2007 - March 2008, dated May 1, 2008, was submitted in the amount of \$855.98.

d) Boys & Girls Club Sponsorship

Boys & Girls Club submitted a request for support of the fifth annual walk and run called "Steppin Out for the Boys & Girls of Brooks County". Last year the Board supported the event with a sponsorship of \$1,000. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve sponsorship for same as last year of \$1,000, Mr. Jones seconded. Mr. Ragsdale called for discussion; and stated County Attorney needs to give guidance on whether it is legal to give; and if it is prohibited by state law. He stated he did not want to vote due to that reason. County Attorney stated he thinks it is questionable, he will look at it and provide an opinion. Mr. Jones withdrew is second. Mr. Maxwell stated he would not withdraw his motion. Chairman called for a second, three times, motion died for lack of second. Mr. Ragsdale made a motion to table the issue until next monthly meeting when County Attorney can give an opinion whether County has authority to appropriate monies to this cause; and his worry is it may be a contradiction to the laws of Georgia. Mr. Lawson seconded. Chairman stated he could not believe the Board is in a dilemma on whether to give to Boys & Girls Club. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Butler opposed. Mr. Ragsdale, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Lawson. Vote was 2 to 3.

e) GEBCorp Define Benefit Plan Resolution

County Clerk presented a Resolution to Adopt Amended and Restated Plan from ACCG Defined Benefit Plan for Brooks County. Ms. Williams explained the new plan documents will amend and restate the County's retirement plan to be in compliance

IRS. The IRS is requiring all governmental plans to be amended and restated by the end of 2008. The Board has the opportunity at this time to amend any portion of the plan at this time. The Board tabled the issue to look at further.

County Administrator Comments:

a) Progress Report

- 1. Elected Officials Retirement** - Mr. Ragsdale questioned if during the restating of the Defined Benefit Plan for retirement program, if the Board could make a change regarding the pending issue of elected officials on the plan at that time. The Board will probably need to make a decision on questions pending on elected officials before make a final decision on the benefit document.

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County Attorney stated he has not filed the declaratory judgment documents. He has spoken with the Attorney for Ms. Baker; and he has asked for more time.

- 2. Driveway at Pineview Station** - Mr. Jones discussed replacing the original driveway back at Pineview Station on Madison Highway to get it up, down, out, or whatever. Chairman stated he is in favor of him working it out since it is in his district. Mr. Jones made a motion to put back driveway to adjoin with the one they put back for the house next door. Mr. Lawson seconded. Mr. Ragsdale stated he thought County would be overstepping DOT boundaries if driveway is replaced. Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Jones, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Butler voted yes. Mr. Ragsdale and Mr. Maxwell opposed. Vote was 3 to 2.
- 3. Budget Calendar** – County Administrator presented FY 2009 Budget remaining milestones calendar for Board review.

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board adjourned the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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

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