

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, October 6, 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. Jones led all in attendance in the Lord's Prayer. County Administrator led all in attendance in pledge of allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes and Agenda Amendments**

On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board amended the agenda to discuss legal services; and County Administrator changed name on the agenda under Appearances from J. P. Morgan to J.P. McCloud.

On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board approved the following minutes with corrections:

Monthly Workshop	September 8, 2008
Regular Monthly Meeting	September 8, 2008
Special Called Meeting	September 22, 2008

### **Public Hearings – None**

### **Appearances**

Ms. Dorothy Parker requested to be on the agenda to discuss contractors performing substandard work in building industry in Brooks County and Quitman, but was not present. Mr. Billy Ingram, Building Inspector, asked the Board if he could address the issue in which Ms. Parker was going to. He stated Ms. Parker has a case pending in Magistrate Court in reference to an unlicensed contractor in Brooks County. Mr. Ingram commented the Ordinance does not outline procedures for unlicensed contractors to be cited and/or possibly fined. There is nothing in place to stop unlicensed contractors from working. Citizens mostly effected and being taken advantage of by contractors are the elderly. Work being done is shoddy and a fire hazard. He stated he called Secretary of State and they are not interested in unlicensed contractors, it is up to local authority to enforce and pursue enforcement. Mr. Ingram also spoke with Magistrate Court Judge regarding the matter, and she informed him nothing can be done until the Board amends the ordinance. County Attorney advised the Board an ordinance needs to be adopted with proper tools included so Magistrate Court can pursue enforcement. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board authorized Mr. Ingram to get with County Attorney to draft a model

ordinance to help enforce fines and/or citations for unlicensed contractors and their shoddy work through Magistrate Court for Board's review.

Mr. J. P. McLeod, Housing Authority, appeared to discuss concerns with water problems at property located near the old JS&D Building, which is now the Brooks County Criminal Investigation Department. The problem is at the bottom of a drain field that stays wet. Mr. McLeod stated Housing Authority has funds to correct the problem, but can only repair it on their property. The water problem is on Brooks County property. Mr. McLeod asked the Board if they would deed property to Housing Authority or enter into an agreement until the situation is resolved, and Authority will deed property back to County. He stated he would appreciate any assistance the Board can provide. County Engineer, Mr. Ben DeVane, addressed the engineering aspect, and stated to repair problem the procedure would require finding space for storm water retention base to hold water and gradually let it down stream. Chairman asked County Attorney, Mr. Vann Parrott, to look into the procedure pertaining to conveyance of property to Housing Authority; and to get with Mr. DeVane and work out the legal end of it. After discussion, Mr. Ragsdale made a motion, pending legal procedure, for County Attorney to prepare legal agreement to turn land over to Housing Authority for drainage purposes, stipulate the plans will be reviewed for County by Mr. DeVane, and property will not come back to County, Mr. Maxwell seconded.

## **Old Business**

### **AG Building Auditorium Rental - (Annex)**

During September 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. There was a question regarding outdoor storage. Mr. Johnny Whiddon, Extension Director, made a recommendation for storage space. After discussion, Mr. Maxwell made a motion to allow Mr. Whiddon to get proposal for storage room renovation and submit to County Administrator, Mr. Ragsdale seconded.

## **New Business**

### **Jail Meal Contract**

County Administrator informed the Board the RFP for Jail Meal Contract has been provided to current vendor, ABL Management, Inc.; and Michael Spray. A meeting was scheduled to review proposal, and make changes, but Mr. Spray did not show up. Mr. O'Barr has spoken with Mr. Spray and stated he will not bid on the contract. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board tabled this issue.

### **Barwick Ads – Community Directory**

County Administrator presented the renewal with Barwick Ads for 2009 Brooks County Area Community Directory. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to renew same as last year, full page for \$285.00. Chairman called for a second three times, motion died for lack thereof.

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**DHR Board Vacancy**

A resignation letter was received from Mrs. Antoinette Cummings, DHR Representative for Brooks County. Mrs. Cummings stated she is now a full-time teacher in the Valdosta City Schools system and no longer has the flexible schedule she once had with position as Site Director of the ECHOES program at Quitman Elementary in Brooks County. In her letter, she thanked the Board for the great opportunity. County Administrator provided a copy of the ad to run for the vacancy for Board's review. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board authorized advertising of the vacant position for Brooks County representation on the DHR Board.

**Legal Services**

Mr. Ragsdale discussed retaining legal service to assist County Attorney in providing quick turn around on critical problems. He stated this is no disrespect for Mr. Parrott, but there are times when things are needed promptly and may not fit into his schedule. Mr. Ragsdale stated hiring an Attorney to assist with legal counsel on Brooks County projects would be at the discretion of County Administrator and County Attorney. The assisting Attorney would not be paid more than County Attorney. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board approved, under discretion of Administrator and County Attorney, to hire legal assistance with Brooks County projects which can not fit in schedule of County Attorney Vann Parrott.

County Administrator presented a Leave Request for 16 hours of vacation from October 16 thru October 20, 2008.

**County Administrator Comments:**

**Joint Governmental Public Forum** - February 2009 date/time TBD

County Administrator discussed forming a steering committee to look at where Brooks County wants to be 5 to 10 years from now. The joint governmental public forum would consist of meeting at least two times per year with all municipalities; Board of Education.

**Adjourn**

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the regular monthly meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Mr. Claude R. Butler, Chairman  
Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk

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