

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, September 8, 2008 at 5:35 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. 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. Ragsdale 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. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

Mr. Ragsdale acknowledged the County Clerk for a good job on preparation of the minutes. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board approved the following minutes as presented:

Public Hearing	July 30, 2008
Special Called Meeting	July 30, 2008
Emergency Special Called Meeting	July 31, 2008
Monthly Workshop	August 4, 2008
Regular Monthly Meeting	August 4, 2008
Special Called Meeting	August 12, 2008

### **Public Hearings**

#### **Beer & Wine License - Tim Giddens - Barney Peach Mart**

Mr. Tim Giddens applied for a Beer & Wine License for Barney Peach Mart, LLC, located at 13890 Highway 122, Barney, GA. A license was granted to Mr. Giddens in 2006 solely under his name, but was never purchased. A public notice has run in Quitman Free Press and a background check has been performed. Several residents were present and in favor of a convenient store that would provide gas and grocery items. Mr. Zack Williams, resident, stated it would be an injustice for the Board not to approve wanting to bring business to Brooks County. Ms. Folsom emphasized how desperately they need a store in Barney. Mr. Folsom stated it would be an asset; he has to drive to Morven to purchase gas and grocery items. Mr. Kevin Sumner had concerns regarding the dangerous intersection. The store is located in Mr. Lawson's district; and he stated the store would be an asset to Barney residents. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board unanimously approved the Beer & Wine License for Barney Peach Mart, LLC located at 13890 Highway 122, Barney, GA.

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## **Appearances**

Renewal contracts have been received for Transit Operating Assistance and Capital Improvement Assistance between Brooks County and Department of Transportation for FY 2009. Mr. Danny Saturday, MIDS, Inc, appeared to give the Board an overview and answer any questions. Mr. Saturday stated MIDS, Inc. has managed to operate under budget with economy as it is and high gas prices. The transit program has exceeded in two areas of DOT recommended criteria; and are receiving more Medicaid transportation. The program is at no cost to Brooks County taxpayers. Mr. Saturday explained Brooks County has been approved to purchase dispatching software in the amount of \$2,050.00. The Federal share is \$16,400.00; State share is \$2,050.00; and local share is \$2,050.00. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to renew contracts for Transit Operating Assistance and Capital Improvement Assistance between Brooks County and Department of Transportation for FY 2009; and authorize Chairman to sign. County Attorney will review the same and get back with County Administrator.

Mr. Daniel Warren, Fire Chief, East Brooks Fire Department, was scheduled to appear, but was not present, provided a copy of Section 147(f) Approval and Written Agreement related to financing a new fire truck and all of the ISO, State of Georgia and NFPA required equipment for said truck. County Attorney commented he would like to speak with Mr. Warren to understand the agreement and what he is asking for. Mr. Ragsdale made a motion to approve agreement contingent upon County Attorney speaking with Mr. Warren; and supports entering into an agreement for monies obligated in the amount of \$310,000.00. Mr. Lawson seconded.

Mr. Buddy Holwell, Chairman, and Mr. Van Murphy, Brooks County Development Authority, appeared to discuss the .5 mill of tax allocated by the Board per an intergovernmental agreement. The Board reduced to .353 mill of tax for this year due to budget cuts. Mr. Holwell asked for assurance from the Board it will go back to .5 mill in the future. He stated they are ok at this point, but if they should need extra funds would the Board assist. Mr. Jones stated we would have to find the money because we do not have it at this point. Mr. Holwell and Mr. Murphy emphasized the need to know in order to plan for future. County Attorney suggested a modification of the agreement to accurately reflect deviation from past and consent to modification by Development Authority. The Board stated if needed, they would try and come up with funds. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board approved County Attorney preparing a modification to the intergovernmental agreement to reflect the deviation from .5 mill of tax to .353 mill of tax.

911 Director, Mr. Mike Smith, appeared to request Board approval to include the municipalities (Quitman, Morven, Pavo, Barney) in the preparation of a pre-disaster debris removal plan required by FEMA and GEMA. A disaster would have to be declared a Presidential Disaster. He stated without the plan the cost would be 75/25 cost split, with the plan the cost would be a 80/20 split. Mr. Smith explained he has prepared the pre-disaster debris removal plan for Brooks County, but needs to know if the Board wants to include the municipalities or prepare a separate plan. The plan would state who will pick up debris if a disaster occurred and the County is declared a Presidential Disaster. The debris clean up would be paid with Federal funds through FEMA (Federal

Emergency Management Agency). Upon completion of the pre-disaster debris removal plan, the

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contract for services would go out for bid. After discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion to enter in an agreement to pick up percentage for municipalities if Brooks County is declared a Presidential Disaster.

Mr. Gwin Jarriel, Chairman, Family Connection Board, appeared to request County to serve as fiscal agent for FY 2009 (July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009). Mr. Maxwell made a motion to serve as fiscal agent for Family Connection for FY 2009, Mr. Ragsdale seconded.

Chief Deputy, Jerry Miller, was scheduled to appear to discuss purchase of new vehicles for Sheriff's Department, but was not present. County Administrator asked the Board to hold off on purchase until late October or November until funds come in. Mr. Ragsdale made a motion to table the issue and Administrator get with new elected Sheriff, Mike Dewey, to discuss type of vehicles he would like, Mr. Maxwell seconded.

**Old Business**

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

County Administrator provided a draft copy of an agreement for AG Extension Auditorium Room Rental, but asked the Board to table discussion until they can get together for a workshop. Mr. Maxwell clarified the rental use would be for the Annex building, not the main auditorium. Mr. Ragsdale had concerns about removal of equipment for public use and putting it on the market for public use. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board tabled this issue until a workshop is scheduled.

**New Business**

**RFQ - Motor Grader Lease Bid Opening**

Two bids were submitted for motor grader lease:

1. Yancey Brothers Co. - CAT 12M with Rome Sloper - \$129,068.40 total price, leased at \$2,151.14 per month, with buy-back of \$117,100.00, and delivery in 30-45 days.
2. John Deere - 670D Model with Remco Sloper - \$130,200.00 total price, leased at \$2,170.00 per month, with buy-back for \$100,000.00, and delivery in 45-60 days.

Mr. Ragsdale made a motion to accept bid for lease of a motor grader from John Deere, total cost in the amount of 130,200.00 for 670D Model motor grader with Remco

Sloper, payments of \$2,170.00 per month with buy-back at \$100,000.00, Mr. Jones seconded.

### **Wetland Credits Bid Opening - Pride Branch Bridge**

Bids were opened September 4, 2008 for wetland mitigation credits (22.10) for application to County Road 305/Dixie Road at Pride Branch.

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1. Murray Gaskins, Environmental Audit and Assessment, Inc. propose to sell wetland credits at \$1,945.00 per unit, total bid price \$42,984.50 .
2. Williams Investment Company proposed to sell wetland credits at \$1,787.33 per unit, total bid price \$39,500.00.

County Administrator recommended awarding bid to Williams Investment. On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board awarded the low bid to Williams Investments for 22.10 (\$1,787.33 per unit) wetland credits for County Road 305/Dixie Road at Pride Branch in the amount of \$39,500.00. Funds will come from SPLOST.

### **Jail Meal Contract**

County Administrator presented the contract for meals at Brooks County Jail. The initial contract was entered into in 1999 with ABL Management, Inc. Since then, the contract has been renewed through the Sheriff's Office. County Administrator provided a letter from ABL Management, Inc. dated August 15, 2008 addressed to Captain Russell Severns, Jail Administrator, confirming their desire to extend the food service contract at the Brooks County Jail on August 23, 2008 for an additional six months. Mr. O'Barr recommended to let the contract run its course, draft an RFP within the six months, and put the food service contract out for bid, Board agreed.

### **ACCG Fall Conference Voting Delegate Appointment**

ACCG sent a memorandum as an official call for the Business Session at the ACCG Fall Policy Conference scheduled for Friday, October 10, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Purpose of session is to consider policies to be adopted by the membership, by-law amendments, and other business that may come before the body. Each county may appoint a voting delegate to cast their county's vote on matters coming before the Business Session. Chairman recommended Mr. Ragasdale will serve as the voting delegate for Brooks County at the Business Session at the ACCG Fall Policy Conference on October 10, 2008.

### **Speed Reduction to 45 MPH Highway 133 into Troupeville**

Mr. Jones discussed reducing speed limit to 45 mph on Highway 133 into Troupeville. He stated he has received several calls. The procedure will require an ordinance, and a public hearing has to be held. On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the

Board approved proceeding with preparing an ordinance, holding a public hearing to lower speed limit to 45 mph on Highway 133 into Troupeville.

### **Road Name Change**

Mr. Maxwell requested a road name change be placed on the agenda, he tabled this issue.

### **County Health Insurance**

County Clerk updated the Board on quotes for County Health Insurance. Ms. Williams informed the Board all medical questionnaire forms have been submitted, and waiting on revised quotes from insurance agents.

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### **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 move in the future and to set goals. He also mentioned a workshop to discuss Brooks County re-organization.

### **Adjourn**

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the regular monthly meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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

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