

## Month of April Minutes

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 5:00 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; and various residents.

Chairman called workshop to order.

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

### **Road Update Report**

#### **Carney Road (County Road 122) - Widening / Resurfacing**

Crew has moved back in to finish the road.

#### **Dixie - Barwick Road – Resurfacing**

Contract for resurfacing will be let April 18, 2008 with the expectation the Contractor will start shortly thereafter.

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

Notice to Proceed should be here in the next two weeks on the resurface only. County will have to ask for a new contract in June or July for widening and resurfacing on remainder.

#### **Hodges Road ( County Road 60)**

Still do not have all deeds signed.

#### **Shady Acres 11 – Pave and Drainage**

Will have to ask for new contract from DOT in June or July.

#### **River Run (County Road 299) – Pave and Drainage**

Will have to ask for new contract from DOT in June or July.

#### **River Lane (County Road 300) – Pave and Drainage**

Will have to ask for new contract from DOT in June or July.

#### **Shiver Lane (County Road 184) – Pave and Drainage**

Waiting on construction plans.

#### **CSX Crossing #305 – New Bridge**

Right-of-way has been restaked for R/W acquisition.

#### **Pride Branch #305 – New Bridge**

Waiting on Vann for preliminary deed certification.

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**Dixie - Drainage** – See Ben.

**Dewberry Road** – Waiting on deeds from Ben.

**Pineridge Heights** – Waiting on Vann to release deeds.

**Blease Road** – Waiting on County Attorney to get lien holder to release deed.

Have completed 14 parking spaces on the northwest side of the Courthouse. Working on eastside at present time.

Widening on Old Dixie Road at Winters Road has been completed.

Chairman closed the workshop at 5:25 p.m.

Mr. Claude R. Butler, Chairman

Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk

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## Month of April Minutes

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, April 7, 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; 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. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board approved the agenda with the following additional amendments: Camelia Gardens, a proposed development for affordable elderly apartment complex, Chief Tax Appraiser position, and Intergovernmental Agreement for SPLOST.

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

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Special Called Meeting                   | February 22, 2008 |
| Monthly Workshop                         | March 3, 2008     |
| Regular Monthly Meeting                  | March 3, 2008     |
| Special Called Meeting & SPLOST Workshop | March 10, 2008    |
| SPLOST Workshop                          | March 17, 2008    |
| SPLOST Workshop                          | March 24, 2008    |
| Special Called Meeting                   | March 26, 2008    |

### **Public Hearings – (None)**

### **Appearances**

Mr. Mark Karras, Camelia Quitman, LP, appeared to request the Board adopt a Support Resolution for an affordable elderly apartment complex on Dunn Road. Mr. Karras stated they are applying for tax credits to develop a new affordable elderly apartment . The property is currently zoned multi-residential and is in compliance with zoning to support the resolution. The apartment complex will have 40 units for housing elderly 55 years and older; and will be a two-story facility. Funding will be thru Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The Board questioned whether or not the public had been informed of the development, if not, the public should be made aware. After discussion, Mr. Maxwell made a motion to table the issue for more information, and to make the public aware of the apartment complex development. Mr. Ragsdale seconded.

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Mr. Gavin Laurie, Airport Authority, appeared to request approval for annexation of the Airport into the City of Quitman for fire protection. He stated it would be advantageous if the City had ability to provide fire service. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board approved the annexation of the Airport into the City of Quitman for fire protection.

Mr. Steve Burton appeared to request the County to provide funds to Q-public for web access to be used by citizens of Brooks County and other interested individuals outside of Brooks County to obtain information on property, and get maps. This would also be used by real estate agents and would promote Brooks County. The cost would be \$8,000.00 for one year. After discussion, on motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board unanimously approved the subscription to Q-Public for \$8,000.00 for one year. The funds will come from contingency.

Sheriff Richard Chafin made an appearance to renew the previous request to look at the vehicle purchase/lease option. Sheriff Chafin asked for Board permission to re-submit the bid for them to review again. Sheriff Chafin stated if the first payment could come from contingency until the new budget, there would only be two payments remaining. During the February regular monthly meeting, a proposal was presented for purchase of eight vehicles, two for Law Administration and six for patrol, at the cost of approximately \$5,600.00 per month for 36 months. The annual cost would be \$67,189.92 per year. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board authorized County Administrator to proceed with bids for purchase/lease for vehicles for Sheriff's Department for Board review.

Public Defender, Mr. Kent Edwards, appeared to report that funds were left over from Brooks County's portion of the Public Defender CY 2007 budget in the amount of \$12,832.33. Mr. Edwards stated Georgia Public Defender Standards Council will need a letter signed by the Chairman stating the funds should be rolled over and retained on behalf of the Southern Judicial Circuit Public Defender program for FY 2008-09. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board authorized Chairman to sign letter to Georgia Public Defender Standards Council to roll over the amount of \$12,832.33 left from Brooks County's portion of the CY 2007 budget and retained on behalf of the Southern Judicial Circuit Public Defender program for FY 2008-09.

Mr. Larry HOLETON, Jamar Development resident, appeared to request to be placed on the list for road improvement or paving of roads in the subdivision. He stated a petition has been signed by residents and asked the Board to keep Jamar in mind for road improvements.

Mr. Kenny Baker, resident on Troupeville Road, requested a variance in noise ordinance for April 18, 2008 for annual celebration. Mr. Baker asked the Board to extend the time from 11:00 p.m to 2:00 a.m., a three-hour extension. On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board approved a three-hour extension on April 18, 2008 from 11:00 p.m to 2:00 a.m. for an annual celebration.

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**Old Business**

**a) Joint Governmental Public Forum Semi-annually or Annually with County and City Governments**

County Administrator reported he is looking into a semi-annual meeting with County and City Governments the third week of February 2009. Mr. Ragsdale stated the Board of Education and Chamber of Commerce should be included.

**b) Elected Officials Retirement**

On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board tabled this issue. County Attorney stated he is preparing a report and should have ready for Board review this week.

**c) Chief Tax Appraiser Test Score**

This item was added at Mr. Ragsdale request. He is concerned with Chief Tax Appraiser not being qualified due to not passing test for certification. Initially, Board of Tax Assessors gave the individual two years to get qualified. The test was taken in October, did not pass and rescheduled to take test in March, but has not received results yet. Mr. Ragsdale suggested the Board give authorization to County Administrator to contact Tax Assessor Board, if test score comes back unfavorable, and tell them if they need to have some type of plan of what they intend to do by the Board's next meeting. He stated there is no reason to wait an entire month until the test score comes in; the Board can go ahead and make a decision as to what they want done. It will be left up to the Tax Assessor Board, Board can not hire or fire Chief Appraiser. Chairman stated when the test score comes in, County Administrator can take the appropriate action and get with the Tax Assessor Board, but hopefully, the test score will come in favorable. Mr. Maxwell stated the Board would be jumping ahead of the gun, and sending a message to the individual that they were ready to oust them if they made a decision tonight. Mr. Maxwell stated the Board should wait until the score come in, then we can be able to determine what we need to do, nothing needs to be done tonight. If the score comes back unfavorable, Mr. Maxwell stated, the Board will take the necessary steps to do what we need to do. If the score comes back unfavorable, the County Administrator will do what he needs to do and contact Tax Assessor Board. The issue was tabled. Mr. Ragsdale objected.

**c) SPLOST #5**

County Attorney informed the Board he has prepared SPLOST #5 Intergovernmental Agreement and Resolution Calling for Imposition of SPLOST for the ballot on July 15, 2008. Copies will be distributed to the Board for review. On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board approved SPLOST #5 Intergovernmental Agreement and Resolution Calling for Imposition of SPLOST for the ballot on July 15, 2008, with stipulation Board will review to see if there are any changes. County Attorney stated he will hold copies for couple of days to provide copies to the Commissioners review.

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**New Business**

**a) RFP on Emergency Medical Service**

County Administrator provided a Request for Proposal for contracted ambulatory service in Brooks County. Mr. Jones questioned the current contract, as to whether Regional EMS is still under same contract or if a new one was completed. After discussion, Mr. Lawson made a motion to authorize County Administrator to contact Tommy Willis, Regional EMS, to check on contract and see if he is agreeable to two more years on current contract, Mr. Jones seconded.

**b) Adopt Resolution for Appointments to County Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Authorities**

County Administrator provided Resolution for Appointments to County Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Authorities for Board approval. Board had questions and concerns regarding appointments, requirements and procedures. After discussion, Mr. Maxwell made a motion to table the issue for further review and direction, Mr. Jones seconded.

**c) Holding Boards & Authorities Accountable for Monthly Minutes, Financials, etc.**

Mr. Ragsdale discussed Boards and Authorities being accountable for monthly minutes, financial reporting. He stated a copy of minutes and financial statements should be given to the Board monthly so the Commissioners will know what is going on with extension of County government. Presently, financial statements or minutes are not provided to the Board. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board authorized notification to go out to all Boards and Authorities in Brooks County to provide them with a copy of their minutes and monthly financial statements.

**d) Triple Crown Financial Support**

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, annual financial support in the amount of \$1,000.00 was approved for Triple Crown Hometowns Retirement Development Partnership. Funds will come from contingency.

**County Administrator Comments:**

**a) Progress Report**

1. **Animal Control Ordinance** – County Administrator is still talking with City Manager regarding the animal ordinance for County-wide Ordinance to come up with a price.

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2. **Washington Street Gym Ownership** – County Attorney provided an update to the Board on Washington Street Gym ownership. There has to be a public sale or long term lease. Previously the Board asked County Attorney to find out which way Boys & Girls Club want to proceed, and take it from there. County Attorney advised the Board on doing some type of long-term lease or bid out process. Boys and Girls Club does not want to go through the bid process, would rather a long-term lease. Board agreed the long-term lease is there preference. County Attorney stated he will speak with Mr. Soper, and get something drawn up.
3. **Additional Parking at Courthouse** – Fourteen parking spaces have been completed on the northwest side of Courthouse; and working on eastside at present time. Board commended Mr. Ed Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator, of a tremendous job done on the project. The Board expressed their appreciation of a fine job he has done on the parking lot.
4. **City/County (Farmers Market) Sell of Property** – Waiting to see whether CDBG Grant is approved, which will be in September.
5. **Road Department Contingency Funds** – FY 2006 Road Department had \$175,000 in maintenance repairs, FY 2007 they had \$190,000 in maintenance repairs, FY 2008 the Board was looking to cut \$700,000 out of the budget and Road Department maintenance took a big cut because at that time they were not spending \$190,000. Their budget was cut \$90,000 this year, therefore, the budget was \$100,000. Currently the department is looking at over spending by \$50,000 in maintenance. County Administrator asked the Board to commit to a contingency fund of \$50,000 to cover from now until June. On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board approved a contingency fund of \$50,000 for Road Department maintenance to cover overspending from now until June.

**b) Revenue Estimate FY 2009**

County Administrator presented a proposed FY 2009 Revenue Estimate.

**c) Obligated Funds**

County Administrator presented a list of funds obligated by the County.

- d) Commissioners will attend 2008 ACCG Annual Meeting in Savannah April 26-29, 2008.

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On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board adjourned the regular monthly meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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

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