

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop on Monday, August 4, 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.

The road update was presented for August 2008:

Road Update Report

Dixie - Barwick Road – Resurfacing

Have not heard anything on the schedule of this project.

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

Hope the leveling and resurfacing will be complete by regular monthly meeting.

Hodges Road (County Road 60)

Have not heard any more on the deeds.

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

Ben has not put any time on this project, but has an idea without obtaining ROW.

CSX Crossing #305 – New Bridge

R/W acquisition in progress.

Pride Branch #305 – New Bridge

R/W acquisition in progress..

Dixie - Drainage

Ben has start to work on this project.

Dewberry Road

Has 4 yes and 1 no of twelve parcels. Chairman stated he will talk with property owners.

Pineridge Heights

Have been waiting on Vann since March to prepare deeds.

Blease Road

Asphalt is down, Scruggs is putting down base.

Hassle Lane

ROW has been cleared. Will start on the road bed as soon as Blease is complete.

Mr. Johnson asked Board for input on the S.A.P. Program.

Chairman closed the workshop at 5:35 p.m.

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, August 4, 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. 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. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board amended the agenda to discuss Safety Action Plan Program sponsored by DOT.

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

Monthly Workshop	July 7, 2008
Regular Monthly Meeting	July 7, 2008
Public Hearing	July 23, 2008
Public Hearing & Special Called Meeting	July 23, 2008

Public Hearings – (None)

Appearances

Mr. Daniel Warren, North Brooks Fire Department, was scheduled to appear, due to an emergency, Mr. Steven Smith appeared on his behalf to request the Board to allow fire tax district to be on November ballot. The request was for one mill of tax to support South Brooks Volunteer Fire Department. It would create revenue increase countywide including City of Morven. Chairman stated it is a good idea, but he does not want to put another burden on taxpayers due to increase in property values. Mr. Smith explained, if it is placed on the ballot, citizens would have opportunity to vote the tax in, and would not fall back on Commissioners. Mr. Lawson stated he would like to hear from community to see what they want. Mr. Smith stated they would look at other avenues to create revenue, and may be back before the Board.

Mr. Jack Langdale appeared to request abandonment of right of way easement of CR 179 on behalf of Mr. James L. Bolen and S. Dennis Smith. Mr. Bolen and Mr. Smith acquired

the property several years ago by warranty deed dated October 29, 2003. They took title to the property subject to a right of way easement, which was conveyed by their predecessors in title to Brooks County Board of Commissioners in 1967. Since the property has never served any substantial public purpose, the owners are requesting County formally abandon any interest it has in the property. Chairman advised Mr. Langdale a public hearing would need to be held. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board approved proceeding with abandonment of CR 179.

Economic Developer, Brooks County Development Authority, Ms. Tina Herring, appeared to request temporary financing until SPLOST funds come in to complete engineering at Industrial Park. County Attorney advised Board of two options: 1) loan from General Fund, 2) finance thru lending institution with revenue bond. With this option, an intergovernmental agreement would be entered into between Brooks County and Development Authority to be validated thru court system. Mr. Jones inquired, who will pay interest on loan? After discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion to adopt the Resolution to approve revenue bond for loan of \$1,080,000.00 to Development Authority for completion of infrastructure in Industrial Park, interest will not be paid by County.

Ms. Herring also needed Board to adopt Resolution in Support of a Four-Lane Project for State Highway Route 133 from Albany to Valdosta to be presented to District DOT Board Member to present at the next DOT Board meeting for placement on the State's Construction Work Program. The project is not moving, and if it is not four-lane within time frame, it will be within next five years, and will have to go back to the beginning. Highway 133 Committee unanimously support the pursuit of a complete four-lane project for State Route 133 to encourage safety, industry, and growth for all of Southwest Georgia, and recommends this project be implemented by whatever means necessary for completion in a timely manner. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board approved Resolution in Support of a Four-Lane Project for State Highway Route 133 from Albany to Valdosta.

Ms. Herring inquired if the County wants to be the applicant for prospect to move in Micro Craft building. The agenda had to be amended for the Board to act on. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the agenda was amended to include information regarding Micro Craft. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board approved to proceed as Applicant for Micro Craft project.

Ms. Pam Stahl requested to be on the agenda to renew contract for Brooks County to act as fiscal agent for Family Connections, but was not present.

Mr. Timothy Williams, resident, Valdosta Highway, appeared to discuss damage to his driveway by semi-trucks in April. Mr. Williams explained due to an accident, traffic was re-routed, and a Brooks County Deputy was present and assisted 3 or 4 semi-trucks to turn around in his asphalt driveway. Mr. Williams requested repair of driveway due to negligence of Sheriff's Department. He called Sheriff Chafin several times, but he never returned his call. The Board stated they are not sure what is appropriate, but asked Administrator to look at and get prices. Mr. Ragsdale made a motion for Administrator to

get with Mr. Ed Johnson to look at damage and obtain prices for repair, and bring back to the Board, Mr. Jones seconded.

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Mr. Ronald Bryant, Forestry Commission, appeared to request Board assistance with Southern Linc Cell Phones that were cut by the State due to budget cuts. Mr. Bryant stated the State may bring phones back after a while, but if Board could fund the phones until that time. He explained the phones would have touch/talk capability which is vital when fighting fires and is their only type of communication. He stated the phones are a valuable asset, they need adequate communication, can communicate with linc cell phones when no other devices will. The cost is approximately \$90.00 per month for three phones. On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board approved funding Southern Linc Cell Phones for Forestry Commission until end of budget year in the amount of \$1,080.00, funds will come from contingency.

Extension Office Director, Mr. Johnny Whiddon, presented salary adjustments for himself and office staff. The Board approved changes during 2006 budget meetings to meet salary requirements of University of Georgia. There is a shortage of \$4,200.00 from 2006 agreement. After discussion, Mr. Ragsdale made a motion to table the issue until Administrator and Mr. Whiddon get together and calculate exact dollars needed to bring salaries in line, Mr. Jones seconded.

Old Business

GEBCorp Define Benefit Plan - Elected Officials Retirement

A special called meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss Defined Benefit Plan.

Boys & Girls Club Lease Agreement

Lease agreement has been signed by Boys & Girls Club. Board authorized Chairman to sign agreement during July regular meeting.

RFQ - Motor Grader

Board authorized County Administrator to seek sealed bids to lease motor grader and bring before them next month. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board approved proceeding with lease agreement for motor grader and look at corporations.

New Business

County Recycle - Hours/Days of Operation

Currently the Recycling Centers in Quitman and Morven are opened Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Mr.

Maxwell discussed extending hours of operation to try and prevent trash from being thrown on the road side. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board approved extension of hours/days of operation for Recycling Center in Quitman to Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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County Liquor Referendum

Mr. Maxwell discussed putting a liquor referendum on the November ballot. He explained it would create tax revenue, and citizens are going to Valdosta and Thomasville to purchase alcohol. Chairman, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Ragsdale stated they are not prepared to vote on this issue tonight. Mr. Maxwell stated, put it on the referendum and give voters opportunity to decide if they want to change from dry County to wet County. No action was taken.

LARP (Local Assistance Road Agreement)

On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board authorized Chairman to sign Georgia Department of Transportation Local Assistance Road Program Certificate of Ownership and Agreement for resurfacing needs of the County roads/streets system.

County Environmental Health Ordinance

Brooks County Board of Health provided Enforcement of County Environmental Health Regulations regarding Body Art Establishments and Body Art Artist. Fees will be established and collected in the County. The fee will be \$400.00 per year, and includes permit fee for one facility and the one artist/operator. Additional artist permits will be \$100.00 per year for each additional artist. Fees will include plan reviews and all routine compliance inspection(s) for an establishment. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board approved the Enforcement of County Environmental Health Regulations to perform Body Art, fees are \$400.00 per year and \$100.00 per year for each additional artist. A public hearing for Brooks County Board of Health Ordinance will be on the September regular meeting agenda.

SAP (Safety Action Program)

On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board authorized Chairman to sign document pertaining to Safety Action Program from DOT for striping, signs, rumble strips for Brooks County roads.

County Health Insurance

Insurance Agents will appear at the special called meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. for health insurance presentations.

County Administrator Comments:

Progress Report

Joint Governmental Public Forum - February 2009 date/time TBD

September Meeting Second Monday, September 8, 2008

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On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board changed the regular monthly meeting date to Monday, September 8, 2008 due to Labor Day holiday.

Chairman welcomed and introduced newly elected Sheriff Mike Dewey and stated the Board is looking forward to working with him.

Executive Session

On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board closed regular session at 7:15 p.m. to go into executive session. Clerk called the roll and all Commissioners were present. Commissioners signed an Affidavit stated 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 7:20 p.m.

No action was taken. On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board adjourned the regular monthly meeting at 7:21 p.m.

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

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The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 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.

Chairman called meeting to order and led all in attendance in prayer.

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board amended the agenda to discuss Ag Building Annex.

Three agents appeared to provide the Board with quotes for employee health insurance: 1) Taylor Insurance Services, Valdosta, GA, 2) Holwell-Fletcher, Quitman, GA, and 3) Big Oak Advisors, Thomasville, GA. Each agent was allowed 20 minutes in which to present their presentation. The information was basically the same from all three agents, they all quoted similar premiums from Principal Financial Group. The quotes provided were based on census information submitted to each agency. Upon completion of open enrollment, the premiums would be adjusted. In order to get the correct premium quote, each employee will need to complete a questionnaire consisting of one medical question to cover all major illnesses.

After discussion, Mr. Ragsdale made a motion authorizing Administrator to proceed with obtaining the medical questionnaire to be completed by employees, using the utmost confidentiality procedures, for actual quote from Principal Financial Group for employee health insurance, and each agency outline their level of service, Mr. Maxwell seconded.

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board approved the issuance of a purchase order for motor grader transmission repair in the amount of \$14,139.15.

Extension Office Director, Mr. Johnny Whiddon, presented salary adjustments for himself and office staff. The Board approved changes during 2006 budget meetings to meet salary requirements of University of Georgia. As of July 2008, Extension employees have a shortfall of \$3,751.17. Mr. Lawson made a motion to approve recommendation of funding \$3,751.17 to Extension salary line item to come from FY 2009 contingency fund, Mr. Jones seconded. Mr. Ragsdale stated University of Georgia should not dictate what County pays toward Extension employees salary. Chairman called for vote. Mr. Jones, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Butler voted yes. Mr. Ragsdale, no. Vote was 4 to 1.

Board discussed Elected Officials Retirement. Mr. Jones and Mr. Ragsdale had a problem with Tax Commissioner and Office Staff being on two retirement plans since County employees does not have that option, and what is done for one should be done for others. After discussion, Mr. Maxwell made a motion to keep plan as is, to allow Tax Commissioner

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and Staff to remain on GEBCorp Defined Benefit Plan. Chairman called for vote. Mr. Jones and Mr. Ragsdale voted no. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Butler, voted yes. Vote was 3 to 2.

Mr. Maxwell discussed the Ag Building Annex being used for public functions. After discussion as to what type functions would be appropriate, the Board asked Administrator to bring back to them recommendations by the next meeting. Chairman stated he had no problem with building being used for educational purposes.

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the special called meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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

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