

Month of July Minutes

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

The road update was presented for July 2008:

Road Update Report

Dixie - Barwick Road – Resurfacing

Reames and Son will be the ones to level road. Dikes Grassing will place the surface treatment paving. They have notice to proceed and will start at their convenience.

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

Have notice to proceed. Grooverville Road is classified as a Rural Collector Road by the Federal Highway System. We have asked for Federal assistance with remainder of road.

Hodges Road (County Road 60)

Have not heard any more on the deeds.

Shady Acres 11 – Pave and Drainage

Paving is complete and everyone says thanks to Commissioners. Dirt drives need dressing out and Rocky's Inmate crew can do this.

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

See Ben.

CSX Crossing #305 – New Bridge

R/W acquisition in progress.

Pride Branch #305 – New Bridge

R/W acquisition in progress..

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Dixie - Drainage – See Ben for update.

Dewberry Road

Mailed letters to the property owners to acquire 60 ft. ROW to improve road only. Have one yes and one no at present time.

Pineridge Heights

Have been waiting on Vann since March to prepare deeds.

Blease Road

Will put in driveway pipes this week and finish project also.

Ferris Road Extension

Special Projects Coordinator provided an estimated cost for Ferris Road extension per Mr. Maxwell's request:

Base	\$ 7,000
Asphalt	8,000
Vibratory Roller	4,125
Motor Grader	6,000
Total Estimated Cost	\$ 25,125

Mr. Ragsdale stated he was not on the Board at the time Mr. Langdale came down, but he understands the State at that time was willing to repair driveways on CR 91, but Mr. Maxwell told them no that CR 78 was the one needed work done on. Now we are coming in here at the last minute, and now politics what they are, someone coming up for re-election, we are going to have to spend the money. Chairman explained Mr. Linnenkohl, DOT Commissioner, advised it would be very expensive to the County to pave the road, State would assist, but County's portion would be expensive.

Hassle Road

Mr. Butler discussed improving a section of Hassle Road.

Webster Road

Mr. Ragsdale discussed the safety issue on Webster Road. Board asked Administrator to get with Board of Education to see if they are willing to assist with the improvement.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to close the workshop at 5:27 p.m., Mr. Lawson seconded.

Mr. Claude R. Butler, Chairman

Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk

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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 approved the agenda as presented.

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

Monthly Workshop	June 2, 2008
Regular Monthly Meeting	June 2, 2008
Special Called Meeting & 2009 Budget Workshop	June 9, 2008
Special Called Meeting	June 19, 2008
Budget Public Hearing	June 23, 2008

Public Hearings – (None)

Appearances

Mr. Daniel Warren, North Brooks Fire Department, presented a breakdown of cost for equipment reflecting a 15-year plan. Volunteer Fire Department is in need of 5 Class A Pumpers, 3000 Gallon Tanker, service trucks, hydrants (wet and dry), communications, additional rescue unit. He also stated more equipment is needed for East Brooks truck. The cost for 5 Class A Pumpers and a 3000 Gallon Tanker is \$879,817.00, with equipment mounting \$447,531.63, bunker gear/safety equipment \$50,000.00, total amount will be \$1,377,348.63 for North Brooks Fire Department. Mr. Warren stated East Brooks will reimburse \$87,000.00 and \$250,000.00 from SPLOST, remaining balance will be \$1,040,348.63. The Board allocated \$500,000.00 for equipment of SPLOST #5 funds that will be on the July 15th ballot. Mr. Warren stated \$250,000.00 will be used as a down payment on trucks and equipment, \$250,000.00 will be held for equipment for remaining

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trucks, air refill center, sub-station with quarters, training (equipment), cushion or grants applied for on trucks, and dry hydrant points. Chairman stated the Board will wait to see if SPLOST will pass, and move forward from there.

Economic Developer, Brooks County Development Authority, Ms. Tina Herring, appeared to request re-appointments for lapsed terms of Development Authority Board members Mr. Buddy Holwell and Mr. Gordon Rentz. Mr. Maxwell stated the Board consists of all white males and needs women and minority members. Mr. Ragsdale agreed. Mr. Lawson made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Buddy Holwell and Mr. Gordon Rentz for another term on Development Authority Board, Mr. Jones seconded. After discussion, Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Butler, Mr. Jones and Mr. Lawson voted yes. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Ragsdale voted no. Vote was 3 to 2. Mr. Ragsdale stated he voted no due to Development Authority Board not being representative of community they serve.

Mr. Anthony Scheffler, Barney resident, stated he appeared to make a request/suggestion for fire protection for top north Brooks County area near Carters Mill/Burton Road area. He stated he pays higher insurance cost (additional \$700) because of ISO rating (10) due to not having fire protection. Mr. Scheffler stated people are moving to Barney and probably more would if there was fire protection. He stated a lot of his neighbors are willing to do what they can to help promote recruiting for volunteer fire department. Mr. Scheffler stated if the Board or representative of the Board could get with insurance agents together and provide information because they do not know where fire departments are, or where you live, so they automatically give a 10 ISO rating. North Brooks Fire Department will assist the Barney area how ever they can. Chairman stated it is the willingness of citizens in each community to motivate and get it off the ground. Mr. Butler stated that is what happened in all the communities to get the fire departments off the ground. Hopefully, the SPLOST will pass next week and they can get together with fire coalition and see what we can get implemented.

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 by the President. 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 contract for services would be bid out. Board agreed they need more information to support the inclusion of the municipalities. Board requested a copy of

the plan for review and a breakdown for the cities. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board tabled this issue.

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Old Business

GEBCorp Define Benefit Plan Resolution

County Clerk informed the Board of speaking with GEBCorp regarding the retirement plan and their willingness to come and meet with them to discuss any changes they would like to make. Board set a tentative date to meet with GEBCorp representative on June 18, 2008.

Boys & Girls Club Lease Agreement

During a previous meeting, Board authorized County Attorney to include a punitive stipulation in the lease agreement for Boys & Girls Club regarding Washington Street Gym

that if Brooks County terminates the lease, County will pay \$75,000.00 penalty in addition to expenses incurred by Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Parrott informed the Board the Boys & Girls Club accepted the lease agreement proposal with the \$75,000.00 penalty stipulation. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board authorized Chairman to sign lease agreement in connection with Washington Street Gym between Boys & Girls Club and Brooks County with the \$75,000.00 penalty stipulation.

Pineridge & Dewberry Short Road Designated as SPLOST #4 Projects

On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board designated Pineridge and Dewberry Short Road as SPLOST #4 funding projects.

FY 2009 Goals

County Administrator provided a list of suggested goals and objectives for FY 2009. He asked the Board to look at the list to try to accomplish milestones for the future.

County Health Insurance

County Administrator inquired to the Board as to how they want to make decision on health insurance provider. He asked if they wanted a spreadsheet outlining cost, deductible, co-pay, and savings or if they wanted insurance agent to give presentation at

workshop or special called meeting. Board agreed they wanted both, spreadsheet and presentation by insurance agent.

New Business

ACCG County Family Album Renewal

County Administrator informed Board of ACCG County Family Album renewal. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board approved the renewal and to include website for Chamber of Commerce. Funds will come from contingency.

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Brooks County Public Library Board of Trustees Appointment

Brooks County Public Library Director, Ms. Laura Harrison, submitted a request for appointment to Library Board of Trustees, due to Mr. Jones completing his second three-year term on June 30, 2008. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Mr. Butler to the Library Board of Trustees, Mr. Jones seconded.

Brooks County Board of Family and Children Services Appointment

Department of Family and Children Services Director, Ms. Linda Peterson, submitted a letter requesting the re-appointment of Ms. Mary Thomas to the Brooks County Board of Family and Children Services. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board re-appointed Ms. Mary Thomas to serve another term on the Brooks County Board of Family and Children Services. The term will expire June 30, 2013.

South Georgia Community Service Board Appointment

Ms. Cindy Vickery, Chairperson, South Georgia Community Service Board, submitted a request for appointment. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board re-appointed Ms. Gerry Folsom to serve an additional three-year term on the South Georgia Community Service Board.

City of Thomasville Solid Waste Fee Increase

Mr. Nathaniel Tyler, Solid Waste Director, Thomasville Utilities, provided notice to the Board of an increase rate for solid waste services due to increase in fuel and other goods and services. The rate will change from \$12.50 per house rate to \$13.40 effective on July billing.

Currently, the annual solid waste fee is \$168.00, the increase will be \$178.80 annually. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board approved the increase for solid waste fees from \$168.00 annually to \$179.00 annually.

County Government Reorganization

Mr. Ragsdale requested discussion of County government reorganization. He stated they have brought up several times the need to take a look at possibly ways the Board can do some of our business differently within the County. He thinks it is time to ask County Administrator to come up with some kind of plan, or have a workshop and talk about County reorganization. We have a need for everyone to do a full time job, and maybe we need to cross-train, some areas need beefing up. He stated several Commissioners have expressed this at one time or another in the last few months. He would like to set up a workshop or charge Administrator with task of bringing back within 30 or 60 days some kind of changes he would like to see. Board agreed; and County Administrator will schedule a workshop.

Motor Grader Purchase Specifications

Specifications for Motor Grader purchase were submitted by Road Superintendent, Mr. Mark Deatcher, for Board approval to put out for bid. After discussion, on motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board approved specifications for Motor Grader

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purchase to go out for bid with the option to trade or not trade be included in the specifications.

Governor's Appointments for County Commissioners to Serve on Public Defender Local Panel Nomination

A memorandum from ACCG was received for nomination of County Commissioners to serve on the Public Defender Local Panel. ACCG pushed very hard to get these seats. County Commissioners will have a larger say in the public defender program for their judicial circuit as well as a large voice in the Standards Council. Two seats on each local panel will be reserved for County Commissioners, and four seats on the Standards Council (statewide selection), will be reserved for County Commissioners. By serving on one of these local panels, they will help to provide financial leadership, thereby, taking care of the taxpayer's dollar. The Governor's Office will make these appointments very soon and is requesting recommendations for these panels. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board nominated Mr. Butler and Mr. Ragsdale to serve on Public Defender Local Panel.

County Administrator Comments:

Progress Report

High School Apprenticeship

Brooks County High School has contacted County Administrator regarding hiring an apprentice to work ten hours a week at minimum wage. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve working with Brooks County High School through their apprenticeship program for ten hours per week at minimum wage, Mr. Jones seconded. Salary will be funded from contingency fund.

12-Hour Shifts for 911 Center

County Administrator informed the Board 911 Center will begin 12-hour shifts effective July 24, 2008.

Webster Road

County Administrator will contact Board of Education with regards to Webster Road improvements for safety and bring back to the Board.

Joint Governmental Public Forum

The first Joint Governmental Public Forum with municipalities will be scheduled in February 2009.

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Millage Rate Workshop

Workshop for millage rate is scheduled immediately following the Public Hearing on July 21, 2008 at 6:30 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

