

Month Of March Minutes

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for its Monthly Workshop on Monday, March 3, 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 March 2008:

Road Update Report

Carney Road (County Road 122) - Widening / Resurfacing

All drainage structures are in place.

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

Contracts have been signed and returned to DOT; waiting on DOT to execute signed contract.

Hodges Road (County Road 60)

Mailed letters to all property owners to get deeds signed on R/W needed. Ms. Horne assisted with getting 11 deeds signed; there are 8 that needs to be signed.

Shady Acres 11 – Pave and Drainage

Will have to ask for new contract from DOT at the end of the year.

River Run (County Road 299) – Pave and Drainage

Will have to ask for new contract from DOT at the end of the year.

River Lane (County Road 300) – Pave and Drainage

Will have to ask for new contract from DOT at the end of the year.

Shiver Lane (County Road 184) – Pave and Drainage

Waiting on plans from Ben.

CSX Crossing #305 – New Bridge

Waiting on DOT to get permission from Railroad to work on R/W.

Pride Branch #305 – New Bridge

Preliminary R/W plans are ready. Right-of-Way Acquisition contract from DOT needs to be signed.

Dixie - Drainage

Drainage is 25% complete.

Dewberry Road – Waiting on deeds from Ben.

Pineridge Heights – Waiting on deeds from Ben.

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

Safety Action Plan (SAP) has been submitted to DOT.

Chairman closed the workshop at 5:33 p.m.

Mr. Claude R. Butler, Chairman

Mr. Robert D. O'Barr, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk

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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. Maxwell, the Board amended the agenda to discuss: annual report from County and issues from special called meeting, and approved the agenda with additions and agenda as a whole.

On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board approved the minutes of the February regular monthly meeting and Workshop Session held February 13th with necessary corrections. Board tabled the minutes of Special Called Meeting held February 22, 2008 for additions by Mr. Ragsdale.

Public Hearings – (None)

Appearances

Ms. Norma Johnson, Brooks County Health Nurse Manager, presented a Contingency Memorandum of Agreement Strategic National Stockpile for approval. The memorandum of agreement gives authority to the Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Brooks County Public Health Department, and Brooks County to act as a partnership upon deployment of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board approved the memorandum of agreement.

Ms. Kim Wingate, South Georgia RDC, presented a Resolution to be submitted with CDBG grant application to Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the purpose of funding design and construction of a Senior Citizen building in Brooks County. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution to pursue CDBG grant.

Mr. Wilson Gosier, resident of Hodges Road, appeared to request Board's reconsideration of paving Hodges Road. He asked the Board to reconsider paving two miles of Hodges Road and Drylake Road, ending at Coleman Road. With the assistance of Mr. Gosier and his sister, 11 deeds have been signed and provided to the County. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board approved to pave two miles of Hodges Road from Drylake Road to Coleman Road.

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The Board asked County Engineer and Special Projects Coordinator to check for deeds with 60 ft. and 80 ft. right-of-way, and bring report back to Board.

Fire Coalition appeared to request Board's consideration of adding to SPLOST referendum. Mr. Daniel Warren, Chief at North Brooks Fire Department, stated they are using old gear and are lacking equipment which prohibits them from doing their job. Mr. Warren stated they are asking the Board for assistance to protect citizens of Brooks County. Fire Coalition is requesting \$450,000.00 of SPLOST funds to replace most of their equipment. Chairman stated he would like the Board to pursue a percentage of SPLOST to help fire department and he commended them for what they do. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to increase the requested amount from \$450,000.00 to \$500,000.00 to add to SPLOST referendum to replace fire equipment, Mr. Jones seconded. Chairman asked everyone to stand and applaud Fire Coalition for what they do. Mr. Warren was asked to provide the Board with a list of remaining equipment they need.

Mr. Johnny Whiddon, Extension Office, appeared to request funds to hire a temporary secretary for the Extension Office. Ms. Thagard resigned and he needs a secretary during this time to assist with office duties. The amount of request is \$1,680.00 for six weeks. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board approved funding of \$1,680.00 for Extension Office to hire a temporary secretary for six weeks. Funds will come from contingency.

Mr. Whiddon also requested matching funds to replace two computers and a printer in Extension Office. This is an annual request to maintain working computers and surplus the old ones to other County departments. The requested matching fund amount is \$1,404.50. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board approved matching funds of \$1,404.50 for two computers and a printer for Extension Office. Funds will come from contingency.

On motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board approved to pay a portion of accrued annual leave for Ms. Thagard who resigned from Extension Office and took job at FSA office. The County's portion of annual leave is \$1,800.00.

Mr. Andrew Thompson's appearance was tabled and will be on next month's agenda.

Old Business

a) City/County (Farmers Market) Sell of Property

At previous meeting, Board authorized proceeding with gathering of information to sell Farmers Market property. Board authorized County Administrator and City Manager to submit bids for auction.

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

Board discussed conducting joint public forum with County and Cities (Quitman, Morven,

Barwick, and Pavo) either semi-annually or annually. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board approved joint governmental public forum to be held semi-annually.

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c) Update on Brooks County Veterans Monument

Mr. Walt Yost presented a draft of the Veterans Monument to be placed on southwest corner of Courthouse grounds. Mr. Yost stated the monument will be placed by Memorial Day. There will be space to add names to the monument.

Mr. Ragsdale extended thanks to citizens attended special call meeting on February 22, 2008. He stated there will be differences between Commissioners on issues, but hope they can work together. He stated he has right of freedom of speech. Mr. Ragsdale asked County Attorney to give an opinion on two items of which Chairman called special called meeting on February 22nd. County Attorney responded he will get with Clerk on issues discussed and prepare memo of recommendation. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board authorized County Attorney to give an opinion as whether Chairman had a right or authorization to call the meeting on the two agenda items discussed during special called meeting held February 22, 2008. Mr. Lawson opposed. Vote was 4 to 1.

New Business

a) SPLOST #5

Capital Improvement projects must be identified by all municipalities and County no later than March 25th, to be placed on ballot July 15, 2008. County Administrator will set up next meeting.

b) Certificate of Deposit Maturity

A Certificate of Deposit (CD) at Ameris Bank will mature March 12, 2008. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board authorized Administrator to put the CD out to bid to local banks in the amount of \$534,174.12. Bid opening will tie in with SPLOST workshop.

c) SPLOST #4 Certificate of Deposit

County Administrator asked the Board to consider placing \$500,000.00 from SPLOST #4 account in a CD due to possible delays with matching funds from DOT funding. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board authorized Administrator to put CD out to bid from SPLOST #4 account to local banks in the amount of \$500,000.00.

d) USS Georgia Flag Project – Proclamation

A Proclamation designating March 7, 2008 as USS Georgia Day was presented to the Board for approval. USS Georgia was a ballistic missile submarine that has been retrofitted to carry 154 cruise missiles, and special operations forces. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board approved Proclamation USS Georgia Day designating March 7, 2008 as USS Georgia Day. A ceremony will be held 3:30 pm March 7th at the Gazebo.

e) Surplus of County Equipment Sale

Road Superintendent reported old law enforcement vehicles at Road Department for surplus sale. Mr. Deatcher stated the vehicles are mostly salvage. Board suggested getting a salvage company to come look at it and provide monetary value. County Attorney stated salvage disposal is in County's ordinance and may not need to put out to bid. On motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board approved sell of salvage thru salvage company.

f) DOT Right of Way – Agreement with Bryan Real Estate Services

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Lawson, the Board approved agreement with Bryan Real Estate Services, Inc. for right of way acquisition connected to bridge replacement project.

g) Bridge Federal Aid Project

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board approved Contract for Acquisition of Right of Way for Federal Aid Project located on CR 305 over Pride Branch.

h) Brooks County High School Class of 1970

Brooks County High School Class of 1970 is requesting to plant a tree on Courthouse grounds in honor of their class. On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board approved the request of Brooks County High Class of 1970 to plant a tree on courthouse grounds. Administrator will get with Maintenance Supervisor to look at grounds and determine where the tree will be planted.

i) Annual Report

Mr. Ragsdale asked Board to consider providing an annual report to the public on money spent. All Commissioners agreed.

County Administrator Comments:

a) Progress Report

1. Asbestos removal at Washington Street Gym is complete.
2. County Attorney updated the Board on Washington Street Gym ownership. Mr. Parrott stated there are two options to accomplish what the Board is trying to do. If the gym is auctioned, the problem may be competition with bids. The sale has to be public, County can not conduct private sale. There has to be a public sale or long term lease.

Board asked Attorney to find out which way Boys & Girls Club want to proceed, and take it from there. Mr. Maxwell stated the citizens would prefer a long-term lease.

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3. County Attorney informed the Board he will have a full report to them by next week regarding Elected Officials retirement issue.

b) 2009 Budget Calendar

Administrator presented a proposed 2009 Budget calendar for Board perusal.

c) Obligated Funds

Administrator presented a list of funds obligated by the County:

Development Authority	Industrial Park	\$ 1,070,080.00
Ag Building	New Building	500,000.00
Boys & Girls Club	Parking Lot	10,000.00
Airport Authority	Runway	165,611.00
School Bonds	Resolution	3,543,558.00

Total Obligated Funds \$ 5,289,249.00

d) Commissioners will attend ACCG training in Callaway Gardens March 13-14, 2008.

e) Commissioners will conduct a SPLOST workshop at 12:00 noon on March 10, 2008 with the municipalities.

Executive Session

On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board closed regular session at 7:25 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 pending litigation. (See Attachment). On motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale, the Board closed executive session to return to regular session at 7:35 p.m.

No action was taken. On motion by Mr. Ragsdale, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, the Board adjourned the regular monthly meeting at 7:36 p.m.

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

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