

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held a called worksession/meeting on April 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the Banks County Courthouse Annex. This meeting was made public by Facebook Live and by conference call if requested.

**Members Present:**

Chairman Jimmy Hooper  
Vice Chairman Charles Turk  
Commissioner Danny Maxwell  
Commissioner David Duckett  
Commissioner Sammy Reece was absent until 11:19 a.m.

**Staff Present:**

County Clerk Regina Gailey  
Finance Officer Randy Failyer

**1. Call to Order**

Ch. Hooper called the meeting to order.

**2. FY2020 Budget**

Department budgets were discussed as follows:

- **Recreation Salaries – Kim McEntire & Jerry Stafford**

Comm. Maxwell stated Assistant Director Kim McEntire had been with the county for 18 years while still on the low end of the salary range and had recently received an additional certification. He recommended her salary be increased to \$43,000/year and that part timer Jerry Stafford be increased to \$12.00/hour. Ch. Hooper stated that Ms. McEntire had done an outstanding job.

Motion to increase Ms. McEntire's salary to \$43,000/year and Mr. Stafford's hourly rate to \$12/hour effective July 1, 2020 **\*\***"with exemption of any other increase considered for the FY2021 budget year":

Danny Maxwell

Second: Charles Turk

Vote: 4:0

All aye votes and motion passed.

- **EMA/E911**

**Deidra Moore**

- Communications:

Vice Ch. Turk stated the Sheriff would need some computers replaced and Chief Nichols had requested 12 new computers for fire stations and fire engines. Vice Ch. Turk stated the number could be cut back to 9 new computers for Fire/EMS which would result in a \$13,000 reduction.

***\*\*minutes amended 12/8/2020 to add wording in Recreation Salaries-Kim McEntire: "with exemption of any other increase considered for the FY2021 budget year"***

- **Extension Service** **Lauren Morris Rose**
  - Salaries:  
Ms. Rose asked for a salary increase for the clerk to account for her college degree. The amount shared with the Board of Education would be \$31,000 with the county's portion being \$25,000.
- **Magistrate Court** **Judge Ivan Mote**
- **Probate Court** **Judge Helen Hewell**
- **Clerk of Superior Court** **Tim Harper**
  - Office Space:  
Mr. Harper asked that a wall in the entrance of his office be removed to provide direct access to the records room instead of the public coming through the office every time. The Board agreed to pursue this change.
- **District Attorney**
- **Voter Registration** **Andra Phagan**
  - Salaries:  
Ch. Hooper stated Ms. Phagan's salary would be discussed at a later date and encouraged the Board to consider an increase.  
  
Ms. Phagan stated the number of Poll holders would decrease since the number of precincts had dropped from 13 to 6.

Ch. Hooper recessed the meeting at 11:02 a.m. to reconvene at 11:19 a.m.

Ch. Hooper called the meeting back in order at 11:19 a.m. Comm. Reece joined the meeting after recess.

- **Election Superintendent Salary – Andra Phagan**  
Ch. Hooper stated Ms. Phagan was well below midpoint of her salary range.  
Motion to increase Ms. Phagan's salary to \$44,000/year with exemption of any other increase considered for the FY2021 budget year: Jimmy Hooper  
Second: David Duckett  
Vote: 5:0  
All aye votes and motion passed.
- **Superior Court** **Stephen Nevel**  
Ch. Hooper stated for the past 8 years a Superior Court judge had never made Banks County a permanent office nor had the District Attorney. He asked that Banks County receive equal treatment as

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Jackson & Barrow counties within the Piedmont Judicial District. He encouraged the judges to step forward to ensure that.

- **Juvenile Court**

**Stephen Nevel**

- **County Personnel Salary Increase**

Ch. Hooper proposed a salary increase effective January 1, 2021 which would give the Board time to assess the condition of the economy. He commended the Board for increasing the employee salaries over the last 8 years.

Vice Ch. Turk stated the Fire/EMS salary adjustments would be considered further into the budget process.

Comm. Reece stated the Board would consider the additional personnel requests in January 2, 2021 as well. Comm. Maxwell & Vice Ch. Turk agreed.

Motion to approve a 3% COLA effective January 1, 2021: Jimmy Hooper

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and motion passed.

### **3. Adjournment**

Ch. Hooper adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

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Chairman

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County Clerk

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