

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held a work session on March 27, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in the Wilson Shoals Training Room of the Banks County Courthouse Annex.

Members Present

Chairman Jimmy Hooper
Vice Chairman Sammy Reece
Commissioner David Duckett was absent
Commissioner Charles Turk
Commissioner Danny Maxwell

Staff Present

County Clerk Regina Gailey
Human Resources Officer Arlene Ivey
Finance Officer Randy Failyer
Public Utilities Director Horace Gee
Recreation Director Brooke Whitmire

Media

Angela Gary, Banks County News

Call to Order

Ch. Hooper called the work session to order.

Discussion

Items discussed were as follows:

Comm. Reece stated he had received 164 phone calls concerning the resurvey of the county line with Franklin County. He said 161 were against the resurvey, 3 were in favor of a resurvey and 1 was unclear. He stated Franklin County had no issues with the county line location. Ch. Hooper stated he had spoken with Franklin County as well.

Public Utilities

Director Horace Gee

Reduced tap fee deadline.

All agreed the end of the reduction would be considered in a future meeting.

Agricultural charged at commercial rate due to backflow prevention requirements.

Payment plan for taps. 36 month? 48 month currently in place.

Recent Water Audit

7 deficiencies found:

- Cross Connection Control
 - Backflow prevention resolution to be passed in future meeting
- Distribution Operations Procedures
 - SOP to be considered in future meeting
- Leak Detection Program
 - Pending water loss audit
 - Meter Checking device purchase in near future
 - 10%/year verification of meters

- Water Tank Inspection Records
1-2 per year / 5-year cycle for budgeting purposes
- Backflow Prevention Resolution
Must adopt formally

It is expected that 320 acres encompassing The Oaks subdivision on Hwy 164 and Hwy 59 on Harden Bridge Rd will be developing soon. Mr. Gee recommended installing a 6" water pipe to replace the 3" currently in place to create a loop for fire prevention. He stated the property was developable to 270 homes. A rezoning request would be coming.

Utility Rates:

- Wastewater fees: Waste Management currently .025/gallon
- Recommends incremental increase:
.044 year 1
.05 year 2
.06 year 3
- He further stated a surcharge could also be considered going forward. He stated the increased fees could result in an average of \$100,000 per year.

Mocassin Gap Rd

Water line is currently being bid out.

Fort Lamar Elevated Tank

Should be bid out soon.

Staffing

Shortage by 2 positions at Waterplant
2 out on FMLA

Distribution needs 1 additional person for hydrant replacement/repair if bidding out the process is not feasible. Comm. Turk stated bidding the work out might be a better solution.

Billing Due Date

- Ch. Hooper asked for a set due date for utility bills
- Mr. Gee also stated auto-draft would be a great option for customer convenience

Recreation

Director Brooke Whitmire

Ms. Whitmire stated Opening Day was a success and the concession stand has been a hit.

Parking

Ms. Whitmire stated adequate parking continues to be an issue. Ch. Hooper stated it was time to get the proposed T-Ball Complex and parking underway.

Grass Cutting

Ms. Whitmire stated they currently handled grass cutting for all county buildings including the courthouse, the extension service and the Candler Building. She stated concerns with the

workload. She said she is currently working to get another certified person for the prison detail. Commissioners agreed that maybe the Road Dept could handle the courthouse, extension service and the Candler Building.

Equipment Storage

Ms. Whitmire stated they needed a storage building for equipment. Ch. Hooper stated they would check into a building to install over the existing concrete slab.

Recreation Expansion

Ms. Whitmire stated the recreation center would need to be expanded in the near future as a result of the added demand for more teams and additional recreation programs including volleyball, pickle ball and more adult programs including Zoomba, softball, karate and kickball.

Fee Structure

Commissioners requested research be done on the fees for football and cheerleading.

Magistrate Court

The need for 1 additional satellite judge was discussed.

GIS Mapper Salary

Ms. Ivey stated the Mapper was currently classed as a Mapping Technician but should be classed as a Mapping Analyst. This would involve an increase. This will be considered at budget time.

Economic Development

Additional Staff

Ch. Hooper stated the need for a part time assistant for Ms. Mullins.

Other items discussed included:

- Martin Bridge Sewer Concept Plan
- Housing
- SK Battery traffic impact

Hotel/Motel Tax Increase to 8%

Ch. Hooper stated he would not bring the issue up again.

Fire/EMS

Comm. Turk stated Station 25 concrete would be paved next week. He stated additional air packs would be needed for Station 25 and they had already found 9 used air packs for \$42,000. The purchase will be considered at a future meeting.

Senior Center

Ms. Gailey stated the first punch list had been submitted.

Adjournment

Ch. Hooper adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman

County Clerk
