

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on October 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Banks County Courthouse Annex.

### **Members Present**

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

### **Staff Present**

County Attorney Randall Frost  
County Clerk Regina Gailey  
Finance Officer Randy Failyer  
911/EMA Director Deidra Moore  
Personnel Officer Arlene Ivey  
Fire Chief – Steve Nichols

### **Media Present**

Mainstreet News – Sharon Hogan  
Access North GA – Rob Moore

### **1. Call to Order**

Ch. Hooper called the meeting to order.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Ch. Hooper stated Item 14. *Development Authority Member* and 15. *Executive Session: Personnel & Land Acquisition* needed to be added to the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended: Jimmy Hooper

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

### **3. Moment of Reflection**

Ch. Hooper stated the Board of Commissioners were stewards of the county in more ways than money. He further stated they needed to strive to be good stewards.

### **4. Pledge to the American Flag**

Ch. Hooper led the Pledge to the American Flag.

### **5. Planning Commission Recommendations: NONE**

### **6. Hickory Ridge Rd – County Acceptance Request**

*Michele Cote'*

Ms. Cote' of 186 Hickory Rd requested the county consider accepting Hickory Ridge Rd into the county road system. She stated there were seven residents on the road and more on side roads. Comm. Duckett stated the first thing needed was right of ways. She stated all were willing. Comm. Turk stated

the road was narrow at the beginning and would need to be widened. He also stated concerns with power poles close to the road. Ch. Hooper stated there was a list of criteria to be met before the road could be accepted with the first step being right of way acquisition. Ms. Cote' will get with county personnel to pursue the next steps.

#### **7. Surplus E911 Consoles**

Ms. Moore stated the new consoles would soon be installed. She stated Berrien County was interested in some of the consoles. The fire chief also was interested in a couple as well for fire stations.

Motion to surplus the consoles and sell 3 to Berrien County: Charles Turk

Second: Sammy Reece

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

#### **8. Firefighter Cancer Coverage Application and Participation Agreement**

*Arlene Ivey*

Ms. Ivey stated that effective January 1, 2018 the policies to include a lump sum cancer insurance and a long term disability insurance is required for all fulltime and part time firefighters. She also stated the firefighter must be employed by the county for at least one year to be eligible. She presented a 3 year guaranteed rate of \$11,150/year from ACCG.

Motion to approve the agreement and to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement: Sammy Reece

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

*(Copy of agreement filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9-9)*

#### **9. Cardiac Monitor**

*Steve Nichols*

Fire Chief Steve Nichols stated he had received quotes for two reconditioned cardiac monitors for med units. The cost for each would be \$8,905 with the same warranty as a new monitor.

Motion to purchase 2 cardiac monitors in the amount of \$8,905 each to be paid from the Capital Fund to be reimbursed from the 2017 SPLOST when received: Charles Turk

Second: Jimmy Hooper

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

#### **STROKE AWARENESS AWARD**

Chief Nichols also stated the department was recently recognized for and awarded the #1 Stroke Awareness Award for response times during a stroke victim call. He attributed the award to effective teamwork.

#### **10. Temporary Lease Agreement for Senior Center relocation – Farm Bureau**

Comm. Reece stated this was during renovation/construction of the Senior Center and would include one office and the 60 person meeting space at the Farm Bureau Insurance Office for \$550/month and \$500 security deposit. The lease would be effective November 1, 2017 through construction completion.

Motion to approve the lease agreement with the indemnification section struck through: Sammy Reece

Second: David Duckett

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

*(Copy of agreement filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9-9)*

#### **11. 1% Local Option Sales Tax for Roads & Bridges Only**

Development Authority Members Scott Ledford & Bill Griffin presented a letter requesting the Board to consider placing the issue on the May 22, 2018 referendum. Mr. Ledford presented statistics for five years of collection by raising the sales tax rate from 7% to 8%. He stated the estimated collection would be approximately \$3,000,000 per year for roads and bridges construction & maintenance. He stated this would equate to approximately 6 mills of property tax or \$458.00 per household. He stated approximately 92% of the tax would be paid by visitors passing through Banks County based on current population. He also stated this would decrease the match for state grants from 30% to 10% on transportation projects. Ch. Hooper stated this money would stay in Banks County. He stated the cities would also benefit as well if they choose to participate. Public meetings with cities would be held for compiling a project list. Comm. Turk stated the lion's share would be paid by people passing through the county.

Motion to proceed with the process: David Duckett

Second: Charles Turk

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

*(Copy of letter filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9-9)*

#### **Hotel/Motel Tax**

Mr. Ledford stated an increase in these taxes would be a positive impact on citizens as well by collecting taxes that are not property taxes. Ch. Hooper stated he would ask Representative Gasaway to drop the legislation in 2018. He further pointed out this would be paid only by those who stay in hotels/motels within Banks County. Mr. Ledford stated a convention center could be a hub for growth in the Banks Crossing area.

#### **12. Jail HVAC**

Randy Failyer stated this was talked about during budget work sessions but now it had become urgent and recommended purchasing the units with Contingency funds. Comm. Reece stated three units had gone out at one time.

Motion to approve the purchase from Gainesville Mechanical for \$19,367 to be paid from the

Contingency budget: Sammy Reece

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

#### **13. Health Department Generator Line**

Comm. Reece stated the S&D Solutions stated the cost to run the line from the Senior Center across Thompson Street to the Health Department would be \$3,250 including the bore under the road. Comm. Reece stated he requested the installation be by January 1, 2018.

Motion to approve the job to be paid out of the Capital Fund: Charles Turk

Second: David Duckett

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

**14. Development Authority Member**

Ch. Hooper stated he had an application by Jeff Lewallen to finish the term of Hank Parker to expire September 30, 2019. Mr. Parker had resigned the position.

Motion to approve Jeff Lewallen for the position: Jimmy Hooper

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

**15. Executive Session: Personnel & Real Estate**

Motion to enter into executive session concerning personnel and real estate: Sammy Reece

Second: Charles Turk

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the executive session began at 7:04 p.m.

Motion to close the executive session: Charles Turk

Second: David Duckett

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the executive session ended at 7:44 p.m.

*(Copy of affidavit filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9-9)*

**Economic Developer Brad Day**

Motion to authorize the Development Authority to negotiate a contract with Mr. Day as a consultant on a monthly basis: Jimmy Hooper

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

**16. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Chairman

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County Clerk

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