

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held a called worksession/meeting on June 13, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Banks County Courthouse Annex.

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

County Clerk Regina Gailey  
Finance Officer Randy Failyer

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Jimmy Hooper called the meeting to order.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda: Sammy Reece

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and motion carried.

**3. FY2017 Budget**

The following department budgets were discussed:

- **Probation**

Mr. Failyer stated Ms. Wanda Eubanks would be retiring January 1, 2017 along with the Judge Betty Thomas. He introduced Steve Queen of Sentinel Offender Services:

- Steve Queen of Sentinel Offender Services stated Sentinel had handled probation services for the Piedmont Judicial Circuit Superior Court including Banks County for the past 16 years and recently they began handling the Pre-Trial Diversion fees. He stated this service would be no cost to the county as the probation supervision fees would be paid by the offender. He also stated the probation fees would be paid to Banks County monthly.

Ch. Hooper stated the FY2017 budget was the largest budget ever considered. He further stated it could probably be the smallest considered going forward due to rising health insurance costs, federal/state mandates and discontinuation of coal ash disposal. He said he felt that when department heads request a budget and the board agrees to fund the request – the budget should not be cut at that point.

**Public Safety**

Ch. Hooper said the sheriff had requested 6 additional personnel but had dropped the request to 3 additional positions. He stated the Fire/EMS had also asked for additional personnel but was not granted the request. He further stated that public safety was important for both departments.

**Reserves**

Ch. Hooper stated concerns with reserves by asking what the cutoff should be as far as using reserves to balance the budget and stated he felt there needed to be a limit as to the amount of reserves that needed to be maintained.

**Event Center/Meeting Facility**

Ch. Hooper stated the importance of such a facility and further stated the Chamber/CVB would not be able to afford this type building alone but may need assistance from other sources including the county.

Vice Ch. Turk stated the requested budget had been bigger in the past but was cut before adoption.

**Reserves**

Vice Ch. Turk stated in the proposed budget the amount being used is the prior year budget amount not spent in the current budget.

Motion to proceed with the advertising of the proposed budget with a total of \$14,415,108 for FY2017: Sammy Reece

Second: Charles Turk

Vote 5:1

All aye votes and motion carried.

**4. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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Chairman

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County Clerk

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