

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on April 14, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Red Gym at the Banks County Recreation Center.

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Finance Officer Randy Failyer
County Clerk Jenni Gailey
Assistant County Clerk Erin Decker
Community - Economic Developer Brad Day

Media Present

Banks County News – Angela Gary
Access North Georgia – Rob Moore

1. Call to Order

Ch. 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 the motion passed.

3. Moment of Reflection

Ch. Hooper stated that Christians just celebrated the holiest of holidays, Easter. He stated at this time Jesus gave his disciples the two most important commandments and he thought that in this day and time we still needed to abide by them.

4. Pledge to the American Flag

Ch. Hooper led the Pledge to the American Flag.

5. Approval of Invoices

Motion to approve the invoices: Charles Turk
Second: Danny Maxwell
Vote: 5:0
All aye votes and the motion passed.

6. Approval of Minutes – 3/10

Motion to approve the minutes: Danny Maxwell
Second: David Duckett

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

7. Planning Commission Recommendations:

a. CU-15-02 – Jacob Blalock – A conditional use application for a poultry house to be located at 2665 Damascus Rd.

Ch. Hooper closed the Commission Meeting and Attorney Frost opened the Public Hearing. Brad Day stated this was an application for a heavy breeder farm located at 2665 Damascus Road. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Jacob Blalock, applicant spoke for the application. He said he wanted to build some chicken houses.

Attorney Frost closed the Public Hearing and Ch. Hooper opened the Commissioners Meeting. Motion to approve the application: Charles Turk

Second: Sammy Reece

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

8. Water Line request on Woody Street

Young (Amanda) Lee

Ms. Amanda Lee at 443 Woody Street, Homer stated she had 6 chicken houses and would like to have access to public water. She stated she had 2 wells but one was not drinkable because of the chemical content.

Steve Reece Utilities Director stated the property was inside the City of Homer, but was in Banks County's service delivery area. Mr. Reece stated the cost would be around \$55,000. The connection would have to be engineered and bid out and would be funded through the 2012 SPLOST fund.

No action was taken.

9. Water Plant Concrete Slab

Steve Reece

Mr. Reece stated the asphalt at the water plant needed replaced. He had received three quotes to replace it with concrete. They were as follows:

Benchmark Foundation, Inc \$26,700

Southern Basements, Inc \$31,000

New Bridge Construction \$28,900

Mr. Reece recommended Benchmark Foundation and the funds would come from FY2015 Budget. Vice Ch. Turk requested not to use Morgan Concrete. Mr. Reece stated Cab Concrete would provide the concrete.

Motion to approve Benchmark Foundation as the low bidder in the amount of \$26,700: Sammy Reece

Second: Charles Turk

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

10. Radio Infrastructure – 2012 SPLOST Approval

Deidra Moore

Deidra Moore, 911/EMA Director stated the communication committee had worked very hard in determining the best radio system. She asked the board to approve \$972,294.69 for a Kenwood UHF Digital Trunking System that was on the State contract list and in addition, asked permission for the Chairman to sign the sales agreement that the county attorney had reviewed.

Motion to approve the system and authorize the Chairman to sign the sales agreement: Charles Turk

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed. *(Copy of agreement filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9-6)*

11. E911/EMA Building Extension for Equipment Room & EOC – 2012 SPLOST Approval Deidra Moore

Ms. Moore stated the 12x20 Equipment Room Extension would cost between \$20,000 to \$25,000 and the Maintenance Department could complete the work. Ms. Moore stated this would be funded through the 2012 SPLOST fund.

Motion to approve the funding for the extension: Jimmy Hooper

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

12. Roads: Paving & Resurfacing - \$500,000 Capital Fund Approval

Randy Failyer

Finance Officer Randy Failyer stated that in 2014 we spent \$1.2M and in 2015 we will be spending approximately \$1.6M. In order for the County not to have to borrow money until to 2012 SPLOST comes in Mr. Failyer recommended transferring \$500,000 from the Capital Fund to pay for a portion of resurfacing roads and to repay the Capital Fund when SPLOST dollars are received.

Motion to approve the Capital Fund expenditure of \$500,000 to be paid back with SPLOST dollars as they are received: Jimmy Hooper

Second: David Duckett

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

13. 2015 Propane Gas Bid Award

Randy Failyer

Pete Folger with Folger Gas, LLC stated they had submitted a bid but because they were not within the County they couldn't receive the preferred vendor preference advantage of 3%. He stated he feels his company has an advantage over many propane companies because of their large supply of propane on hand and their prompt response.

John Fleming with Piedmont Propane stated with the preferred vendor preference they were the low bid and would enjoy working with the County. Mr. Fleming also asked the Commissioners if they would be interested in doing a maintenance and improvement contract on the tanks.

Mr. Failyer stated Folger Gas, LLC was the low bidder at \$1.05/gallon but with the 3% local vendor preference Piedmont Propane would be the overall low bidder with their original bid being \$1.055/gallon and the vendor preference amount would be \$1.025/gallon.

Motion to approve Piedmont Propane as the overall low bidder with the amount being \$1.055/gallon:

Sammy Reece

Second: David Duckett

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

14. Georgia State Patrol Post

a. Public Comment: William Reems

William Reems – 201 Lynn Drive, Homer, spoke in favor of the County spending funds to construct a Georgia State Patrol post in Banks County. He stated all communities that have a state patrol post had paid the cost of constructing the post. This would also bring a greater sense of public safety to the community and would create jobs.

The following people spoke in favor of the Georgia State Patrol post:

Sam Moon

Doris Cash

Cecil Calloway

Deloris Wells

Gary Clark

Ann Gordon

Elizabeth Gailey

Wayne Abernathy stated he was a resident of the County and had been on the Board of Public Safety for 32 years and was still serving. He said this was a once in a lifetime deal for Banks County. It's never been offered before and if passed up, it will never be offered again. Mr. Abernathy said the Colonel admires Banks County because he used to be a trooper here and he saw the need for a post because of 441 and I-85. Mr. Abernathy said he felt this was a great opportunity and can honestly say the residents of the County will be safer with a GSP post located in the County.

Sheriff Carlton Speed stated he was asked here tonight for his opinion on the Georgia State Patrol post in Banks County. He said as the chief law enforcement official in the County it was a win/win situation. The Banks County Sheriff's Office will receive man power. There will be a trooper here and at times there would be two in the County. There are a lot of facts. There are a lot of people against it and a lot of people for it. The troopers would have one person per shift assigned to Banks County which was the same thing they do now out of the Gainesville post. The difference was they normally run three shifts per day. They would also have another late or mid shift so there would always be two troopers in the County every day. Every trooper works major holidays and weekends. Sheriff Speed said there will be command staff in the post that administrative, but if the Sheriff's Office needed them he would I guarantee they would be there to help. Banks County is growing and thriving and needs public safety because we are behind. He stated In order for the Sheriff's Office to provide what a post would provide, he would have to add \$250,000 to \$300,000 to his budget.

Commissioner David Duckett presented facts concerning reasons why he believes locating a State Patrol Post is not a major priority considering the limited funds available and the other immediate needs of the county such as roads and bridges. He stated the facts and information that he had received from different departments. Some of the facts were as follows:

- No more troopers would be servicing Banks County than what is currently working in the County
- The citizens of Banks County would be funding a facility for three counties

- Banks County citizens would fund a post to serve Jackson County which has 3.3 times the population of Banks County and Barrow County which has 3.8 times the population of Banks County.

(A complete list of facts filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9-6)

Commissioner Danny Maxwell stated he had talked to Tom Crow the Chairman of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and another Jackson County Commissioner and they both told Commissioner Maxwell that they had not been contacted by the Georgia State Patrol about locating a post in Jackson County and they were not interested. He stated he also had the Sheriff of Jackson County come to him and say they had contacted her and she told them they did not want a post in Jackson County.

Vice Chairman Charles Turk stated there were too many variables to determine if the state patrol post would pay for itself in a certain number of years. He also stated at the January 27th meeting the Colonel stated that the purpose of them being here is to make the roads safe, not to write traffic tickets. He said out of all the stops that are made they only write tickets for 49% of the stops. Vice Ch. Turk also stated you have to look at what the commissioners do, is it for the quality of life in the County or is it for a profit. The recreation department, the senior center, there's never been a fire truck or med unit that has rolled that ever turned a profit. We just have become profitable in the water department. I think what we have to look at is, what is the quality of life we want for the citizens and not just money wise.

Commissioner Sammy Reece presented facts concerning the accidents in the County. He stated he talked to Mr. Paul Patel who owns three motels at Banks Crossing and he would be thankful if the Georgia State Patrol post was located in the County because people like to stay where they feel safe. Comm. Reece asked, how do you put a price on a life. He said he read Hall County post arrested 487 DUI's in 2014 and he knew that saved lives.

The public hearing ended at 7:40 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Jimmy Hooper

Second: David Duckett

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the meeting ended at 7:41 p.m.

Chairman

Assistant County Clerk
