

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on June 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Banks County Courthouse Annex.

Members Present

Chairman Charles Turk
Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell
Commissioner Bo Garrison
Commissioner Sammy Reece
Commissioner Keith Gardiner

Staff Present

County Clerk Jenni Gailey
Assistant County Clerk Erin Decker
Finance Officer Randy Failyer
Personnel/HR Director Arlene Ivey
EMA/E911 Director Deidra Moore
Public Utilities Director Horace Gee
Senior Center/Transit Director Tracie Hammond
Recreation Director Brooke Whitmire
County Attorney Randall Frost

Media Present

None

1. Call to Order

Ch. Turk called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

Ch. Turk stated that Executive Session- Potential Litigation needed to be added to the agenda as 10.
Motion to approve the agenda as amended: Bo Garrison
Second: Danny Maxwell
Vote: 5:0
All aye votes and the motion passed.

3. Pledge to the American Flag

Comm. Garrison led the Pledge to the American Flag.

4. Public Hearing:

a. FY2022 Budget Public Hearing

Randy Failyer

Finance Officer Randy Failyer stated the budget for FY2022 was in the amount of \$19,721,491.31. He further stated the increase was mainly due to increased workman's compensation and health insurance.

Barbara Lindorme – Bennett Road – Asked if the FY2022 budget included the planned sewer projects. Mr. Failyer stated those funds would come from SPLOST and various grants and loans. She also asked where the Bennett Road sewer project was at? Ch. Turk stated it was in the discussion stages. Ms. Lindorme also asked where in the process was the water expansion? Ch. Turk stated it had not been approved or funded.

5. Public Health Fees

John Terry

John Terry District Deputy Director of Environmental Health presented a new fee schedule and stated they had not increased fees since 2008.

Motion to accept the new fee schedule for Environmental Health to become effective July 1, 2021:

Charles Turk

Second: Sammy Reece

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

(Copy of Fees filed in Attachment to Minute Book 10-3)

6. Public Utilities: FEFA Sewer Expansion Grant Application Authorization

Horace Gee

Public Utilities Director Horace Gee stated he was asking for authorization for the Chairman to sign a grant application for a GEFA Septic to Sewer grant. He stated this grant was available for any Georgia cities, counties or local authorities. He stated it was a federal grant that required matching funds. He further stated the purpose of the grant was to help with infrastructure to get septic systems offline and into public sewers for direct discharge so that it would get adequately treated in order to help prevent ground water contamination.

Mr. Gee stated the most urgent need for sewer was our school system. He further stated that had been in the works and was project ready. He further stated that ELOST and SPLOST could only be used for utilities on the properties owned by the school system.

Mr. Gee stated the deadline for the application was July 2, 2021 and when the application was submitted the award of the grant would be in August 2021. He stated that was an extremely quick turnaround for federal monies. He further stated the only prerequisite for the award was that you start construction within one year of the award date.

Comm. Garrison asked if the \$6M would only run from school to school and not down 441. Mr. Gee stated the planned route was down Thompson Street and across 441 to pick up the primary and elementary school and then go down Historic Homer Hwy and diverting down McDonald Circle to our existing treatment facility off Outlet Drive.

Comm. Garrison stated the grant was only for \$3M so that would mean \$3M would be on the backs of our taxpayers when the problem was only at the high school. He further stated he didn't understand why the school board hadn't approached J.O. Rylee's family about purchasing property that Rylee family owned that was right beside the high school for a spray field and then our problem would be solved. Mr. Gee stated that new LAS permits are hard to get approved because of ground water contamination. Comm. Reece stated the matching funds would come from SPLOST so there would not be \$3M on the backs of the tax payers.

Comm. Garrison also asked if there had been a study done on what the flow would be during 9 months of school compared to 3 months out of school. Mr. Gee stated there was an 80% increase in usage during the 9 months that school was in session.

Motion to apply for the grant and authorize the Chairman's signature: Danny Maxwell

Second: Sammy Reece

Vote: 4:1

Charles Turk: Aye

Danny Maxwell: Aye

Sammy Reece: Aye

Keith Gardiner: Aye

Bo Garrison: Nay

The majority voted and the motion passed.

7. Contracts & Agreements:

a. E911 IT Agreement: Neatoware

Deidra Moore

EMA/E911 Director Deidra Moore stated an agreement with Neatoware in the amount of \$38,103 for backup and protection of their data. She stated this covered all E911, Fire/EMS and Sheriff's data. She further stated this year, she was asking for this to be paid from the Emergency Telephone Fund, which was an allowable expense and further stated she was asking for authorization for the Chairman to sign the contract pending county attorney approval.

Motion to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign pending County Attorney approval and pay from the Emergency Telephone Fund.: Sammy Reece

Second: Bo Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

(Copy of Agreement filed in Attachment to Minute Book 10-3)

b. E911 GCIC Connectivity Upgrade: Diverse Computing

Deidra Moore

Ms. Moore stated recently Diverse Computing reached out to her to express that she needed to update the platform to what was known as eAgent 2.0. She stated currently they were operating on the original eAgent client at a cost of \$6,000 yearly and that was covered under the maintenance agreement with Southern Software. The cost to upgrade to 2.0 will cost \$1,900 this year and she was also asking that it be paid from the Emergency Telephone Fund and then next year it would be added to the cost with the Southern Software Maintenance Contract annually thereafter included in the budget.

Motion to approve the contract, pay from the Emergency Telephone Fund and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract: Sammy Reece

Second: Bo Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

(Copy of Agreement filed in Attachment to Minute Book 10-3)

c. Training Facility Usage Agreement

Steve Nichols

Fire Chief Steve Nichols stated this was an annual agreement with the City of Baldwin to use their training facility.

Motion to approve the contract in the amount of \$1,000 and authorize the Chairman to sign:
Charles Turk

Second: Bo Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

(Copy of Agreement filed in Attachment to Minute Book 10-3)

8. Parks & Recreation Fees

Brooke Whitmire

Brooke Whitmire Recreation Director stated that she had been working with the Commissioners to update the fee schedule for tournaments, registrations and rentals.

Motion to approve the new fee structure: Keith Gardiner

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

(Copy of Fees filed in Attachment to Minute Book 10-3)

9. Personnel: Emergency Paid Sick Leave

Arlene Ivey

Personnel/HR Director Arlene Ivey stated that in 2020 the Commissioners extended the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA). She stated the Board had decided at the County level to extend the act until 3/31/2021 and then had extended it again but it didn't have an ending date. She was requesting the Commissioners to give her direction on what to do.

Motion to end EPSLA on June 30, 2021: Charles Turk

Second: Keith Gardiner

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

10. Executive Session – Potential Litigation

Motion to enter into executive session for potential litigation: Bo Garrison

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the executive session began at 7:11 p.m.

Motion to close the executive session: Danny Maxwell

Second: Bo Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the executive session ended at 7:38 p.m.

3985 Damascus Road

Ch. Turk made the following motion for the property at 3985 Damascus Road (B71 011C):

Stamp the plat non-conforming

Revoke power permit

Must plant trees min of 8ft. apart where shop was visible from the road
All equipment/vehicles/scrape items must be moved out from the road side of the building

Vice Ch. Maxwell asked Ch. Turk to amend the motion to include the following:

Code Enforcement Officer Paul Ruark would stamp the plat non-conforming
The trees planted would be not a minimum of 8 ft. apart but would be 8 ft. apart. Ch. Turk agreed.

Second: Sammy Reece
Vote: 5:0
All aye votes and the motion passed.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Sammy Reece
Second: Keith Gardiner
Vote: 5:0
All aye votes and the motion passed.

Chairman

Assistant County Clerk
