

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on January 12, 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  
Human Resources Director Arlene Ivey  
Finance Officer Randy Failyer  
Code Enforcement Officer Paul Ruark

**Media Present**

None

**1. Call to Order**

Ch. Turk called the meeting to order.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Ch. Turk stated the agenda needed to be amended to add or delete the items following:

9b. Unwed Mother Shelter – Delete

14e. Baldwin Automatic Aid Agreement – Add

17. Taqueria Y Mas Alcohol License Renewal – Add

Motion to approve the agenda as amended: Sammy Reece

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

**3. Chairman's Report**

Ch. Turk reported on the following:

- Welcomed new Commissioner Bo Garrison.
- E-911 received a total of 4,174 calls including 297 Fire/EMS – 3,649 Sheriff Office – 228 other calls. They also addressed 19 new addresses.
- Stated since Covid-19 began there had been 1,279 positive cases in Banks County and 20 total deaths.
- Station 25 had a ribbon cutting and would now be fully staffed. Just by opening the station this had already decreased a home owner's insurance by \$1200. This station not only increases coverage but also helps with insurance premiums.
- Stated the Moccasin Gap waterline installation would be completed in 2 to 3 weeks.
- Stated bids would be going out for the Ft. Lamar Road elevated water tank and the Windmill Park Multipurpose Fields.

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

Commissioner Gardiner led the Pledge to the American Flag.

#### **5. Approval of Invoices**

Motion to approve the invoices: Danny Maxwell

Second: Keith Gardiner

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

#### **6. Approval of Previous Minutes – 12/8/2020**

Motion to approve the minutes: Sammy Reece

Second: Charles Turk

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

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

#### **8. Public Hearing: CR110/Glenn Rd Partial Abandonment of .149 miles**

Ch. Turk closed the meeting and Attorney Frost opened the public hearing.

Atty. Frost stated this was a public hearing to consider the abandonment of a portion of .149 miles of CR110/Glenn Road.

##### ***In Favor of Abandonment***

Robert Smelley – 128 Haven Ridge, Peachtree City, GA – Stated he owns property on Glenn Road and would like to retire and build in Banks County. The property he owns encompasses both sides of the road. He further stated he didn't think this would affect anyone on the road because there are two entrances on Antioch Road.

##### ***In Opposition of Abandonment***

Stephen Gee – 258 Fortner Road, Lula – Stated he had chicken houses on one end of Glenn Road and there was no way the feed and chicken trucks would be able to make the turn from Antioch Road closest to the chicken houses. The best way for them to enter Glenn Road was on the end opposite of the chicken houses and he would like for the road to stay open all the way through.

Wayne Gee – 230 Fortner Road, Lula – Stated he owns property beside Stephen Gee and the end opposite of the chicken house was the easiest and safest way to turn off Antioch onto Glenn Road. He further stated his grandson would be moving back to Banks County and would build a house on Glenn Road. Mr. Gee stated he was against closing the road.

Atty. Frost closed the public hearing and Ch. Turk opened the meeting.

Motion to leave the road open: Sammy Reece

Second: Charles Turk

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

#### **9. Public Comment:**

##### **a. Noise Complaint**

Stanley Garrison – 211 Sawtooth Place, Carnesville – Mr. Garrison stated that he would like to request the County put in place a noise ordinance. He stated that he lives over a mile away from the events that happen on Hwy. 63 & Hwy. 184 at the river. He stated these events have horse racing in the daytime and what sounds like other motorized racing events. He stated these events should only happen in commercial settings. He further stated he had called 911 and placed complaints and many of his neighbors have also. Comm. Reece stated he gets numerous complaints about the activities. He further stated he proposed for the zoning to be changed to allow no events of this size and nature allowed in residential neighborhoods.

Code Enforcement Officer Paul Ruark stated the property owners where the activities were being held had applied for three different events and he turned them each down because of Covid-19. Ch. Turk said there needed to be a code ordinance for special events and that the Commissioners would be working on that.

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

**10. Public Transit: Northeast GA Regional Commission FY2022 RFP**

**Tracie Hammond**

Senior Center/Transit Director Tracie Hammond stated this was a yearly contract with Northeast Georgia Regional Commission to transport Banks County residents to Jackson Creative daily.

Motion to approve the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract: Keith Gardiner

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

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

**11. Senior Center: Legacy Link RFP FY2022**

**Tracie Hammond**

Ms. Hammond stated this was a yearly contract with Legacy Link for FY2022. She stated Legacy Link helped provide state and federal funds along with congregate and meals-on-wheels.

Motion to approve the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract: Bo Garrison

Second: Sammy Reece

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

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

**12. Timber Harvest Ordinance**

Ch. Turk stated this was an update to the current ordinance we already had in place.

Motion to approve the ordinance: Danny Maxwell

Second: Charles Turk

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

*(Copy of Ordinance filed in Attachment to Minute Book 10-3) 2021-01*

**13. Personnel: Extension Service Clerk**

**Arlene Ivey**

Human Resources Officer Arlene Ivey stated at the last meeting the hiring freeze was lifted and she then advertised to hire a part time clerk for the Extension Service. The clerk at the Extension Office had retired from UGA and UGA was not going to replace her until July 2021. The UGA employee would now become a part-time County employee until July 2021. Ms. Ivey stated they would work 25 hours a week. Ms. Ivey further stated she was asking for the Commissioners to entertain the idea of hiring Ms. Jarrett part-time for a 6-month period.

Ch. Turk stated he talked to the interim extension agent and he stated he would like to have Ms. Jarrett for 20 hours per week. Ch. Turk further stated the funds were available since UGA will not be paid for the remainder of the salary where the 4-H agent that had resigned.

Motion to hire Pat Jarret for a part-time position of 20 hours at the Extension Service: Sammy Reece

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

#### **14. Fire/EMS:**

##### **a. Station 24 Staffing Request**

Fire Chief Steve Nichols stated that he was asking the Commissioners if they would like to fully staff Station 24, which was the station on Hickory Flat Road. This would allow the Gillsville/Lula area response time to greatly decrease from the deficit that the community now sees. Chief Nichols stated the response time for this area was at least 18 -20 minutes for a med unit to respond. Chief Nichols also stated if the fire station became a full-time station it would need to be remodeled and could be up and running full-time by April 2021 unless there was an addition added to the station and then it would be early Summer 2021. Chief Nichols stated there were two options for staffing the station. The two options were as follows:

1. One Paramedic with a fire engine. This would allow the station to be open all the time.

2. Ambulance with a Paramedic, EMT. He stated this would allow a med unit to be there and an engine would also be there but when a patient is transported the station would not be staffed.

Ch. Turk discussed the two options that Chief Nichols proposed for staffing Station 24 and stated the funds for staffing would come from the SAFER Grant and funds that were budgeted in the FY2021 budget.

Comm. Reece stated that he was in favor of the two-person option that would have an ambulance. He stated his community deserves just as much service as the North end of the County. Comm. Garrison agreed. Comm. Maxwell stated this would be beneficial for the area.

Chief Nichols stated he would choose Option 1 because the area desperately needed an ambulance in that area to decrease the response time.

Motion to fully staff Station 24 with 3 Paramedics/Firefighters funded from the SAFER Grant and 3 EMT/Firefighters funded from the FY2021 budget that had already been approved: Charles Turk

Second: Sammy Reece

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

##### **b. New Med Unit Purchase**

Chief Nichols stated an ambulance with a cracked frame had been taken out of service and replaced with a new ambulance. He further stated the box on the out of service ambulance was still in good shape and he would like to purchase a chassis and have the box remounted. He stated the cost of the chassis would be \$49,000 and to remount the box would cost \$66,555 for a total cost of \$115,555. He stated a new ambulance would cost around \$190,000 so this was a cost savings for the County.

Motion to remount the box and purchase a new chassis in the amount of \$115,555 from the 2017 SPLOST fund: Sammy Reece  
Second: Charles Turk  
Vote: 5:0  
All aye votes and the motion passed.

**c. Cardiotronix Contract Renewal – 3-year contract**

Chief Nichols stated the cardiac monitors that they use for heart patients had to have yearly maintenance. He stated the three-year plan was the most cost efficient in the amount of \$7,614 and stated this was a budgeted item in the FY2021 budget.

Motion to approve the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign: Bo Garrison

Second: Keith Gardiner

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

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

**d. Turnout Gear Purchase Request – 6 sets**

Chief Nichols stated he needed to purchase 6 sets of turnout gear for new personnel in the amount of \$19,146. He further stated it would be about 12 weeks before the gear would arrive.

Motion to approve the purchase of the turnout gear in the amount of \$19,146 from the 2017 SPLOST fund: Sammy Reece

Second: Bo Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

**e. Baldwin Automatic Aid Agreement**

Chief Nichols stated this would provide additional manpower and would cover the required 5 miles radius for coverage. He further stated we have automatic aid agreements with other entities also.

Motion to approve the Baldwin Automatic Aid Agreement: Danny Maxwell

Second: Bo Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

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

**15. Steven Tanger Blvd. Culvert Utility Relocation: KCI Technologies**

Assistant County Clerk Erin Decker stated this contract included a utility report and utility plans with existing utility information shown. The amount of the contract was \$7,605. Ms. Decker further stated for this contract the Chairman's signature needed to be ratified.

Motion to ratify the Chairman's signature and approve the contract: Danny Maxwell

Second: Sammy Reece

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

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

**16. Board & Authorities**

**a. Zoning Appeals Board – 4-year term**

Ch. Turk stated that no applications were received to fill the board positions

**b. Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Board – 2-year term**

Ch. Turk stated that no applications were received to fill the board positions

**17. Taqueria Y Mas Alcohol License**

Officer Ruark stated this was a license that was late and hadn't been approved in December. He stated they had paid the fees that included a late fee and had passed the background check.

Motion to approve the license for Taqueria Y Mas: Sammy Reece

Second: Danny Maxwell

All aye votes and the motion passed.

**18. Executive Session – Possible Litigation & Personnel**

Motion to enter into executive session concerning possible litigation and personnel: Bo Garrison

Second: Keith Gardiner

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the executive session began at 7:42 p.m.

Motion to come out of the executive session: Sammy Reece

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the executive session ended at 8:23 p.m.

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

***Extension Service Supplement***

Motion to give the interim 4-H Agent Greg Pittman a supplement in the amount of \$500 monthly until July 1, 2021: Charles Turk

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

***Custodial Services Personnel Raise***

Motion to increase Custodial Services Personnel to \$12 an hour plus a 3% cola.: Charles Turk

Second: Danny Maxwell

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

**19. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Sammy Reece

Second: Keith Gardiner

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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Chairman

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Assistant County Clerk

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