



## **BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Courthouse Annex Boardroom | 150 Hudson Ridge | Homer, GA 30547

Tuesday, August 09, 2022 at 6:30 PM

### **MINUTES**

---

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ch. Turk called the meeting to order.

##### **PRESENT**

Chairman Charles Turk

Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell

Commissioner Bo Garrison

Commissioner Keith Gardiner

##### **ABSENT**

Commissioner Sammy Reece

##### **OTHERS**

Assistant County Clerk Erin Decker

Fire Chief Steve Nichols

Public Utilities Director Horace Gee

Tax Commissioner Becky Carlan

#### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.

Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Garrison, Commissioner Gardiner

Vote: 4:0

All yea votes and motion passed.

#### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. 7/12/2022

b. 7/21/2022

c. 7/26/2022

Motion to approve the minutes.

Motion made by Chairman Turk, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.

Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Garrison, Commissioner Gardiner

Vote: 4:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

#### **4. PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

Vice Ch. Maxwell led the Pledge to the American Flag.

## 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ch. Turk reported on the following items:

- E911 call received - Fire/EMS: 333 - Sheriff Office: 2,925.
- There were 3 different LOST Negotiation meetings with all the cities.
- Paving of several roads should start in two weeks.
- COVID cases reported were 15 new cases.

## 6. CURRENT BUSINESS:

### a. Fire/EMS: 2022 TIME Task Force Grant - \$20,000 Steve Nichols

Fire Chief Steve Nichols stated Banks County was one of six agencies that have been awarded the TIME Task Force Grant in the amount of \$20,000. This grant would provide much needed equipment to respond to and mitigate traffic incidents within Banks County and further would enhance traffic incident management. The TIME Task Force Grants are awarded based upon the Executive Board's evaluation criteria and current budget availability.

Motion to accept the grant in the amount of \$20,000.

Motion made by Chairman Turk, Seconded by Commissioner Gardiner.

Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Garrison, Commissioner Gardiner

Vote: 4:0

All aye votes and motion passed.

### b. 2023 Local Option Sales Tax Distribution

Ch. Turk stated that the County and Cities had come to an agreement and the County would receive 83.5% of LOST and the Cities would receive a total of 16.5%. Ch. Turk stated he needed approval from the Board to accept 83.5% and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.

Motion to accept the 83.5% LOST and authorize for the Chairman to sign the Certificate of Distribution.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.

Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Garrison, Commissioner Gardiner

Vote: 4:0

All yea votes and motion passed.

(Copy of Certificate filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-4)

## 7. CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS:

### a. Public Utilities: Authorization for Chairman to Sign GEFA Document to increase Hudson River Sewer Masterplan Loan Horace Gee

Public Utilities Director Horace Gee stated he was asking for the Commissioners to authorize the Chairman to sign the GEFA loan documents for the additional amount needed to finish the sewer master plan.

Mr. Gee stated that in order to finish the Sewer Master Plan the following items would need to be completed:

- Gravity Line from Wrights Mill Road to the new treatment plant.
- Reverse flow lines from Banks Crossing to the treatment plant
- Install gravity lines and forcemain up Hwy. 63.

Mr. Gee further stated the additional amount needed to complete the above-mentioned project would be \$17M.

Comm. Garrison asked if the funds would be for the Hudson River Sewer Treatment Facility or just lines? Mr. Gee stated it was just for lines and the sewer treatment plant had been approved earlier.

Comm. Garrison also asked how many new lines would be installed and had the project been bid out yet? Mr. Gee stated approximately 14 miles of lines and 2 lift stations but the project was still in the planning stages and had not been bid out yet.

Comm. Garrison asked what the timeframe was for the project? Mr. Gee stated that within 6 months the RFP would go out.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the GEFA loan application documents.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.

Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Garrison, Commissioner Gardiner

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and motion passed.

**b. Public Utilities: GDOT P.I. 0015608 Contract Item Agreement Memorandum of Understanding to install 6" Waterline on Wrights Mill Rd Horace Gee**

Mr. Gee stated this was an MOU with GDOT to allow the County to put a 6" waterline on the new bridge on Wrights Mill Road that GDOT would be replacing.

Comm. Garrison wanted to clarify the GDOT would be using their contractor to do the work. Mr. Gee stated yes.

Motion to approve the MOU with GDOT.

Motion made by Chairman Turk, Seconded by Commissioner Gardiner.

Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Garrison, Commissioner Gardiner

Vote: 4:0

All aye votes and the motion passed.

(Copy of MOU filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-4)

**8. RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

**a. 2022 Millage Rate**

Becky Carlan, Tax Commissioner stated this year the Commissioners were able to rollback the millage rate to 7.012 mils which was down .819 mil from the 2021 millage rate that was 7.831 mils.

Ch. Turk stated this was the lowest millage rate in 21 years.

Ms. Carlan stated the digest went up due to the rising increase in the real estate market.

Vice Ch. Maxwell stated that this millage rate would be used for the 2022 tax bills.

Ch. Turk stated the Commissioners were dropping their millage so if your assessment went up the average amount then your tax bill should still be the same as last year for the County portion. Ch. Turk also stated that the County portion of your tax bill was about 33% and the Board of Education amount was approximately 67% of the total bill.

Ch. Turk further stated one reason we could rollback the millage was because the Commissioners, other elected officials and department heads worked hard on the budget to trim everything they

could. He continued to state he thought one of the things that was often overlooked alot were Road and Bridges SPLOST and regular SPLOST. These 1% sales tax allowed the County to purchase capital items that are used for roads, water, fire/ems, sheriff and other departments and the tax was mostly funded by people traveling thru the County. He also stated the LOST tax was another sales tax that allowed the County to rollback the millage rate. While rolling the millage back the County had also been able to decrease their ISO rating to a 3, which saves homeowners money on their insurance premiums.

Motion to approve the 2022 millage rate at 7.012.

Motion made by Chairman Turk, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.

Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Garrison, Commissioner Gardiner

Vote: 4:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**(Copy of Resolution filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-4) 2022-28**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.

Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Garrison, Commissioner Gardiner

Vote: 4:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

---

Chairman

---

Assistant County Clerk