



# BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

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

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM

## MINUTES

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Ch. Turk called the meeting to order.

#### PRESENT

Chairman Charles Turk

Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell

Commissioner Chris Ausburn

Commissioner Keith Gardiner

Commissioner Bo Garrison

#### STAFF

County Clerk Regina Gailey

Assistant County Clerk Erin Decker

Board of Registrars Chairman Lynda Garrison

Fire Chief Steve Nichols

Planning/Zoning Official Kerry Fincannon

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ch. Turk stated the agenda needed to be amended as follow:

Add 6e. Recreation: Civic Recreation Fees/CSG Forte Payments, Inc.

Add 7b. Road: Truck Purchase

Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

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

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a. 11/14/2023 Minutes

#### b. 11/28/2023 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Commissioner Ausburn.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

### 4. PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG:

Comm. Garrison led The Pledge to the American Flag.

**5. SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:**

**a. FFA National Runner Up - Environmental Natural Resources**

The Commissioners presented the FFA Environmental Natural Resources Team with a Certificate of Recognition for being the 2023 FFA National Runner Up for Environmental Natural Resources. Team members were as follows:

Coach Kip Jackson, Matthew Anderson, Martin Suggs, Reagan Ferguson, Luke Jackson

**b. FFA National Champions - Forestry CDE**

The Commissioners presented the FFA Forestry CDE Team with a Certificate of Recognition for being the 2023 FFA National Champions for Forestry CDE. Team members were as follows:

Coach Kip Jackson, Raegan Gilbert, David Adams, Eric Ashworth, Garrison Fowler.

**6. MISCELLANEOUS:**

**a. Fire/EMS: Purchase of LUCAS chest compression systems with the Opioid Settlement funds. Total Cost: \$66,196.60 - Chief Steve Nichols**

Chief Nichols stated that the State of Georgia had awarded Banks County \$64,000 from a Opioid Class Action Lawsuit. He stated the funds had to be spent toward some kind of intervention to help with the opioid problem that we had. Chief Nichols further stated what we elected to do was purchase a LUCAS (CPR) device to put on med units. The funds would allow them to put a LUCAS on all med units and reserve trucks and staffed first line engines. The cost of all the devices was \$66,196.60.

Motion made by Chairman Turk, Seconded by Commissioner Gardiner.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**b. 2024 Alcohol Licenses**

Kerri Fincannon stated the following businesses had applied for alcohol/liquor license:

**Beer Package**

4-Way Store	Commerce Food Mart	Commerce Lucky
Diamon Exxon	Patel's Grocery	Quiktrip
Racetrac	Diamond Shell	TA Travel Center Walmart

**Wine Package**

Commerce Food Mart	Commerce Lucky	Diamond Exxon
Patel's Grocery	Quiktrip	Racetrac
Diamond Shell	TA Travel Center	Walmart

**Beer Consumption**

Taqueria Mi Jalisco

**Beer/Wine Consumption**

Cracker Barrel	Funopolis	Fudruckers (TA Operating)
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**Beer/Liquor Consumption**

El Azteca

**Beer/Wine/Liquor Consumption**

Applebee's                      Koji                      La Hacienda  
Longhorn (Rare)              Sonny's BBQ (NEA-BBQ)

Motion to approve the above license.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Commissioner Ausburn.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**Suspend**

Kerri Fincannon stated there were four businesses that currently had alcohol license that have not applied for a 2024 license. The businesses that have not applied for a 2024 license are as follows:

Blazers              Homer Grocery              Outback              Seoul Garden

Motion to suspend the license beginning January 1, 2024 until application has been applied for and approved.

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

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and motion passed.

**c. Board of Elections Pay**

Lynda Garrison stated that she was asking for an increase in pay to \$15 per hour for the Board of Election members.

Ch. Turk stated he also would like to increase the Planning Commission members to \$50 for members and \$75 for the chairman per month.

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

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**d. Roads: 2024 LMIG Application Approval**

Ch. Turk stated the FY2024 LMIG amount would be \$515,874.37 plus a 30% match. The roads that were being considered for the LMIG grant application are Shubert Ln, Buckeye Ter, Buckeye Pt, Buckeye Ln, Buckeye Bluff and Buckeye Trails Dr and the remainder of the funds would be used to gravel 4 miles of dirt roads.

Motion to approve the FY2024 LMIG application.

Motion made by Chairman Turk, Seconded by Commissioner Ausburn.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**e. Roads: Vehicle Purchase**

Ch. Turk stated that the road department had gotten three quotes for a 2023 F250 with a work bed. The lowest quote was from Akins Ford for \$60,073. However, Comm. Garrison stated he would like to purchase the truck from Ed Murdock since they would match the lowest price and the dealership was closer when it needed to be serviced.

Motion to purchase a truck from Ed Murdock Ford for \$61,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Bo Garrison, Seconded by Danny Maxwell.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

## **7. CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS:**

### **a. Roads: Gravel Hauling Bid/Contract Approval**

Ch. Turk stated Triple H Transport was the only bidder for the gravel hauling bid. The bid amount was \$6.29 per ton for hauling.

Motion to approve the bid and contract.

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

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

*(Copy of Contract filed in Attachment to Minute Book 11-1)*

### **b. Recreation: CSG Forte Payments, Inc. / Civic Rec**

Ch. Turk stated that Civic Rec was changing credit card companies.

Motion to approve the agreement pending county attorney approval.

Motion made by Chairman Turk, Seconded by Commissioner Gardiner.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

*(Copy of contract filed in Attachment to Minute Book 11-1)*

## **8. BOARDS & AUTHORITIES:**

### **a. Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D - 1 year term**

Motion to appoint Keith Gardiner for a 1-year term to expire 12/31/2024.

Motion made by Commissioner Bo Garrison, Seconded by Danny Maxwell.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

### **b. Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D - 1 year term**

Motion to appoint Charles Turk for a 1-year term to expire 12/31/2024.

Motion made by Commissioner Bo Garrison, Seconded by Danny Maxwell.

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

Vote: 5:0  
All yeas votes and the motion passed.

**c. Board of Health - 6-year term**

Motion to appoint Becky Carlan for a 6-year term to expire 12/31/2029.

Motion made by Commissioner Bo Garrison, Seconded by Danny Maxwell.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yeas votes and the motion passed.

**d. Board of Health - 6-year term**

Motion to appoint Robert Marshburn for a 6-year term to expire 12/31/2029.

Motion made by Commissioner Bo Garrison, Seconded by Danny Maxwell.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yeas votes and the motion passed.

**e. Board of Health - 6-year term**

Motion to appoint Dock Sisk for a 6-year term to expire 12/31/2029.

Motion made by Commissioner Bo Garrison, Seconded by Danny Maxwell.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yeas votes and the motion passed.

**f. Board of Tax Assessors - 6-year term**

Motion to appoint Roger Sutherland for a 6-year term to expire 12/31/2029.

Motion made by Commissioner Bo Garrison, Seconded by Danny Maxwell.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yeas votes and the motion passed.

**g. Board of Commissioners: 2024 Vice Chairman**

Motion to appoint Danny Maxwell as Vice Chairman for 2024.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Commissioner Ausburn.

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

Vote: 4:0

All yeas votes and the motion passed.

**9. RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

**a. 2024 Qualifying Fees**

Ch. Turk stated the qualifying fees were 3% of the base salary for most positions.

Motion to approve the qualifying fees.

Motion made by Chairman Turk, Seconded by Commissioner Gardiner.

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

Vote: 5:0

All Yea votes and the motion passed.

*(Copy of Resolution filed in Attachment to Minute Book 11-1) 2023-16*

**b. 2023 Comprehensive Plan**

Ch. Turk stated he had several calls concerning the comprehensive plan and he suggested having a work session to discuss the changes.

Comm. Ausburn wanted to thank the people that had worked on the plan and stated they had done a really good job.

**10. END OF YEAR REPORT - THAT'S A WRAP!**

Ch. Turk compiled a list of county statistics for 2023. Some of the items are as follows:

Business License	556	Fire/EMS calls	3,402
New Homes	58	Sheriff Office calls	32,568
New Mobile Homes	58	GIS – Parcel Divisions	1,35
Roads & Bridges SPLOST –	Purchased Equipment \$638,787. Paved 9.89 miles		
	Gravel/Hauling	\$ 608,535	

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

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

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

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Chairman

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Assistant County Clerk

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