



# **BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

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

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 6:30 PM

## **MINUTES**

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

Chairman Turk called the meeting to order.

#### **PRESENT**

Chairman Charles Turk

Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell

Commissioner Bo Garrison

Commissioner Sammy Reece

Commissioner Keith Gardiner

County Clerk Regina Gailey

Assistant County Clerk Erin Decker

Fire Chief Steve Nichols

Human Resources Director Arlene Ivey

Code Enforcement Officer Paul Ruark

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

Ch. Turk stated the items below needed to be changed on the agenda.

- Delete: 7a. Roads & Bridges: Ragsdale Rd Work - Kevin Purcell
- Add: 13. Jail HVAC Replacement

Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

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

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

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

None

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

Commissioner Sammy Reece led the Pledge to the American Flag.

### **5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- a. Banks County Board of Commissioners/ Municipalities Joint Meeting: Road & Bridge Sales Tax Continuation & Energy Excise Tax Reinstatement - March 3, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Ch. Turk stated on March 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. there would be a meeting of the Banks County Board of Commissioners/ Municipalities to discuss the Road & Bridge Sales Tax Continuation & Energy Excise Tax Reinstatement. He stated this meeting would be open to the public but would not be live streamed.

He further stated that today the Governor awarded Banks County \$3.17M for the sewer project from the school to the treatment plant.

Comm. Reece stated that there had been several calls received concerning the bridge replacement project on Wrights Mill Road. He stated that some area GDOT workers had told property owners on that road that if Banks County had just replaced some of the boards the state wouldn't have needed to replace the entire bridge. Comm. Reece further stated this project was one that GDOT was funding and this bridge was being replaced because it was unsafe and a single lane temporary bridge from the 1950's. Comm. Reece stated this would improve the safety of this area and when finished school buses and emergency vehicles would be able to travel over it.

**6. SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:**

None

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**a. Roads & Bridges: Ragsdale Rd Work - Kevin Purcell**

Deleted from agenda.

**8. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None

**9. PREVIOUS BUSINESS ACTION:**

None

**10. CURRENT BUSINESS:**

**a. Fire/EMS: GA Forestry 50/50 Grant - Fire Chief Steve Nichols**

Fire Chief Steve Nichols stated the department had received the 50/50 grant from the Georgia Forestry Service. He stated these funds would be used to purchase new firefighting equipment such as nozzles, handles, PPV fans and hoses. He further stated he had a price from NAFECO in the amount of \$12,851 in which the county would pay \$7,851. The matching funds would be paid from 2017 SPLOST funds.

Motion to approve the grant and pay for the match from 2017 SPLOST Funds.

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

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

## **11. CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS:**

None

## **12. RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

### **a. Personnel: 2013 ACCG County Retirement Plan Ratification - Arlene Ivey**

Ms. Arlene Ivey stated the resolution that was attached to the October 2013 minutes needed to be ratified and replaced with an executed 401 Defined Benefit Adoption Agreement for that year.

Motion to approve the ratification.

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

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

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

### **b. Personnel: 2022 ACCG County Retirement Plan - Arlene Ivey**

Mrs. Ivey stated this was the 2022 ACCG Retirement which was the reinstated plan per new IRS guidelines. She further stated she was just asking permission for the Chairman to sign the plan.

Motion to approve the plan and authorize the Chairman to sign the documents.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell. Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Garrison, Commissioner Reece, Commissioner Gardiner

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

*(Copy of resolution filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-4) 2022-16*

### **c. Permit Fees**

Code Enforcement Officer Paul Ruark discussed the changes in the permit schedule.

Ch. Turk stated we were just trying to cover the cost of inspections and not make money on them.

Comm. Gardiner stated we were still lower than other counties.

Motion to approve the new fee schedule with the effective date of 2-23-2022.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Commissioner Reece.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

*(Copy of resolution attachment to Minute Book 10-4) 2022-17*

### **d. Piedmont Judicial Circuit**

Ch. Turk stated this was a resolution supporting the transfer of Banks County to the Mountain Judicial Circuit whereas, the population of Banks County is more similar to the population of the counties in the Mountain Judicial Circuit than the counties in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit; WHEREAS, the future

growth of the population in the other counties in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit is projected to be substantial; whereas, Banks County population decreased in the last census; WHEREAS, Banks County feels that it has no voice at the polls, now or in the future, in electing the Judges of the Superior Court or the District Attorney of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit; whereas, Banks County is concerned about the services its citizens receive from the Superior Courts and District Attorney in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit

Motion to approve the resolution and authorize the Chairman to issue a letter to the State Representatives asking to be moved to the Mountain Judicial Circuit.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Commissioner Reece.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

*(Copy of resolution filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-4) 2022-18*

### **13. JAIL HVAC REPLACEMENT**

Ch. Turk stated the main heating and air unit at the jail went out last week and they also had another unit that was about to go out. Comm. Reece stated they had a total of 12 heating and air units and when one had to be replaced a crane had to be used to lift it onto the roof. Ch. Turk stated the cost of the replacement of 2 units with the crane rental would be \$24,496.00. He further stated the cost of the units would come from the Contingency Fund.

Comm. Garrison asked if the units were bid out and advertised or how was that process done. Ch. Turk stated the Sheriff's Office handles that and they have been using Gainesville Mechanical for the repairs.

Motion to approve the HVAC Replacement in the amount of \$24,496.00 to be paid for from the Contingency Fund.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Commissioner Reece.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

### **14. EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL**

Motion to enter into executive session concerning personnel at 6:50 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Commissioner Reece.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

Motion to close the executive session at 7:17 p.m.

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

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

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

Motion that no longer do we need the services of Richard Brooks.

Comm. Garrison wanted to clarify that he had not been on the County payroll since September 2021.

Ch. Turk stated that he had been on administrative leave without pay since September.

Motion made by Chairman Turk, Seconded by Commissioner Reece.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Garrison, Commissioner Reece,  
Commissioner Gardiner

Vote: 5:0  
All aye votes and the motion passed.  
*(Copy of affidavit filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-4)*

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.  
Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Commissioner Gardiner.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Garrison, Commissioner Reece,  
Commissioner Gardiner  
Vote: 5:0  
All aye votes and the motion passed.

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Chairman

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Assistant County Clerk  
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