



BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FY2024 BUDGET WORKSESSION/MEETING

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

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 9:00 AM

MINUTES

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

Finance Officer Randy Failyer
Assistant County Clerk Erin Decker
Human Resources Director Arlene Ivey
Superior Court Administrator Stephen Nevels
Probate Judge Helen Hewell
Magistrate Ivan Mote
Fire Chief Steve Nichols
Voter Registration Andra Phagan
Senior Center/Transit Director Tracie Hammond
Training Officer Keith Freeman
Scottie Mathis Battalion Chief

OTHERS

Angela Gary - Mainstreet News
Andrea Cobb – DFCS Director

2. FY2024 BUDGET WORKSESSION

- Superior Court – Stephen Nevels
 - Ch. Turk stated the Commissioners had put in legislation this session to get into the Mountain Judicial Circuit and the Piedmont Circuit fought it. He further stated that it would have cost the County \$185,000 to go into the Mountain Circuit and the cost for the current circuit was \$385,420 so the Commissioners were willing to pay \$180,000 for the budget year and that was it. Ch. Turk continued to say that if we were in the Mountain Circuit that is what the County would pay and said that would be a savings for the County.
 - Mr. Nevels stated he would relay the information back to the judges.
- Magistrate Court – Judge Ivan Mote
 - Part-time Judges – Comm. Gardiner asked how many part-time judges Judge Mote had and if they were all needed. Judge Mote said 2 and they were needed when he had training or was out of town.
 - Judge Mote stated he tried not to spend any more than he had to.
- Probate Court – Judge Helen Hewell
 - Travel – Ms. Hewell stated she had training in June and the fall of the year.

- Fire-EMS – Chief Steven Nichols
 - Chief Nichols stated with inflation and fluctuation of fuel, drugs, supplies and equipment repair it was difficult to determine an accurate budget.
 - Comm. Gardiner questioned overtime hours. Chief Nichols stated a lot of overtime was already built into the budget.
 - Chief Nichols stated that response time had decreased since the 4th med unit had been added.
 - Garbage – Comm. Ausburn suggested shopping out prices for garbage pickup.
 - Building Maintenance – Chief Nichols stated this included renovations of Station 22 and Station 32. Ch. Turk stated this could come from SPLOST.
 - License – Chief Nichols stated license were renewed every other year and this was due in November 2023.
 - Testing – Scottie Mathis stated this had increased because 180 air pack bottles had to be tested this year.
 - Education/Training – Keith Freeman stated this increased due to not sharing with Hall County and now Banks County does all their training in-house.
 - Ambulance Fees – Chief Nichols stated the ambulance fees were in line with surrounding counties.
 - Drug Supplies – Chief Nichols stated they were now filling their own narcotics boxes and were certified with the DEA to do that.
- E-911
 - Technical – Chief Nichols stated the changes came from increasing in recurring cost.
 - Sheriff Equipment – Chief Nichols stated this was for the communication equipment that was in the patrol cars.
 - Chief Nichols stated the radio system was about 10 years old and now needs upgrades. Ch. Turk stated this amount could come from E911 portion of SPLOST.
- Elections – Andra Phagan
 - Education/Training – Ms. Phagan stated this increased because of new person coming in due to her retiring December 31, 2023.
 - Poll holders – Ms. Phagan said the reason for the increases was the new procedures that the state had put in place concerning the times and number of staff that had to be present during early voting.
 - Building Maintenance – Ch. Turk mentioned possibly having early voting at the Adult Learning Center in the training room.

Ch. Turk recessed the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Ch. Turk called the meeting back to order at 11:30 a.m.

- DFCS – Andrea Cobb
 - Ms. Cobb stated the reason for the increase was because of the additional foster children they had in care this year. She stated in 2021 DFCS had 23 children in foster care and now that number had increased to 33 children.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL

Motion to enter into executive session concerning personnel at 11:45 p.m.

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.

Motion to close the executive session at 12:45 p.m.

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.

Ch. Turk stated there would be a recess until 1:30 p.m.

Ch. Turk called the meeting back to order at 1:30 p.m.

- Waste Water – Water Admin – Water Plant Operation – Water Distribution – Horace Gee
 - Waste Water
 - Mr. Gee stated the spray field line item was over because of a lot of maintenance that included pump and blower repairs. He also stated the construction of the new waste water plant was ahead of schedule. And discussed current of future staffing issues for the department.
 - Water Administration
 - Professional – Decreased because all licenses will be renewed before June 30, 2023 and they were renewed every other year.
 - Water Plant Operations
 - Comm. Gardiner asked about the ponds being cleaned out? Mr. Gee stated the ponds were drained and dried just awaiting the cleaning out.
 - Tank Maintenance – Mr. Gee stated that a tank had been overlooked in the maintenance and now it was added and that was the reason for the increase.
 - Water Distribution
 - Mr. Gee talked about the increase in prices and the amount the County charged for meter installation. Ch. Turk stated we needed to look at increasing the installation rate and Mr. Gee stated that he would so that at another meeting.
 - Mr. Gee stated he would also like to get a pneumatic boring tool since we have good compressors and then each crew would have one. He stated this would be purchased with ARPA funds.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

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.

Chairman

Assistant County Clerk