|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Banks County Established 1858 Seal | **Banks County Board of Commissioners Called Meeting** |
| Courthouse Annex Boardroom | 150 Hudson Ridge | Homer, GA 30547 |
| Monday, June 30, 2025 at 3:00 PM |
| **Minutes** |

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

Ch. Griffith called the meeting to order.

PRESENT  
Chairman Taylor Griffith  
Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell  
Commissioner Chris Ausburn  
Commissioner Keith Gardiner  
Commissioner Bo Garrison

STAFF

County Atty Karen Pachuta

County Clerk Regina Gailey

Deputy County Clerk Erin Decker

Chief Finance Officer Randy Failyer

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

Motion to approve the minutes.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**3.** **PREVIOUS BUSINESS ACTION:**

None

**4.** **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

**a. FY2025 Budget Amendment**

Chief Finance Officer Randy Failyer stated this was a resolution to amend the FY2025 Budget.  He further stated the Sheriff's Office was issued a check on July 1, 2024 in the amount of $3,675,000 to cover 50% of the first six months of FY2025 expenses.  Another check was issued on 12/6/2024 for an additional $3,675,000 to cover the last 50% of expenses for FY2025.  The Sheriff's Office budget was adopted in the amount of $7,350,000 for FY2025.  Mr. Failyer continued to state that at a worksession/ meeting on June 24, 2025 it was discovered that the Sheriff's Office had exceeded the budget and the Commissioners determined at that time to increase the Sheriff's budget for FY2025 by $175,000.

Chairman Griffith stated so this was just a resolution to approve the $175,000 budget amendment for the Sheriff's Office that was discussed in the June 24, 2025 meeting.

Commissioner Gardiner asked if this would cover all the Sheriff's expenses.

Chairman Griffith stated he had received some more expenses this morning so there would need to be an additional increase. He continued to state this current amount would get the vendors paid that had been waiting on money.

Motion to adopt the resolution for the $175,000 budget amendment for FY2025.

Commissioner Ausburn stated he didn't like doing this but there was no other option at this point.

Motion made by Commissioner Ausburn, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, 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 11-2)***

**b. FY2026 Budget Resolution**

Mr. Failyer stated this was a budget resolution for the FY2026 budget in the amount of $26,670,983.  He further stated the amount for the Sheriff's Office which included jail, sheriff and investigations was $7,780,541.  He stated the four largest departments was the Sheriff's Office at $7,780,541, Fire/EMS at $5,332,936, Public Utilities at $3,197,899 and E911 at $1,343,111.

Motion to adopt the FY2026 budget.

Commissioner Ausburn stated he didn't like the budget but believed it must be passed.  He stated he would like to encourage all the elected officials and department heads to reconsider how spending was approached.  The mindset of everything cost more so we needed more could not be our standard. Instead, we must shift our focus to efficiency and responsibility.  We should be asking how could I operate more efficiently and how could we save the County money.  If we prioritized efficiency and truly evaluated needs versus wants, he believed we could make meaningful progress in controlling cost and protecting the taxpayer dollar.  He further stated this commission was addressing problems that should have been dealt with years ago and are facing the consequences of past decisions, some of which were avoidable, and the cost were reflected in this year’s budget. On behalf of the citizens of Banks County he was asking all the elected officials and department heads to do what they could this year to save money. Just because the funds were budgeted did not mean we had to spend them all. Any funding left at the end of the year could be used to stabilize prior year reserves which would help strengthen our financial future.

Chairman Griffith said one thing we have done this year was drastically decrease the rate of increase.

Commissioner Gardiner stated he was with Commissioner Ausburn.  He stated we had tightened our belts and asked departments to tighten their budgets.

Vice Chairman Maxwell sated we had to control the operations.

Commissioner Garrison stated we were good stewards of the taxpayer dollars.  Department heads had trimmed a lot and he appreciated that.

Motion made by Commissioner Ausburn, Seconded by Chairman Griffith.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Garrison  
Voting Nay: Commissioner Gardiner

Vote: 4:1

Majority votes and motion passed.

***(Copy of Resolution filed in Attachment to Minute Book 11-2)***

**5.** **CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS:**

**a. Senior Center: Legacy Link - FY2025 Addendum #3 - Nutrition Program Services**

Senior Center/Transit Director Tracie Hammond stated this addendum was number three and quite common throughout the fiscal year. This addendum was for a $4,055 increase in funds that were received.

Motion to approve the Legacy Link Addendum #3.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Commissioner Ausburn.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, 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 11-2)***

**b. Annex: Nsync Inc. - Systems Service Agreement 2026 - Board Room Audio**

Ch. Griffith stated this was a contract for the audio system in the Board Room in the amount of $1,250.00

Motion to approve the contract in the amount of $1,250.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Commissioner Garrison.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, 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 11-2)***

**c. Rushton Accounting - Engagement Letter - Signature Ratification**

Ch. Griffith stated this was an engagement letter with Rushton Accounting for the FY2025 budget and his signature needed to be ratified.

Motion to ratify the Chairmans signature.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Maxwell, Seconded by Commissioner Gardiner.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

***(Copy of Engagement Letter filed in Attachment to Minute Book 11-2)***

**6.** **MISCELLANEOUS:**

**a. Library Addition**

Chairman Griffith stated the library came before the board about two months ago asking for a match of $100,000 for a grant for an additions and renovations to the library.

Motion to approve no more than $100,000 from the capital fund for the library addition.

Motion made by Commissioner Ausburn, Seconded by Commissioner Gardiner.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**7.** **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Commissioner Garrison stated he had all the elected officials in Washington contacts and asked the County Clerk to draft a letter to all the senators asking for infrastructure funds.  Commissioner Gardiner stated there were lots of infrastructure funds in the Big Beautiful Bill and he encouraged the Commissioners to go to Washington and ask for funding.

***Jeff Jones - 870 Hwy 63*** - Discussed several items that included zero based budgeting, SK Battery lawsuit and water restrictions.

***Regina Gailey Retirement*** – **38 Years of Service**

The Commissioners recognized Regina Gailey for the 38 years of service to the County.  Ms. Gailey stated she wanted the people of Banks County to know she thanked them for allowing her to serve them as County Clerk.  The Commissioners continued to state how important Ms. Gailey was to this County and how they appreciated her and enjoyed working with her over the years.

**8.** **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion to enter into executive session concerning litigation at 3:39 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, 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 4:04 p.m.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Maxwell, Seconded by Commissioner Gardiner.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

***(Copy of Affidavit filed in Attachment to Minute Book 11-2)***

**9.** **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Commissioner Ausburn.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

Chairman

Deputy County Clerk