|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Banks County Established 1858 Seal | **Banks County Board of Commissioners Meeting / Work Session** |
| Courthouse Annex Boardroom | 150 Hudson Ridge | Homer, GA 30547 |
| Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 3:00 PM |
| **Minutes** |

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

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

Chairman Griffith stated they needed to amend the agenda to add 4E-Recreation Board Recommendations and 6C-Windgap Agreement.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

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

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**3.** **PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG:**

Vice Chairman Maxwell led the Pledge to the American Flag.

**4.** **MISCELLANEOUS:**

**a. Roads and Bridges: Grant Mill Dr Extension**

Description of Grant Mill Drive Extension is to extend Grant Mill Drive approximately 900 feet to connect with Riegel Access Road. It would include design, clearing, grading, drainage, and paving.

Total estimated cost: +/-$303,000

KCI representative, Todd McDuffie, spoke for the project. He said we are at the stage now where they are getting the ROW staked from the railroad and the ramp going to the old Riegal plant. After that is done, they would decide what ROW deeds are needed to complete the project.

Commissioner Garrison asked what would the timeframe be for this project?

Mr. McDuffie responded that it just depends on who does the design. He stated it would be 3-5 for the design process. Also acquisition of land for the project and putting the project out for sealed bids.

Commissioner Maxwell asked how many acquisitions?

Commissioner Ausburn responded only 2.

Chairman Griffith said the cost breakdown would be as follows

* Design is $28,000-$30,000
* Construction of the road including grading, drainage, and paving would be $275,000.

Vice Chairman Maxwell asked where would the money come from?

Chairman Griffith stated TSPLOST would cover the cost.

Commissioner Ausburn and Commissioner Garrison both stated this project has to be done.

Commissioner Ausburn stated every effort would be made to keep the railroad open.

No action taken.

**b. Roads and Bridges: Charity Rd**

Getting the slope cut back as you go into Charity Drive. 18–20-foot roadway. Water line would need to be moved. KCI has met with the power company and determined the power company is good with the project, but they need to be informed when it would be done. They would also need to leave 10–12-foot road for GA Power to access their poles. 3-1 slope should accomplish that.

The proposed project involves the widening of Charity Road through excavation and removal of existing slope to allow road widening, construction of road shoulders, and drainage ditch. Development of an 18- to 20-foot-wide roadbed extending approx. 300 feet and paving of the newly constructed roadbed over the 300-foot stretch

Chairman Griffith stated that the estimated cost for grading and paving activities is +/- $85,000. It would be covered by TSPLOST.

Vice Chairman Maxwell asked if Charity Road would be paved up until Charity Drive cuts off?

Chairman Griffith stated that it would be paved to the top of the hill on Charity Road.

No action taken.

**c. Roads and Bridges: Tractor / Side Arm Cutter Purchase**

Banks County needs equipment for working on narrow, dirt roads.

Commissioners have received 3 quotes for a tractor/side arm cutter.

The Commissioners would discuss more on the next meeting September 9th, 2025.

No action taken.

**d. Family Resource Center of Northeast Georgia**

The Family Resource Center of Northeast Georgia is requesting funds from GA Opioid Settlement. The funding is in the amount of $5,000. The funds are to provide therapeutic services for kids in Banks County.

Located at 151 Athens Street, Homer GA.

The Board would like a presentation at the next board meeting, September 9th, 2025.

**e. Recreation Board Recommendations**

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chairman, Otis Rylee, spoke on behalf the board.

The duty of the Rec Board is

* present to the Board the concerns of the community
* make recommendations
* staff and community input
* give the Commissioners a list of actionable items

The main issues that the board are hearing from citizens are:

* HVAC in the Rec gyms
* Overgrown grass surrounding the Rec Dept.

Chairman Griffith stated they already have one updated quote for the HVAC. They are waiting on the other two before they act.

Mr. Rylee spoke of other issues including security lights on field 9, the new outside basketball court, playgrounds, and fencing issues.

The biggest concern from the community is the overgrown grass.

Mr. Rylee also reported more kids are signing up for fall sports than the previous years.

Mr. Rylee also asked the Commissioners if there were any updates on a new Recreation Director. Chairman Griffith responded that they are currently doing follow-up interviews.  He said there should be an update within the next few weeks. Chairman Griffith wants the Rec Board to give an updated report at the Commissioners Meeting quarterly.

**5.** **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

**a. FY2025 Budget Amendment Resolution**

Chairman Griffith stated this was just a resolution concerning the budget approved in the last meeting for the Sherriff Office and the lateral cleanup between departments. This is the final FY2025 budget resolution.

Motion to approve the Budget Amendment Resolution for FY2025.

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

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**b. Water Tap Ordinance**

Public Utilities Director, Chad Wilbanks along with the county attorneys are working on a written set of guidelines for access to a water tap from Banks County.

When a customer applies for a water tap it would be determined by:

* water pressure in the area
* water line size in the area
* customer load in the area

The decision would be made administratively by the Utilities Director and there would be an appeals process if necessary.

Vice Chairman Maxwell expressed concerns about not allowing people in the county to obtain a water tap.

Commissioner Garrison stated that when the county puts a moratorium or ordinance on water/building permits all the municipalities in the county need to follow suit.

More would be discussed at the next meeting.

**6.** **CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS:**

**a. Roads and Bridges: Stratton & Sons Bid Award/Contract Approval - N. Mangum Bridge Resurfacing / Yonah Homer & Grovel Level Patching**

Chairman Griffith said this a motion to approve the bid for the Bridge Resurfacing for N. Mangum and Patching for Yonah Homer Road and Grove Level Road. The low bid of $710,060 was from Stratton & Sons.

Commissioner Garrison asked it that would be the final cost?

Chairman Griffith replied yes.

Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell stated that the contract would include the curving and shoulders of the roads.

Motion to accept low bid and approve the contact.

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

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**b. Superior Court: Mountain Judicial Circuit - IGA**

Chairman Griffith stated that the Mountain Judicial Circuit was what Bank County was currently operating under. Chairman Griffith stated the board needed to approve the IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) and give authority for him to sign it.

Motion to approve the IGA and give the Chairman authority to sign.

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

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**c. Windgap Agreement**

Chairman Griffith stated this was the software that tax accessors use for property evaluations and the commissioner's office use to figure bills. Chairman Griffith said this was done yearly.

Motion to approve the agreement and allow him to sign it.

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

All yea votes and the motion passed.

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

***Cliff Jolliff, 898 Canaan Dr Maysville GA,*** asked the commissioners if they were happier with the Mountain Judicial Circuit than with the Piedmont. Commissioner Ausburn said it was too earlier to make a judgement on the change.

***Scott Thomas, 123 Outlet Dr, Commerce GA,*** wanted to talk about his land. He has a 3-year mortarium from the GA Soil and Water concerning disturb land. The Commissioners want to have a meeting with Mr. Thomas and the state and federal agencies concerning this issue.

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

No executive session.

**9.** **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:02pm

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

All yea votes and the motion passed.