

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on March 8, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Banks County Courthouse Annex. Present were Chairman Milton Dalton, Vice Chairman Charles Turk and Commissioners Danny Maxwell, Sammy Reece and Ernest Rogers.

### **1. Call to Order**

Ch. Dalton called the meeting to order.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Comm. Maxwell made a motion to add Item 9. Windmill Farms Timber, delete Item 11a. Firehouse Software and add Item 12b. E911 Equipment Infrastructure Maintenance Contract – Gunby Communications. Comm. Reece seconded. All aye votes and the motion passed.

Comm. Rogers made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Vice Ch. Turk seconded. All aye votes and the agenda was approved as amended.

### **3. Prayer**

Ch. Dalton led a moment of silent prayer.

### **4. Pledge to the American Flag**

Comm. Maxwell led the Pledge to the American Flag.

### **5. Approval of Invoices**

Vice Ch. Turk made a motion to approve the invoices. Comm. Rogers seconded. All aye votes and the motion passed.

### **6. Approval of Previous Minutes – 2/3, 2/8, 2/14**

Comm. Rogers made a motion to approve the previous months minutes. Vice Ch. Turk seconded. All aye votes and the motion passed.

### **7. Ninth District Opportunity Annual Report Christy Hill**

Christy Hill with Ninth District Opportunity presented the FY2010 Annual Report to the Commissioners. The annual report highlighted their funding sources, expenditures and programs. Ms. Hill stated Ninth District could lose their Community Services Block Grant, which is their core funding and encouraged everyone to contact their congressman to not support this change.

### **8. Municipal Communications – Brantley Basinger**

Brantley Basinger with Municipal Communications installs communication tower on government entity properties. He stated they partner with the entities because they feel it is an easier process to install the towers. Mr. Basinger stated the County benefits from the installation in several ways such as an additional revenue stream, the ability to install emergency communications equipment on the towers and expand the existing coverage for Banks County. Mr. Basinger stated his company only installs towers if they have a customer. Mr. Basinger stated first the County would enter into a master lease agreement which would give Municipal Communications exclusive rights to market the County property for cell phone towers. Then they would go through the permitting process. He stated the fee structure is set up where the

first year the County would receive \$50,000 and the beginning of the second year the County would receive \$50,000 and the lease would be for 25 years.

#### **9. Windmill Farm Timber – Jack Catlin**

Jack Catlin stated the proposal was ready for the timber companies but he is now waiting on the response from the Georgia DOT for a temporary permit to access Block A off HWY 441 bypass. He stated the bid establishment date had not been set yet. He also stated in the case that a road has to be built to access Block A the timber revenue he estimated would be decreased to \$168,000. He stated Block B is worth \$62,000 and Block C is worth \$42,000. He stated these numbers were all minimums. He would keep the Commissioners informed of what is going on with the timber sale.

#### **10. Clerk of Superior Court Restoration Project                      Tim Harper**

Tim Harper, Clerk of Superior Court stated the deed records in the Clerk's Office are becoming worn. Since 1859 the books have been collected and used on a daily basis. Over years, with hands turning pages looking at indexes, some books are coming apart. They could be repaired, but that doesn't solve the ultimate problem, which are the indexes are beginning to fade and are hard to read. He stated this restoration project needs to be done for the preservation of the history of Banks County. There are over 64,000 images and the total cost for the imaging, indexing and restoring the books from Mainstreet Technologies in Cornelia, Georgia is \$52,935.51. Comm. Rogers wanted Mr. Harper to see if it could be paid for over a three year period.

#### **11. 2006 SPLOST Water Projects**

Public Utilities Director Steve Reece stated there were two projects that needs to be completed by September 2011. County Clerk Jenni Gailey stated the funds for these projects will be paid with 2001 SPLOST funds that have to be spent by September 2011.

Mr. Reece stated the first project would be to replace all touch read meters with radio read meters. There would be three benefits from replacing the meters. First, would be an accurate accountability for water used which would reduce the unaccountable water usage each month. Second, an increase in revenue for the County by accurately reading water used. Thirdly, changing these meters from touch read to radio read, at least 3 to 4 days will be reduced from the time it takes the meter reader. Mr. Reece stated the County would purchase the meters and contract out the installation. The total estimated price for the meters being purchased and installed is \$156,540.00

Project two consists of installing a vault and automatically controlled valves that will be connected to our present SCADA system at the Water Plant. Mr. Reece stated this new system will allow the use of the 300,000 gallon elevated tank located on North County Line Rd and tie it into the entire water system. At the present time, this tank only services 19 customers on the north end of Yonah-Homer Road. We had problems with this tank since the installation in 2006/2007. With so little water used out of the tank, we have had to dump it several times and have had to post chlorinate it to maintain the quality level to meet EPA guidelines. The estimated construction cost of the project is \$65,500.00 and the engineering fees would be \$7,860.00. Comm. Rogers and Vice Ch. Turk stated they would like to use another engineering firm.

Comm. Rogers made a motion to order the meters and to put the installation of the meters, water tank valves and the engineering out to bid. Vice Ch. Turk seconded. All aye votes and the motion passed.

## **12. Fire/EMS**

### **a. Firehouse Software – Deleted**

### **b. Ambulance Fees**

Stephanie Cotrell from Emergency Billing stated the County was not billing Medicare enough for mileage. The current fee schedule is \$2.15 less per mile than what Medicare would pay. She stated with a seventeen mile trip, the County is losing \$58 per trip. If you figure one trip per day for a year the County is losing around \$21,170.00 per year. The patient would have to pay about \$7 more per trip for the first 17 miles. Ms. Cotrell stated Medicare only pays 80% and the patient has to pay the remainder if they do not have a supplement. Over 51% of ambulance trips were billed to Medicare and only 6.8% were self-pay. Other insurances also have to pay by Medicare guidelines. The average trip is 21 miles. Comm. Reece wanted to make sure Banks County would still be in line with other counties. Comm. Maxwell wanted to clarify that this was not going to cost the citizens any more. Ms. Cotrell stated the most they would have to pay is \$7.00 for the first 17 miles but no more for additional mileage. Vice Ch. Turk made a motion to go up to \$11.00 per mile starting April 1, 2011 and relook at the fee schedule in March 2012. Comm. Reece seconded. All aye votes and motion passed.

## **13. Contracts & Agreements**

### **a. Public Transportation Grant Application Resolution**

Ms. Gailey stated this resolution is authorizing the County to apply for the annual Section 5311 Public Transportation Grant. Comm. Rogers made a motion to approve the resolution. Vice Ch. Turk seconded. All aye votes and the resolution passed. *(Copy of resolution filed in Attachment Book #9-2)*

### **b. E911 Equipment Infrastructure Maintenance Contract – Gunby Communications Deidra Moore**

911/EMA Director Deidra Moore stated this contract was for six months so it could collate with the fiscal year. The amount of the contract is \$29,251.00 and the term is January 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2011. Comm. Rogers stated the contract only should state the six month amount and not what the yearly amount would be. Comm. Rogers made a motion to authorize the chairman to sign the contract after it has been corrected. Comm. Maxwell seconded. All aye votes and the motion passed. *(Copy of contract filed in Attachment Book #9-2)*

## **14. Executive Session: Personnel & Land Acquisition**

Vice Ch. Turk made a motion to enter into executive session concerning personnel and land acquisition. Comm. Rogers seconded. All aye votes and the executive session began at 7:33 p.m.

Comm. Maxwell made a motion to close the executive session. Comm. Reece seconded. All aye votes and the executive session ended at 9:07 p.m.

Vice Ch. Turk made a motion to tender a contract of employment for Bradley Day for a salary of \$68,000 per year waiving insurance benefits and the beginning of the contract will be March 15, 2011. Comm. Rogers seconded. All aye votes and the motion passed. *(Copy of affidavit filed in Attachment Book #9-2)*

**15. Adjournment**

Comm. Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Comm. Reece seconded. All aye votes and the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

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Chairman

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Assistant County Clerk

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