

The Banks County Board of Commissioner held a work session on Feb. 23, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Banks County Courthouse Annex.

Members present were as follows:

Milton Dalton, Chairman  
Rickey Cain, Commissioner  
Charles Turk, Commissioner

Joe Barefoot, Vice Chairman  
Ernest Rogers, Commissioner

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

Ch. Dalton called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Cain led the Pledge to the American Flag.

Ch. Dalton led a silent moment of prayer.

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

Comm. Cain made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice Ch. Barefoot seconded. All aye votes and agenda was approved as printed.

### **3. Resolutions**

#### **a. 2009 Millage Rate**

Finance Officer Randy Failyer asked the commissioners to approve the 2009 Millage Rate at 8.979 mills. County Clerk Regina Gailey stated this rate reflects a .75 mill increase. She stated the five year history had been advertised and the total County M&O would be 9.054 including the hospital bond. Comm. Cain made a motion to approve the millage rate at 9.054. Vice Ch.

Barefoot seconded. The vote was as follows:

Barefoot:	Aye
Cain:	Aye
Dalton:	Aye
Rogers:	Nay
Turk:	Aye

Four aye votes and one nay vote and the millage rate was approved.

*(Copy of resolution filed in Attachment Book #9-2) 2010-04*

#### **b. Tax Anticipation Note**

Mr. Failyer stated he was asking the commissioners to give the Chairman permission to sign a resolution for a \$4M tax anticipation note that was approved at the last meeting. Vice Ch. Barefoot made a motion to give the Chairman permission to sign the resolution. Comm. Rogers seconded. All aye votes and the motion passed.

*(Copy of resolution filed in Attachment Book #9-2) 2010-05*

### **4. Proclamation – 2010 Census Week**

Ch. Dalton stated the 2010 Census was coming up April 1, 2010. Ms. Gailey stated the County was declaring the week of March 8 – March 14, as Georgia Census Week and urging the residents of Banks County to participate completely in the United States 2010 Census to provide an accurate count of the population of Georgia in the 2010 decennial census; and for other purposes. It is important that we get a complete count for Banks County for future request for funding. Ch. Dalton stated this was very important because this was the way money was distributed from Washington and how our legislative districts were divided up. Comm. Cain made a motion to approve the proclamation. Comm. Turk seconded. All aye votes and the proclamation was approved. *(Copy of proclamation filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9-2)*

### **5. Personnel**

#### **a. Employee Retirement**

Comm. Turk made a motion to suspend the 401a County Match and Base Contribution and the Defined Benefit Plan effective now until June 30, 2010. Comm. Rogers seconded. All aye votes and motion passed.

**b. Employee Vehicle Usage**

Ch. Dalton stated they would ask employees to explain the need for taking a county vehicle home.

Road Superintendant Wayne Andrews stated he took his vehicle home because if called out at night he liked to keep some tools in the truck instead of having to go to the shop first. The commissioners had no questions.

Technology Director Leonard Burris stated he was a one man department and needs to be available to 911 and the Sheriff's Office at all times to make sure their systems are operational. Comm. Rogers asked how many times is he called out? Mr. Burris stated he is called out twice on a good month and on a bad month there has been weeks where he has come out eight times a week after hours. Comm. Turk asked how much after hours? Mr. Burris stated sometimes three or four times a week but it has been good the past few months. Vice Ch. Barefoot stated that it is critical that the equipment be up and operational 24/7 for 911, Fire-EMS and the Sheriff's Office. Comm. Cain asked Mr. Burris about the alarm systems? Mr. Burris said he came and reset the system when there were problems.

Maintenance Supervisor Kenny Crumley stated he was on call 24/7. He stated last night he was at the jail from 7:00p.m.- 11:00p.m. and most of the time when he gets home he has to come right back out to the jail.

Utilities Director Steve Reece stated he was on call 24/7 for all departments. In an emergency, he is the first person 911 calls. He keeps tools on his truck at all times so he can isolate a water leak until someone gets there to fix it. He said if they have an emergency at the waterplant or an operator gets sick he can run the plant. He said out of his department only two vehicles are taken home. Comm. Cain asked if the waterplant employees were ever on call? Mr. Reece stated that they are on 10 hour shifts and it is hard to have them on call and if an operator gets sick then he is on call and is only eight miles. Comm. Rogers asked if he lived in the County. Mr. Reece stated he lives in the County.

Water Distribution Crew Leader Robin Thomas stated he did drive a county vehicle home and was on call 24/7. He stated there were only two other guys in his department at this time and he has offered to share this vehicle with them when they are on call and they refuse to take it home with them because they only have one vehicle and on the weekends if they needed to go somewhere the only thing they would have to drive would be the county vehicle. Mr. Thomas stated that since he had been with the County there had been three break-ins and over \$30,000 worth of tools had been stolen off of the trucks and no tools have ever been stolen off of the vehicle that he drives home because it is parked under the shed. Mr. Thomas stated that during cold weather he was out on a call about every night and about every weekend. If he is called out at night when he is at home, he leaves his house and goes directly to the problem instead of having to go by the shop first and pick up the truck. Comm. Turk asked what the mileage was round trip? Mr. Thomas stated it was 50 miles and he lived on this side of Clairmont and that it takes him about 30 minutes to get to work.

911/EMA Director Deidra Moore stated she was on call 24/7 and had started leaving the county truck at the 911 Center at night instead of driving it home if everything is all clear. She stated she does drive it home if she has to leave her house early for a meeting that is in another location or if the weather is bad and she knows she will have to come back to work.

Fire/EMS Chief Jeff Taylor stated that he answers calls 24/7 whether it's a fire/ems call, a truck break down or a personnel problem. Vice Ch. Barefoot asked Chief Taylor if the vehicle he drives is a true emergency vehicle with lights and sirens. Chief Taylor replied yes.

Administrative Officer Brian Eubanks stated his vehicle was used pretty much the same as the chief stated. He is on call 24/7, any type of vehicle maintenance, anytime an employee gets sick he would have to come in and cover for them and any major call he would have to come in. Comm. Turk asked since his address is Commerce, is that Madison County? Mr. Eubanks stated that he lived in Jackson County. Comm. Turk asked was it not a long way to drive to a call from Jackson County? Mr. Eubanks stated if the call is over toward Ft. Lamar Road he can be there before the first truck gets there. Comm. Turk stated this wasn't often and asked how often he comes in? Mr. Eubanks stated it varies and depends. They have put in 100 hours per week and have put in 50 hours and the last couple of weeks it has been slow. This weekend they didn't have to come in at all. Comm. Turk asked what was his round trip? Mr. Eubanks said it was about 30 miles round trip.

Volunteer Fireman Jason Mosley - Search & Rescue Dog Trainer was absent so Fire Chief Jeff Taylor spoke in his absence. Chief Taylor said they run training and the dog has been offered out to the surrounding counties. Vice Ch. Barefoot asked how often the dog was put into service? Chief Taylor stated on actual search, the dog has not been used. Comm. Turk stated he wanted to clarify that this did not mean hunting fugitives. Chief Taylor stated there had been numerous times where people have jumped out of vehicles and ran. Comm. Turk asked if the handler and dog were certified to search for criminals because he understood that this was suppose to be a search and rescue dog for the fire department but was being used for both. Chief Taylor said the dog was certified and Deputy Chris Holly was working on his certification. Comm. Turk said we were talking about Jason Mosley. Chief Taylor said Jason Mosley was not certified. Comm. Turk asked if the county was responsible if Jason Mosley got hurt hunting a fugitive? Chief Taylor stated yes and there was one deputy that was certified. Comm. Turk stated that was fine because it falls under the Sheriff's Office, but this falls under the Fire/EMS because a \$2,000 check was written out of the Fire Fighter's Association for this dog. Comm. Turk stated that Jason Mosley is the handler. Chief Taylor said they have two handlers. Comm. Turk asked if it was true that we ran, two different instances, an ALS Med Unit out of the back of a Crown Victoria verses a Med Unit and if so would the spare Med Unit be better used as a Med Unit. Chief Taylor stated no because it is not in good enough shape. Comm. Turk said he sees it running up and down the road all the time and he hears its training all the time. Is this unit used in doing any kind of work over at the pottery? Chief Taylor replied it shouldn't be used for any kind of work, the owner of the pottery is letting the County use the area around back for training. Comm. Turk asked if Mosley was doing training on Friday and Saturday nights? Chief Taylor said in order to keep the dog certified it has to have so many hours of training. Comm. Turk asked if this was everyday of the week? Chief Taylor said no, not every day. Comm. Turk stated it looks to him like the vehicle is being abused. Chief Taylor said he keeps hearing that. Comm. Turk stated he keeps seeing it. Chief Taylor stated that they had tried to catch him misusing the vehicle as it has been reported that he was driving it to his job. He asked Steve Nichols to see if it was there the day that it was reported. He has been told that it had been seen in Gainesville but they had checked and it wasn't there. Comm. Turk stated he got a call that it was at Northeast Georgia Medical Center early in the morning. Chief Taylor stated that he keeps hearing that it's being abused and he keeps checking.

Ch. Dalton stated the commissioners only had control over nine out of thirty-six vehicles. Vice Ch. Barefoot stated the reason they are asking these questions and asking for justification of what's necessary is because we're in a budget crunch. He said they are trying to trim the budget more. H said this is a part of doing business and this is how they justify who can and can't drive there vehicle home. Comm. Cain made a motion to table this item until the March 2, 2010 meeting so they have time to do some investigation on some vehicles that he is concerned about. Vice Ch. Barefoot seconded. Ch. Dalton said there were only 11 vehicles out of 36 going out of the County. Comm. Rogers said his concern is driving them out of the County and he has always had a problem with this. He said he didn't care what part of the County they live in, a deputy vehicle parted in the driveway in the County is one of the greatest things we can have but once that car leaves the County the County is not getting any service out of it. Comm. Barefoot said he agreed and this would give us an opportunity to develop a solid policy on vehicle usage. Comm.

Turk said we also needed to develop a policy for during the day, for going to breakfast at 9:30 in the morning or taking a 2 hour lunch. The vote was as follows:

Barefoot: Aye  
Cain: Aye  
Dalton: Aye  
Rogers: Aye  
Turk: Nay

Four aye votes and one nay vote and the item was tabled until the March 23, 2010 meeting.

**6. Adjournment**

Vice Ch. Barefoot made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Comm. Cain seconded. All aye votes and the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

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Chairman

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Assistant County Clerk

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