



BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

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

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:30 PM

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

County Clerk Regina Gailey
Assistant County Clerk Erin Decker
Human Resources Director Arlene Ivey
Senior Center/Transit Director Tracie Hammond
County Attorney Randall Frost

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ch Turk stated the agenda needed to be amended as follows:

Delete: 7a. Homeless Ministry: Bruce & Carolyn Joyce

Add: 8a. Recreation Fees

Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

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.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. 3/14/2023 Minutes

b. 3/28/2023 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, 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.

4. PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG:

Commissioner Garrison led the Pledge to the American Flag.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ch. Turk reported on the following:

- E911 received 3,542 calls for the Sheriff Office and 318 Fire/EMS calls.
- Stated the budget hearings started on April 25, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Comm. Garrison stated he would like everyone to remember Wes and Amy Burchett's son Easton who was attacked by a rabid bobcat. Comm. Ausburn stated he had spoken with DNR and they were going to send their protocol to E911 and the Sheriff's Office just to ensure everyone was on the same page as to what to do going forward if this happened again. He further stated this was not an animal control or a county issue but when it's concerning a wild animal it's a DNR issue and would be their jurisdiction. He also spoke to Environmental Health who would issue a statement to alert the public of a rabid animal that was found in the area.

6. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

a. 2023 Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation - Carol Williams

Ch. Turk stated the month of April was Child Abuse Prevention Month. Stacey Morgan with the Banks County School System read a proclamation for child abuse prevention month.
(Copy of proclamation filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-5)

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

a. Homeless Ministry: Bruce & Carolyn Joyce

Deleted

b. Elections Office Limitations: Sue Mager

Ms. Sue Mager stated she was a citizen in Banks and member of the Banks County Democratic Committee. She stated that at the last election she was a monitor and noticed that the early voting venue had limitations.

She further stated the limitations included the following:

- Lack of inside space which made it difficult for the employees to work, voters to access the machines and have privacy while voting and to have an efficient assembly while processing paper ballots.
- Lack of public restrooms for voters, poll watchers and monitors.
- The outside limitations included minimal parking and insufficient ingress and egress to the building
- A lack of security if issues were to arise.

Ms. Mager stated she hoped by the time the next election rolled around some of these issues would be resolved.

She further stated there hadn't been any major issues yet but maybe before the next election cycle some of these issues could be addressed.

Ms. Mager asked the Commissioners if there were any plans in place before the elections occurred again.

Ch. Turk stated at the time of SPLOST a request for funding should have come from the Board of Registrars. He also stated the Fire Admin might be moving in a new station then the voting office could occupy the entire building.

Vice Ch. Maxwell stated they were looking for better solutions but we have to work within budget restraints.

Comm. Garrison stated solutions on creating resolution to the problems were being looked at.

Comm. Ausburn stated they had 3,541 early voters in 5 days and something needed to change and he would be having a meeting with the Elections Board.

8. CURRENT BUSINESS:

a. Public Transit: GDOT Drug & Alcohol Policy - Arlene Ivey

Arlene Ivey Human Resources Director stated that GDOT had a Drug and Alcohol testing response handbook. She stated GDOT had reviewed it and now she needed approval from the board and authorization for Ch. Turk to sign the document.

Comm. Garrison asked if all testing was still being done in Habersham. Ms. Ivey stated Habersham was less expensive overall.

Motion to approve the policy and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Maxwell. 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.

(Copy of policy filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-5)

b. Public Transit: 2023 FTA Procurement Policy - Tracie Hammond

Tracie Hammond Senior Center/Transit Director stated GDOT had an FTA Procurement Policy that had to be adopted every three years. She further stated the last adoption of the policy was in 2020 and currently there were no changes to policy.

Motion to adopt the policy and authorize the Chairman to sign.

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 motion passed.

(Copy of policy filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-5)

c. Public Transit: Georgia Transit Trust Fund Program FY2023 Application - Tracie Hammond

Ms. Hammond stated the Transit Trust Fund was new. She further stated these funds were not operating dollars but could be spent on supplies or equipment that was needed for the program. Ms. Hammond stated that the liability insurance was requiring cameras be placed in the buses. The amount received from the Transit Trust Fund would be \$15,584 with no County match.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the document.

Motion made by Chairman Turk, 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.

d. Recreation for New Fees - Kat Roberts

Kat Roberts Recreation Director stated she was proposing to increase the recreation fees. She stated currently the fees did not cover the County cost for the programs. Ms. Roberts stated the proposed fees were more in line with surrounding county rates.

Motion to approve the proposed recreation fees.

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.

(Copy of fees filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-5)

9. CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS:

a. Senior Services: Nutrition Contract Addendum #2 - Legacy Link

Ch. Turk stated this was an addendum to the nutrition program between Legacy Link and the Senior Center. He stated this was something that was normally adjusted throughout the year.

Motion to approve the addendum.

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.

(Copy of addendum filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-5)

b. Senior Services: FY2024 Local Share Commitment - Legacy Link - Tracie Hammond

Ch. Turk stated this was a Letter of Commitment for Legacy Link with the County portion being \$14,050.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Letter of Commitment.

Motion made by Commissioner Ausburn, Seconded by Commissioner Garrison.

Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

(Copy of letter filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-5)

c. Human Resources: Business Associate Agreement - Veracity - Arlene Ivey

Arlene Ivey Human Resources Director stated this was a Business Associate Agreement with Veracity Benefits who was our new vendor for high maintenance pharmaceutical items for health insurance. Their contract would be effective April 1, 2023. Veracity would be reaching out to international chains to get our international pricing for medications and also focusing on our special medications where they could help save even more than what we had been saving. She further stated this agreement was for a 15-month period but would normally be for 12 months.

Motion to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Chairman Turk.
Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner,
Commissioner Garrison
Vote: 5:0
All yea votes and the motion passed.
(Copy of agreement filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-5)

d. Human Resources: Pharmacy Consulting Agreement - Veracity - Arlene Ivey

Ms. Ivey stated this agreement was for Veracity Benefits also but was for consulting where they would manage and review all the medications. She stated she need the approval for the agreement and authorization for the Chairman to sign the agreement.

Motion to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.

Motion made by Commissioner Ausburn, 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.
(Copy of agreement filed in attachment to Minute Book 10-5)

e. Finance: LP Gas Contract Bid Award - 5/2023-4/2024

Ch. Turk stated that bids had been advertised and received for LP Gas. He stated the low bid received was from Amerigas in the amount of \$1.4821/gallon. He further stated that even with Piedmont Propane's local vendor preference of \$1.7363 Amerigas was still the lowest bidder.

Motion to approve the bid from AmeriGas in the amount of \$1.4821/gallon.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Commissioner Garrison.
Voting Yea: Chairman Turk, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner,
Commissioner Garrison
Vote: 5:0
All yea votes and the motion passed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, 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.

Chairman

Assistant County Clerk
