



BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION/MEETING

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

Wednesday, May 08, 2024 at 3:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Chairman Charles Turk
Commissioner Chris Ausburn
Commissioner Keith Gardiner
Commissioner Bo Garrison

ABSENT

Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell

STAFF PRESENT

County Clerk Regina Gailey
Assistant County Clerk Erin Decker
Chief Finance Officer Randy Failyer
Sheriff Carlton Speed

2. CALL TO ORDER

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Commissioner Ausburn.

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

Vote: 4:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

3. AGENDA ITEMS

a. FY2025 Budget

Pledge to the American Flag

Chris Auburn led the Pledge to the American Flag.

Sheriff's Office - Sheriff Carlton Speed

Ch. Turk stated that Sheriff Speed was back before the Commissioners to see if his budget could be reduced.

Sheriff Speed stated for the last 12 years he had never come in over budget, never asked for anything they didn't need and tried to be good stewards of the taxpayers money. He further stated he was bound by law to provide certain things and that's what it takes to carry out those duties.

Comm. Ausburn stated assessments came out and people were hit hard so anywhere we could save some money would help.

Comm. Garrison stated all of our citizens were having a hard time right now and he was concerned about not knowing where the economy was going. He continued to state that he knew there were

some areas that would have to be increased but personally he would like to keep the numbers of the FY2024 budget until January 1, 2025 and readdress the budget again.

Ch. Turk stated he was looking at a 4% increase which would be \$647,723. Sheriff Speed stated he needed everything he had asked for but if that was the best the County could do then he would work with it. He further stated that if something unforeseen happened, then he would have to have it and would send the bill across the street.

Comm. Garrison asked how many people the Sheriff's Office employed? Sheriff Speed stated 75 but if they were fully staffed it would be 82.

Sheriff Speed stated he was asking for body cameras out of Capital. He needed Axion body cameras. He stated the current cameras he has had since 2017 and they have become obsolete. He stated in the last 2 years they were down by 10 cameras. He stated the quote was \$111,000 for 50 cameras over a 3-year period. He stated the cost included all the license for the cameras also.

Sheriff Speed asked that if the County gave raises, then he wanted to ask for the same for his employees.

Grant Mill Road - DNR

Ch. Turk stated there was a situation at Grant Mill Rd yesterday where the train blocked the only entrance/exit to the road for about 3 hours. He stated they were working on a long-term solution but DNR would discuss the short-term solution.

Comm. Ausburn stated it was a dangerous situation and there were adults and children crawling under the train to cross the tracks in order to get home.

Comm. Ausburn continued to say that he had met with DNR about a temporary solution and DNR would tell more about the short-term solution.

David Reed - Tech Supervisor - GA DNR - Stated he understood there was a need for the road to be opened now. He stated DNR would leave the road open with the understanding that crossing the ford would probably not be feasible for most emergency vehicles. He stated they would like to be informed going forward because it's not in the states interest to make the road a permanent throughfare. He stated the road just couldn't take the traffic and their concerns were the drug and trash problems along with vandalism that came in on that road. He stated they just ask for the road to be patrolled by Code Enforcement. He further stated they didn't mind helping the public out for a temporary fix.

Commissioners stated they were ready to pursue the next legal steps to get the problem resolved permanently.

Mr. Reed stated there was Inland Port money that had been set aside by the State and he thought Habersham County and Banks County should work together in asking for funding to fix the road.

FY2025 Budget

Ch. Turk stated he was looking at a 5% COLA increase for employees and he also explained the prior year reserve. He stated it was money that department heads and employees didn't spend by being frugal with the money so it was only fair to put it in the next budget. He stated he explained it because some people had the misconception that they were pulling it out of a Capital account.

Comm. Ausburn stated he had sent an email to Adam Hazel about the valuation increases seeing if there were anything the County could do about the increases.

Recreation Dept.

Comm. Ausburn stated he would like to discuss the lawn maintenance at the Recreation Dept. He stated the Rec Dept and Road Dept were out cutting grass in several different locations and he felt like

that was taxing on them. He stated he would like the Rec Dept to be able to focus more on the programs than having to cut grass. He discussed maybe contracting out the grass cutting or moving it to the Maintenance Dept. Commissioners discussed sending out an RFP for grass cutting at the Candler Building, DFCS, Extension Service and Annex.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Commissioner Gardiner.

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

Vote: 4:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

Chairman

Assistant County Clerk