



BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 3:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ch. Griffith called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Chairman Taylor Griffith
Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell
Commissioner Chris Ausburn
Commissioner Keith Gardiner
Commissioner Bo Garrison

STAFF

County Clerk Regina Gailey
Deputy Clerk Erin Decker
Senior Center/Transit Director Tracie Hammond
Planning/Zoning Director Kerri Fincannon

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Commissioner Ausburn.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

a. Animal Control: Jennifer Cullum

Jennifer Collum - 1437 John Morris Road – Stated she had been involved in animal rescues for many years and she had always had a passion for animals so rescuing would always be a part of her life. She further stated she had met some amazing people along the way and they were here in support of her and animal control issues within the County.

She stated they were asking the Commissioners for an animal shelter and an animal control officer.

Ms. Collum stated they were not asking for a huge investment but small steps to address the problem. The first step would be to have an animal control officer so they could begin to build a relationship and seek resolutions to the animal problem.

Ch. Griffith asked what happened when a dog was rescued?

Ms. Collum stated they tried to find a rescue home for the animals and then they would get the animal vetted, spayed or neutered and healthy before they try to find a permanent home for the animal. She further stated a shelter was only a temporary home for the animal.

Comm. Ausburn stated animal control would take a while to implement. How could we start?

Ms. Collum stated Jackson County had started using UGA vet services that were at a discounted rate.

A gentleman that spoke stated an Animal Control Officer could help in many ways.

Terry Mayberry – Stated in Ohio where she was from, you had to register your animals and that money was used to support animal control.

Patrice Young – Stated she ran a rescue called Paws for Rescue and 80% of her calls came from Banks County and suggested that spay and neuter certificates would be a small start toward animal control.

Spenser Boyd – 1596 Mitchell Rd – He stated people constantly dump dogs along the road and that dogs are dangerous when they were hungry.

Melissa Sheppard – Stated she had been involved in rescues for over 25 years and spay/neuter was an absolute thing that needed to be done to control the animal population. She stated it slowed down the problem but a shelter was needed. She stated this could be done in small steps.

Barbara Rogers – Suggested that getting sponsorships for the animal shelter and spay/neuter clinics would be a good start.

Robin & Mike Malacynski – Stated there were no resources for animal control in the area. There were puppies roaming the woods behind their house in the Town of Homer.

Ms. Collum stated any help the County could give would be a start.

b. Republican Party: Elections Board

Brian Parker, Chairman of the Republican Party – 371 C. Jordan Rd - Presented the Commissioners with a sample legislation that would change the format of the Banks County Board of Registrars. He further stated he had been doing research over the past year and our elections board was set up different than all other elections boards in the State.

He stated the elections board was made up of all Non-Partisan members and the employee was the supervisor. He stated the standard in the State according to the GA Code 21-2-40, the protocol was set up so that you had a division of the Board members in which you had representatives from the Democrat and Republican parties. He further stated they worked together as a board to provide balance to serve the people of the County.

He presented a resolution to the Commissioners and stated that Representative Erwin was ready to help move forward with this if the Commissioners decided to do so.

Comm. Gardiner asked when this would need to be decided. Mr. Parker stated the sooner the better because they are in session right now.

Cliff Joliff – 898 Canaan Drive – Stated he didn't understand what the rush was for this change during this session. He stated the change in Banks County was created by Dan Gasaway. He stated the current board did a great job during the elections. He continued to state that he would urge the board to at least talk to the chair of the Republican and Democratic Party to see what their ideas were.

Ch. Griffith stated he needed to get together with the Board and see what their thoughts were.

Sue Mager – Moccasin Gap Rd – Stated she wasn't clear what the need for this was. She thought the current Board worked very hard during the election.

Ron Hooper – 2953 Hwy 51S – Stated the precincts changed since 2020 where the County had 13 voting precincts and now we only have one precinct to vote at and that is too small. We need to have more precincts added back.

4. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. Senior Center: Van Repair

Ms. Hammond stated the Senior Center bus repairs had been completed.

b. Senior Center: Legacy Link FY2025 Addendum #1 - Randy Failyer

Ms. Hammond stated this was an addendum to the Legacy Link contract. She stated basically this was just moving around funds where needed.

c. Roads & Bridges: Spring Rd Striping

Ch. Griffith stated this would be striping of Spring Rd to add to a current contract. He stated the cost would be around \$5,000.

d. Roads & Bridges: KCI Technologies - Additional Funding

Ch. Griffith stated these funds would be used toward construction supervision/project management of work on roadway, bridges, culvert repairs and pipe replacement on various county roads.

Ch. Griffith asked how much we paid KCI yearly.

Comm. Gardiner stated around \$72,0000.

Comm. Garrison stated you couldn't hire an engineer for that amount of money.

e. Potential Code Amendments

Ch. Griffith stated that there were several Code Amendments that needed to be looked at.

Some of them follows:

Flag lots defined

Minimum road frontage

Family subdivisions

Class II subdivisions

R! requirements for 10-acre lots

Plats for division of land

f. Board Open Discussion

Snow Removal Equipment

Ch. Griffith stated that we needed to have some snow removal equipment even though it won't get used that much.

Comm. Gardiner had asked the road to get some quotes on equipment.

Comm. Garrison stated the road forman should reach out to the governments north of us to see what they us.

Beaver Trapping

Comm. Gardiner stated that James Key that worked with the road department had his beaver trapping license. He stated that Mr. Key would need a letter from the County stating that he had permission to trap the beavers for the County.

Emory Chambers Rd

Comm. Gardiner stated that 2 60" pipe needed to be installed. He stated this would alleviate the problem of water over the road. He stated the cost of replacing these pipe would be \$60,000 - \$70,000.

Road Department Equipment

Comm. Gardiner stated the road department needed some additional equipment that would enable them to work more efficient.

He stated they needed a trailer to haul the Steel Drum Roller and a Skid Steer.

Trash Pickup on Right-of-Way

Comm. Garrison stated that he had been receiving lots of text about trash on the roads.

He further stated he would like to look into hiring a retired/off-duty police officer and see if they could take an inmate detail from the Sheriff's Office and pick up trash because the trash problem was getting out of control.

Water Meter Rates

Ch. Griffith stated that the water department was charging commercial rates for anything that wasn't residential. He stated that we should have rates for agriculture also.

Water Minimal Usage Fee

Comm. Ausburn stated that the fee structure for water billing needed to be looked at. He stated when your water is cut off there is a 10% late fee charged monthly along with an additional \$50 Non-Payment Fee that is added every month that you don't pay your water bill.

Road Acceptance Criteria

Ch. Griffith stated that the road foreman asked to add "cul-de-sac" on the requirement for a road becoming a county road.

Wilson Shoals WMA - Meter Installation Fee

Comm. discussed waiving the meter installation fee for the WMA since GA DNR was letting the County use the road as an outlet for the people that lived on Grant Mill Rd.

Public Comment

Comm. Ausburn stated that he would like to have Public Comment at the end of the agenda.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.

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

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

Chairman

Deputy County Clerk