

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on April 1, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Banks County Courthouse. Present were Chairman Gene Hart, Commissioner Rickey Cain and Commissioner Joe Barefoot.

1. Call to Order

Ch. Hart called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Courthouse Annex Voice Data

Angela Sheppard, Administrative Officer stated that Chuck Ansley, with Ansley Communications Group, Inc., gave the Commissioners a proposal for the voice data system. Mr. Ansley stated the system is designed as an open system where you can plug anything in to a jack and it will work anyway. This will provide to add equipment with out having to rewire everything and allow quicker uptime. Ms. Sheppard stated there were several payment options which were to purchase the cabling and phone system or lease the system and cabling or go through their C-tap program. Leonard Burris, Technology Director stated he had rechecked Ansley's references and they were excellent. Ch. Hart made the recommendation to purchase the equipment directly. Ch. Hart stated the warranty was for one year. Mr. Ansley stated that included all parts and labor. Ms. Sheppard stated that after one year the County would enter into a maintenance agreement with Ansley for \$230 a month for the phone system. The other equipment would be an additional fee. The maintenance agreement for the phone system for four years would be \$11,040. Ch. Hart asked how up to date is this system? Mr. Ansley stated this system is an ESI which is designed around the older technology and the newer technology so as there are updates the company provides software, so this system is an evolving platform. This system can be supported for seven years after manufacturing has stopped. Ch. Hart asked if we could be hooked in from the annex building to the courthouse. Mr. Ansley stated he was still working on that. Comm. Barefoot stated that maybe we could share the transmitter with the school. Mr. Ansley stated that he had checked with the school and there transmitter was only 45 megabit radio and they don't have enough bandwidth. Comm. Barefoot asked if anyone else bid on the equipment. Ms. Sheppard stated that in the beginning process the County didn't have any specifications on what was needed. She stated a RFQ was done and advertised in the paper. She stated eight companies submitted a proposal for our voice and data services and interviewed four companies and made a recommendation based off interviews, references and proposals. Ansley had to come in with our plans and create and design a voice and data system for us. She stated other companies had the opportunity to submit information. Comm. Barefoot stated that there were no other bids. Ms. Sheppard stated there was no other dollar bid because there wasn't anything to put out to bid. Comm. Barefoot thought that this process was a bit irregular to ask the Commissioners to spend 82,000 of the taxpayer's money with only one bid. Ch. Hart stated that this is the same process that we went through with Turner Construction and Rindt-McDuff Engineers. Ms. Sheppard stated that there are times when you don't have actual specifications to put out there then we go through that process. Comm. Barefoot stated that in the future we needed to have actual specifications and let people bid on identical specifications. Ms. Sheppard stated we needed the companies' expertise to help us come up with what the specifications were. Ch. Hart stated in comparing this system with the system that we have in the courthouse the courthouse system was a little more when it was installed in 2002. She stated that the price for the new annex building was 87,000 and the price included the phone system and all the cabling for computers and other equipment. She stated the phone system itself was only around 23,000. Comm. Cain made a motion to purchase the courthouse annex voice data system. Comm. Barefoot seconded the motion. Ch. Hart stated that the purchase of the equipment would be \$86,745.69. All aye votes and motion passed.

(Copy of contract filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9)

4. Courthouse Annex Project Budget Update and Approval

Ms. Sheppard gave a project update of the courthouse and annex.

Security

Security equipment is going to be provided by Convergent Technologies. The courthouse budget is \$85,000 and the annex budget is \$56,000 and the total for both buildings for security is \$141,000. These plans were still excluding metal detector for the annex that will be used during meeting times and a radio transmission panel for alarm events. Comm. Cain wanted to make sure that the judges have looked at the security plan. Ms. Sheppard stated that she wasn't sure if the judges had looked at the plan but she did know that Tom Gunnels the court coordinator had looked at the plans and the Sheriff has approved the plans.

Furnishings

Corporate Environments is our furniture vendor. They have taken our plans of the annex and drawn in exactly what furniture we will have in the building. When the building is complete the furniture will be purchased and installed. The furniture plan for the courthouse is not complete. The plan for the annex includes desks, task chairs, guest chairs, gang seating in the commissioner's meeting room, tables for the break area and conference room and other areas within the building. The budget that they have provided for the annex building which includes purchasing furniture, corporate environments expense for designing the plan and the delivery and installation comes up to \$206,742.89. Ms. Sheppard stated that there are some growth offices and these will not be furnished. Comm. Cain asked if the offices with new furniture would be using their current furniture in the annex building. Ms. Sheppard stated that Tracy Harris with Corporate Environments has gone around to all offices to see what furniture they can utilize. She stated this plan has us reusing some existing filing cabinets.

Floor Plans

Ms. Sheppard gave an update on the newest floor plans for the courthouse and annex.

Courthouse/Annex Budget

Ms. Sheppard stated that she had information in from all vendors on the budget of the courthouse and annex. Comm. Cain was concerned with the budget was \$9,337,000 and we told the people it was going to cost \$8,000,000. Ms. Sheppard stated that some of the difference in the pricing was the change in the location from downtown Homer to the County Farm and the estimate was two years ago. She stated that she wasn't sure what the moving expenses were going to cost. She stated she would be putting moving expenses out to bid soon. This would be moving annex employees out to the annex, courthouse employees moving from the courthouse to a temporary location and from the temporary location back to the courthouse. The budget doesn't include all the unknown moving expenses like the phone system, computers, cost to upgrade the courtroom at the old courthouse and other expenses that we can't determine right now.

Audio/Visual

Ms. Sheppard stated that this includes screens and projectors. She said we were very fortunate to have Tom Gunnels agree to purchase a second evidence presentation system for the other courtroom.

Total Expenses

\$9,904,700.50

Comm. Barefoot stated that the initial cost was projected at 8.3 million and the total cost is now 9.9 million. Ms. Sheppard stated that anytime there is a change in the plans there is an additional cost. There was also an additional cost for grading and roads when the site was changed to the County Farm. Comm. Barefoot was concerned that we were going to be tying up a lot of money and revenues were going down and he didn't want taxes to go up. Comm. Cain suggested that we may have to reuse some furniture. Comm. Barefoot stated that he had a problem with purchase coffee makers and refrigerators for every office. Ch. Hart stated then we knew going into the construction that SPLOST was not going to cover everything. *(Copy of budget filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9)*

5. Courthouse Jury Gathering Place

Ch. Hart stated that Judge Adamson came to him and stated that he was concerned about the courthouse and there was no place for the jury when there was a break. It leaves them standing in the hall and that

wasn't good. The architects have come in and gave us a raw sketch for a place where thirty-five to forty people to gather. The architects purposed doing an addition off of the left side of the courthouse. On the second floor where the courtrooms are would allow a courtroom waiting area that would have seating and a vending area. The addition would allow for a staff restroom and this would also be repeated downstairs. It would add a hearing room downstairs and some staff restrooms. Ms. Sheppard stated a rough estimate would cost around \$500,000. She stated this only included construction and architect fees. She thought some of the possible ways this could be funded are by an ACCG lease program. This addition would also lengthen the life of the building. Ch. Hart stated that this is not a decision that has to be made today he just told the judge he would think about it.

6. FY2008 Budget Amendment

Comm. Cain wanted to know how much money would be left in the Capitol Fund after the construction is complete. Jenni Gailey stated that after the funds have been transferred for the construction then there will not be very much left of the Capitol Fund. Comm. Cain stated that he didn't have a problem with spending the money in the capitol fund. Comm. Cain made a motion to approve the following transactions:

1. 2006 Banks County Construction Fund:

Motion to approve the use of \$200,000 from the 2006 Pay as You Go Construction Fund from 2006 SPLOST for the Courthouse/Courthouse Annex Project.

2. 2001 Banks County Construction Fund:

Motion to approve the use of \$350,000 for the access road to the courthouse annex from the 2001 Banks County Construction Fund: Roads and \$81,000 for the waterline run to the courthouse annex from the 2001 Banks County Construction Fund: Water.

3. Capital Fund

Motion to approve the transfer of the following funds from designated projects to the Courthouse/Courthouse Annex within the Capital Fund:

Capital Fund: Roads	\$61,531.38
Capital Fund: North Countyline Road	\$71,521.46
Capital Fund: Interest Earned (<i>plus future interest earned until project completion</i>)	\$21,809.00

4. FY2008 Budget Amendment

Motion to approve the transfer of the following designated budget line items from the current general fund budget to the Capital Fund: Courthouse/Courthouse Annex:

Furniture GF 15650 – 54.2300	\$ 15,000
Surveying GF 15650 – 52.1200	\$ 10,000
Road/Paving GF 42000 – 54.1402	\$200,000

5. General Fund - Reserve Transfer

Motion to approve the transfer of \$30,000 from the General Fund reserve to the Capital Fund: Courthouse/Courthouse Annex for bond legal fees previously paid.

6. 2006 Bond Interest Earned Revenue

Motion to approve the transfer of current interest earned of \$467,245.19(*plus future interest earned until project completion*) to the Capital Fund: Courthouse/Courthouse Annex.

7. 2006 SPLOST Pay As You Go Construction Fund

Motion to approve the reimbursement of \$185,000 from 2006 Bond Construction Fund: Sewage to the 2006 PAYG Construction Fund: Courthouse/Courthouse Annex for engineering fees overrun paid from bond proceeds.

8. 2006 Bond Construction Fund

Motion to approve the reimbursement from the 2006 Bond Debt Service Fund of \$570,981.67 to the 2006 Bond Construction Fund: Courthouse/Courthouse Annex for bond interest payments.

Comm. Barefoot seconded the motion and stated if there is any more cost over runs on this project he would not make a motion for approval. Comm. Cain stated that we do need to look at the jury gathering room for the judges. All aye votes and motion passed.

7. Adjournment

Comm. Barefoot made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Comm. Cain seconded. All aye votes and the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Chairman

Assistant County Clerk
