

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on March 25, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Banks County courthouse with Chairman Gene Hart and Commissioner Joe Barefoot present. Commissioner Rickey Cain was absent due to sickness.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Gene Hart called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

Comm. Barefoot made a motion to amend the agenda to add "3a. Public Comment: Fire Department – Richard Crowder". Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

3. Public Comment:

a. Fire Department

Richard Crowder

Mr. Crowder stated he wanted to address concerns with the fire department in regards to his name being drug into the volunteer firemen situation by the department head. He asked the commissioners to stop the department head from instigating the rumors. He stated in his opinion the man is incompetent. He stated concerns that if this person was hired as a department head, what else was happening with the county. He then submitted a records request to the county clerk.

4. Recreational Facility – Mud Bog

Michael Cline

Mr. Cline stated he would like to start this operation on his property consisting of 38.9 acres located at 1002 Brown Bridge Road which is currently zoned CAD. He stated it would be 300' in diameter bordered by a brim of earth to retain mud and or water and it was not located next to a subdivision. In a letter previously presented to the commissioners he stated that in addition they would also construct two trenches approximately 150' long by 15' wide that are mud trenches starting at 0' feet deep and progressing to approximately 2' deep. The concept was to see how far you can drive your vehicle before getting stuck in the mud. He stated this was not addressed in the current zoning ordinance and asked the commissioners how he needed to proceed. He stated the only construction would be for plumbing for restrooms if required and a wash pit for washing vehicles. The facility would only be open on Saturday and Sunday and no late night bogging would be allowed. Ch. Hart stated he had talked to Madison County and they had permitted a mud bog as a special condition but had some problems with mud on roads surrounding the property. Mr. Cline stated the vehicles would be washed before being allowed on the roads. Ch. Hart stated some research would have to be done before a decision could be made. Administrative Officer Angela Sheppard stated there were options to consider when addressing this type facility in regards to where it would fit in the zoning ordinance. Comm. Barefoot made a motion to postpone this item until the April 8, 2008 meeting. Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

5. Georgia Trend Magazine Ad

Tara Fulcher

Ch. Hart stated Banks County would be featured in a future issue of the magazine and they are asking that Banks County purchase a two page ad in that issue. Ms. Fulcher stated she had currently received 8 confirmations for sponsorship of the ad from different agencies not to exceed \$1,000 each with the Development Authority pledging up to \$3,000. She said the total of the two page ad would be \$14,000 which would require 6 more confirmations to keep the fee at \$1,000. Comm. Barefoot made a motion to approve up to \$1,000 for the ad. Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried. Ms. Sheppard stated there were some funds remaining in the Economic Development budget line item that could be used for this expense.

6. Courthouse Annex Phone System Purchase Option

Ansley Communications

Chuck Ansley and Don Ansley were present to present options for purchase for the phone system for the Courthouse Annex. They presented an outright purchase option, a 5-year lease option with a \$1 buyout and the C-Tap lease option which would provide repurchase money from Ansley Communications at different intervals throughout the lease purchase. Comm. Barefoot stated he needed to review the proposal and made a motion to postpone this item until a called meeting on April 1, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.

7. Development Authority Member Replacement – Terrance Dale

Postponed: 3/11/08

Ch. Hart stated a replacement had not been found at this time and asked for this item to be postponed until

the April 8, 2008 meeting. Comm. Barefoot made a motion to postpone the appointment until the April 8, 2008 meeting. Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

8. Contracts:

a. Bates Creek Fire Contract – 7/1/07 – 6/30/08

Ch. Hart stated this was a renewal of the annual contract of \$3,000. Comm. Barefoot made a motion to approve the contract. Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried. **(Copy of contract filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #8-2)**

b. E911 Equipment Maintenance Contract

Technology Administrator Leonard Burris stated this was a yearly contract with Gunby Communications for the maintenance of the E911 system including the radio, tower, voter sites and the tornado siren. The new contract would include the telephone system, consoles and the recorder system. The total yearly cost for the entire system except for the CAD system would be \$43,772. Comm. Barefoot made a motion to approve the maintenance contract. Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried. The term of the contract is 1/1/08 – 12/31/08. **(Copy of contract filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #8-2)**

c. Propane Gas Contract Bids

Ch. Hart stated two bids had been received as follows:

<i>Amerigas</i>	<i>\$1.779/gallon</i>
<i>A Better Gas Company</i>	<i>\$1.949/gallon</i>

The term of the contract would be 4/1/08 – 3/31/08. Comm. Barefoot made a motion to approve Amerigas as low bidder for the yearly contract. Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

d. Project #210051 Division 1 – Yonah Homer Rd Water – Final Change Order Griffin Brothers, Inc.

Ch. Hart stated this was a reduction in the contract in the amount of \$63,688.50. Comm. Barefoot made a motion to approve the contract change order. Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried. **(Copy of contract change order filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #8-2)**

9. Recreation Center Front Lawn Modification

Postponed: 3/11/08

Comm. Barefoot made a motion to postpone this item until the April 8, 2008 meeting. Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

10. GEFA Loan Discussion

Angela Sheppard

Administrative Officer Angela Sheppard stated the county had gotten approval for the Hwy 105 waterline loan from GEFA at a rate of 2% interest. She presented a list of current debt on the water system. She stated that one outstanding loan with the original amount of \$2,854,600 with only \$2,274,000 currently spent has a total of \$579,953 unspent. She asked the board if they wanted to pursue another project with the remaining funds or do they want to return the money unspent. She said potential projects may include a clear well at the treatment plant or maybe connections to the City of Toccoa water system, etc. She stated the current loan had been spent on the wastewater treatment land application system as well as the waterline on Yonah Homer Rd. The interest rate on this loan is 3.9%. Ch. Hart stated he would like to hold the funds for one year to allow time to identify possible projects. Ms. Sheppard stated she would check into this. Comm. Barefoot agreed but stated it should only be spent on a necessary project and not just because the funds are there. Ms. Sheppard stated there are several potential projects that would need to be prioritized. Ch. Hart asked that the item be postponed until the April meeting to allow for further research. Comm. Barefoot made a motion to postpone the item until the April 8, 2008 meeting. Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

11. Uchee Lodge Lease Agreement

Tabled: 12/11/07

Ch. Hart stated the research was not completed at this time. Comm. Barefoot made a motion to leave this item tabled. Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

12. Adjournment

With no further business, Comm. Barefoot made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ch. Hart seconded. Two aye votes and meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk
