

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on November 11, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the board room of the Banks County Courthouse Annex with Chairman Gene Hart, Commissioner Joe Barefoot and Commissioner Rickey Cain present. County Attorney Randall Frost, Finance Officer Randy Failyer and Administrative Officer Angela Sheppard were also present.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Gene Hart called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

Comm. Cain made a motion to approve the agenda. Comm. Barefoot seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

3. Moment of Silence

Ch. Hart asked for a moment of silence in observation of Veteran's Day and in honor of all who serve and have served in the armed forces as well as the families who have lost loved ones to war.

4. Pledge to the American Flag

Ch. Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Invoices

b. Approval of Minutes – 10/14, 10/14, 10/28

Comm. Barefoot made a motion to approve the items listed on the consent agenda. Comm. Cain seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

6. Banks County Firefighters Appreciation Month Proclamation

Comm. Barefoot read the proclamation expressing appreciation to all volunteer firefighters for Banks County and declared the month of November as firefighters appreciation month.

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

7. Robin's Nest Road Abandonment Public Hearing

Ch. Hart opened the public hearing. He stated the road was once State Highway 198 but was transferred to the county from the state when the 441 bypass was built. The road was cut by the bypass leaving approximately .2 miles as Robin's Nest. A citizen speaking on behalf of Robert Cagle stated concerns with safety at school bus pickups at Daily Rd and SR198 and that it would be a long walk to the home. Concerns also mentioned were that closure would create landlocked property, decrease property values on the closed portion and resurveying and the granting of easements would be a cost to the landowners. Dorothy & Matthew Monetti, landowners also on the road stated concerns that the upkeep would be placed upon the landowners. Ch. Hart closed the public hearing. Comm. Cain made a motion to leave the road county maintained. Comm. Barefoot seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

8. Public Hearings to Consider Planning Commission Recommendations:

a. CU-08-08 – Charles R. Hooper – Conditional use permit for an auto repair shop.

Ch. Hart asked Atty Frost to conduct the public hearing. Atty Frost opened the public hearing and asked Code Enforcement Officer Keith Covington to present the application. Officer Covington stated this was located on Highway 51 South and consisted of 23.6 acres on Tax Map/Parcel B17-51. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the application. Joseph Offman was present to represent Mr. Hooper by stating the shop could not be seen from the road. He stated it would be classic car restoration and would involve 2 employees including Mr. Hooper. Atty Frost closed the public hearing. Ch. Hart reopened the meeting and called for a vote on the application. Comm. Barefoot made a motion to approve the application. Comm. Cain seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

9. 2008 Tax Bills

Tax Commissioner Margaret Ausburn

Ms. Ausburn stated the county had set the county portion of the millage, however the school had not. She stated this would push the due date of property taxes and tags beyond January 1, 2009. She also stated she would be asking for permission from the Superior Court to sell tags according to the previous year millage rate for citizens with January birthdays. She also stated a request for an extension would have to be sent to the Department of Revenue in order to collect property taxes beyond the end of 2008 and this would allow citizens to pay property tax based on 2007 millage by December 31, 2008. If additional taxes are due when the millage is set, those citizens will be billed for the additional taxes. This would be solely based on the Department of Revenue approval. Vehicles tags will not be billed the difference if the temporary collection order is approved.

10. Boards & Authorities:

a. Planning Commission – 4 year term

Albert Ward

Comm. Hart made a motion to appoint Melinda Cochran to replace Albert Ward. There was no second. Motion died for lack of second.

b. Planning Commission – 4 year term

Sammy Reese

Comm. Cain made a motion to leave Item #10 postponed until further notice. Comm. Barefoot seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

11. Contracts & Agreements:

a. Courthouse Change Order #22

Admin Officer Angela Sheppard

Ms. Sheppard stated the change order had only been partially approved at a previous meeting and the Building Official had checked the International Building Code to see if it requires a dedicated circuit for each refrigerator and Mr. Harness had stated it did require the dedicated circuit. Comm. Cain made a motion to approve the remainder of the change order in the total amount of \$3,134. Ch. Hart seconded. Comm. Barefoot stated he did not second the motion because he considered the charge to be unnecessary and exorbitant. Ch. Hart stated since there was no breakroom planned in the courthouse, the coffee stations were built to provide small areas for each department. The vote was as follows:

Barefoot: No

Cain: Yes

Hart: Yes

Two aye votes and motion carried.

12. Digital Orthophotography & LiDar

Admin Officer Angela Sheppard

Ms. Sheppard stated the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center is coordinating a region wide flyover for participating counties to obtain Orthophotography and LiDar. The Orthophotography is tied into specific geographic points on the ground. The accuracy would as high as 6” or 6”x 6” resolution. The LiDar will obtain 2’ contour information for the cleared areas of the county and 5’ contours in forested areas of the county. She also stated she felt the cost of the flyover could be recouped with user fees such as developers, real estate agencies and homeowners. She stated the GMRDC would be pursuing grants to help offset the cost to counties. The Development Authority had agreed to pay for the flyover from Industrial Development Funds. The total cost of the project without grants would be \$113,713. Comm. Cain made a motion to approve the flyover. Comm. Barefoot seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

13. Adjournment

With no further business, Comm. Barefoot made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Comm. Cain seconded. Two aye votes and meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Chairman

County Clerk
