

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held a work session/meeting on March 28, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Banks County Courthouse with Chairman Gene Hart, Commissioner Joe Barefoot and Commissioner Rickey Cain.

### **1. Call To Order**

Chairman Gene Hart called the meeting to order.

Ch. Hart stated there were two items that needed to be added to the agenda as follows:

9. Thompson Street Discussion

10. Sewer Discussion

Comm. Cain made a motion to amend the agenda to add the items as stated. Comm. Barefoot seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

### **2. Annex Building**

Administrative Officer Angela Sheppard stated that plans were nearing completion and department heads had already been contacted concerning their departmental layout. She said the next step would be to finalize the inside and outside plans and to complete the construction documents.

### **3. Personnel:**

#### **a. Financial Officer**

Personnel Officer Judy Greer stated Randy Failyer had been recommended and offered the job and could begin employment April 2, 2007.

#### **b. Emergency Services Director**

Ms. Greer stated Steve Nichols had been recommended and offered the job and could begin fulltime employment after April 13, 2007 when he retires from his current employment with Gwinnett County Fire Department after 31 years of employment. He had requested that he be allowed to work parttime on an hourly basis with Banks County until then.

Ch. Hart stated the current fire chief Perry Dalton had resigned effective March 31, 2007. Comm. Barefoot made a motion to hire both positions as stated. Comm. Cain seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

### **4. Resurface Contract – PR000-S009-00(7543) Poole Rd, N Mangum Bridge Rd, Nix Rd**

Ch. Hart stated he had talked with a Department of Transportation representative who recommended using triple surface treatment on Poole Rd and Nix Rd which would be more cost effective. He said Nix Rd was short and Poole Rd does not have a lot of traffic at this time. He said the contract would need to be redone if this is feasible. Ch. Hart stated N Mangum Bridge Rd could be patched with triple surface treatment as well. A different contract with changes will be prepared.

### **5. Soil Erosion & Sedimentation**

Ch. Hart stated he had asked John McCollum with the Athens Division of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources to come and discuss the program but he was not present when this item came up for discussion so it was postponed until after agenda item #6 Water. Ch. Hart stated concerns with the county's liability toward the enforcement of the Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Ordinance. Mr. McCollum gave an overview of the procedures used by the EPD in this type of enforcement and stressed that cooperation between the county and EPD was essential for this program to be successful and not be overwhelming locally. He said the program is uniform across Georgia for the most part but enforcement is the area that consistency needed to be improved. He stated EPD was willing to partner with Banks County to ensure the correct enforcement procedures are established and followed. He stated citizens are best served at the local level and recommended leaving the enforcement at the local level. He stated he would be glad to meet with the commissioners one on one if needed. Comm. Cain agreed that would be a good idea as well as including the county attorney in the meeting. Ch. Hart stated the meetings would be scheduled at a future date.

### **6. Water**

Consultant David Bennett gave an update on research done toward water resources that include Wells Reservoir and other sources. He stated he had received approval from the Soil & Water District for the Wells reservoir project and had met with Georgia EPD concerning pumping from Wells reservoir to the Mountain Creek treatment facility. He said there are some serious problems with this process that can be overcome but there would be a substantial cost factor involved. He said EPD had asked that Banks County consider other alternatives. He said the Wells reservoir project was a short term fix anyway. He recommended continuing with the assessment process to establish future needs before moving forward with proposals. He also recommended the commission board meet with EPD. Ch. Hart asked the time line on the needs assessment. Mr. Bennett stated probably sometime this fall. Ch. Hart stated he felt they should abandon the Wells reservoir project and pursue more cost effective short term solutions such as purchased water from other jurisdictions. Mr. Bennett also recommended asking Natural Resource Conservation Service to do a sedimentation study for the county. Georgia Rural Water Association volunteered to help with any water issue where the county needed their services. Ms. Sheppard stated they have a proposal from engineering firm Rindt-McDuff to actually look at a short term solution between the county and the City of Toccoa. This would involve assessing the current infrastructure to see if it is sufficient at tie in points and if upgrades would need to be done. This work would be on an hourly basis for total of approximately \$7,000. Comm. Cain made a motion to allow Rindt-McDuff to do the short term study for potential system upgrades. Comm. Barefoot seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

### **7. Surplus Property**

Ch. Hart stated there were two vehicles that needed to be surplus by the Fire/EMS department at follows:  
1988 International           VIN# 1HTLCCFN1KH642534  
1996 Ford E-350             VIN# 1FDJE3OF2THBO2266

He further stated that Bold Springs Fire Department in Franklin County had expressed interest in the International we had received from the forestry service and also had some radios they were willing to swap for the pumper that E911 will be able to use for parts. Comm. Cain made a motion to surplus the vehicles and to swap the International for the radios. Comm. Barefoot seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

### **8. Meeting Procedures**

Ch. Hart stated he wished to publicly announce that the Commissioners provide an appearance form for all citizens wishing to speak in commission meetings with the rules for speaking spelled out for citizen information. Comm. Cain stated this would allow the citizens to know rules in advance for speaking in the meetings and the deadline of Friday at noon allows the clerk time to post the agenda on Monday before the meeting. If the citizens have documentation to present to the board in advance, they may attach them to the form as well. Comm. Barefoot stated the need to encourage citizens to participate in local government and that this seems to be an opportunity and tool to allow this to happen.

### **9. Thompson Street Discussion**

Ch. Hart stated the construction was complete and the DOT was requesting a letter of acceptance from Banks County. Comm. Barefoot made a motion to authorize the Chairman to write the letter of acceptance. Comm. Cain seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried.

### **10. Sewer Discussion**

Steve Reece stated Rindt-McDuff had presented a three phase plan for sewer expansion. He said Phase I would require shutting down the Industrial Park plant, diverting the flow and pumping all waste to the Racetrac plant. This would place lines north on 441 for future businesses and would allow the county to close the Industrial Park plant and sell the property. All phases may be started concurrently or at different times. Phase II provides additional lines to the Martin Bridge area and a lift station to pump to the Racetrac plant for treatment. Once Phase II is complete, no more lines will have to be installed to complete Phase III which involves a wastewater treatment plant at the Martin Bridge area. Once Phase III is complete, all Racetrac waste may be pumped to the new plant. Nolines already in place will have to be abandoned in either phase. Ms. Sheppard presented an estimate for each phase that Rindt-McDuff had prepared and asked how the board wished to proceed. Ch. Hart stated this could be considered after the Commissioners have a chance to review the phases. Comm. Cain asked what the funding options would be. Ms. Sheppard stated Rindt-McDuff would help research that information but stated it would probably be a combination of

SPLOST funds, low interest loans and possibly grants. David Bennett stated the permit process for Phase III needed to be started years in advanced if possible and further stated moving concurrently on all phases made sense.

**11. Adjournment**

With no further business, Comm. Barefoot made a motion to adjourn. Comm. Cain seconded. Two aye votes and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk

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