

The Banks County Commissioners held FY2008 Kickoff Retreat on July 25, 2007 and July 26, 2007 beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day in the meeting room of the Holiday Inn Express on Highway 441S at Banks Crossing. Those present include Chairman Gene Hart, Commissioner Joe Barefoot and Commissioner Rickey Cain. Also present were Administrative Officer Angela Sheppard and Banks County News reporter Chris Bridges.

July 25, 2007

1. Goal Setting:

Ch. Hart expressed his concerns with communication among the board and with what he needs to communicate and how often. He says he hoped this retreat will create an “all for one and one for all” result.

- **Joe**

Five Member Board

- a) Committee in place – waiting on recommendation
- b) Commissioners agree with board member number increase

Georgia State Patrol Post located within Banks County

- a) Pursue
- b) Who pays for building, who builds building, would revenue cover the expense, would building be rented from the county, how many troopers, support staff, economic impact?
- c) Location
- d) Commissioners agree that building the building and leasing to GSP was an option
- e) Angela – Asked if Windmill Farm location was best location?
- f) Research economic impact
- g) Write letters in support of the post as soon as possible

Animal Control

- a) Need to research
- b) Cost concern
- c) Growth creates need

Continue to Stay on Top of:

- a) Water System
- b) Sewer System
- c) Economic Development

- **Rickey**

Infrastructure – Main Concern

- a) Get into place, economic development will follow
- b) Purchase property
- c) Roads

Animal Control

- a) Possibility of cosponsoring with another county
- b) Ordinances will need to be amended and created

Video Poker Machines

- a) Angela: Ordinance banning

- **Gene**

Communication – Important

- a) Department Actions – Need to inform Chairman before

Bus Turnarounds - Gravel

- a) Gene: Get in touch with School Transportation Director

Old Courthouse Usage

- a) Permits issued by city will be approved by county
- b) Research usage of facilities restrictions

2. Meeting Procedures

- Voting Abstention Resolution
 - a) Jenni: Check code on abstention
 - b) Rickey: Check with Randall
- Public Hearings
 - a) County attorney handle
 - b) Commission agreed
- Semimonthly Work Session
 - a) 4th Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.

3. Banks Crossing

- Gene: Pursue Post Office location

4. BJC Hospital

- Joe: Let the voters decide if able to do referendum

5. Economic Development Angela Sheppard

- Infrastructure
- Are we ready to spend the money it will take to get needs in place?
- Rickey – Communicate potential business/development requests
- Joe – Jackson County is outdoing Banks toward development, define cause
- Joe – What sort of businesses do you want to solicit?
- Angela – Where should I focus the 50% of my time that is allocated to Economic Development? Commercial? Industrial? To what extent?
- Joe – Workforce should be a factor

6. Courthouse/Annex Construction Status

- Angela – Update on progress

The work session adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

July 26, 2007

Members present were Chairman Gene Hart, Commissioner Joe Barefoot and Commissioner Rickey Cain. Also present were Administrative Officer Angela Sheppard, Finance Officer Randy Failyer and Banks County News reporter Angela Gary.

1. Department Reports

- Tax Assessors

Chief Tax Appraiser Kevin Whitman stated the final consolidation figures should be ready within two weeks or by the end of August. Work toward the 2008 digest has already begun.

- Planning & Zoning

- Senior Center/Public Transportation

Director Janet Galloway presented written reports of participation in both programs for the past year.

- Recreation

Director Phillip Cronin gave a report of programs for the past year. The LED sign should be shipped by next week.

- E911/EMA

Director Deidra Moore presented an overview of 2007.

- Fire/EMS

Emergency Services Director Steve Nichols presented an overview of 2007 and reported on the formation of a committee to create policies concerning coordination between paid personnel and volunteers.

- Personnel

Personnel Officer Judy Greer reported on an ACCG wellness grant received of \$1,500 for health promotion for employees. Stated a policy is needed clarifying that salaried exempt employees should also use accrued leave time when taking off.

- Finance

Finance Officer Randy Failyer gave an overview of the finances and projects being implemented including courthouse/administrative building as well as shopping around for better interest rates for county funds.

2. Water System

- Highway 105 Waterline

Chris Poje of G. Ben Turnipseed Engineers was present to speak concerning the waterline on Highway 105. He recommended bidding the entire project including side roads to see to what amount of construction can be afforded. Ms. Sheppard stated the need to clarify what should actually be bid out. Water Distribution Manager Robin Thomas stated the 4" line would need to be replaced as well as the 2" line. Comm. Cain stated he felt it would be best to bid the entire project in phases and then only do what the county can afford at the time. Comm. Barefoot agreed. Mr. Poje stated the contractors placing the bid would be aware that the bid is based on quantities and deductions may occur in the total project.

Public Utilities Director Steve Reece presented a report of the water and wastewater systems consumption for the past year.

- City of Toccoa Connection

Ms. Sheppard stated the engineers felt there were some other options to consider before tying onto the Toccoa system.

- Engineering RFQ's

Ms. Sheppard asked for clarification on what the scope of services should be when asking for RFQ's. Ms. Sheppard, Chairman Hart and Public Utilities Director Steve Reece will interview the firms and recommend five firms to be interviewed by the Commissioners. Timeline will be as follows: Will advertise for one month beginning August 8, 2007, committee interviews for short list - August 10th - 14th, 2007, interviews by board - September 25, 2007 and selection - October 9, 2007 -. Begin work November 1, 2007 and Master Plan completion by June 2008.

- Watershed Protection Plan

Ms. Sheppard stated this was now in the process of being completed by Rindt McDuff and Associates.

With no further business, the work session adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Chairman

County Clerk