

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**1124 Clark Street**  
**Covington, Georgia**  
**Work Session**  
**Minutes**  
**March 29, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m.**

Present: Chairman Marcello Banes, Commissioners' Stan Edwards, Demond Mason, Alana Sanders, J.C. Henderson, and County Clerk Jackie Smith.  
Staff: Finance Director Brittany White

Chairman Banes called the meeting to order @ 9:00 a.m. and extended a welcome. The invocation was given by Commissioner Edwards.

Purpose: To receive FY24 budget information/requests

Chairman Banes thanked everyone for their attendance. He recognized Finance Director Brittany White who introduced each presenter for the day.

**Newton County Juvenile Services**

Presented by Judge Candace Branch and Judge Edgar

- Briefly went over program and expenses.
- Last year they received 101 referrals from school system. (children who have missed at least 10 days of school).
- Were able to successfully help 90 children to avoid probation.
- 2022: 647 hearings on delinquency
- 2023: Projected to reach 792 hearings.
- Would like to move Judge Edgar from 3 days a week to 4 days a week due to workload.
- Would like to create a new position for a deputy clerk.
- Increase of budget would be \$36,482.00.

**Newton County Sheriff's Office**

Presented by Sheriff Ezell Brown

- Briefly went over program and budget requests.
- Full-Service Agency
- Requesting equipment, canine dogs, printer, ice machine, industrial dishwasher and oven, voice analyzing machine, scanner and metal detector for the Westside Precinct.
- Noted that 70% of inmates have some mental issues in some way, shape or form
- Commissioner Henderson and Sanders mentioned Fairview Park issues. What do we need?
- He said they are looking into what can be done now at Fairview Park.
- He noted he feels the Sheriff's Office should always be involved when building new parks.

**Probate & Magistrate Courts**

Presented by Judge Melanie Bell

- Briefly went over budget.

Lunchbreak: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Banes reconvened the work session @ 1:00 p.m.

### **Superior Court**

Presented by Superior Court Judge Ken Wynne.

- Briefly went over budget.
- Applying for ARPA Grant
- Highlighted the different programs provided.

### **Newton County District Attorney's Office**

Presented by Randy McGinley

- Briefly went over request.
- Would like to see employees receive raise due to work and number of hours they put in.
- Investigators receive comp time.

### **Newton County Public Defender's Office**

Presented by Anthony Carter, Public Defender

- Briefly went over budget request.
- Down to six attorney positions.
- Not competitive with surrounding counties.

### **Newton County Tax Assessor's Office**

Presented by Chief Appraiser Martie Kinard & Veronica Hardy

- Briefly went over budget request.
- Requesting 2 trucks or 1 SUV
- They offer on-line services.

### **Newton County Solid Waste**

Presented by Director Matt Dolan

- Briefly went over budget request.
- Been on the job three months.

Chairman Banes and members of the board expressed appreciation to the presenters for their hard work and all they do to help make Newton County a wonderful place to live, work and play.

With there being no further business, a motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Mason, the work session adjourned @ 3:37 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

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Jackie Smith, County Clerk

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Marcello Banes, Chairman