

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON MAY 5, 2009 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COURTROOM OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Philip C. Jay, III	Chairman
O. D. Netter	Vice Chairman
Kathy Davis	Commissioner
Scott Downing	Commissioner
Richard Goodman	Commissioner
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney
Paula J. Jones	Acting Co. Manager/Clerk

Chairman Jay called the meeting to order.

Brenda Lundy gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tim Kegebein, Road Superintendent, gave an update on road repairs and road closures due to the recent flood.

Jason Miller, EMA Director, presented an update on the recent flood and tornado.

There was one *capitol outlay request from Magistrate Judge Romelle Green* for the purchase of a new *computer*. Acting County Manager Paula Jones stated she recommended he be allowed to make the purchase. Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the purchase. Commissioner O. D. Netter seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Magistrate Judge Romelle Green has also requested to purchase a filing system for his office. Ms. Jones explained that the Judge does not want to make this purchase immediately but that he would like it considered for a future purchase.

Joyce Merritt, Chief Tax Assessor, explained that our tax digest will not be ready by the deadline this year. They are waiting on changes that could be made in HB 233. She explained it will be cheaper to pay a penalty than rescind notices.

Public comments were heard as follows:

Francis Cooper and Charlotte Lawrence requested that Kathleen Drive be paved.

???????????? Requested that Perimeter Subdivision be paved. She had been told that it would be paved. Paula Jones explained that she received an email today stating a pre-construction conference would be held within a few days so work on the roads should begin soon. Tim Kegebein explained the road should be completed by Thanksgiving.

Alfreda Hodges requested that Finch Circle be paved. Ms. Jones explained this was covered under the same grant and that Finch Circle will be paved this year also.

Herman Graham thanked the county people for the work that had been performed on the roads during the recent flooding. He suggested more people get involved with the county to see what they are doing. He also suggested combining the Magistrate Court with the Probate Court.

The next item of business was the *adoption of the prior month's minutes*. Paula Jones suggested postponing the adoption of the minutes until she has a chance to review them. She has not reviewed the minutes due the excess workload caused by the flooding and the tornado. Commissioner O. D. Netter made a motion to *postpone*. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Amendments were presented for the *1st quarter of the 2009 budget*. Paula Jones explained the amendments. Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the amendments. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Chairman Philip Jay requested that Commissioner Downing present an update on the Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner O. D. Netter made a motion to amend the agenda to allow this. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Downing then explained that we have met with Allen Conger of the *Volunteer Fire Department* many times and we have adopted the first *contract* with the agency since 1989. We have also taken ownership of the six fire trucks as well as assuming the debt that we are already paying through our splost collections.

The first item of old business was the *adoption of the Parliamentary Procedure* compiled by the Association County Commissioners of Georgia. Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to adopt the procedure. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion. Much discussion followed concerning the Parliamentary Procedure and the Meetings Organization Ordinance adopted at our March meeting.

Commissioner Richard Goodman made a motion to *rescind the adoption* of both documents and return to Roberts Rules of Order as our primary meeting model. Commissioner O. D. Netter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to *revisit the Parliamentary Procedure and Meetings Ordinance* at a later date. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The next item of old business was a *vacancy on the Hospital Authority*. This is due to the resignation of Berma Ridgeway. At last month's meeting, Commissioner Richard Goodman nominated Greg Mahoney, Commissioner Scott Downing nominated Mark Harmon and Commissioner O. D. Netter nominated Larry Davis. Commissioner Scott Downing rescinded his previous nomination. Commissioner O. D. Netter nominated Susan Hughes. Commissioner Scott Downing nominated Dr. Bill Hammond. Commissioner Kathy Davis nominated Van Waters. The vote was as follows:

Susan Hughes-Commissioners Davis, Netter, Downing
Dr. Bill Hammond-Commissioners Davis and Downing
Van Waters-Commissioners Davis and Downing
Greg Mahoney-Commissioners Netter and Goodman
Larry Davis-Commissioners Netter and Goodman

Chairman Jay voted for Dr. Bill Hammond and Van Waters to break the tie. Nominees for the Hospital Authority vacancy will be Susan Hughes, Dr. Bill Hammond and Van Waters.

Commissioner O. D. Netter made a motion to send the other two nominees along with Carol McDonald for consideration of Carol McDonald's position which expires May 31st. Commissioner Scott Downing stated he would like a little more time to talk with possible nominees. Commissioner Netter withdrew his motion.

The next item of old business is a *vacancy on the Department of Family and Children Services Board* due to the resignation of Berma Ridgeway. Commissioner O. D. Netter nominated Diane Rycroft. Commissioner Kathy Davis nominated Anne Wood. The vote was as follows:

Diane Rycroft-Commissioners Netter and Goodman
Anne Wood-Commissioners Davis and Downing

Chairman Jay broke the tie voting for *Anne Wood who will fill the vacancy*.

The final item of old business was the *recording system for the meeting room*. Paula Jones explained that she has obtained bids. However, she had someone look at the current system and it will work for a short-term fix. Commissioner Goodman stated he would like to go ahead and replace the system. Ms. Jones stated that right now we have a county department located in the commission meeting room and they have public access. She suggested we wait until the roof is replaced on the building before a purchase of recording system equipment is made.

The first item of new business was a ***resolution calling for an Emergency Advisory Board***. Chairman Jay read the resolution. Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion. Commissioner O. D. Netter questioned if the city will adopt the resolution. Chairman Jay explained they are on board and will adopt a similar resolution. Commissioner O. D. Netter requested all agencies be listed on the resolution. Chairman Jay stated they will be listed in the bylaws. It was decided the resolution would include all the involved emergency agencies. This vote was unanimous.

A ***FEMA resolution*** was presented which designated the Chairman as the Applicant's Agent. Paula Jones explained this resolution was required in order to receive FEMA funding. Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner O. D. Netter seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The ***Hospital Authority board vacancy*** due to the expiration of Carol McDonald's term has already been discussed and will be voted on during the June meeting.

The final item of business was the ***adoption of policies to comply with the Red Flag Rule***. The only county department affected by this is the EMS. Director Cathy Bishop stated they have already adopted the policy internally and all employees have been trained on the procedure. Paula Jones stated we are required by law to adopt this policy. Commissioner O. D. Netter made a motion to approve and to appoint Cathy Bishop as the contact person. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

_____ Philip C. Jay, III, Chairman

_____ Paula J. Jones, Clerk