

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON JUNE 2, 2009 AT 6:30 PM  
IN THE BEN HILL COUNTY COUTHOUSE

---

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

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

Chairman Philip C. Jay, III called the meeting to order.

**Chairman Philip C. Jay, III** spoke to everyone regarding the new ordinances (Parliamentary Rules and meeting procedures) that were previously adopted by the Commission at a workshop on May 29, 2009 which were devised from Roberts Rules of Order and ACCG's model ordinance's. They are fine tuned to conduct meetings in respectful and effective ways. Starting tonight the Commission meetings will be operating under these new ordinances, which requires us to work together according to the universal accepted wisdom of Roberts Rules that's modified by ACCG, for our County Government and adapted specifically for the needs by Commissioners.

Rev. Gene Thomas gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the pledge of allegiance.

Constitutional Officers/Department Heads reports:

**Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein** reported that we still have roads closed due to recent bad weather and that cross bars and signs that have been put out by the County are still disappearing. He reported that FEMA had finished up with Fitzgerald/Ben Hill County and the grand total for both combined will be \$1,100,000 dollars. The road department will have \$482,000 dollars worth of repairs from the storm damage which includes 99 dirt roads, 2 paved roads and 399 pipes that have to be installed. The road department is waiting on a permit from the core of engineers before they can start putting the pipes in.

**Board of Elections Kathleen Searcy** reported that there will be 45 days of early voting for the county. City elections will be held August 31st through September 4th and Election Day will be November 3rd.

**911 Diane Sims** reported that Hastie's and Motorola are still working on getting their system working properly. She stated that the system is not recognizing cell phones that do not have GPS capabilities. Diane went on to say that we have had the system for more than a year, and we are still having problems with it. No one ever said whether the problem was on 911's end or RDC's end. Commissioner Downing asked Diane to find out which end the problem is on if she could, for financial reasons.

**Building and Zoning Ken Anderson** reported that William Perham has asked Ben Hill County zoning ordinance be amended and changed to R6M at 108 Thompson Street, which is the old cotton mill school. The planning board met on April 20th and decided that the property should lose its grandfather clause, because the property has been vacant for 6 months. The zoning committee recommends amending the ordinance.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to pass the amended zoning ordinance. Commissioner O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public comments were heard as follows:

**Rev. Herbert Jones**, who represents Fairview Faith in Action Caregivers Association, would like to know where his Organization stands on the \$7,000 dollar request that he had asked for in February and March. Rev. Jones stated that he was told that there would be funding for his Organization through the County. Commissioner Jay explained to Rev. Jones that the Commissioners would need to review Departmental Budgets before any moneys could be disbursed to help Organizations.

**County Attorney Toni Sawyer** reminded the Commission that they could not give gratuity gifts. She stated that if they give funds, there must be a contract.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to make an agenda change, to add this under new business. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Prior Month's Minutes (April & May)

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to approve the minutes for May 4th. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to approve the minutes for May 5th. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to approve the minutes for May 13th with amendments, to include other attendees and topics. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the minutes for May 20th special call meeting. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the minutes for May 20th workshop meeting. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business

Public Defenders Budget Request

**Public Defender Steve Knittle** could not be present for the meeting. **County Manager Paula Jones** explained that the original budget request for 2009 – 2010 was \$84,811.00. County Manager Paula Jones told the Public Defender that this could not be done, so the budget was amended to \$59,036.00.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to post pone the budget request until the July meeting. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to postpone all budget request and do them all at once. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Hospital Authority Vacancy for Carol McDonald

Commissioner O.D. Netter nominated Carol McDonald and Constance Manley  
Commissioner Kathy Davis nominated Tray Lucky  
Commissioner Scott Downing nominated Van Waters  
Commissioner Richard Goodman nominated Greg Mahone  
Results of the commissioners' votes reflect the three individuals' names that will be submitted to the Hospital Authority as being, **Carol McDonald, Van Waters, and Constance Manley.**

New Business

South Georgia Community Service Board Vacancy

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to nominate **Lavonia Stepherson** to serve another term. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

AirEvac

**Tony Sumner with AirEvac** addressed the Commission to talk about his business. AirEvac offers care to individuals while transporting them to advanced Hospitals through his helicopter service. Memberships are available.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to give the County Manager Paula Jones the authority to spend less than \$1000 dollars, for DEFAC's only. Commissioner O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to give a number to the Parliamentary Procedure ordinance from May 29th meeting, using the date that it was voted on. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to have a copy of both ordinances attached to the May minutes. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to suspend section-A of the ordinance, regarding public comments until amended. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_ Philip C. Jay, III, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Paula J. Jones, County Clerk

