

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JULY 7, 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 Manager

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

Rev. Marvin Jerome Howard Sr. gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the pledge of allegiance.

Constitutional Officers/Department Heads reports:

Sheriff Bobby McClemore reported that everything is going fine in his department. The inmate count is down, which cost less to feed them and is saving the county money.

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein reported that we still have three roads closed due to recent bad weather. Those are Astor, McCrimmon and Pine Level roads. Approval is coming in for permits to start laying pipe; we will start on Astor in the morning. We are waiting on approval permits to start on the closed roads; we may look at working on Flint road before the closed roads, due to deteriorated piping. Continuing to do daily maintenance and ditching.

Senior Citizen Center Cathy Posey reported that the center is selling raffle tickets for a "Jazzy Chair" to help raise money for the center. The money will be used to by computers and a Wii for the seniors. Cathy thanked the Chairman, Commissioner Downing and County Manager Paula Jones for their help at the fish Frys.

Recreation Director Joe Parrish reported that the fireworks and activities for the 4th were very successful. Joe stated that he thinks it was the largest crowd to date.

Library Sandy Hester reported that the library is doing very well. They have had over ten thousand visitors at the Fitzgerald Library; these are visitors that use Fitzgerald Library as their home library. The library lost a laptop computer in a recent break in, their insurance company is working on this.

County Manager Paula Jones gave an overview for the first part of 2009, which included budgets, rain and tornado damage, flooding plans and flooding insurance, grant for Queensland water supply, Emergency Services Advisory Board, Contract with the Volunteer Fire Department, New criminal

Ordinance, updated County website and the zoning ordinance.

Rezoning request for Cracker Cabin, Teresa Paulk, 287 Benjamin Hill Dr. SW request to be changed from residence to business. The zoning board is requesting approval.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to accept the request; Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public comments were heard as follows:

Community Services Board Lavonia Stepherson reported on Behavioral Health Services for Ben Hill County. Ms. Stepherson stated that 200 letters were sent out for CLCP (literacy program) seeking help to pay for GED fees for Ben Hill County citizens. No one replied.

Commissioner O. D. Netter stated that Judge Green needs to be moved from a department head to a Constitutional Officer.

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Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to give the Community Service Board \$1000. from the Community Fund, with a contract. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to suspend the rule to allow less formal discussion between the Commissioners. Commissioner O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Prior Month's Minutes

Commissioner Kath Davis made a motion to accept June 1st meeting minutes. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to accept June 2nd meeting minutes. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to accept June 3rd meeting minutes. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to accept June 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 25th at 2:00 P.M. meeting minutes. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to accept June 25th at 5:00 P.M. meeting minutes. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business

Public Defenders Budget is seeking a \$4000. Increase, to cover translator fees. This increase will appear as follows: \$2000. will go towards this year's budget and \$2000. will go towards next year's budget.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve and amend the budget increase, \$2000. will go towards this year's budget and \$2000. will go towards next year's budget. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with an amendment to take out section 59-92 effective August 1, 2009. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

New Business

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to re-appoint Ted Cowan to the Development Authority Board. Commissioner O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to accept a beer license application for Shop and Save. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to accept a beer license application for P & P Food Mart. Commissioner O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to change the number of members on the Revolving Loan Fund Board to 9, in order to have an odd number. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Notice of Philip Jay's resignation to the MHDDAD Board and appointment of Steve O'Neal, this will be voted on at the next monthly meeting.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to approve Holsey Academy "School of Excellence" provided they receive their charter from the State and with relocating the current occupants of the Ben Hill County Multi Service Center building, also with a contract stating that Holsey Academy will have all responsibilities for the building and will rent for \$1.00 per year. The contract is not to exceed ten years and if turned down by the State it will be brought back to the floor. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O. D. Netter made a motion to amend the agenda. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

_____ Philip C. Jay, III, Chairman

_____ Paula J. Jones, County Clerk