

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2009 AT 6:30 PM
IN THE BEN HILL COUNTY COUTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

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

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

Rev. Dewain Joiner gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to suspend the portion of the County meetings Ordinance 2-192, that states that every Commissioner must address the chair and not each other also to suspend 2-195 which will allow the Commissioner's to address public speakers. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Constitutional Officers/Department Heads reports:

NONE

Commissioner O.D. Netter reported that Ted Cowan had been elected as vice-chairman to the Development Authority of Ben Hill County Board. Toni Sawyer has been appointed as Attorney, and Trish Beard has been appointed as secretary to the board. Commissioner Netter also stated that the board has passed a resolution for Chamber Health Care to pay off bonds from 1999. As of January 2010 the Development Authority will have no more obligations to Chamber Health Care or the bonds. Commissioner Netter went on to say that the Development Authority board members will be required to have training to serve on the board.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion for the Commissioners to talk about the Joint City DOT meeting. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The DOT meeting was productive; items discussed were a long term outlook on transportation, projects that had been moved from the bottom of the list, to the top of the list. Funds in the amount of \$200,000.00 being moved to go towards the next LARP program. These funds were being moved because the County saved money on previous road projects.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to send Thank You letters to Van Smith, Sidney Ross, Jay Roberts and Senator Crosby for taking time out to attend the meeting with them. This letter will be signed by all Commissioners and carbon copied to Mayor Gerald Thompson and Henry Tyson. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter reported that he would be meeting with John Flythe on November 13, 2009 to discuss stimulus funds.

County Manager Paula Jones reported that we are still meeting with Department heads on 2010 budgets, and that we are hoping to have a budget adopted by the end of the year. Ms. Jones also stated that the County is experiencing absenteeism due to the flu and viral infections. She went on to say that the County offered seasonal flu shots to County employees that chose to take them. The Tax Commissioner is back in her office and we are glad to be back in our meeting room. Jones also stated that she has spoken with Dave Wills at ACCG regarding the County's personnel policy. Wills has agreed to review the policy and get back with us regarding things that we need to work on.

Public comments were heard as follows:

NONE

Old Business - NONE

New Business

Steve O'Neal MHDDAD board vacancy. Chairman Jay stated that Mr. O'Neal works for the Hospital and Mental Health and that being on the MHDDAD board would be a conflict of interest for him, so he has declined the position.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to amend the agenda, to move new business topics as follows: 1. MHDDAD Board Vacancy, 2. Minutes of all County boards on webpage, 3. Announcement and Presentation of CHIPS grant check. Commissioner O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Richard Goodman made a motion to accept the resignation of Steve O'Neal to the MHDDAD board. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion that all board meeting minutes will be posted to the County webpage, effective January 1, 2010. The minutes will need to be emailed to County manager Paula Jones in a PDF file. County Manager Paula Jones will get a letter out explaining this to all departments. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made an announcement and Presentation of a \$300,000.00 CHIPS grant check that was awarded to Ben Hill County on September 25, 2009. This grant is for the public to use for down payment assistance for first time home buyers, rehab for existing homes that are in need of renovations. Citizens are urged to apply for this grant. The home must be in the applicants name and they are required to stay in the home at least five years after they receive the grant funds and home renovation. Advertisement will be done on this through the media and the County webpage to explain the process.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Scott Downing reported that he is the representative for the County water board and if anyone has any concerns or needs anything to let him know.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

_____ Philip C. Jay, III, Chairman

_____ Paula J. Jones, County Clerk