

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON DECEMBER 8, 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
Trish Beard	Deputy County Clerk

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

Richard Goodman gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the pledge of allegiance.

Constitutional Officers/Department Heads reports:

NONE

Department Head Reports:

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein reported that he has a garbage truck that needs to be placed on GovDeals to be auctioned off for the County. Tim also reported that they are still putting in pipes, digging ditches and hauling dirt. He stated that they are working with bad, wet, muddy roads.

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 Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to put the selling of the garbage truck under new business for today's agenda. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Recreation Director Joe Parrish reported that the Blue/Gray track is completed and is being used. He stated that they still have landscaping to do, but weather is not permitting. The park is always open; a fence has been put up for security as well as security lights. Joe reported that there will be a Christmas dinner at the Senior Citizen Center on Thursday December 17, 2009 at 12:00 PM. All seniors are invited to attend the dinner.

Commissioner O.D. Netter reported that the RLF Committee met on December 7, 2009. He stated that there are two applicants requesting funds. The applicants presented their business plans to the committee and the committee is waiting on more information from both applicants. To date there are six other applications out for applicant's that would like to request funding. We are currently working on getting more funds for the RLF Program. We are looking at two resources to get the funding one is the USDA and the second is the Ben Hill County Development Authority. We are hoping to get the funding through USDA, once we complete the application and return it to them the Commission will have to approve. We are also working on training for Committee members. We are also working on a new application. The application that we use is complicated for the applicant's as well as for Committee members.

County Manager Paula Jones reported that we have our 2010 proposed budget on the agenda for tonight. Our budget is \$66,848 over last year but approximately \$58,000 of this increase is in the elections budget because 2010 is a county and state election year. We have changed some of our budgeting methods in this budget. We will be reflecting utility bills and building maintenance in the individual budgets rather than have it all posted to general government buildings. This should give us a true cost of each department's operating expense. We did not raise these amounts overall. We took actual costs and budgeted them by square footage of each office and the costs were broken down to the departments by their percentage of occupancy. If we do not have any complications, we will begin January 1, 2010 with a budget in place. Chairman Jay has kept us on task and will complete his campaign promise. We already have our lists of projects for next year. We are hoping we will have no tornadoes or flooding to contend with so we can continue to clean our slate of things that need to be addressed.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to add to new business, a resolution for the teacher of the year Ms. Dawn Clements. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public comments were heard as follows:

Jason Cobb commented on Lauren's Lane, he stated that something needed to be done with the roads. He stated that he wished that the road could be paved because it is in such bad shape. Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein stated that this is a good issue, that the roads are a problem. He stated that bigger ditches were needed and some pipes needed to be replaced. Chairman Philip Jay asked Mr. Cobb to leave his contact information, so that he could get back to him regarding this issue.

Herman Gray asked about power plants coming to Fitzgerald. Chairman Philip Jay stated that the Decker Plant is firm and should employ 25 to 30 people, then 100 to 125 will contract with Decker to chip wood. Gray asked what type of jobs will be available to citizens. Chairman Philip Jay stated that ECT and Decker have made a contract regarding the types of employment that Decker will need. He also stated that they should break ground after the first of the year. Mr. Gray also asked about County and City joining departments together. Chairman Philip Jay stated that joining of departments, not Governments, between the City and County has been done, examples given are the Library, recreation, airport, solid waste, Development Authorities and the grand theater.

Acceptance of prior month's minutes:

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to accept the October 5, 2009 workshop minutes. Commissioner O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to accept the October 6, 2009 Commission minutes. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to accept the October 12, 2009 special call minutes. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to accept the October 12, 2009 work shop minutes. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to accept the October 21, 2009 work shop minutes. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to accept the November 2, 2009 work shop minutes. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to accept the November 2, 2009 work shop minutes. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Richard Goodman made a motion to accept the November 3, 2009 Commission minutes with the correction of a spelling error . Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Richard Goodman made a motion to accept the November 12, 2009 work shop minutes. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to accept the November 23, 2009 work shop minutes. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to add two items to the agenda: Christian Kitchen and Van Smith. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business

Chairman Philip Jay has talked to the Christian Kitchen and is getting a contract together.

New Business

Discussion regarding purchasing equipment for the road department in the amount of \$85,000. It is costing \$3,200.00 per month to rent the excavator. If we purchase this equipment, some of the rental charges will be applied to the purchase price of the excavator.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the purchase of the equipment for the road department. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MHDDAD board vacancy, resignation of Steve O'Neal.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to nominate Rodney Thompson for this vacancy. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Richard Goodman made a motion to appoint Rodney Thompson to this vacancy. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

County Manager reported on the upcoming Payroll audit that is being scheduled for Ben Hill County Payroll in the future.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to postpone the adoption of the county's payroll audit procedure. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter explained the CHIPS Grant procedure manual to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the adoption of the CHIPS Grant procedure manual. Commissioner O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to adopt the proposed 2010 budget. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Board of Elections Appointments:

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion to deny elections staggered terms. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner O.D. Netter made a motion for the following people to sit on the elections board for two years and a chairman will be picked from the board. David Walker, Danny Young, Thelma Graham. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Richard Goodman made a motion to appoint David walker as chairman to the elections board. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to list the road department equipment as surplus. Commissioner O. D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to put the road department county vehicles on GovDeals for auction. Commissioner O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the resolution for Dawn Clements as teacher of the year. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

_____ Philip C. Jay, III, Chairman

_____ Paula J. Jones, County Clerk