

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MAY 4, 2010 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
Scott Downing	Commissioner
Kathy Davis	Commissioner
Toni Sawyer	Attorney
Paula J. Jones	County Manager
Trish Beard	Deputy Clerk

NOTE: Commissioner Richard Goodman was absent from this Commission meeting due to major surgery and has not voted on the items of business.

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

Rev. Terry Cole 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 O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to allow Chairman Philip C. Jay, III to speak. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Philip Jay reported that Commissioner Richard Goodman is absent due to surgery and will not be with us until he recuperates. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter has been presented with the 2010 ACCG Emory Greene Award, for life time achievement honoring his dedication to Government on a local and State level. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter has also been appointed to the NACO Board as an ex-officio member. Vice-Chairman Netter is one of two members to the NACO Board from the State of Georgia.

Chairman Philip Jay stated that a resolution would be done to acknowledge Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter's accomplishments.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter spoke on his achievements and thanked everyone.

Public comments were heard as follows:

Mindy Varnadoe requested from the Commissioners for Claire Road or Primrose to be paved, she was stuck on the road for an hour today, with her 10 month old child. She stated that she had wrecked on the road last year and broke her arm in three different places. She stated that the roads are not safe for her or

anyone. She stated that rain makes the roads worse. Mindy lives on Trace Road, which is in the City but she has to use Claire and Primrose to leave her home. Road Superintendent, Tim Kegebein and Commissioners discussed the roads that Ms. Varnadoe was referring to.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to extend Ms. Varnadoe's comments, which would extend her five minute time limit. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

David Evans spoke on a swim facility for Fitzgerald/Ben Hill County Community. He discussed the uses that a swim facility could have for the Community. He stated that a year round heated pool, would pull in revenue from local Communities. Mr. Evans stated that they have started an on-line petition and currently have over 80 signatures in favor of a swim facility for the Community.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to extend Mr. Evans time to speak. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to enter the petition into the records. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to move discussion on the Comprehensive Plan up on the agenda. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to give the Commission permission to adopt the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Constitutional Officers: NONE

Elected Officials and Department Head Reports:

Road Superintendent, Tim Kegebein reported that due to recent rains we have five (5) roads closed and Water flowing over twenty (20) roads. He stated that the roads are wet and messy and the road department is still trying to finish up FEMA work. Road Superintendent, Tim Kegebein stated that on Thursday he, Commissioner O.D. Netter and County Manager Paula Jones would be going out to ride roads. Chairman Philip Jay asked them to report back with their findings.

EMS Director, Cathy Bishop reported that the EMS was awarded with some Panasonic Laptops from the Office of EMS and Trauma. They were allotted to get two (2) laptops and they made an error and EMS received three (3). The price for these is \$1,366.84 and the three (3) year service contract is \$78.58, which totals to \$1,445.42. These will eventually be used on the ambulances to do trip reports and billing. We recently bought a 2007 International Truck from GovDeals. The truck is being lettered and a radio is being installed, once we get it stocked it can be checked off by the State. Then we can put the truck in service. EMS Director, Cathy Bishop also stated that they have applied for 2010 Ambulance Grant. They are currently reviewing the Grants and hopefully we will receive a Grant to get an Ambulance.

County Board Reports:

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter reported on the RLF Committee. He passed out current loan information and the status of each loan. He also passed out a billing statement that will be sent out on a monthly basis to all loan participants. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter reported that the RLF Committee has applied for a grant that if awarded will give the committee more funds to loan out to the Community. He stated that his next action will be to set up rules for members missing meetings. The RLF has \$120,000.00 available to loan. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter reported on the Ben Hill County Development Authority. He stated that he

and City Councilman, Charles Coney met with John Flythe on several issues. They are trying to bring more business to Ben Hill County. There is currently someone looking at purchasing a building in Ben Hill County. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter reported that he could not discuss everything that they talked about due to confidentiality.

Commissioner Scott Downing suggested that all County appointed or governing boards do a semi-annual report and meet with the Commission to give their reports. These meetings will be set by the County Manager, Paula Jones.

County Manager's Report

County Manager, Paula Jones reported that we have adopted the first phase of our Comprehensive Plan tonight. Next we have got to start working on our Solid waste management plan which goes along with the Comp. Plan. SGRC states that there are possible Grant funds available to help update our zoning ordinance, which was on our list to do this year. After being contacted by DMC, County Manager, Paula Jones reported that trees were cut back on Chip Dorminy's property because they were in the way of the life flight helicopter. The land owner agreed for the trees to be cleared on his property by the road department.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter asked County Manager, Paula Jones about the ACCG Internship Program. County Manager, Paula Jones stated that she would take care of filling out the application and sending it in. She stated that it would not be an expense to the County ACCG would pay for the intern for eight (8) weeks, twenty (20) hours a week.

Annexation Request – NONE

Rezoning Request:

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to accept the rezoning request for Angie Ray from R-6-M to C C. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to accept the rezoning request for Kenny Rae Davis from G-F to G-B. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Acceptance of prior month's minutes:

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve workshop meeting minutes from April 5, 2010. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve meeting minutes from April 6, 2010 regular Commission meeting. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, with corrections that he abstained from minutes for March 22, 2010 workshop and March 23, 2010 workshop. The motion passed with corrections to the listed minutes.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve workshop meeting minutes from April 13, 2010. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion. Commissioner Kathy Davis abstained. The motion passed.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to approve meeting minutes from April 19, 2010. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business

SPLOST Rec. Project

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to build a multi-purpose building that will include an out door Ag-arena and we will give DLS \$150 thousand to complete the projects. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion. Chairman Philip Jay and Commissioner Scott Downing voted against the motion, this resulted in a tie.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion that the 2005 SPLOST funds will go towards an amp theater and the rest of the money is for DLS's use. 2011 SPLOST will include the offices, pool and gymnasium. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion and voted against it. The motion passed two to one.

New Business

Beer and Wine Application

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the beer and wine application for Good Neighbor Grocery. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ga. Department of Transportation

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to post pone this item of business. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Defenders Budget

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to post pone this item of business. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously

DMC Board Vacancy's

Expired term of Vanessa Melton and resignation of Bennie Hutto

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter suggested having Vanessa Melton back in her position on the board and will check on this with her.

Commissioner Kathy Davis nominated Doctor Hammond to fill the resignation of Bennie Hutto.

Commissioner Scott Downing nominated Van Waters to fill the resignation of Bennie Hutto.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to change the agenda to include the change of polling place. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the change of polling place. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the agreement with the Church of Unity as the new polling place. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner's closing remarks - NONE

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

_____ Philip C. Jay, III, Chairman

_____ Paula J. Jones, County Clerk