

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON DECEMBER 7, 2010 AT 6:30 PM
IN THE BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE 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
Paula J. Jones	Acting County Manager/Clerk
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney
Trish Hardeman	Deputy Clerk

Commissioner Richard Goodman is absent, due to being hospitalized.

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

Judge Romelle Green 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 and each other. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Philip C. Jay, III read resolution 10-08, in recognition of Alva Heidel's retirement from Ben Hill County.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to accept resolution 10-08 in recognition of Alva Heidel's retirement from Ben Hill County. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public comments were heard as follows:

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to allow Janet McMahan to sign the sign in sheet for public comments. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Bill Lafavor discussed school buses picking up and dropping off kids in his area. He stated that kids have to walk 600 yards to the bus stop to access the school bus and the bus rides past their house. He felt that something needs to be done about this, he does not understand why the bus can not pick the children up at their homes. He also stated that there is a pack of dogs as well as stray dogs running loose in his area. He stated that he knows the County has a law on this but the dogs are still running loose in his area, which is the cotton mill area and Niagara road. Vice Chairman O.D. Netter stated that the County has no control over school buses but that we can look into the dog situation.

Janet McMahan discussed lead in the water in Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County. She gave the Commission copies of a water report, which showed the levels of lead. Ms. McMahan stated that we have no warnings of the amounts of lead that are in our water system. She stated that one person was recently diagnosed with three different types of cancer at one time. Ms. McMahan stated that we need to do something about this quickly.

Constitutional Officers: NONE

Elected Officials and Department Head Reports:

Recreation Director Joe Parrish reported that December 16, 2010 will be the Senior Citizen Centers Christmas luncheon and everyone is invited to attend, the luncheon will begin at 12:00.

Library Director Sandy Hester reported that she had given the Commission the wrong budget, at which point she supplied them with a correct copy of the Library budget. Ms. Hester went over the budget with the Commissioners". Ms. Hester thanked the Commissioners for their support of the Library. She reported that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 the library had 11,418 patrons to register at the library, they had circulated 67,079 items and 22,308 of the items circulated were children's books, 25,521 patrons used the computers at the library and a total of 83,833 patrons visited the library this year. The library received a grant for a Spanish program; the library had 20 Spanish speaking families enrolled in this program. Ms. Hester stated that only 4 libraries in the State received this grant and they have received word that they will receive the grant again in the spring.

EMA Director Jason Miller reported for 911 regarding the motor bridge equipment that was purchased in 2009. He stated that this was being done in stages and we are in stage 3 of 4. Training will be done on the motor bridge in the first quarter of next year. A webinar will be done on the 16th if anyone would like to see it Jason can get you the sign in information. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter asked acting County Manager/Clerk Paula Jones to have 911 Director Diane Sims and the 911 shift supervisors to see the webinar.

County Board Report's:

Wiregrass Technical College - Adult Literacy Program Lavonia Stepherson reported that thanks to the Ben Hill County Commission 34 students were able to take various parts of the GED test. The GED is a total of five parts. Ms. Stepherson handed out a financial report to the Commission, which reflected that over 2000 students prepared for the GED test, 52 students were enrolled while incarcerated and 55 students graduated and received their GED. Ms. Stepherson asked the Commission for funding of the GED for the upcoming 2011 year. Ms. Stepherson also reported on Behavioral Health, she stated that Behavioral Health is sending people to Ben Hill County for consumers to access their services. Ms. Stepherson requested to have some Economic Development training. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter stated that that is not a problem; we are usually looking for people to send to the training. Acting County Manager/Clerk Paula Jones will take care of getting Ms. Stepherson enrolled.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to fund the adult literacy program in 2011 for \$2000. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

County Manager's Report:

Acting County Manager/Clerk Paula Jones reported that the 2011 Budget is completed and we are ready to meet on the 17th to adopt the budget. Ms. Jones also reported that the County is looking at a T Grant for Appomattox road that will redo the roads, side walks and help with drainage on Roanoke all the way to Community Bank.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to allow Acting County Manager/Clerk Paula Jones to move forward on the grant for repairs on Appomattox road. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Annexation Request

166 Grace Avenue, from MHP County to MHP City

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

Rezoning Request – NONE

Beer and Wine Application - NONE

Acceptance of prior month's minutes:

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to accept minutes from November 1, 2010 workshop Meeting. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Kathy Davis abstained.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to accept minutes from November 2, 2010 workshop Meeting. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Kathy Davis abstained.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to accept minutes from November 2, 2010 Public Hearing. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to accept minutes from November 2, 2010 Commission Meeting. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to accept minutes from November 15, 2010 workshop Meeting. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to accept minutes from November 15, 2010 workshop Meeting with the City of Fitzgerald. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to accept minutes from November 16, 2010 workshop Meeting. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to accept minutes from November 17, 2010 workshop Meeting. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to accept minutes from November 18, 2010 workshop Meeting. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Vice Chairman O.D. Netter abstained.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to accept minutes from November 18, 2010 special call Meeting. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Vice Chairman O.D. Netter abstained.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to accept minutes from November 22, 2010 workshop Meeting. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Kathy Davis abstained.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to accept minutes from November 23, 2010 workshop Meeting. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to accept minutes from November 29, 2010 workshop Meeting. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to accept minutes from November 29, 2010 special call Meeting. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to revisit the Grace Avenue annexation request for clarification. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to rescind the Grace Avenue annexation approval. Vice Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to postpone the Grace Avenue annexation until January. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Resolution Adopting Solid Waste Management Plan

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the resolution adopting the solid waste management plan. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

New Business :

Adoption of outdoor watering ordinance

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to accept the adoption of the outdoor watering ordinance. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Adoption of 2011 Miscellaneous Budgets

Special Investigations Fund

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to approve the Special Investigations Fund. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Supplemental Juvenile Services Fund

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to approve the Supplemental Juvenile Services Fund. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Drug Abuse and Education

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Drug Abuse and Education. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BHC Courthouse Revenue Account

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to approve the BHC Courthouse Revenue Account.

Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BHC Courthouse Reserve Account

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the BHC Courthouse Reserve Account. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BHC EIP Account

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to approve the BHC EIP Account. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2005 SPLOST Account

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the 2005 SPLOST Account. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jail Fund

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the Jail Fund. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

E911 Account

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the E911 Account. Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Development Authority of Ben Hill County

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to approve the Development Authority of Ben Hill County. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Adoption of Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the adoption of the soil erosion and Sedimentation control ordinance. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Surplus Property

Acting County Manager/Clerk Paula Jones stated that the County has some property to declare as surplus and sell on GovDeals. The items are: Deep fryers, Pressure cookers, patrol lights, 25 miscellaneous doors and a fire tower top.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the list of items as surplus and sell on GovDeals. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner's closing remarks

Commissioner Scott Downing stated that he appreciates all of the Departments and staff for their hard work and efforts with their budgets this year.

Commissioner Kathy Davis stated that she agrees 100% with Commissioner Downing.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter thanked all departments, Acting County Manager/Clerk Paula Jones and Judge Romelle Green for working with the Commission during budget meetings. He also thanked Chairman Philip Jay for keeping a campaign promise.

Chairman Philip Jay stated that he felt ditto on thanking the staff. He also thanked the Commissioners And was proud that we had made it through the year with no layoffs.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter stated that he would like to thank the Tax Commissioner Linda McDonald for allowing the Commission to hire Michael Santee, who has done a good job in collecting a lot of money for the County from back taxes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

_____ Philip C. Jay, III, Chairman

_____ Paula J. Jones, County Clerk