

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MAY 3, 2011 AT 6:30 P.M.
IN THE BEN HILL COUNRY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Phillip C. Jay, III	Chairman
O.D. Netter	Vice-Chairman
Kathy Davis	Commissioner
Scott Downing	Commissioner
Richard Goodman	Commissioner
Paula Jones	County Manager/Clerk
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney
Donna Lampkin	Assistant County Clerk

Chairman Phillip C. Jay III called the meeting to order.

Chaplin Bob Tate gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to relax the rules on addressing the Chairman, Commissioners, and the public. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Richard Goodman, and Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter all voting for the motion.

Approval of the Agenda

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to approve the agenda with additions; Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter, Commissioner Richard Goodman, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Kathy Davis all voting for the motion.

Public Comments:

Richard L. Silva expressed to the Commissioners his concerns about having the Coal Fire Plant in Ben Hill County. He stated, he hope the Commissioners do not rezone the property from agriculture to industrial because the plant will be hazardous to the public health and it is not worth it for the amount of jobs the plant will create. He believes the citizens in the County should decide whether or not to bring the plant to Ben Hill County.

Mike Winn asked the Commissioners to consider extending the distant at the Rifle Range.

Constitutional Officer:

Sheriff McLemore reported that E-911 was up and running well. He said within a couple weeks the new employees will have completed training and would be on the consoles. He also stated that he is doing everything he can to conserve fuel. Sheriff McLemore provided a hand out the showed the number of arrest in the past several years between the Sheriff Department and the Drug Task Force. He ask the Commissioners to re-evaluate the contract between Ben Hill County and the Drug Task Force because they are losing employees and the County could save money if they chose to pull away from their financial obligation to them. Sheriff McLemore wanted the Commissioners to be aware that the DEA is not providing funds anymore to clean up Meth labs. The Sheriff Department is now responsible for the cleanup.

Elected Officials and Department Head Reports:

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein reported to the Commissioners that the fuel rate had increased and the Road Department was doing everything they can to preserve fuel.

EMA/Planning Director Jason Miller wanted to inform the Commissioners that he, EMS Director Cathy Bishop, and Mark Shealy has been talking about finding strategic areas in the County to land helicopters for emergency purposes to help save lives.

Recreation Director Joe Parrish reported Paulk Park and Lions Park are doing well.

County Board of Reports: NONE

County Manager Report

County Manager Paula Jones reported that the County is still waiting on news of our TE grant application for Appomattox Road. She stated she spoke with Shon Hampton, our engineer at the ACCG convention and he said the award date has been movers to May 13th. Paula also stated we are currently having demos from software companies that provide financial software. She will schedule a workshop meeting for the presentations to the Commissioners as soon as a selection is made. Wanda Ussery is being asked to attend the presentations so she can request reports that will be needed.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Request: NONE

Beer and Wine Application: NONE

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter made motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on April 4, 2011; Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Richard Goodman voting for the motion. Commissioner Kathy Davis abstained.

Commissioner Scott Downing made motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on April 5, 2011; Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the Motion, which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter, Richard Goodman, and Kathy Davis voting for the motion.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on April 28, 2011; Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter seconded the Motion, which passed with Commissioner Kathy Davis, Vice-Chairman O. D. Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Richard Goodman voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made motion to approve the Workshop meeting minutes held on April 28, 2011; Vice-Chairman O. D. Netter seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Richard Goodman voting for the motion.

Old Business: None

County Manager Paula Jones stated she needed to postpone the policy for contractors with no bond until June meeting in order to prepare the policy and to allow County Attorney Toni Sawyer to review it. Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to postpone policy for contractors with no bond until June meeting; Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Richard Goodman, and Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to adopt the resolution for the declaration of surplus. Commissioner Richard Goodman seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Richard Goodman, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter voting for the motion.

New Business

County Manager Paula Jones presented the Commissioners with a letter from Brantley Basinger of Municipal Communications. They are interested in putting towers on County property. The County will be able to use their towers for free. The company is willing to pay the County \$50,000 when they purchase their building permit and \$500.00 per month for lease of the area. Paula stated this would be a source of revenue for the County and would the Commissioners would be interested in this.

Agenda Changes and/or add on

Vice Chairman O.D. Netter made a motion to honor Charlie L. Rodwell and Carrie P. Peavy with plaques, at the Senior Citizen Center, for their volunteer work at the Senior Citizen Center and to continue recognizing the volunteers each year with plaques for their hard work and dedication; Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Richard Goodman, and Commissioner Scott Downing voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter presented Chairman Philip C. Jay III with a plaque from The University of GA and Association County Commission of GA honoring him with the Silver Standard of Excellence Award.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter brought to the Commissioners attention a pamphlet from USDA concerning the Rural Energy America Program. He thought this might be something the County would be interested in.

Vice-Chairman O.D. Netter encouraged the Commissioners to participating in the Read-2 Pass youth program that is operated by the County. He would like to incorporate a youth group to educate them on County Government. He also would like to work with Lavonia Stepherson to help others get their GED.

Legislative Report

Commissioner Scott Downing gave a brief report concerning bills that were passed in the Legislation. He stated early voting has been changed from 45 days to 21 days. He also said many bills were pushed aside to next year.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Richard Goodman thanked everyone for their prayers during his illness. He stated that he is getting better.

The meeting was adjourned.

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Paula J. Jones, County Manager/Clerk