

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JANUARY 3, 2012 AT 6:30 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Philip Jay III	Chairman
OD Netter	Vice-Chairman
Scott Downing	Commissioner
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Kathy Davis	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Lampkin	County Clerk
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Ms. Lavonia Stepherson 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 Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

Approval of the Agenda

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Public Comments: NONE

State of the County-Chairman Philip Jay III

Chairman Philip Jay III presented the Commissioners and the public with the state of Ben Hill County address.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on December 1, 2011. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on December 5, 2011. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on December 6, 2011. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on December 13, 2011. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on December 14, 2011. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes held on December 29, 2011. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on December 29, 2011. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

Required Actions

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Toni Sawyer as the County Attorney. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Meeks, Roberts, Ashley, Sumner, & Sirmans as the County Auditors. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Frank Feild as the County Manager. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to provide County Manager Frank Field with a contract to be signed. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Donna Lampkin as the County Clerk. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Wells Fargo, Planters First, Colony Bank, Community Bank, Bank of America, and Local Investment Pool as the County Financial Institutions. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Herald Leader as the County Legal Organ. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve rehiring County employees. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Kathy Davis, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to reappoint Vice-Chairman OD Netter as Vice-Chairman for Ben Hill County. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Kathy Davis, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the renewal of the Volunteer Fire Truck note at Colony Bank. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to enter into contract with the Volunteer Fire Department for the six fire trucks. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Elected Officials and Department Head Reports: NONE

County Board Reports:

Community Service Board member Lavonia Stepherson attended the GA Association Regional Commission Conference on November 8, 2011. She gave an update of topics discussed and gave the Commissioners a handout with statistics concerning the health of Ben Hill County residence. She also thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the conference

Vice Chairman OD Netter made a motion to change the agenda and discuss the Hospital Authority vacancy for Carol McDonald and Lawton Tinley agenda item. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Hospital Board Chairman Vanessa Melton submitted the following names that are interested in serving on the Hospital Authority Board; John Ed Smith, Jim Casper, Rosa Henderson, Pastor Connie Graham, Pastor Lloyd Stembridge, Pastor Michael Ruffin, Donnie Smith, and Roffie Sheppard.

The Commissioners recommended Pastor Lloyd Stembridge, Pastor Michael Ruffin, and Pastor Connie Graham for Lawton Tinley vacancy. Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to close nomination. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

The Commissioners recommended John Ed Smith, Rosa Henderson, and Jim Casper for Carol McDonald vacancy. Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to close the nomination. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Kathy Davis, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Frank Feild gave an update on the Transportation Investment Act of 2010.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve Mukeshkumar Patel alcohol application for Stop & Save. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

Old Business

Budget

County Manager Frank Field submitted four budget synopses for the 2012 budget. Option A included paid holidays reduced from ten to four, accrued leave reduced by two hour per month, employees contributing 10 % of health insurance, and reduce the insurance supplement by 10%. The total savings for this option is \$144,734.00. Option B included paid holidays reduced from ten to four and accrued leave reduced by two hour per month. The total savings for this option is \$74,103.00. Options C included employees contributing 10 % of health insurance and reduce the insurance supplement by 10%. The total saving for this option is zero. Option D included paying the shortfall in the amount of \$72,059.00 from the fund balance.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to adopt the 2012 budget in the amount of \$9,182,355 using Option D. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion.

After further discussion, Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to withdraw the motion. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Planning & Zoning Board Vacancy/Bennie Calloway

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to nominate Farise Taylor to the Planning & Zoning Board. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Kathy Davis, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Dillard Mobile Home

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to demolish the mobile home. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

New Business

Transform Health

This agenda item was postponed and changed to Monday's Special Called Meeting.

Tan Note for 2012

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to postpone this agenda item until a decision is made on the budget. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Kathy Davis, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report:

Commissioner Scott Downing expressed his concerns for the extended weight limit bill that is being proposed. He also stated ACCG is opposed to the bill. Commissioner Scott Downing asked Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein to elaborate on consequences of the extended weight limit increase. Tim Kegebein stated extra weight will be detrimental to the County Road. Commissioner Downing stated he is just bringing everyone up to speed on the bill and asking for everyone opinion. Commissioner Scott Downing encouraged everyone to read up on all that is going on with the bill and he stated Legislation will be meeting next month.

Commissioner's Remarks

Vice-Chairman OD Netter welcomed Frank Feild as the new County Manager.

Meeting was adjourned.

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna Lampkin, County Clerk