

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON MARCH 13, 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.

Reverend Mark Daniels 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**

**Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on February 6, 2012. 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.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes held on February 7, 2012. 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 the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on February 7, 2012. 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 the Workshop Meeting minutes held on February 21, 2012. 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 Special Called Meeting minutes held on February 24, 2012. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

**Constitutional Officer: NONE**

**Elected Officials and Department Head Reports:**

EMA Director Jason Miller displayed a map of Ben Hill County to explain how Code Red operates when there is a tornado warning. He also stated Code Red works off of GPS.

**County Board Reports: NONE**

**County Manager's Report**

County Manager Frank Feild reported the 2005 SPLOST has been audited and a report has been prepared for 2011. Monies were already set aside for the Courthouse debt by Paula Jones. He also said the camp ground at Red Bluff is open. County Manager Frank Field congratulated Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein for a great job of opening up the tributaries to Turkey Creek drain. He reported the Tax Assessor has new plotters and computer system installed using 2011 SPLOST funds and the 2012 Budget appears to be on track.

He also reported a payroll audit was done and a number of errors in deductions were discovered and corrected.

He stated protocols are being developed for the process of collecting back taxes.

He informed the Commissioners of the problem the Road Department have with signage theft. He recommended the Commissioners give a 30-day amnesty period to return the signs or face persecution.

He informed the Commissioners and the public of the Heir Property Community Workshop, March 15, 2012 at 6:00 pm in the Grand Conference Center.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the 2005 AND 2011 SPLOST annual report of projects funded along with the recommended changes. 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.

**Annexation Request: NONE**

**Rezoning Application:**

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve Southern Dreams rezoning application. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion. After further discussion, Commissioner Scott Downing called the question. The motion to approve Southern Dreams rezoning application was opposed with Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all opposing the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to grant Southern Dreams a business licenses. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing,

Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

### **Alcohol Application**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve LT Bar & Grill Hiway Night Club alcohol application. 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 Neel Corner alcohol application. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

### **Old Business: NONE**

### **New Business**

#### **Volunteer Fire Department Agreement**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Volunteer Fire Department agreement and request County Manager Frank Feild to seek the leases and inventory from the Volunteer Fire Department. 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.

After further discussion, Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to amend the motion by adding to the contract pending expenditures will be deducted from SPLOST. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

### **Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE**

### **Legislative Report:**

Commissioner Scott Downing stated that Legislation is in the middle of the session and things are moving rapidly. He mentioned the birthday tax could possibly be eliminated and be replaced by excise tax which 6% of the price of the car is purchased that is due when you title your vehicle.

Commissioner Downing gave an update of House and Senate Bills:

House Bill 0092 Early Voting

House Bill 0197 Limit Charges for Emergency Care of Detainees to Medicaid Rates

House Bill 0232 and 0889 Ethics Bill

House Bill 0240 Method for Removing Infeasible SPLOST Projects

House Bill 0256 Collection and Disbursement of 9-1-1 Fees Prepaid Wireless Service

House Bill 0270 Allow for Nonpartisan County Commission Races

House Bill 0280 Emergency Telephone Fund - Additional Uses for Funds

House Bill 039 Mental Health Court

Senate Bill 0086 Sales and use tax; energy for manufacturing; provide exemption

Senate Bill 0157 Solid Waste Management Reporting and Plan Updates - Make Optional

House Bill 0086 Sales and use tax; energy for manufacturing; provide exemption

House Bill 0301 Expand Exemptions to Truck Weight Limits

Senate Bill 0146 Truck Weight Limits: Another Increase!

House Bill 0782 Numerous Animal Control Unfunded Mandates

House Bill 0232 Improve State Ethics Requirements

House Bill 0397 Open Meetings/Open Records Comprehensive Rewrite

Commissioner Downing recommended the ACCG website to the public if they wanted to track House Bills and Senate Bills.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion for Chairman Philip Jay to address the Sheriff to enforce the law concerning the road signs theft. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Kathy Davis all voting for the motion.

County Manager Frank Feild will put together an ordinance for stealing county signs.

Commissioner Kathy Davis asked Attorney Toni Sawyer to look into E911 ordinances.

**Commissioner's Remarks: NONE**

Meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Donna R. Lampkin, County Clerk