

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON APRIL 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	Interim County Manager
Donna Lampkin	County Clerk
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Pastor Brenda Lewis 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 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.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the agenda. 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.

Public Comments: NONE

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on March 12, 2012. 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 Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on March 13, 2012. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Elected Officials and Department Head Reports: NONE

County Board Reports:

Vice-Chairman OD Netter gave the Commissioners and the public a review of applicants that submitted a Revolving Loan Fund application.

County Manager's Report

Interim County Manager Frank Feild reported that the Courthouse debt has been paid off as of March 23, 2012 and he had prepared a press release.

He reported that the Tax Assessor continues to train on their new mapping system. The Commission Office has also upgraded to their new system with Harris Computers System and training continues. The interactive map has been upgraded on the Ben Hill County website and he is planning a training session for the public.

Mr. Feild announced that new water fountains have been installed and there are some repairs that need to be done to the air condition at the Courthouse.

Mr. Feild reported the Ben Hill County Detention Center has 14 defective fans that have to be replaced and some rewiring has to be done. He stated an estimate for the roof repairs has been received and phase I will be contracted in late summer.

He reported the bathroom at the CCH Hall Park on the river has been replaced and a quote has been received for the new interior wall at the Health Department because of the disclosure of private information requirement. The entrance to the Courthouse Annex building has to be replaced to meet Americans with Disability Act requirement.

Mr. Feild informed the Commissioners a draft agreement for assisting in collections of back taxes and disposing of tax deed and excess property has been given to the Tax Commissioner for her approval. The County Attorney provided a summary of the law on theft of signage and the Sheriff will enforce the law.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Old Business:

2005 & 2011 SPLOST Annual Report

Interim County Manager Frank Feild resubmitted the 2005 & 2011 SPLOST Annual Report for Commissioners review.

New Business

Wiregrass Childcare Center

Agenda item was not discussed.

Garbage Truck Purchase

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to postpone this agenda item. 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.

Ocmulgee River Blueway

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to give the Chairman the authority to sign the Ocmulgee River Blueway resolution. 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.

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report:

Vice-Chairman OD Netter mentioned he and County Manager Frank Feild were in search of grant funds to build a new gym and wellness center. He was looking for grant funds to purchase the Brown property to provide low income housing. He stated he spoke with Frank Feild and Jason Miller concerning Ben Hill County Development Authority purchasing the Reeves-Walker property from Ben Hill County

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to allow County Manager Frank Feild to search for Grants. 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 Downing gave an update of House and Senate Bills:

House Bill 797- Charter School Resolution, Passed

Senate Bill 87- Education; rename to Georgia Educational Freedom Act, Did not pass

House Bill 458- Illegal Immigration Reform Revisions-House Postponed

House Bill 1176- Criminal Justice Reform- House Agree Senate Amend

House Bill 386- Tax Reform, Did not pass

House Bill 861- Law enforcement officers; report drug related arrests to Department of Human Services, Passed

House Bill 347- Pretrial proceedings, Passed

Senate Bill 146- Truck Weight Limit, Did not pass

House Bill 148- Dangerous and vicious dogs Act, Passed

Vice-Chairman OD Netter talked briefly about redistricting and the changes that followed to the Commissioners and School Board districts.

County Attorney Toni Sawyer explained House Bill 397 Open Meetings/Open Records Comprehensive Rewrite. She stated the bill was passed in the House and Senate but waiting for the Governor's signature. Once the Governor signs the bill she will be prepared to explain it in debt.

Commissioner's Remarks:

Chairman Philip Jay thanked EMA Director Jason Miller, Interim County Manager Frank Feild, Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein, and County Commissioner Scott Downing for their efforts in finding the missing balloonist.

Commissioner Scott Downing mentioned Economic Development and the growth of existing businesses.

Vice-Chairman OD stated the Development Authority and Revolving Loan Fund Board are looking for a part-time secretary and he wanted to offer Interim County Manager Frank Feild a three year contract for the full time County Manager's position.

Meeting was adjourned.

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Lampkin, County Clerk