

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON MAY 8, 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 Annette Brooks 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. 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.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the agenda. 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.

**Public Comments: NONE**

**Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on April 2, 2012. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Kathy Davis, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on April 3, 2012. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

**Constitutional Officer: NONE**

## **Elected Officials and Department Head Reports:**

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein invited the Commissioners to the Georgia Dirt and Gravel Road Workshop on May 31, 2012 at Lake Blackshear Resort.

He also stated Ben Hill County was awarded funds through the LARP Program to resurface Othar Lee Rogers road and King Chapel road. SPLOST funds will be used to resurface Sherry Lane and Anderson Memorial roads. Ben Hill County will also share the cost with the City of Fitzgerald to resurface Lobingier Avenue.

## **County Board Reports:**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter reported the Revolving Loan Fund met on May 7, 2012 and the Board is reviewing four applications at this time. He also said the Board will have a public sale to liquidate the Little Achievers Daycare equipment and computers.

## **County Manager's Report**

Interim County Manager Frank Feild updated the process of the new Accounting Software system and stated the Tax Assessor office has mapmaking services available to the public for a fee.

Mr. Feild gave a flood control update. Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein has made significant process in clearing and opening drain-course in many areas. He has also completed innovative repairs of drain pipe on Calhoun road behind the Ford dealership. He saved Ben Hill County over \$100,000.00.

Mr. Feild reported that there is an ongoing process to build a database and establish protocols concerning tax deeds, excess property and back taxes. He also stated the County is partnering with the City to demolish two vacant and dilapidated structures and to also clean to other blighted areas for redevelopment.

Mr. Feild informed the Commissioners of the delay in the accounting system transition; however the County's collections have been good and we believe we are doing well financially.

Mr. Feild reported we have two approved applicants for the 2009 CHIP home rehabilitation and another application is being prepared. He said there are enough funds available to complete three to four homes. A notice of funds availability is being published in the Herald Leader and applications are available on the County website or the County office.

Mr. Feild stated a non-quorum meeting of selected Recreation Department Board, County Commission, and City Council members is scheduled to discuss the use of the Recreation SPLOST funds.

**Annexation Request: NONE**

**Rezoning Application: NONE**

**Alcohol Application: NONE**

**Old Business:**

## **Garbage Truck Lease**

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

## **County Manager's Contract**

Interim County Manager reported the County Manager's contract has been prepared.

## **New Business**

### **Automated License Plate Reader**

Sheriff McLemore gave the Commissioners a hand-out that included pricing for the automated license plate reader and a list of valid hits from the previous day of vehicles that had expired tags and insurance suspension.

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

Southeastern Sales Manager Shawn Witmer of Synergistic Software explained more about the license plate recognition system.

Vigilant Video Regional Sale Representative Greg Skelly gave a technical overview of the LPR 4- Camera system.

### **TSPLOST Special Election**

Interim County Manager Frank Feild reported there will be a Special Election held for the Transportation Investment Act.

DOT District Engineer Joe Sheffield explained how the TSPLOST Funds can be spent and named the bridge by Wiregrass Technical College and a portion of HWY 107 as the projects for Ben Hill County that is included on the TSPLOST list.

### **Sale of Excess Property**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to declare Reeves Walker property surplus. 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.

### **Lost Facilitation**

Interim County Manager Frank Field suggested having a mediator between the County and the City to negotiate the LOST contribution for the next ten (10) years and split the cost between the Governments for the services. Vice-Chairman OD Netter ask Mr. Field to verify if the City is willing to partner with Ben Hill County on the LOST negotiation.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to give Interim County Manager Frank Feild permission to talk with the City of Fitzgerald staff concerning LOST. 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.

### **Coast2Coast Discount Prescription Program**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter handed out information on the Coast2Coast Discount Prescription Program that showed the benefit of changing to this program versus Caremark; which is the program currently being used. He recommended changing from Caremark to Coast2Coast.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to use Coast2Coast Discount Prescription Program and dismiss Caremark Prescription Program. 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.

**Agenda Changes and/or add ons:**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to add pre-clearance for redistricting by the qualifying date for the Board of Election to 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.

County Attorney Toni Sawyer explained pre-clearance for redistricting deadlines.

**Legislative Report:**

Commissioner Downing gave an update on current legislative topics and issues.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter reported he spoke with Bryan Traylor of Taylor Business System regarding re-evaluating county property.

**Commissioner's Remarks: NONE**

Meeting was adjourned.

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

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