

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JULY 10, 2012 AT 6:30 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Philip C. 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

County Attorney Toni Sawyer was absent.

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Chaplain Robert 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, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Approval of the Agenda

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the agenda. 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.

Public Comments: NONE

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on June 5, 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.

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on June 19, 2012. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Kathy Davis, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Elected Officials and Department Head Reports:

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein stated that resurfacing had begun on King Chapel Road and the funding came from the LMIG program. Also, the County was approved by the Federal Government for 31 miles of stripping.

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein and County Manager Frank Feild gave a presentation that covered the next ten (10) years concerning paved roads in the county and the cost to maintain them.

County Board Reports:

Vice-Chairman OD Netter reported the Revolving Loan Fund Board met on July 9, 2011 and also closed on Julie Wright's loan. He also stated the Revolving Loan Fund Board was approved for \$99,000.00 through USDA.

Mr. Netter stated the Commissioners needed to agree that Protein Plus didn't have to pay any interest on the Development Authority and Revolving Loan Fund note for the year beginning September 1, 2010 to September 1, 2011 and the original amortization schedule is to be used that required payment to begin September 1, 2010; but actually began September 1, 2011.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion for the County Commission to authorize Protein Plus to be relieved of paying their note beginning September 1, 2010 to September 1, 2011 and the amortization schedule is to be used that requires payment to begin September 1, 2010, but actually began September 1, 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.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Frank Feild reported Pat Ashley has agreed to assist with completing and correcting the data conversion on the new accounting software after the audit and other related documents are finished. He also stated he received a voice mail from Sabrina Cape of the Carl Vinson Institute, but have not spoken with her concerning helping us. He said Harris Computer Software System has not returned any phone calls.

Mr. Feild said that Pat Ashley will be available on July 25, 2012 to present the 2011 Audit findings. He has offered to make the presentation at a Workshop Meeting or to two Commissioners at a time.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Old Business:

Local Option Sales Tax

County Manager Frank Feild stated He and Chairman Philip Jay met with the Mayor and City Administrator concerning the distribution of the LOST collection. They decided to continue with the 50/50 split between the County and the City. Their recommendation is to put together a city-county joint taskforce to look into the joint services to make the distribution was equitable. He said the next scheduled meeting is July 12, 2012.

Tim Kegebein/Ben Hill County Forestry Board Reappointment

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to reappoint Tim Kegebein to the Ben Hill Forestry Board. 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 change the agenda. 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.

Milton “Bubba” Hopkins/Ben Hill County Forestry Board Reappointment

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to reappoint Milton “Bubba” Hopkins to the Ben Hill Forestry Board. 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.

Anne Wood/Ben Hill County DFAC Board Reappointment

Commissioner Kathy Davis made a motion to reappoint Anne Wood to the Ben Hill DFAC Board. Vice-Chairman OD Netter 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.

Joe Worthington/Hospital Authority Nominee

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to close the nominations for the Hospital Authority Board and approve Joe Worthington, Bruce Green, and Dr. Hammond as nominees. 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.

New Business

Leroy Dunnom/DLS Board Reappointment

Commissioner Scott nominated Leroy Dunnom and David Evans to the DLS Board.

Alan Dixon/Tax Assessor Board Vacancy

The Commissioners nominated Jad Dixon and Randy Hughes for the Tax Assessor Board vacancy. Commissioner Scott Downing voted for Jad Dixon. Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway and Commissioner Kathy Davis voted for Randy Hughes. Randy Hughes is the new Tax Assessor Board Member.

Revenue

County Manager Frank Feild presented the Commissioners with a presentation concerning the County’s financial status. His strategies to increase revenues are collecting back taxes, collecting delinquent taxes, and increasing the millage rate.

Millage Rate

County Manager Frank Feild recommended increasing the millage rate to 15.66 to increase revenue and cover the shortfall.

After discussing the County Manager’s recommendations, Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to lay off employees the week of September 3, 2012. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion. After further discussion, Vice-Chairman OD Netter withdrew the motion. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the withdrawal; 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 stated the Chairman can put a motion on the floor. Chairman Philip Jay stated he could only put a motion on the floor if they were under specific instances and he stated we are not under those tonight. Chairman Jay stated his advice tonight is to follow the County Manager's recommendations.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to increase the millage rate to 15.66 mills. The Chairman stated the motion died for a lack of a second.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to take the rollback at 13.75 mills. 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.

Declaration of Public Holiday

County Manager Frank Feild recommended declaring every other Friday a public holiday beginning July 20, 2012. He also recommended reducing the holidays in the personnel policy from ten (10) to four (4) to save money.

2013 Budget

County Manager Frank Feild stated he would like to start preparing the 2013 budget draft so that we could look at what we did wrong and make necessary adjustments. Mr. Feild recommended beginning with a zero (0) base budget.

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report:

Commissioner Scott Downing stated the policy meetings have gone well. Todd Long attended the Transportation Economic Development meeting. He attended the Natural Resource meeting as well and the former head of the EPD was there answering questions. They decided to condense the policy platform to make them a shorter read for the Legislator. Commissioner Downing said they have one more meeting in August to solidifier the read before the Legislator Conference in Athens.

Commissioner Scott Downing said he received some clarification on LMIG and T-SPLOST. He asked Todd Long about our project being taken out and what will be done with the fifteen (15) million dollars that was set aside for our right away. Mr. Long's response was they have every intention on funding the project and that it will go forth at some point.

Commissioner Downing encourages the Commissioner's to attend some of the policy meetings.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter stated Commissioner Bennie Calloway and County Manager Frank Field attended their first District Meeting. Commissioner Calloway stated the meeting was very informative and intimate. Vice-Chairman OD Netter stated Mr. Field was able to save money on the health insurance.

Commissioner Scott Downing stated they have a Federal Policy Committee.

Commissioner's Remarks:

Chairman Philip Jay thanked Frank Feild, Donna Lampkin, Michael Santee and the Administrative Staff for their hard work and dedication.

Meeting was adjourned.

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Lampkin, County Clerk