

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 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
Frank Feild	County Manager
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney
Donna Lampkin	County Clerk

Commissioner Kathy Davis was absent.

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Reverend Mark Daniels gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments To The Rules Of Order

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

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comments: NONE

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the October Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on October 4, 2012. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on October 8, 2012. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on October 10, 2012. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter and Commissioner Bennie Calloway voting for the motion. Commissioner Scott Downing abstained from the vote.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on October 25, 2012. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion

Constitutional Officer:

Sheriff Bobby McLemore reported the narrow band radios has lost a third of communication. He stated he needs a new repeater to enhance communication to replace the 1952 vintage repeater that is already in service. He will contact the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to obtain permission place it on the Bowens Mill fish hatchery property.

He also stated he understand he has to what is needed to bring expenditures in lined with the revenues. He explained the permanent positions that he has cut and all the savings from the cuts.

Elected Officials and Department Head Reports:

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein reported he has some concerns about the intersection at Frank Road and 319. Department of Transportation will be installing four sets of lights at the intersection; but Ben Hill County is responsible for paying for the electricity.

EMS Director Mark Shealey reported the lights have been installed in the ambulance bay area. He mentioned that he would like to apply for two Trauma Grants. The Un-reimbursable Trauma Grant will provide funds to Ben Hill County for those uninsured patients that have to be transported to trauma care centers. The Vehicle Replacement Grant is a cash matching grant. If awarded, Ben Hill County would have to pay half the cost of a new ambulance. He also reported on January 1, 2013, some medical supplies will increase by 6 ½ % because of the new healthcare law.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to authorize EMS Director Mark Shealey to apply for the Un-reimbursable Trauma Grant. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to authorize EMS Director Mark Shealey to apply for the Vehicle Replacement Grant. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion. After further discussion, Commissioner Scott Downing amended the motion by including setting aside \$45,000.00 in SPLOST funds to match the grant. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

County Board Reports:

Library Director Sandy Hester reported the new operating hours for the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library have changed from 63 hours to 52 hours per week. She stated she and her Board would gladly answer any questions if the Commissioner had any. She mentioned they are looking for other opportunities to cut their budget by partnering with other agencies.

Recreation Director Joe Parrish stated the Department of Leisure Services budget has been cut by \$70,000.00 between the City of Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County. He stated he and his Board are willing to work with the Commissioners in every way possible.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Frank Feild reported the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and himself had a meeting with the City of Fitzgerald concerning the Joint Services Budget. The City provided two options that included the County turning over ownership of the Grand Theater and Conference Center and the second option would be to continue the City-County ownership as it is currently exists with an 11.4% decrease (from \$483,590 to

\$428,492) in the County's contribution to Joint Services. Mr. Field proposed allowing Murray of the Carl Vinson Institute to facilitate service delivery strategy meetings for the City and County. The City felt that the ongoing discussion is positive; therefore think there is no need to bring in a facilitator at this time.

Mr. Field stated he is in the process of preparing letters for two local banks and five out of town banks requesting bids on a \$3,000,000.00 TAN note.

Corrections were made to the original Energy Excise Tax original documents. The new documents are posted on the County website. The City has done the first reading with the corrected documents and is satisfied with the corrections. Mr. Feild recommended the Commissioners ask the County Attorney to view the corrected copy before doing the 2nd reading and approval.

The Reeves-Walker property has been declared surplus by the Commissioners vote on May 8, 2012 at the Regular Meeting. It was advertised for public sale on GovDeals for a month, but no one met the reserves bid. The highest offer was \$40,050. The property is now available for sale to any qualified bidder. The Ben Hill County Development Authority has offered to purchase the property for \$45,000. He recommended the Commission accept this offer and requested the Attorney prepare the legal documents to transfer the property and authorize the Chairman to sign the documents for the Commission.

After further discussion from the County Attorney and Commissioners, Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to advertise the Reeves-Walker property in the Herald Leader for two weeks and to accept only seal bids. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Mr. Feild also reported he and Commissioner Calloway met with Reverend Herbert Jones concerning the Drive Thru Christmas Story. The proposed location for this event is Wendell Thompson's property at the intersection of Frank Road and Benjamin Hill Drive. The alternate location is in the vicinity of the Courthouse and City Hall. This is a fundraiser for First Community Faith In Action; which supports seniors who are frail, living alone, and need transportation. They are looking for \$200.00-\$500.00 sponsorship to purchase materials. Reverend Jones wants to use the plaza areas around the Courthouse and City Hall, assistance with advertising, and a statement of sponsorship from the City and County Governments.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

ACCG 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan Resolution

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the ACCG 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan Resolution. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

ACCG 401(a) Plan Resolution

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the ACCG 401(a) Plan Resolution. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion. After further discussion, Commissioner Scott Downing withdrew the motion. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing,

Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion. The Commissioners decided to vote on this agenda item when they decide to be a part of the 401(a) Retirement Plan.

Environmental Health Department Fee Schedule

Vice-Chairman made a motion to approve the Ben Hill County Environmental Health fee schedule. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

South Georgia Community Service Board Appointment

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to reappoint Lavonia Stepherson to the South Georgia Community Service Board. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Humane Society Board Appointment

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to appoint Frank Feild to the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Board. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with 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: NONE

Commissioner's Remarks: NONE

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Lampkin, County Clerk