

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON AUGUST 1, 2012 AT 7:00 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follow:

Philip C. Jay III	Chairman
OD Netter Jr.	Vice-Chairman
Kathy Davis	Commissioner
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Scott Downing	Commissioner
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney
Frank Field	County Manager
Donna Lampkin	County Clerk

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Public Hearing

Ted Cowan addressed the Commissioners with his concerns for uncollected property taxes. He ask why the uncollected taxes are not being addressed.

Sheriff Bobby McLemore addressed the Commissioners with his concern for uncollected taxes. He stated he will sacrifice five (5) positions between the Jail, Sheriff Department, and E911; but ask the Commissioners to cut discretionary spending.

Allen Conger addressed the Commissioners with his concerns for the waste in the County Department and the uncollected taxes. He also stated he wants the Commissioners to answer recommended suggestions that are given to them. He also mentioned that he has an ambulance equipped and ready to be used for free labor.

Beverly Bullock addressed the Commissioners concerning back taxes and the layoffs and furlough days recommended for the county employees.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to end the hearing. 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 change the order of the agenda. 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.

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.

Budget Adjustments

County Manager Frank Feild recommendation to cut cost is to implement a County layoff as soon as possible. The layoff will be centrally managed by the Department Heads and Constitutional Officer. The layoffs will apply to every county employee and will include three (3) weeks per person.

Commissioner Kathy Davis stated she will not take a pay check for how many weeks the employees are laid off.

Chairman Philip Jay stated the County Manager had already given his pay check back.

After further discussion; Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the County Manager's recommendations for a layoff. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Kathy Davis, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all in favor of the motion. Commissioner Scott Downing opposed the motion.

Millage Rate

County Manager Frank Feild laid out the options the Commissioners has to prove the millage rate. He stated the Commissioners could approve the tentative millage rollback rate at 13.785 mills; reduce the tentative millage rate and adopt the new lower rate, or reject or defeat the tentative millage rate and then approve a new tentative millage rate

The County Manager recommendation to the Commissioners are to vote to reject or defeat the tentative millage rollback rate of 13.785 mills; and then approve a new tentative millage rate of 14.785 mills. This would generate an additional \$374,084.00 in revenue.

Vice-Chairman OD made a motion to adopt the tentative millage rollback rate at 13.785 mills. Commissioner Kathy Davis seconded the motion. After further discussion, Vice-Chairman OD Netter withdrew the motion. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the withdrawal.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to adopt the new tentative millage rate at 14.785 mills and adopt the School Board millage rate at 15.787 mills. After further discussion, Vice-Chairman OD Netter withdrew the motion. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the withdrawal.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to defeat the tentative millage rollback rate of 13.785 mills. 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 adopt the tentative millage rate at 14.785 and adopt the School Board millage rate at 15.787 mills. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Philip Jay voting for the motion. Commissioner Scott Downing and Commissioner Kathy Davis opposed the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Lampkin, County Clerk