

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON APRIL 9, 2013 AT 6:00 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follow:

Philip C. Jay III	Chairman
OD Netter	Vice-Chairman
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Scott Downing	Commissioner
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Lampkin-Prather	County Clerk

Chairman Philip C. Jay III called the meeting to order.

Latrelle Kirkland thanked Commissioner Cowan and Commissioner Scott Downing for coming out and speaking with her and her husband and looking at the road. She mentioned her and her husband was not contacted about proposing to close Davis Road. She said she had someone to check with a lawyer in another County about road closing procedure and they stated before a road is close they must contact all property owner. She said they own more than half of Davis Road; but they were not notified, she read about it in the newspaper. She said her and her husband do close the road during pecan season because they are a source of revenue for them. She stated that she doesn't have any objections to closing Davis Road; but her issue is she was not contacted at all about the road closing. She stated she has two conditions if the Commission closes the road; the postman can continue to service her rental property and a farmer that rents her farm can continue to use the road.

Larry Walker stated Davis road had not been used by the public in years and he wants the road close.

Curtis Dob stated he has tried to use the road a couple of times; but he wouldn't want his pecans run over either. He wants Davis road close and he thinks it would be beneficial to the County.

Ted Cowan stated he owns property on Shop road and he is not opposing closing the road. He stated if there are any records available that shows he has rights, he would like to receive it.

Jimmy Davis stated he wants Wood Duck road close because no one lives on the road and majority of the road is woods. It is also being used for deer shaving and dumping. He said it would be an asset to close the road.

Carroll Kirkland thanked Commissioner Cowan and Commissioner Scott Downing for coming out and speaking with him about the road. He stated he and two of his neighbors agreed to share in the cost of getting the road surveyed; but the never paid their share. He used a surveyor from Irwin County and Darryl Weeks from Ben Hill County. He said he purchased a special tractor and has been scraping the road for the past seven years. If it wasn't for him, the road would not have been scrapped. He said he ask the Road Department not to scrap the road because they kept the road ruin. He asked the Commissioners to come look at 168 Boxwood Road to see how he has maintained the road so that they could close it as well. He stated he owns the land on both sides of the road.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a request to add Boxwood road to the road closing list. He stated it could be put on the next agenda. He also mentioned that when people go out and ask other counties how they do things it causes a conflict because each county has a home rule and each county rules may vary a little. People need to come and see what the rules are for Ben Hill County. They have the option to meet with Frank Feild or visit the County's website has a lot of information as well.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to relax the rules on addressing the Chairman, Commissioners, and the public. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway and all voting for the motion.

Latrell Kirkland stated if they had pecans, they would want anyone running over them. She also mentioned they were not informed about the road closing, so she asked someone about the procedure to closing a road.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter address Latrell Kirkland by stating one of the dilemmas for their road is they have been tearing up the road doing pecan season to keep other citizens from using it; therefore they need to take some type of action. The best thing is to close the road because if they are tearing the road up to keep other citizens from using it; that put the Commissioners in a predicament to do something about it.

The meeting was adjourned.

Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

Donna Lampkin-Prather, County Clerk