

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON DECEMBER 30, 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
Scott Downing	Commissioner
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk

Commissioner Bennie Calloway was not present.

Chairman Philip C. Jay III called the meeting to order by stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is for the Commission to hear public comments on the proposed 2014 County Budget. It is a hearing; not a discussion or debate. All Speakers must fill out a sign in sheet and will be called in order as the sheets are received. Each speaker was given five (5) minutes to speak directly to the Commission and not to audience. All handouts are for the Commission only and will not be distributed to the audience during the Public Hearing.

Chairman Jay said the Robert Rules of Order are in effect and they wouldn't anticipate them to be relaxed. The Commission will respond to the speakers at the end of the Public Hearing. The audience was instructed to remain silent during and after the presentation and there will be no comments, applause, or other distractions during the Public hearing.

County Manager Frank Feild reported Georgia Law requires County Commissions to adopt balance budgets. This means what we spend can not exceed what we collect. Part of the County Manager's job is to prepare and present a balanced budget to the Commission for its review and approval. However, before the Commission adopts a budget, it must insure the public has an opportunity to review and comment on it. That is the purpose of tonight's public hearing.

The proposed 2014 budget was posted on the County website at www.benhillcounty.com on December 13th and has been available for public review in the lobby of the County Commission Office. A notice of the Public Hearing, Special Called Meeting, and availability of the proposed budget was published in The Herald-Leader on December 18th.

We conservatively estimate the County will collect \$8.81 M in revenues during 2014. The Expenditures Budget is therefore capped at \$8.81 M.

In developing the 2014 Expenditures Budget, the January 1, 2013 Budget as a baseline. Essential accounting corrections were made to salaries, FICA, Retirement, Workman's Comp, Insurance, and contractual obligations where we either discovered errors or had new information on 2014 projected expenses. This accounts for the \$209,142 increase over the 2013 Expenditures Budget. The other 2013 budget adjustments, which were approved by the Commission during 2013, are NOT included.

The Joint Services Budgets were negotiated separately with the City. They include the Library, the Grand Theater and Conference Center, the Humane Society, the Airport, and Recreation. The County's contribution for Joint Services will increase \$ 16,704 in 2014; due to the City having 27 pay periods and awarding employees 2% cost-of-living increases in 2013 and 2014. The County's contribution to Economic Development and the Chamber will be \$ 91,279; which is the same as it was in 2013.

There were no public Comments.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.

Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

Donna R. Prather, County Clerk