

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 6, 2013 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
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney
Donna Lampkin	County Clerk

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Reverend Terry Cole 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. 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.

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Public Comments:**

Chairman Philip Jay III recognized City Councilman Jason Holt for being in attendance at the meeting.

**Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on January 7, 2013. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion. Vice-Chairman OD Netter abstained from the vote.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the January Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on January 8, 2013. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on January 30, 2012. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

**Constitutional Officer: NONE**

**Elected Officials and Department Head Reports:**

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein gave the Commissioners the report from Georgia Department of Transportation concerning the re-inspection of Ben Hill County bridges. He spoke briefly about the findings from the inspection. He stated it was his responsibility to let other agencies know about the bridges. He also presented the Road Department fuel cost spreadsheet that covered 2004 to 2012.

**County Board Reports: NONE**

**County Manager's Report**

County Manager Frank Feild reported Georgia Emergency Agency (GEMA) has completed a desk audit of our 2011 Fiscal Year Emergency Management Performance Grant and concluded we substantiated all expenses and satisfied all reporting. He congratulated EMA Director Jason Miller for a job well done.

He stated we are developing a check list of the 2011 audit findings and corrective action plan; which will be posted on the I-pads before March meeting.

He reported the Brown property has been cleaned up. A total of 20 dilapidated structures were removed thru informal City and County partnership. This was the third corridor project completed.

He stated the W-2's confusion was tracked back to the data conversion from Tailored Business System to Harris Computer System. He said everyone was paid what they were owed and the W-2's are correct.

He and the County Auditor met with the Sheriff to resolve the differences in the accounting. The meeting was positive and professional. They did reach consensus in one area where there were confusion. He stated they are still working thru other areas and will keep the Commission informed of their progress.

**Annexation Request: NONE**

**Rezoning Application: NONE**

**Alcohol Application: NONE**

**Old Business:**

**Fee for Service Agreement/Chamber of Commerce**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Fee for Service agreement contract between the Chamber of Commerce and Ben Hill County. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter. Commissioner Bennie Calloway opposed the motion.

### **2013 Tax Anticipation Note**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the 2013 Tax Anticipation Note resolution that included the amount of \$2,500,000.00 non-revolving loan with a 3.25% fixed interest rate that is payable on December 31, 2013. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion. Commissioner Scott Downing abstained from the vote.

### **Financial Policy/Holding Accounts**

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

### **Muni-code Contract**

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

### **Inventory of Fire Equipment**

County Manager Frank Feild informed the Commission the National Fire Safety office has advised us that the new Insurance Service Office (ISO) standards and inspection criteria for fire safety went into effect January 28, 2013. This will have a significant impact on our future planning for fire protection. The contractor has asked for assistance in helping him obtain access to and inspecting certain ISO equipment located in the fire stations since they are managed by a contract. He recalled the Commission has already voted that an inventory of fire equipment be conducted as one of the conditions for continuing funding the Volunteer Fire Department. He recommended two Commissioners accompany the National Fire Safety Office contractor in conducting this inventory next week at a time that is convenient for them, the contractor, and the Ben Hill County Volunteer Fire Department.

Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan volunteered to accompany the contractor.

### **New Business:**

#### **Community Wild Fire Protection Plan**

Willard Fell of Georgia Forestry submitted a wildfire protection plan for Ben Hill County. The plan includes a locally assessed evaluation of the wildfire urban interface areas of the county, looking at the critical issues regarding access to these areas, risk properties from general issues such as building characteristics and fire wise practices and response from local firefighting resources. He said the plan could be used for obtaining grants from USDA.

#### **Cathy Posey/Reappointment to Aging Advisory Council**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to reappoint Cathy Posey to the Aging Advisory Council for a three year term beginning July 2013. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

### **Budget Amendment**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the additional revenue from DOT in the amount of \$267,081.51 that was not budget to fund the LMIG Project to the revenue in account 33.4115 Road Department Grants and the expense account 4200-54.1500 Road Department/DOT Road Projects. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Vice Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

### **Special Revenue Fund Budget**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Special Revenue Fund budgets that includes Sheriff Special Fund, Drug Abuse & Education Fund, Jail Fund, Special Investigation Fund, Supplemental Juvenile Fund, E911 Fund, CHIP Grant Fund, and Development Authority Fund. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice Chairman OD Netter and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

### **Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE**

### **Legislative Report:**

Commissioner Scott Downing gave a Legislative update on the following bills:

**HB 1**-Georgia Uniform Civil Forfeiture Procedure Act

The district attorney, through a judicial process, can seize cars, cash and other property of drug dealers and other criminals.

**HB 37**-Ad Valorem Tax; land subject to a forest land conservation use covenant; provide taxation

**HB 80**-Changes to Vehicle Tax Reform

**HB 100**-No Changing Gun Laws During State of Emergency

**HB 125**-Illegal Immigration Reforms

**HB 127**-Redirected Fees to Go to their Intended Purposes

**HB 142**-Ethics Reform

**HB 153**-Authorization to Impose a Fractional SPLOST

**HB 173**-Maintenance and Repair Eligible for SPLOST

**SB 24**-Hospital Medicaid Financing Program ACT

**SB 55**-Non-Partisan Local Elections (Ethics)

**SB 73**-Anti-TSPLOST Act (Transportation)

He also informed every one of all the cuts the State of Georgia has implemented. He stated because of all the cuts by the State, many of the cost have been passed down to the County and that has put a lot of pressure on us.

### **Commissioner's Remarks: NONE**

Meeting adjourned

\_\_\_\_\_ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Donna R. Lampkin, County Clerk