

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON APRIL 9, 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
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney
Donna Lampkin-Prather	County Clerk

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Pastor Lloyd Steimbridge gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments To The Rules Of Order And,Or Changes To The Agenda Request

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

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

Approval of the Agenda

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the agenda. 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.

Public Comments:

Geri Gilleland stated she wanted to update the Commissioners on the changes that have been made at the County Extension Office. She reported that she is the new 4-H Agent in the County effective April 1, 2013 and the County Extension Coordinator. She also reported that applications are still being accepted for the Agriculture Agent position and they are looking to have that position filled by June 1, 2013.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on March 4, 2013. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on March 5, 2013. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on March 19, 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.

Constitutional Officer:

Lieutenant Jeffrey Dobbins reported, in place of Sheriff McLemore, the Sheriff Department is staying under budget; but they are spending excessively on vehicle maintenance. He expressed the urgency for new vehicles. He also stated they are issues with radio communication. He said sometimes they use telephones because of loss of service on the radios. He stated they needed to hire two deputies for night shift because they are operating on a skeleton crew. Right now they have to prioritize calls because they need to hire.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the purchase of one vehicle for the Sheriff Department using money from the sale of old vehicles, the remaining 2005 SPLOST fund, and Special Accounts. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion. After further discussion, Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to modify the previous motion by adding allowing the Sheriff to purchase a V6 Ford Taurus. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Elected Officials and Department Head Reports:

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein reported the bypass road at the corner of Benjamin Hill Drive and Frank Road has a cautious light in place.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report

County Manager Frank Feild reported last weekend, a Ben Hill County citizen found a pickup truck load of our road signs in the woods while hunting, and has returned them to the Road Department. The citizen did not want to be acknowledged, but it is appropriate that we publicly recognize this act and thank this person for helping recover taxpayer's property.

Our sales of excess equipment closed last week with a total of \$ 13,815.99 in revenues. This included 3 EMS Equipment lots @ \$1,071; 2 Road Department Vehicles @ \$ 1,629; 1 Seniors' vehicle @ \$2,369.99; and 8 Sheriff's vehicles @ \$ 8,746. EMS, Road Department and Sheriff's revenues will be credited to their SPLOST accounts.

Our Road Department was in the process of repairing our old pneumatic tire-changing machine at a cost of nearly \$800; when Jason Miller found us a new one thru state sales. It is a \$13,000 machine; still in the box; which we got for \$550. The new machine is being picked up today at Ft. Stewart. We plan to add the old one to our excess property list, and believe it can bring several thousand dollars at auction.

Project Paperless has moved into Phase II:

- Magistrate Records Scanning & Relocation of Files
- EMS is scanning and transmission documents electronic. They are also starting to scan time sheets too.
- Probate Court is also working toward scanning and archiving records.

All hearings for Superior Court are being held in the courtroom in the Courthouse and security upgrades of the Courthouse are in process.

Magistrate is currently controlling and scheduling use of courtroom at the Magistrate Office.

We have a new concept sent to DCA on the Queensland Well. We are waiting for review to come.

Mr. Field stated he met with Architect and Joe Parrish on multi-use building design. He stated he thinks the Commissioners would be pleased with that because they possibly could have something to present next week. They have also put in a new concrete slab in front of the Legion Park building and going to do some paving there as well.

We will set up Commission Workshops later this month to review the National Fire Service Office findings on our fire protection and discuss the 5-Year Fire Plan.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application:

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Franklin Williams/The Coliseum alcohol application. 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.

Old Business:

Employee Bonus/Reimbursement

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve giving the employee's Thanksgiving and Christmas bonuses from 2012. 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.

Road Closing

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

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

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to close the north end of My Own Road. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

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

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

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

Probate Collections Service Agreement

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to not enter into contract with the private collection agency. 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 opposed the motion.

Proposed Street Renaming Protocol

Agenda item was tabled.

Collections of Delinquent Taxes Resolution

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to amend the Resolution by adding after 90 days of delinquency at the end of the first sentence in paragraph six (6). Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Reimbursement For Services Provided Other Taxing Authority Resolution

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to table this agenda item until all Commissioners read the resolution. 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.

New Business:

Holsey Chapel/Debt Reduction

Mr. Jimmy Turner of the Holsey Chapel CME Church came with a request on behalf of the Church concerning the taxes on the Multi-Service building they purchased from the Ben Hill County Development Authority. He stated Holsey purchased the building and received a tax bill in the amount of \$1,300.00 for the City and \$4,834.11 for the County. He said this amount represent a severe hardship on their church. He is asking for forgiveness in the form of debt release or reduction.

GA Forestry Department Presentation

Donald Anderson presented the GA Forestry Commission Annual Report for 2012.

EMS Week Resolution

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Resolution. 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.

Landfill Authority

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to appoint Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein to the Landfill Authority Board. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

David Pollock/127 Franklin Avenue

Building Inspector Jason Miller stated the grass on this property is over grown and he can't make contact with the property owner. He stated he has received several complaints about the property. He stated he is going to continue in trying to solve this issue.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to appoint Magistrate Constable Leroy Dunnom as Ben Hill County Code Enforcer. 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 opposed the motion.

Public Nuisances

Zoning Administrator Jason Miller stated he received several calls from neighbors complaining about chickens crowing constantly. This is public nuisances and zoning violation because the property is zoned R15; which is designated for single-family residential use only and can only have domesticated animals. He stated he will continue to work toward alleviating the problem.

Agenda Changes and/or add ons:

Reimbursement For Services Provided Other Taxing Authority Resolution

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Resolution. 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.

Dedication of a Road

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to dedicate the bypass beginning on HWY 319 at Peach Express all the way to Hwy 107 (Ten Mile Road) to Dr. Martin Luther King. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion. After further discussion, Vice-Chairman made a motion to withdraw the motion. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to dedicate or designate the bypass beginning on HWY 319 at Peach Express to Evergreen and from Evergreen to HWY 129 to Dr. Martin Luther King. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Legislative Report:

Commissioner Scott Downing reported Legislative body is in session. He encouraged everyone to pay attention to the bills that have been sent to the Governor’s desk to be signed.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter reported that ACCG will be meeting at the end of this month on the national level. He also stated County Attorney Toni Sawyer will be recognized at The 33rd Annual Banks-Pierro-Rutland-Bellamy Social & Behavioral Sciences Colloquium Luncheon at the Fort Valley State College for a job well done.

He also ask County Manager Frank Feild to see if any other Constitutional Officer has contracted with any other agency to collect money; if so, he would like to see a copy of the contract.

Commissioner’s Remarks: NONE

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna Lampkin-Prather, County Clerk