

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON OCTOBER 8, 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
Donna Prather	County Clerk
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Chairman Jay announced this meeting was posted 24-hours in advance in compliance with Georgia Law. All Commissioners were telephonically notified. An announcement and agenda were posted on the Commissioners I-Pads, distributed by e-mail, posted on the county website, and posted on the door to the Commissioner's Meeting Room. The Herald-Leader was notified by E-mail.

Reverend Mark Daniels 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. Commissioner Bennie Calloway opposed the motion.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to add Anthony Anderson rezoning request to Rezoning Application agenda item and to approve the agenda. 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.

**Public Comments:**

Anthony Anderson petitioned the Commissioners to grant him special zoning exception to obtain a business license for a home based car dealership business without a retail lot.

**Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on September 03, 2013. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on September 10, 2013. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on September 25, 2013. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

**Constitutional Officer:**

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein reported 6.06 miles of paving have been completed by using 2013 and 2014 DOT Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) and County Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds. The \$438,641.00 in road work included Lulaville Road, Delta Road, Platte Road, and Snowden Road. The work was done by Ricketson Construction Company of Douglas, Georgia.

Additional improvements were also done to Camp Brooklyn Road, Dickson Mill Pond Road, and Sturgeon Creek Church Road.

**Elected Officials and Department Head Reports: NONE**

**County Board Reports:**

Courtney Whitman introduced herself to the Commissioners and the public as the Revolving Loan Fund and Ben Hill County Development Authority Coordinator. She stated she is a Georgia State graduate and earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Policy with a concentration in Planning and Economic Development. She completed internship at Atlanta's City Hall under the guidance of the Assistant Director in the Office of Planning. She stated her experience, education, and her passion for this career field has prepared her for this position.

**County Manager's Report**

County Manager Frank Feild reported Michael Santee has upgraded the forms on the County's website to make them more convenient for the public. The forms now have interactive fields and can be filled out and submitted on the website.

Mr. Feild also stated a document entitles "132 Ways to Save Energy" has been posted on the County's website that may be helpful to our citizens who are struggling with the increasing cost of utilities.

Mr. Feild reported a Dodge Caravan was purchased at a GSA auction for the Senior Citizen program. The van will also be used to take seniors to the Wal-Mart Pharmacy. The sheriff also gave them a Ford Taurus to help support the Meals on Wheels Program; both programs have reliable vehicles.

Mr. Feild reported the refurbished ambulance should be ready for pick-up in North Carolina by the end of next week. He stated it we were able to get a \$3,000.00 credit for the old chassis.

He also reported EMS has been turning in record numbers financially and we are grateful for all their hard work.

Mr. Feild reported the ADA upgrade to the entrance of Commissioner's Meeting room, Tax Commissioner, and Elections Officers is partially completed. The sidewalk and outside approach have been modified and we will have a contractor to install a new door. He said they were notified that the door parts have arrived and the work will be done Thursday. He also mentioned we have applied for a Secretary of State Grant to help offset most of the cost and we are getting proposals for ADA access upgrades to the old ceramics building.

Mr. Feild reported the Health Department will be opened for business on Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> following an extensive renovation project. He stated the building has been thoroughly cleaned, a new HVAC system has been installed, and new tile and carpet will be installed next week. Mr. Feild thanked the public for their patience while the work has been going on.

**Annexation Request: NONE**

**Rezoning Application:**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve Anthony Anderson a 60 day special zoning exception to obtain a business license for a home based car dealership business without a retail lot. 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.

**Alcohol Application:**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve Christine Harrell alcohol application. 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.

**Old Business:**

**MHDDAD Regional Planning Board Appointment**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve Steve O'Neal as the MHDDA Regional Planning Board member. 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.

**Community Service Board Appointment**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to close nominations. 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.

Connie Graham is appointed the Community Service Board Member.

**South Georgia Regional Commission Appointment**

Commissioners Scott Downing made a motion to postpone this 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.

### **Hospital Authority Board Appointment**

Commissioner Daniel Cowan nominated Steven Pair and Vice-Chairman OD Netter nominated Joe Worthington.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to close the nominations and to send the nominees to the Hospital Authority Board. 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.

### **Volunteer Fire Department Contract**

Chairman Philip Jay reported the Volunteer Fire Department contract has been signed by himself and the Alan Conger.

### **Board of Elections Relocation**

County Manager Frank Field reported work has begun on the ceramic building. He stated some ADA modifications had to be completed; which included replacing the door, fixing the sidewalk, and adding a handicap ramp facing Pine Street along with leveling the floor and modifying the bathroom. Mr. Feild stated there is a problem with a leak and drywall; but he believes everything will be completed by the end of the year.

### **New Business:**

#### **4-H Proclamation**

County Extension Coordinator Geri Gelliland reported October 6-12 is Ben Hill County 4-H Week. She stated 4-H week is about life lesson. Ben Hill County 4-H President McKenzie Troup and Vice-President Jonathan Tomberlin expressed their gratitude for the positive impact 4-H has on their lives.

Vice Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the 4-H Week Proclamation. 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.

### **County Logo**

County Manager Frank Feild launched the new Ben Hill County logo. He thanked Elections Supervisor Cindi Dunlap for the hard work she put into this project.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the new Ben Hill County logo. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

### **Library Board Appointment**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter nominated Ann Jordan to the Library Board.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to close nominations. 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.

Vice Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Ann Jordan as the new Library Board Member. 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.

**GTIB Grant/Loan Application**

County Manager Frank Feild reported GEs of Macon did the boring at the Perry House Road Bridge. Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein and the Road Department coordinated traffic control and EMA Director Jason Miller used the new electronic signs to keep the public informed and divert heavy vehicle.

Mr. Field stated Watkins Engineering prepared a detailed cost estimate for the project in the amount of \$867,000. He stated there are two funding strategies available; request directly to DOT for discretionary money and submit an application for Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank Grant. Mr. Field mentioned the application for the grant is due by October 31, 2013 and there is a \$250.00 application fee. Mr. Field requested approval to submit the grant application for \$867,000 and authorize the Chairman to sign it.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the County Manager submitting the grant application to Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank Grant for the amount of \$867,000 and authorize the Chairman to sign it. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

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

**Legislative Report:**

Commissioner Scott Downing reported they approved their Legislative platform for the coming year at ACCG. He stated Commissioner Daniel Cowan did a great job as the voting delegate. He encouraged the Commissioners to read through it when they receive it to see the priorities of ACCG and Commissioners for the year.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter stated Commissioner Daniel Cowan did a great job as the voting delegate for Ben Hill County at the Leadership Conference.

Mr. Netter stated he sent an email to County Manager Frank Feild and County Attorney Toni Sawyer regarding the ruling on LOST. He reported 21 Counties will be affected by the ruling. The ruling is a third party can't be used as a negotiator to determine the LOST split.

**Commissioner's Remarks: NONE**

Meeting adjourned

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

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