

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 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 Terry Cole 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

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

Public Comments: NONE

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on October 08, 2013. 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.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on October 28, 2013. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer:

Sheriff Bobby McLemore stated Fitzgerald Police Department has changed their radios to digital; therefore after deputies have travel five miles into the county, communication is lost. He said he is in the process of trying out some digital radios. He stated something needs to be done before someone get hurt or killed.

Department Head Reports:

County Extension Coordinator Jeri Gelliland reported she took fourteen students to compete in Tifton at the Cotton Bowl in poultry and consuming judging. She stated the Sr.'s won 1st place and will be going on to state; the Jr.'s won 2nd place.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report

EMS

County Manager Frank Feild reported Jason Miller picked up the refurbished ambulance at the factory in North Carolina. It made its first run on October 31st. He stated we are pleased with the quality of the work and he commended Mark Shealy for saving the County \$50,000 by doing this. He also reported the EMS operations and records were inspected by the State last week and they received a 100% rating.

ADA

Mr. Feild stated the ADA upgrade to the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Tax Commissioner's, and Election's Office has been completed. He thanked Jason Miller for heading up this project. He also said they filed a grant application with the Secretary of State's Office for reimbursement of \$5,150.00 for this project.

Mr. Feild reported we submitted a grant application to cover the cost of the ADA upgrade to the new Elections Office. He believes that we will be funded for the \$11,000.00 cost for new a new ADA door, sidewalk modification, office ramp, leveling the floor in the center of the building, and adding grab bars for the bathrooms. Cindi Dunlap is working closely with us on the project and there should not be any problems in relocating the Election's Office before the end of the year.

Perry House Road Bridge

Mr. Feild reported he submitted a grant to the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank to cover the cost of the work that needs to be done to the Perry House Road Bridge. The estimation was prepared by Watkins Engineering.

Queensland CDBG

Mr. Field stated a Public hearing has been scheduled for November 25, 2013 at 4:00 pm in the Commissioner's Meeting room on the Queensland CDBG Project.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Old Business:

Health Department Renovations

Mr. Feild reported the Health Department is open for business. The building has been thoroughly cleaned by SERVPRO and inspected by the Health Department Board. A new HVAC system and floor was installed and some minor paint was done. The cost of the clean-up is estimated at \$45,000.00. He thanked Jason Miller for taking the lead in getting this work done and the public for their patience.

Student Guardian Agreement

Sheriff Bobby McLemore stated he met with Chief Smallwood, School Superintendent Nancy Whidden, and Transportation Director Angie Dopson about adding cameras outside the school buses to catch violators that passed the bus when the stop sign is out.

After further discussion, the Commissioners decided some changes were needed in the contract and no action would be taken at that time.

South Georgia Regional Commission Appointment

Commissioners Scott Downing nominated Steve Pear.

New Business:

Election Department Contract

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Election Department Contract. 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.

Drug Taskforce Letter of Support

Drug Commander Wesley Scarbury of the Drug Taskforce asked the Commissioners for a letter of support from Ben Hill County. He explained how the Drug Taskforce operate, their budget, and the number of cases they are working.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the letter of support for the Drug Taskforce. 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 allow the Chairman to sign the letter of support for the Drug Taskforce. 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.

Surplus Property Resolution

Vice Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the surplus property resolution. 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.

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report:

Commissioner Scott Downing reported State Representative Jay Roberts, Senator Tyler Harper, and Secretary of State Brian Kemp was present in Ben Hill County for the ACCG 11th District Meeting along with ACCG Policy people and ACCG staff. Mr. Downing stated a lot of County Commissioners and County Managers were also in attendance. He stated they covered a lot of topics. He asked the public if they had anything on their mind about the upcoming sessions that might need to get into law let him know so that they could start pushing it that way.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter announced he, RLF and BHC Development Authority Coordinator Courtney Whitman, Economic Director Ashley, Community Director Cam Jordan are traveling to Washington DC because they are working on three projects.

Chairman Philip Jay commended Vice-Chairman OD Netter and Commissioner Scott Downing for their hard work with ACCG.

County Manager Frank Field thanked Election’s Supervisor Cindi Dunlap for the hard work she done for the ACCG 11th District Meeting.

Commissioner’s Remarks:

Commissioner Scott Downing stated the shopping season was approaching and he encouraged the public to shop at home because that put revenue back in the County through LOST and SPLOST.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter stated Ted Cowan passed away and he will be missed. Mr. Netter said he was one of the best members on the Ben Hill County Development Authority Board.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk