

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2013 AT 4:00 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
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Scott Downing	Commissioner
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Lampkin	County Clerk

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

2013 Budget

County Manager Frank Field gave a brief summary of the 2013 revenues and expenditures for the month of January. He also recommended the following 1st quarter budget amendments;

- Increase the School Resource Officers budget from \$74,153 to \$83,269 and reduce Debt Service budget
- Adjust the Volunteer Fire Department from \$43,636 to \$45,424 for four months and reduce Debt Service budget
- Adjust General Government line item 1500-52.1202 by adding \$3,500 to cover the cost the 5-year Fire Master Plan and reduce Debt Service budget
- Adjust General Government line item 1500-52.1202 from \$4,525 to \$15,000 to cover the cost of the 2012 audit and reduce Debt Service budget
- Adjust EMA budget by adding \$15,000 to purchase a 2005 Ford F-350 and reduce Debt Service

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, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the recommended budget amendments presented by Frank Feild. 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.

Board of Elections Supervisor Cindi Dunlap presented the Board with a list of equipment that is needed to meet the state requirements because they are upgrading their system. She gave the Commissioners a Service Agreement between Shane Sapp and the Board of Elections agreeing to enter into contract with him to provide IT support services support to the new equipment. Cindi also mentioned the amount approved in her budget was not enough because of the mandated training set by the State for the Elections Office.

Vice- Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the \$6,000 to purchase the computer equipment. 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.

Vice- Chairman OD Netter made a motion to postpone the Board of Election Service Agreement with Shane Sapp until further instruction from the State has been received regarding their new software. 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.

The Commissioners decided to address the Elections travel budget as needed later on.

Vice- Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the mandated pay increase for the Clerk of Superior Court in the amount of \$5,622.95. 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.

Magistrate Judge Lisa McCard explained to the Board the problems Magistrate has concerning storing files. She stated they are running of room; therefore she was requesting \$1,500 to purchase a new scanning system to convert their files and eliminate expensive storage cabinets.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the \$1,500 scanning system purchase for the Magistrate. 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.

Sheriff Bobby McClemore told the Board he needed to upgrade the old BCM400 switch in the amount of \$22,358 because it had been discontinued and will not allow the system to continue to operate thru October1, 2018. He stated only four switches remained in the State of Georgia and once they were sold the only option is to upgrade the entire system for \$176,549.

After further discussion, Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to postpone the purchase. 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.

EMA Director Jason Miller expressed to the need to purchase another vehicle to replace the unserviceable 1984 Chevrolet C-3500 Pickup that is being used to support the Georgia Forestry Rural Fire Program in Ben Hill County. He stated if the truck is not replaced immediately, the equipment must be returned to the Georgia Forestry Office in Macon for re-allocation; which means a \$25,000 equipment loss to Ben Hill County. If they purchase another truck, it will be completely retrofitted as a brush truck with new equipment by Georgia Forestry Office at no cost to Ben Hill County.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the \$15,000 purchase for a 2005 4-door Ford Crew Cab truck. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Employee Bonus/Reimbursement

County Manager Frank Feild made a recommendation to the Board to give the County employees a bonus and reimburse those employees the participated in the lay-off in 2012. His recommendations are:

Bonus options (57 part-time employees and 120 full-time employees, no case or Board members)

- Historical-\$50 Pt.=\$2,850; \$100 Ft.=\$12,000; **Total \$14,850**
- Option B-\$75 Pt.=\$4,275; \$150 Ft.=\$18,000; **Total \$22,275**
- Option C-\$150 Pt.=\$8,550; \$300Ft.=\$36,000; **Total \$44,550**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to give the employees option A which is the Christmas bonus. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion.

After further discussion, the Commissioners decided to wait until the audit is completed before making a decision. Vice-Chairman OD Netter withdrew 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.

Sheriff Vehicles

Sheriff Bobby McLemore asked the Board about the purchase of two (2) new Ford F-150 Trucks, and two (2) new Ford Taurus Police Interceptor Sedans from Fitzgerald Ford. Each truck cost \$29,122 and each sedan cost \$24,000. The cost for the entire purchase is \$106,244.

After further discussion by the Commissioners concerning the vehicle purchase, they decided to postpone the item and County Manager will report back to them at Tuesday's Monthly Meeting concerning other options to purchase these vehicles.

Revolving Loan Fund Business Reorganization

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Revolving Loan Fund Board changes to the business name owned by John Taylor from Tina’s Tots to Play to Learn. 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.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Chairman signing all documents. 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.

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein, Tax Assessor Joyce Merritt, and EMS Director Mark Shealy gave the Commissioners a letter concerning equality and compliance within all Departments. They feel all their savings was in vain due to other departments not complying with what was recommended by our County Manager. They feel strongly that such creates and unappreciated moral problem within the employees who did what was asked with no complaints to help the County’s crippling budget and to save their jobs.

The meeting was adjourned.

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Lampkin, County Clerk