

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MAY 29, 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
Scott Downing	Commissioner
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Revolving Loan Fund Application/A Touch of Elegance by L’Vita

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve A Touch of Elegance by L’Vita Revolving Loan Fund 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.

Elections Consolidation/Voting Precincts

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to postpone this agenda until the County Attorney arrives to the meeting. 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.

Delinquent Taxes

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to give Mavis Rowe a quick claim deed for the property located on 114 Hudson Road. 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 Scott Downing made a motion to have no obligation to delinquent taxpayers and return them back to the Tax Commissioner. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to return to the Elections Consolidation/Voting Precincts agenda item. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway.

Board of Registration and Election Chairman, David Walker and County Attorney Toni Sawyer explained the Board of Registration and Election mailed a letter to the Department of Justice requesting preclearance of the consolidation of its voting precincts into an East and West District for Ben Hill County, Georgia. They explained because of redistricting, the County is divided into an Eastern District and Western District.

Fitzgerald/Ben Hill County Development Authority

Vice-Chairman OD Netter submitted Ron Paulk for a member of the Fitzgerald/Ben Hill County Development Authority. Chairman Philip Jay III closed the nomination.

2013 Budget Review/Adjustments

County Manager Frank Feild gave a brief summary of the 2013 revenues and expenditures for the month of April. He stated the expenditures are at 33.44% for the month of April and year to date total is \$2,889,063.34. The revenues are at 22.38% for the month of April and the year to date total is \$1,911,926.22. Mr. Field gave a comparison for the 2012 budget and state we are slightly ahead of last year's budget. He stated we are on target and he doesn't see any problems.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to extend the Volunteer Fire Department current budget status for one month and increase the Forestry Commission budget by \$950.00. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve continued funding for the Volunteer Fire Department at the same amount as their 2012 budget for June 2013 and increase the Forestry Commission budget by \$904.00 to cover the cost of the state emergency wildfire suppression support and service. 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.

Public Defender Tim Edison addressed the Commissioners concerning the Public Defender budget cut. He stated the money that was cut was for operation. He asked the Commissioners not to cut their budget because the other Counties in the circuit are doing their part. He also mentioned the contract between Ben Hill County and the Public Defender has not been signed; but he needed it back by the end of the month.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to increase the Public Defender's budget by \$5,706.00 beginning July 1st to June 30th. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; the motion didn't pass with Vice-Chairman OD Netter voting for the motion and Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan opposing the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to increase the Public Defender's budget by \$2,853.00 through the end of 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 Public Defender's annual contract. 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.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Public Defender's contract. 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.

Sheriff Bobby McLemore asked the Commissioners to amend the Jail and E911 budget line item for salaries because of the leave time that has been taken by the employees and having to use other employees to fill in while leave time is being used. He also discussed the amount of money he has been spending on repairs and maintenance since the beginning of the year on his vehicles. He stated they are still short-handed on night shift and need to hire two deputies because they have to prioritize calls and in some cases taking 30 minutes to answer calls.

Commissioner Scott Downing stated bridges and roads are falling apart and we need to get serious about looking at infrastructure.

The meeting was adjourned.

Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

Donna R. Prather, County Clerk